

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., September 15, 1980, it being third Monday.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT:

C. Waldo Marlowe, Chairman

Junior W. Dew, Vice-Chairman

Edward W. Williamson

L. A. Hinson

David L. McPherson

James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney

Emogene W. Suggs, Clerk

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman and the invocation was given by the Reverend Joe Forbes, Pastor, Chadbourn Methodist Church.

The following business was transacted:

The minutes of the August 27th and September 2nd meetings were approved as recorded upon motion by Commissioner Dew and seconded by Commissioner Hinson.

Mr. Sandy Shaw, Manager, Town of Chadbourn; Leo Mercer, Mayor of Chadbourn; Edd Carter, Fire Chief; and Otis Collins, Secretary & Treasurer, Volunteer Fire & Rescue Squad, Chadbourn, met with the Board to request that a service district be established in the area surrounding the Town of Chadbourn. The area designated by Mr. Shaw would include Chadbourn Township, the area served by the Chadbourn rural water system that is outside Chadbourn Township and any citizen who has property adjacent to the Township that requests to be included in the district. This idea was endorsed by the Mayor as he feels the Town cannot continue to offer this service.

There were a number of questions that arose that could not be answered without time and research for the district to be created and form a non-profit agency to provide the service through a contract with the County.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed that County Attorney Hill; Jerry Grimes and Elwood Inscoe, State Department of Insurance; County Commissioner Williamson; Council of Governments Personnel; County Commissioner Hinson who is also Fire Commissioner; and representatives of the proposed non-profit organization who would provide the service, meet and work out a definite plan that is consistent with the goals and objectives of the citizens of the County and present the plan to the Board for consideration and that will answer the questions proposed at this meeting today. Also, any other departments that are concerned may be included in the meeting for the plans to be drawn up to be presented to the Board for consideration.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed that the County Attorney draw a lease to allow the Whiteville Board of Education to use the property, owned by Columbus County, and located next to the fence back of the School Bus Garage, until such time as the County has need for the property.

The following tax releases were approved upon motion by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and recommended by the Tax Supervisor or Tax Collector:

Ordered: that a refund check be written to David Sellers, Whiteville Township, in the amount of \$298.20 for 1980 taxes paid in error. Taxes were for David Sellers, etal.

Ordered that the 1980 taxes listed as follows be released for Property Tax Relief for the Elderly and Permanently Disabled Persons with limited income:

Mrs. Henry Patrick Sellers	Fair Bluff Township	\$ 1,350.00 Value
Virgil & Peggy B. Woody	Lees Township	7,500.00 Value
Emory & Bulah Lovett	Fair Bluff Township	4,810.00 Value
Joseph L. & Melba B. Rogers	Ransom Township	2,400.00 Value
W. E. & Maggie Freeman	Bogue Township	2,900.00 Value
Edith R. Simmons	Lees Township	7,500.00 Value
Charlie Collins Heirs	Bug Hill Township	3,200.00 Value

Ordered: that the 1979 taxes listed in the name of Robert & Ola Bellamy, Bogue Township, be released on the valuation of \$6,570.00. He had signed for the senior citizens exemption but due to an error in Supervisor's office was not given the allowance.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Ruth Carr Davis, Waccamaw Township, for 1980 be cancelled on the valuation of \$275.00 due to double listing.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Pyrofax Gas Corporation, Whiteville Township, be cancelled for 1980 on the valuation of \$33,615.00 due to double listing.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of R. H. Brookie Strickland, Cerro Gordo Township, for 1980 be released on the valuation of \$2,625.00 due to error in listing wrong year model of truck.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Frank Lloyd Cron, Whiteville Township, be released on the valuation of \$1,505 for 1980 due to double listing.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Sandra Joyner, Waccamaw Township, be released on the valuation of \$800.00 for 1980 due to double listing.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of James P. Sellers, Williams Township, be released on the valuation of \$2,375.00 for 1980 due to error in listing an auto that was disposed of in 1979.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Joseph & Ida A. Young, Ransom Township, be released on the valuation of \$2,475.00 due to error in listing value of machinery.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Fletcher McDuffie, Bolton Township, be released on the valuation of \$650.00 due to exemption.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Tommy & Joanne Sing, Bug Hill Township, be released on the valuation of \$2,430.00 for 1980 due to an error in transferring property which has now been listed to the rightful owner.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Wilbur & Patricia Ann Ward, Williams Township, be released on the valuation of \$660.00 due to error in listing 1.1 acres to them.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of William Jack Beck, Lees Township, be cancelled for 1980 on the valuation of \$5,980.00 as property is listed in South Williams Township and he owns no property in Lees Township.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Charles Stancil & Juanita Lennon,

Ransom Township, be released on the valuation of \$1,075.00 for 1980 due to an error in listing the wrong year model of an auto.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Michael & Camelia Sellers, Williams Township, for 1980 be released on the valuation of \$1,700.00 due to an error in appraisal of a tool shed.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Jake C. Godwin, Williams Township, be released on the valuation of \$2,500.00 for 1980 due to an error in listing bulk barns.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Joseph Cecil McPherson, Williams Township, be released for 1980 on the valuation of \$1,980.00 due to an error in listing two tobacco barns that have been torn down.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Oscar Soles, Chadbourn Township, be released for 1980 on the valuation of \$4,000.00 due to an error in listing a bulk barn which he does not own.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Hubert J. & Dessie Lee Etheridge, Lees Township, be released for 1980 on the valuation of \$600.00 due to a house being torn down.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Benjamin F. Kissam, Tatum Township, be released for 1980 on the valuation of \$1,250.00 due to a house being torn down.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Fairmont Gas Company, Inc., Fair Bluff Township, be released for 1980 on the valuation of \$12,000.00 due to double listing of storage tanks.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Elma G. Long, Lees Township, be released for 1980 on the valuation of \$400.00 for tenant house that was not on property on January 1, 1980.

