

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., August 6, 1979, it being first Monday.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT:

C. Waldo Marlowe, Chairman (Part-time)

Junior W. Dew, Vice-Chairman

Edward W. Williamson

L. A. Hinson

David L. McPherson

James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney (Part-time)

Emogene W. Suggs, Clerk

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman and the invocation was given by The Reverend Ray Justice, Pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Whiteville.

The following business was transacted:

The minutes of the July 16th and 23rd were approved with the following addition:

The Program added to the Sheriff's Department to hire a deputy to work with problem children is to be reviewed at the end of one year to determine its efficiency, will be reviewed by the Board of Commissioners as one agency, in addition to any other the grant specifies. The motion to amend and approve the minutes was made by Commissioner McPherson and seconded by Commissioner Dew.

The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Williamson, who moved its adoption, and seconded by Commissioner McPherson:

Resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County:

1. That for properly maintaining the school term in the Whiteville City Schools Administrative Unit, as required by Article IX, Section 3, of the Constitution and the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina, it is necessary that certain improvements be made therein of the following character: To restore administrative office which was destroyed by fire and renovate old gym into a media center. (This was partially completed in 1978-79).

2. That in order to provide said improvements it is necessary that the sum of Seventy Five Thousand, Three Hundred Dollars (\$75,300.00) be obtained by borrowing the same, to be used by the Whiteville City Board of Education for said purpose.

3. That the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County does hereby approve of and authorize the application for, and procurement of, a loan for said purpose from the State Literary Fund of the State of North Carolina, operated under G. S. 115, Article II, and said Board does hereby authorize and direct that all necessary steps be taken to procure said loan under the terms of said statutes and the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education governing the making of loans from said fund, and the Chairman and Clerk to this Board are hereby authorized, empowered and directed for and on behalf of this Board to join with the Whiteville City Board of Education in making the necessary application therefor, and to take such action under this resolution and under said

statutes, rules and regulations as may be necessary for said purpose. The County accountant is hereby authorized and directed to make application to the Local Government Commission for approval of the issuance of such notes.

4. That the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County hereby agrees to levy, at the appropriate tax levying period in each and every year, upon all taxable property in said County, ad valorem taxes at a rate sufficient to meet the interest and principal payments on such part of the loan requested herein as may be approved by the State Board of Education, and thereby provide the funds necessary each and every year to meet and repay the interest and principal payments due on such approved loan, under the terms of the statute by authority of which the said loan is made, and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education governing such loans.

The Resolution was duly adopted by the following vote:

Voting YES were:

Commissioners C. Waldo Marlowe, Junior W. Dew, Edward W. Williamson, L. A. Hinson and David L. McPherson

Voting NO were:

None.

Whereupon the Chairman announced that the above resolution was duly and properly adopted.

There was a discussion concerning the formation of a regional housing authority, including Columbus County. Letters were read to the Board from Brunswick County expressing interest in participating in the authority and from Pender County stating they were leaning to a single county authority.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to hold a public hearing on August 28th, at 8:00 p.m., in the County Courthouse to allow citizens of the County to be heard on the question of participating in a regional housing authority. The Clerk was instructed to write letters to the above mentioned counties of this action and invite them to attend the hearing.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and approved that the Chairman be authorized to sign checks or any other papers that require the signature of the Tax Collector during Mr. Enzor's stay in the hospital.

The following tax releases were approved upon motion by Commissioner Hinson and seconded by Commissioner McPherson and upon the recommendation of the Tax Supervisor:

Ordered: that the 1979 taxes listed in the names of the following persons be released as allowed by the Property Relief Act for the Elderly and Permanently Disabled Persons:

A. Brady Bass Heirs	Whiteville Township	\$5,900 Valuation
Charles & Vera Carter	Whiteville Township	7,500 Valuation
Arthur L & Lillie E. Cartrette	Chadborn Township	7,500 Valuation
Azier F. Norris	Whiteville Township	6,720 Valuation

Ordered: that the 1979 taxes listed in the name of Zelma Sibbett Walters, Whiteville Township, be cancelled on the valuation of \$1,125 due to double listing.

A letter was read to the Board by Commissioner McPherson, from the local Social Security Administration Office requesting a CETA slot in their office.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed that the Social Security Office be given priority when a CETA slot becomes available that is not assigned to another agency or if the agency no longer wants the slot.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed that Social Services budget be amended to include \$943.00 in Title XX funds to be expended for 100% Day Care Program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson that the salary of Helen Bethea be increased 7% as allowed to other employees in the 1979-80 budget. There was no second to this motion due to the action taken on April 2, 1979, to increase her salary at that time sixteen and one-half percent.

