

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 21, 1981, Monday being a legal holiday.

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 the Reverend Thad Prevatte, Pastor, Baptist Church, Chadbourn.

The following business was transacted:

The minutes of the April 6th meeting were approved as recorded upon motion by Commissioner Norris and seconded by Commissioner Dew.

Susan Harmuth, RSVP Director, met with the Board to request the continued funding for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program for 1981-82 in the amount of \$10,000.00 plus anything more the County sees fit to appropriate to the Program. Ms. Harmuth was accompanied by Advisory Council Members, Wyche West and Bessie Cartrette. No decision was made at this time but will be considered at budget time.

Ralph Brake, Blue Cross/Blue Shield Representative, met with the Board to discuss a hospital insurance plan that is proposed for Columbus County employees. The plan would change the benefits to pay major medical rather than the extended benefits that it now pays with a the maximum \$250,000.00 rather than \$25,000.00 it now pays. The benefits to employees would generally be greater than the present policy. Two plans were discussed and Mr. Brake recommended that the County add a \$100.00 deductible clause to try to curtail persons entering the hospital and being treated on an outpatient basis. No decision was made at this time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed to appropriate \$42,460.00 from Surplus to purchase 5 LTD Ford cars for the Sheriff's Department. It was further stipulated that the cars that have been driven over 100,000.00 miles be advertised for sale and any other cars that are surplus after this purchase is made.

A letter was presented to the Board from the Tabor City Town Council requesting that the appropriation made to the Tabor City Volunteer Fire Department be sent to the Town Council, rather than to the Fire Department, to be disbursed. Commissioner Norris stated that he would attend the Town Council Board meeting tonight (April 7) to get further information on the request.

The question was further discussed concerning cutting of the trees on the southeast corner of the Courthouse Square as requested by Lacy R. Thompson on April 7th. A letter was presented to the Board from a City garden club requesting that the trees not be cut down and, also, a letter from Agriculture Extension Chairman, Garland McCullen stating that the trees show no immediate danger from disease and that the trees are a good source of energy saving. The Board visited the Square to inspect the trees themselves.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed to not cut the trees on the southeast corner of the Courthouse Square. Commissioner Norris suggested that the trees be trimmed of the dead limbs to enhance their appearance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Marlowe and seconded by Commissioner Dew that the County not implement any new programs during the upcoming budget year and that the County not fund any State or federal programs that are cut by those agencies that have been funded to provide services on the County level.

Commissioners Marlowe and Dew voted in favor of the above motion.

Commissioners Hinson, Norris and Williamson voted against the above motion and the motion did not pass.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed to request the State Office of Personnel to update the County's Position Classification & Pay Plan and when the Plan is finalized, that the County abide by the Plan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Marlowe and passed to approve the the pay plan for employees under the State Merit System (Health Dept., Social Services and Emergency Management) the same as used for 1980-81 which is the 1979 State plan. The only revisions to the Plan is to add some classifications for the Health Department Sanitarians. No changes are in order for the Social Services Department at this time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Marlowe and passed to authorize the Chairman to sign the Cooperative Agreement between Columbus County Health Department, Social Services Department and SENClard Community Action to continue their work for In-Home Services now provided by the three agencies.

Irene Young, Director of Nurses, County Health Department, expressed concern that the Cardinal Health Agency has approved the establishment of a four-county health agency that would include Columbus County. The services would be provided by a private agency and would be in competition with the County Health Department. Mrs. Young felt the Health Department was giving adequate service in this area. The Board stated that the Health Board had their support if they wished to take appeal and asked that the County Attorney could assist them if he is needed. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to the Hospital Administrator, Ralph Rogers, requesting that he continue to work with the local Health Department in the in-home service program as he has in the past.

Involvement Council Chairperson, Anne Williamson, met with the Board to request a budget appropriation from the County of \$2,748.00 for financial assistance to the Council for postage, supplies, travel, etc. No decision was made at this time but will be considered at budget time.