Ordered: that a refund be given to Michael & Camelia Sellers, Williams Township, in the amount of \$25.74 for 1979 taxes due to double listing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed that the budget be amended to include Architect Fees of \$2,330.00 for services by Ledwell and Associates for preparing the application for a certificate of need for a skilled nursing home for Columbus County and \$500.00 for miscellaneous expense related to the application and Board Members expenses. Funds are to be appropriated from Surplus.

The following resolution was passed upon motion by Commissioner Williamson and seconded by Commissioner Dew:

WHEREAS, there is a need to improve the property near the end of the runway at the Columbus County Airport; and

WHEREAS, there may be a danger involved should a flight be aborted at the airport; and

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Airport Authority is working with the FAA to get approval to make the needed improvements to said area; and

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Authority has asked the Board of Commissioners to

set aside funds in the amount of \$6,774.47, (plus any interest) which is the balance left from other airport projects, as a reserve to be applied to improving the area at the end of the airport runway. These funds are to be used with other funds within the next twelve months, other funds being donations from users of the Airport, and a total amount of approximately \$10,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COLUMBUS COUNTY that the above funds be reserved to be applied to the improvement of the airport runway and the area at the end of said runway.

There was a discussion concerning the funding of the Brunswick Rescue Ambulance Service operated by Belton Blackmon of Brunswick. Commissioner Hinson brought letters from Dr. Ron Smith, Director of Emergency Room Physicians at the Columbus County Hospital; Lois Smith, RN in the Emergency Room; and Norman Nobles, Secretary & Treasurer, Whiteville Rescue Unit. These letters were read to the Board by Commissioner Hinson.

Dr. Smith stated that he felt that another ambulance service is not required at this time and that there have been occasions of serious pre-hospital performance quality uncertainty over the past year relative to the Brunswick Service and he would not recommend franchising Brunswick Ambulance Rescue Service at this time.

Lois Smith stressed the fact that there should be certified personnel on the transports at all times and cited one case brought to the Hospital by Mr. Blackmon without certified personnel on the ambulance and Mr. Blackmon did not communicate with the emergency room so that the personnel could be ready to receive the patient and give the quickest treatment for that patient.

Norman Nobles stated that if the performance of Mr. Blackmon has not improved recently, they do not feel the taxpayers should subsidize his operation.

Commissioner Hinson stated that Mr. Blackmon and his sons have enrolled in Southeastern Community college to become certified to operate the ambulance service.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson that the Board change the Agreement with J. L. Stanley (Columbus County Emergency Medical Services) and pay after the service has been performed up to 50% of his uncollectable accounts up to the amount we pay rescue squads per year, but not to exceed acceptable pricing standards. He further moved that the \$4,000.00 appropriated in the budget to possibly contract with Brunswick Rescue Ambulance Service for services, be allocated to the rescue squads in the amount of \$500.00 each.

No second was made to this motion and Commissioner Dew made a substitute motion that each rescue squad be given an additional \$500.00 but to table the other part of Commissioner Hinson's motion until budget time. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Williamson. In further discussion, Commissioner Hinson stated that he included the fire departments in his motion to be given \$500.00 each in an additional appropriation. Commissioner

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Dew said he did not include the fire departments in his motion as that would require additional funds that have not been appropriated in the budget.

At this time Commissioner Hinson made a motion that each combination department receive \$750.00 additional appropriation and single unit receive \$500.00. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Williamson but was defeated upon a vote with Marlowe, McPherson and Dew voting against the motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed that all previous motions concerning the rescue squads and fire departments made during this meeting be rescinded and that the Clerk work out a distribution of \$4,000.00 to the fire departments and rescue squads that are now receiving funds from the County using the present allocation formula.

Commissioner Hinson stated that he was in favor of his previous motion to give both fire and rescue squads an additional appropriation of \$500.00 for single units and \$750.00 for double units. Commissioner Dew stated that he is in favor of the same but additional appropriations would be required above the amount already budgeted.

The Activity Report for the Economic Development Director for the month of August was presented for review.

The Tax Collector's Report for the month of August was reviewed by the Board.

No action was taken on selecting a firm to do the indirect cost plan for the year ending June 30, 1980.

The Board supported the letter from Burke County Commissioners objecting to the counties having to bear additional expenses to administer the new Fuel Assistance Program.

The Board decided not to sponsor a float in the Farmers' Festival Parade in Fair Bluff in November.

The Board considered the letter of request from Employment Security Commission for a Title IID slot to replace the Title VI slot they now have. No slots are available at this time.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until October 6, 1980.

APPROVED:

Emogene W. Suggs
Clerk

C. Woods Marlowe
Chairman