

At 9:00 a.m., December 1, 1980, the newly elected Commissioners met at their regular meeting place at 111 Washington Street, Whiteville, NC, and the oath of the office of County Commissioners was administered by Lacy R. Thompson, Clerk of Superior Court.

The following were sworn-in as Commissioners: Lonnie Lynwood Norris, Junior W. Dew and L. A. Hinson.

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., December 1, 1980, it being first Monday.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT:

Edward W. Williamson, Chairman

L. A. Hinson, Vice-Chairman

C. Waldo Marlowe (Part-time)

Junior W. Dew

Lynwood Norris

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 Commissioner Hinson.

The following business was transacted:

The minutes of the November 17th meeting were approved as recorded upon motion by Commissioner Dew and seconded by Commissioner Hinson.

The Chairman announced that it was time to appoint a chairman and vice-chairman for the upcoming year and asked the Attorney to act as moderator to transact the appointments.

Mr. Hill briefed the Board on the procedure for selecting officers and then opened the floor for nominations for chairman and vice-chairman.

Commissioner Marlowe nominated Commissioner Dew for chairman and Lynwood Norris for vice-chairman.

Commissioner Hinson nominated Commissioner Williamson for chairman.

Commissioner Williamson nominated Commissioner Hinson for vice-chairman.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed to close the nominations.

Voting for Commissioner Dew and Commissioner Norris for chairman and vice-chairman were Commissioners Marlowe and Dew.

Voting for Commissioner Williamson and Commissioner Hinson for chairman and vice-chairman were Commissioners Norris, Williamson and Hinson.

Attorney Hill announced that Commissioner Williamson was appointed to serve as chairman and Commissioner Hinson as vice-chairman.

The following business was transacted:

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Marlowe and passed to reappoint Charles Moore, Willis Burroughs and L. A. Hinson to serve another year on the Columbus County Fire Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed that Commissioner Norris be appointed to serve on the COG General Membership Board and Commissioner Williamson serve on the COG Executive Board until the expiration of the term of David McPherson, who is no longer eligible to serve, as he is no longer a county commissioner.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Marlowe and passed that Chairman Williamson be appointed the delegate to the Legislative Conference in Pinehurst, December 10th and 11th.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed that Doris Norris be nominated to replace Catherine Lee on the Southeastern Regional Mental Health Alcoholism Advisory Board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Marlowe and passed to appoint Ralph Norris to serve on the County Grievance Committee. Mr. Norris replaces Frank Stanley who does not wish to continue to serve.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Marlowe and passed to appoint Thomas Earl Ward to serve on the County Grievance Committee to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Jim Sessions.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson to appoint Chairman Williamson on a committee to look after the county buildings & grounds and designate space to various offices. Commissioner Dew made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Marlowe that each individual request for space be brought before the full Board and not create a committee as suggested by Commissioner Hinson's motion. At this time Commissioner Hinson withdrew his motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Marlowe and passed to allow Joanne Vereen, Social Services Director, to lease-purchase a computer terminal for food stamp issuance at a cost of \$3,200.00. No additional appropriation is necessary for this purchase.

At 11:00 the Board recessed to go to the Courthouse for the swearing-in ceremonies of the District Court Judges Wood and Gore. The meeting reconvened at 11:30.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Marlowe and passed to approve the road petition requesting that the road in the Singletary Development, Lees Township, be added to the State System. This action is subject to the road qualifying under the State regulations of the Department of Transportation.

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

Ordered: that the 1979 (Late List Pickup) taxes listed in the name of Ervin Cribb Williams Township, be cancelled on the valuation of \$2,000.00 for Senior Citizens Exemption.

Ordered: that the 1979 pickup of Landford Smith, Bug Hill Township, be released on the valuation of \$10,000.00 due to error in listing a metal barn that he does not own.

Ordered: that the 1980 taxes listed in the name of Askew Chevrolet Company, Inc., Chadbourn Township, be cancelled on the valuation of \$11,500.00 due to an error by the Tax Lister.

Ordered: that the 1979 taxes listed in the name of James Edward and Louise B. Davis, Whiteville Township, be released on the valuation of \$3,000.00 due to an error in transferring property.

Ordered: that the 1979 and 1980 taxes listed in the name of Robert L. Cartrette, Whiteville Township, be released on the valuation of \$17,000 due to an error in transferring property.

Ordered: that the 1980 taxes listed in the name of Irvin C. & Shirley N. Brown, Ransom Township, be released on the valuation of \$15,410.00 due to an error in appraisal.