Materials were presented to the Board from Mr. Keith Oates, Dept. of Human Resources, Division of Health Services, to apply for funds for participation in Water Management & Mosquito

Control Program. He stated that the application needed to be sent in to the State as soon as possible to be eligible for funds before all funds are disbursed. The estimated budget for 1981-82 is \$98,000.00, plus a liability of \$70,000.00 for lease purchase of equipment. The estimated funds from the State is \$32,000.00, plus an estimated use refund of \$12,300.00 for the time the equipment is in use.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew that no programs be started that would require the purchase of \$100,000.00 worth of equipment until such time as the County can afford to build a maintenance garage to take care of repairs to the County's equipment as the County is now paying for repairs on a retail basis.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marlowe.

Commissioners Dew and Marlowe voted in favor of the motion.

Commissioners Hinson, Norris and Williamson voted against the motion and it did not pass.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris and seconded by Commissioner Hinson to table the matter until the next meeting for further discussion and the Clerk contact Mr. Oates and request that he meet with the Board to discuss the Program as Commissioner Norris is not familiar with the Program.

Commissioners Dew and Marlowe voted against the motion.

Commissioners Hinson, Norris and Williamson voted for the motion and it was passed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Marlowe, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed to approve the recommendation of the Youth Task Force for the distribution of the Community Based Alternatives funds for Columbus County for 1981-82 as presented to the Board by Tommy Holmes, Chairman of the Task Force. The distribution is as follows: In-School Suspension at Acme Delco School - \$16,434; In-School Suspension at West Columbus School - \$14,487; and \$7,000 to be applied to purchasing a mini-bus for extended day care. These programs are for youths-at-risk, delinquents and youths on probation between the ages of seven and seventeen.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed to amend the budget of the Sheriff's Department to purchase a walkie-talkie at a cost of \$1,678.00 to replace one that was stolen. Funds are to be appropriated from insurance payments in the amount of \$1,100.00 and the remainder from Surplus.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the County of Columbus hereinafter referred to as the County, recognizes that children under the direct care of the County as wards of the State are entitled to full safety and health benefits available to the County, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program, hereinafter referred to as GHSP, proposes to implement a program to assist counties in protecting wards of the State against death and serious injury in automobile accidents by making available

crash-tested automobile child restraint devices (CRD's) to municipal Social Services caseworkers who transport wards of the State in their automobiles and to educate the caseworkers as to the proper use of the CRD;

PROVIDED, the County of Columbus agrees to require that Social Service caseworkers will secure those wards of the State who weigh less than fifty (50) pounds in the CRD's provided when transporting them in cars, to use the CRD's provided to the County for a period of not less than two years, to provide manpower necessary to move the CRD's from vehicle to vehicle and location to location within the County as needed and to provide training in the proper installation and use of the CRD's for new caseworkers as they are hired, to act as a child transportation safety information distribution source within the County using information and materials provided by GHSP, to provide a report to GHSP every three months which will include an estimate of the frequency of use of the CRD's by the caseworkers and to provide a yearly report which will include an inventory of the CRD's in use and which will include a report on the condition of the CRD's based on an inspection of each CRD, to frequently inspect the CRD's to insure that they are kept in good and clean condition and to replace any parts in poor condition, to notify GHSP in the event that any CRD in use is involved in an accident so that it can be inspected and/or replaced by GHSP; and

WHEREAS, the GHSP Wards of the State Transportation Safety Program hereinabove described is considered most necessary to the preservation of the safety and welfare of the wards of the State entrusted to the care of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GHSP Wards of the State Transportation Program set out herein be and it is formally approved by the Commissioner of the County of Columbus and that the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners be and is hereby empowered to sign and execute the required agreement between this County and the GHSP to acquire the benefits of the Wards of the State Transportation Safety Program hereinabove set out for the County.

Commissioner Marlowe left the meeting at this time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed to appropriate \$1,250.00 for the Sheriff's Department to pay attorney fees, funds to be appropriated from Surplus.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until April 23, 1981, to meet as a Board of Equalization and Review. Meeting is to begin at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVED:

Emogene W. Suggs
Clerk

Edward W. Williams
Chairman