A Contract was presented to the Board from the N. C. Department of Corrections for the County to continue to house certain prisoners for a reimbursement of \$10.00 per day. The Contract was for a period of two years. There was a discussion of the contents of the Contract and the Attorney was instructed to write a letter to the Department of Corrections expressing dissatisfaction with the proposed agreement, especially for a two year period with the inflation rate continuing to rise.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to table the matter until after the Annual Convention of County Commissioners and seek support of the Association in getting a more equitable contract.

A water and sewer policy was presented to the Board as compiled by the Economic Development Director to be considered for adoption for the County. This policy, along with two other policies were given to the County Attorney to formulate a policy to be considered by the Board at the next meeting as a water and sewer policy for Columbus County and to be used by the Economic Development Commission in making decisions.

Garland McCullen, Extension Chairman, introduced Beverly Swanner, Extension Agent Trainee, to the Board. Ms. Swanner is working with the County Extension Service as a part of her training in becoming a home economics agent.

Judge Grady had made a verbal request to use the Courthouse Annex to hold juvenile court on August 21st and 22nd. The Board asked Mr. McCullen about the use of the Annex, as he is in charge of booking the use of the space there. Mr. McCullen stated that the space is booked through December to be used for various meetings, workshops and hearings. The office space is used by the Extension Service at all times. It was concluded by the Board that it is not feasible to use the Annex for court purposes due to the extensive use by various agencies. The Board instructed the County Attorney to notify Judge Grady that he could schedule juvenile court in the conference room at the Miller Building on August 21st and 22nd. The Attorney was also asked to contact the Mayor of Tabor City and inquire into the possibility of using Tabor City court facilities to hold court when needed and report to the Board at the next meeting. He was also requested to find out the cost for the

use of the facility. This action was taken upon motion by Commissioner McPherson and seconded by Commissioner Williamson.

At noon Chairman Marlowe was excused from the meeting as it was necessary for him to go home and Vice-Chairman Dew presided for the remainder of the meeting.

At 12:00 Noon it was announced that it was time to open bids to purchase cars for the Sheriff's Department. Only one bid was received and was opened and read aloud as follows:

Fair Bluff Motors \$6,519.00 each for 1980 Ford LTD 4-door sedan
Total cost for three cars, including taxes, is \$19,557.00

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed to accept the bid from Fair Bluff Motors upon the approval of the Sheriff. The Sheriff was present at the meeting and accepted the bid.

Sheriff Norton asked the Board to consider salary increases for some of his deputies as some have said they plan to resign because of low salaries. He stated he was interested in all of his personnel but was most concerned about the lowest paid deputies.

There was a discussion concerning the request and the Sheriff was asked which personnel he was referring to and what the cost would be to fulfill his request. As he did not have a definite request, it was suggested that he bring a written request to be considered by the Board.

Commissioner McPherson made a motion that the matter be tabled until further definite information could be presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williamson.

Voting to table the motion were Commissioners McPherson and Williamson

Voting not to table the motion was Commissioner Hinson.

The motion was tabled by a majority vote.

Hobson Ivey presented two estimates for purchasing a chasis to replace the Ford chasis at the Solid Waste Department. These estimates were not official bids and no decision was made to purchase a chasis. The estimate for a Mac chasis was \$48,516.00 without taxes and the Crane Carrier was \$43,878.00. Both included the trade-in of the Ford chasis.

Dr. Carroll and Leo Mercer met with the Board and asked that the Board try again, to get a certificate of need to operate a skilled nursing home in the Miller Building. They expressed the feeling that if the Board contacted the Legislators representing Columbus County and ask their help there was a possibility that a certificate would be issued even though information from the Cardinal Health Agency states that it would be 1982 before there will be a need for additional beds in this area.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed that the Clerk write to each Legislator and ask their assistance in this matter and, if secured, allow the citizens of the County to vote on the issue.

There was a discussion concerning hiring an agency to prepare an indirect cost plan for the County for the FY ending June 30, 1979, to help the County justify charging federal programs for indirect costs the County incurs in operating the programs.

Proposals were presented from David M. Griffith & Associates, LTD, and Moore & Price, PA. The Board instructed the Clerk to contact David Mazo of David M. Griffith, LTD. and request him to appear before the Board to discuss their proposal at the next meeting.

Reports presented to the Board were:

Tax Collector's Report for July, 1979

Carroll-Phelps Co. ----- Revaluation now 36½% complete

As a matter of information a letter was read from DOT stating that the County's allotment for 1979-80 improvement of Secondary Raods is \$355,627.00.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until August 20, 1979, at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVED:

Euergene W. Leggs
Clerk

Waldo Marsenne
Chairman