Ordered: that the 1979 taxes listed in the name of Joan Powell, Whiteville Township, be released on the valuation of \$3,920.00 due to an error in transferring property.

Ordered: that the 1979 Late List Pickup of Leroy Stevens Heirs, Bug Hill Township, be released on the valuation of \$400.00 due to an error in appraisal.

Ordered: that the 1969 through 1979 taxes listed in the name of W. A. Yardall, Welches Creek Township, be cancelled.

Ordered: that the 1979 taxes listed in the name of James and Margie N. Tyler, Williams Township, be cancelled on the valuation of \$6,210.00 due to double listing.

Ordered: that the 1979 Late List Pickup and the 1980 taxes listed in the name of William L. Thompson, Jr., Whiteville Township, be released on the valuation of \$600.00 due to an error in listing property that he does not own.

Ordered: that the 1980 taxes listed in the name of James P. Britt, Tatum Township, be released on the valuation of \$7,500.00 for Senior Citizens Exemption.

Ordered: that the 1980 taxes listed in the name of James B. & Patricia J. Martin, Bogue Township, be released on the valuation of \$325.00 due to error in listing valuation of car.

Ordered: that the 1980 taxes listed in the name of Bobby L. & Thelma Holmes Fair Bluff Township, be released in the amount of 66¢ for the Service District as this property is not in the District.

Ordered: that a refund be given to Elizabeth Price, Whiteville Township, in the amount of \$111.50 for the years 1979 and 1980 due to an error in listing house that has been sold.

Ordered: that a refund be given to Lloyd Paul Ward, Lees Township, in the amount of \$26.00 for the year 1980 due to an error in listing a grain bin.

At 11:47 a motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed to adjourn into executive session to discuss the purchase of a lot and building.

At 12:25 a motion was made by Commissioner Marlowe, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed to reconvene in regular session.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Marlowe and passed to adjust the salary of Gay Thompson, Tax Clerk, to \$642.00 per month and, also, set the salary of the additional tax clerk (approved at 11/3 meeting) at the same rate as Ms. Thompson's.

The Board asked Tax Supervisor, Ralph Jolly, to work with the Tax Collector's office to use the employees of both offices in whichever office has a need and work is slow in the other office at a specific time.

The following persons were appointed to serve on the Community Development Advisory Board: Leroy Sutton - Hallsboro target area; Emory Smith - Member at large. Other members appointed earlier were John Gardner - Brunswick target area; Junior W. Dew - County Commissioner and Doretha Hassel - Employee of FmHA Office.

Informal bids were opened by the Board to re-roof Sadler Hall at the Miller Building and recorded as follows:

Nobles Roofing Company	\$ 15,216.70
R. & M. Roofing & Sheet Metal Works	18,897.50
E. L. Hawks, Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.	15,000.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Marlowe and passed to award the contract to E. L. Hawks Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc. for \$15,000.00 to re-roof Sadler Hall at the Miller Building.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew and seconded by Commissioner Marlowe to delete the planner position as planned in the budget and hire a county administrator for the County's share of the funds that were appropriated, and that the Board prepare and adopt a set of guidelines and policies under which the administrator would be hired. This motion was defeated by the following vote: Voting YES were Commissioners Dew and Marlowe. Voting NO were Commissioners Norris, Hinson and Williamson.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew and seconded by Commissioner Marlowe that a county manager be hired instead of a planner and that the Board set out the policies and guidelines under which a manager would work. This motion was defeated by the following vote:

Voting YES were Commissioners Dew and Marlowe.

Voting NO were Commissioners Norris, Hinson and Williamson.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed that a planner be hired for the County. Commissioners Dew and Marlowe voted against hiring a planner.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Marlowe and passed to retain James E. Hill, Jr. as County Attorney.

The meeting recessed until 2:30 p.m. and Commissioner Marlowe was absent from the afternoon session.

Applications for the planner position were presented to the Board for review.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed that Arcelia Wicker with the Department of Community Development and Natural Resources, be requested to come and, with Chairman Williamson, screen the applications down to five or six and the selected applicants be interviewed at a later date.

Commissioner Dew opposed this motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed to allow the Finance Officer to release the payroll for all County Employees on December 19th and give a Christmas bonus of \$25.00 (net).

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until December 15th at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVED:

Eugene W. Suggs
Clerk

Edward Williamson
Chairman