

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in the auditorium at Southeastern Community College, at 9:00 a.m., Monday, July 23, 1979, according to adjournment.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT:

C. Waldo Marlowe, Chairman (parttime)

Junior W. Dew, Vice-Chairman

Edward W. Williamson

L. A. Hinson

David L. MCPerson

James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney

Emogene W. Suggs, Clerk

Others present at the meeting were:

Columbus County Board of Education Members, John F. Carter and Walter Batten

Columbus County Schools Administrative Personnel, Supt. Jim Rabon, Associate Supt., Mitchell Tyler, Asst. Supt., Ralph King, and Finance Officer, Robert Ezzell.

City Board of Education Members, Catherine Lee and Clyde Burns.

City Schools Administrative Personnel, Supt., Sam Stell and Clarence Davis.

Southeastern Community College Board of Trustees, Sam Koonce, Billy Hooks and John F. Carter who is also a member of the County Board of Education.

Columbus County Library Board of Trustees, Sarah Koonce, Howard Straughan, Beth Woody and Jane Ellis, and Director, Amanda Bible.

Also, members of the press, Nancy Grush and Thom Billington.

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chairman in the absence of the Chairman.

Commissioner Dew opened the floor to hear requests from the agencies present on the amount they proposed to have considered for a bond referendum.

Supt. of County Schools, Jim Rabon made the first presentation for the County Schools in the amount of \$6,165,883.00 He stated that they had met jointly with the City Board of Education and agreed on requesting \$850,000.00 to be divided on a per pupil pro rata basis. They also requested that the referendum be held at a separate time than any other election and be a single issue on the ballot for all requests combined. He also stated that funds had been allocated to each of the 16 school sites in their proposal.

Dr. Clyde Burns presented the request for the Whiteville City Schools in the amount of \$1,984,117.00 which is pro rated by pupil enrollment as stated by Mr. Rabon. He stated that the City Board of Education preferred a separate election and a single issue.

Ms. Bible, Library Director, presented the request for the Library Board of Trustees in the amount of \$500,000.00 to enlarge and equip the Library addition. The Library Board of Trustees suggested a separate election and list each issue separate. Mr. Straughan, Board Member, stated that the suggestion was not unanimous and that he, personally, preferred a single issue on the ballot.

Dr. Sam Koonce, Chairman of the College Board of Trustees, presented the request for the College Board in the amount of \$1,100,000.00 to match State funds to build a learning resources center at the College. He stated that the majority of the Trustees preferred a separate election and separate issues on the ballot.

Mr. Billy Hooks stated that they did not have a "head count" on the vote and this suggestion might not be unanimous but he felt that if the total issue was not approved, he supported any part that might be approved as better than nothing.

After each person was heard that wished to comment on the referendum, the meeting adjourned back to the regular meeting place with all members present.

The following business was transacted:

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed that Columbus County make application to the Local Government Commission to hold a bond referendum in the amount of \$9,750,000.00 (total of all requests presented at the College) plus cost of sale of the bonds if the referendum is approved. No decision was made at this time as to the format of the ballot but decided to have a separate election. It was stipulated in this motion that each Board of Education present a resolution to the Commissioners itemizing the expected expenditure of the bond proceeds, by school location and amount at that location. This resolution is to be duly passed and certified and a part of the minutes of each respective Board.

Commissioner Williamson emphasized that the people must be informed and that, in his opinion, there would be a tax increase to pay the principal and interest that is due each year on the payment of the bonds.

Commissioner McPherson stated that he will be disappointed if we have to keep the tax rate of \$1.20 after the revaluation process is completed and on the books as a tax base.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed that the Finance Officer complete the necessary forms to make application for the bond referendum.

The following resolution was passed relating to N.C. #130

WHEREAS, Many citizens travel on North Carolina Highway 130 between the towns of Whiteville, North Carolina and Chadbourn, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, during many hours the said road is heavily traveled and congested;

BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County that they endorse the project of the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the widening and expansion of North Carolina Highway 130 to a four lane road between the towns of Whiteville, North Carolina and Chadbourn, North Carolina.

This the 23rd day of July, 1979

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: /s/ C. W. Marlowe, Chairman

The above resolution was passed upon motion by Commissioner McPherson and seconded by Commissioner Williamson.

Road Resolution for SR1947

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF COLUMBUS COUNTY respectfully request that an extension of approximately 900 feet be added to the State Maintained Secondary Road System at the eastern end of SR #1947, located in Bolton Township.

The Board requests that the Department of Transportation review the above proposal and if it meets the minimum standards established by the Department, add it to the System.

The foregoing resolution was passed upon motion by Commissioner Williamson and seconded by Commissioner Hinson.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING FAIR BLUFF 201 WASTEWATER FACILITIES PLAN

WHEREAS criteria for consideration of Fair Bluff and portions of Columbus County and Robeson County for future Environmental Protection Agency grants for assistance in the cost of design and construction of wastewater facilities is based on the development of a Wastewater Facilities Plan; and

WHEREAS Moore, Gardener & Associates, Inc., have prepared such a plan for the Fair Bluff area and concurrence with the findings of said plan is required prior to Step II grant request approval,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County concurs in the findings of the engineers as presented in a draft 201 Wastewater Facilities report and public hearing held the 4th of October, 1977, that the recommended alternative for Fair Bluff is to upgrade the existing treatment facility.

The foregoing resolution was brought before the Board of Commissioners, and after a discussion and upon motion by Commissioner McPherson and seconded by Commissioner Williamson the resolution was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed that Commissioner Williamson work with Raymond Callihan to correct the problem at the Floyd Johnson Center in the area where the cooling is insufficient. It was suggested that some vents may be closed near the unit or may be able to locate an air conditioner at Social Services that is not being used.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and approved to install storm windows at the County Hall Building.

Three applications were presented to the Board from Otis Collins, Section 8 Housing Director, to select one to fill the vacancy in his Department.

Commissioner Hinson made a motion to approve the person recommended by Mr. Collins.

Commissioner Williamson made a motion to hire Ms. DeWitt, but she was not one of the three applicants recommended by the Director. Therefore, Commissioner Williamson seconded the motion by Commissioner Hinson and the motion was passed to hire Perava Lucy Andrews as a secretary-counsellor.

There was a discussion concerning energy savings and by mutual agreement the Board ordered the Clerk to send a memo to each Department Head insisting that thermostats be set in all offices so that the temperature will be no lower than 78 degrees.

It was brought to the attention of the Board by Commissioner Dew that some employees in the Sheriff's Department had expressed dissatisfaction that their accumulated sick leave had been disallowed when they transferred to the Sheriff's Department. This was not a decision by the Board of Commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed to reinstate the sick leave that each employee had accumulated at the time of transfer from the Public Safety Commission to the Sheriff's Department. These employees were paid for accumulated vacation at the time of transfer as requested by the Sheriff's Dept.

Later in the meeting, a letter was delivered to the Chairman from Deputy Sasser requesting that the above action be taken. He stated that he had requested this before in a regular meeting in January. Commissioner McPherson requested that the January minutes be reviewed but the minutes showed no record of the request from Deputy Sasser.

There was a discussion of the purchase of a chasis for the Solid Waste Department to replace the Ford chasis. Mr. Ivey was instructed to get estimates from companies on the specifications used in previous purchases of trucks for the Solid Waste Department and present them to the Board before a decision is made as to whether to purchase a chasis or not.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and approved to write a check for \$50.00 from the ODP Fund to help defray the cost of burial of Mr. Phelps.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until August 6, 1979, at 10:00 a.m.

Emogene W. Leggs
Clerk

APPROVED:

Waldo Marlowe
Chairman