

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., May 17, 1982, it being third Monday.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT:

Junior W. Dew, Chairman

Lynwood Norris, Vice-Chairman

Edward W. Williamson

C. Waldo Marlowe

L. A. Hinson

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 May 3rd meeting were approved as recorded upon motion by Commissioner Marlowe and seconded by Commissioner Norris.

Mr. Joe Kenyon, Soil Conservationist, and Willie Spruill, Soil Technician, met with the Board to present a yearly report on the progress of the Soil Survey for Columbus County. Mr. Spruill stated that the survey is about 76% complete and should be finished by March of 1984. He anticipates some assistance from workers in Bladen and Brunswick Counties if this is accomplished by 1984. Mr. Kenyon stated that there are a great number of uses of the soil survey including appraising land for tax purposes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Marlowe, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed that the recreation budget be amended to include \$555.00 in donations for soft ball games' expenses.

Mr. Randy Wesley presented another informal bid to re-roof a section of the Law Enforcement Center and deleting a portion of the first bid presented. He stated that there is a 10 year guarantee on the labor and 15 year guarantee on the materials. The guarantee is by the Goodyear Company and not with the sales company. The total price quoted for re-roofing a portion of the building is \$9,854.00 The bid from E. L. Hawks Roofing is \$9,200.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson to contract with the Sunbelt Roofing Service, Inc. to re-roof the building at a cost of \$9,854.00. No second was made to this motion and no decision was made at this time. The question arose as to how many years guarantee was on the roof proposed by E. L. Hawks and it was decided to wait until June 7th meeting to make a decision on re-roofing the Law Enforcement Center.

A motion was made by Commissioner Marlowe, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed that the State be allowed to add additional wiring at the Courthouse Annex to allow the Agriculture Stabilization & Conservation office to have use of a computer which will be furnished by the State at no cost to the County. This action was taken as the result of information given by Mr. Tommie Smith that Columbus County has been chosen as a pilot county to have their office functions automated by the State and federal agencies.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Norris to reappoint Mr. Bernice Gerald, Mr. Wilbur Freedman and Mr. Sam Koonce to the Economic Development Commission for another term which will end on June 30, 1985.

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

Ordered: that the 1972 through 1981 taxes listed in the name of Lee Omie Cumber, Williams Township, be cancelled as all property owned by her has been sold to other persons and is listed in other names.

Ordered: that the 1981 taxes listed in the name of Spencer M. Strickland, Cerro Gordo Township, be cancelled on the valuation of \$7,500.00 due to an error in listing 50 acres of property.

Ordered: that the 1981 taxes listed in the name of W. G. & Betty Gore, Bug Hill Township, be released on the valuation of \$10,875.00 as personal property is double listed.

Ordered: that the 1971 through 1974 taxes listed in the name of James E. Russell, Ransom Township, be cancelled due to double listing in two counties.

The Tax Collector's Report for the month of April was reviewed by the board. The percent of collections for 1981 taxes is now at 91.55%.

A letter was read to the Board from the Local Government Commission concerning delinquent assessments on the Drainage Districts #1 and 3. The FmHA Director had brought it to the attention of the Local Government Commission that both Districts were in arrearage on collecting assessments and wanted action taken to force the County Tax Collector to collect the back assessments so their FmHA loans can be kept current and maintenance be performed. It was suggested that a meeting be arranged between the parties concerned to try to resolve the problem. The Board asked the Clerk to acknowledge the receipt of the letter and tell the Commission that the County Board and others will be glad to meet and discuss the problem.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Marlowe and passed that David M. Griffeth Associates be hired again this fiscal year to prepare the County's Indirect Cost Plan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Marlowe and passed to authorize the Chairman to sign the grant application for the Board of Education to apply for Volunteer Tutoring Services Grant from the Department of Crime Control & Public Safety.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed that the Chairman contact Wallace Clontz and proceed with the renovation plans for the Administrative Building with some changes as suggested by Jack Ervin, for the Economic Development portion of the office space.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed that an advertisement be placed in the local paper for a veterans' service officer to work with Hugh Nance as a temporary part-time employee until such time as Mr. Nance retires. This action was taken as the result of Mr. Nance stating that he plans to retire July 1, 1982, and feels that someone should be partially trained in that position before he leaves the office.

The following Department Heads attended the quarterly meeting with the Board: Joann Vereen, Irene Young, Marion Duncan, Jack Ervin, Annie Strickland, Nora Fore, Howard Stanley, Amanda Bible, S. T. Enzor, Roscoe Enzor, Ralph Jolly, Paul Hughes, Junior Babson, Garland McCullen, Tracy Floyd, Hobson Ivey, Otis Collins, Evelyn Rabon, Stuart Sasser, Ila Penny and Emogene Suggs.

Mr. Ralph Brake, Blue Cross Representative, was present at the meeting to discuss the hospital group policy and to suggest an alternate plan if the Board is interested. The reason for the alternate plan is that the rate for the present plan will increase 17% the first of July. No decision was made concerning the change to an alternate plan.

Howard Stanley, Emergency Management Coordinator met with the Board and Dept. Heads to discuss the suggestions by the Fred S. James Company to improve the safety of the work sites for county employees and, therefore, reduce the number of accidents and the cost of the Workers' Compensation Insurance.

Mr. Stanley asked that a number of employees in each building take first aid courses to be able to assist when an accident occurs on the county's premises. The Board did not take any action on this matter and Mr. Stanley was asked to consult with the College concerning the charges.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to amend the Crisis Intervention budget in the amount of \$18,890.00 and to allow the Department of Social Services to pay energy bills retroactive to October 1, 1981.

E. D. Meares, Jr. and seven other Fire & Rescue Squad representatives met with the Board to discuss funds for Fire & Rescue Squads for 1981-82. Mr. Meares made a presentation to the Board concerning the cost of operation and the time consumed for volunteer workers. As president of the County Association of Fire & Rescue Squads, he requested that \$10,000 be paid to each department which is 16 fire departments and 8 rescue squads, which would total \$240,000.00. This does not include the private ambulance services which he suggested be paid on a reimbursement basis rather than a lump sum. No action was taken on this request but will be considered at budget sessions. Districts that levy taxes for services are not included in the above request.

A letter was presented to the Board from the Association of Register of Deeds for District V which requested a contribution to their Association to help cover the cost of their upcoming convention. No decision was made on this request.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Marlowe and passed that a 7½ ton air conditioning/heating system be purchased from Pridgen Brothers Heating & Air Conditioning to be installed in the west wing of the Miller Building at a cost of \$8,500.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Marlowe and passed that Mrs. Helen White be given a check in the amount of \$50.00 for immediate relief.

A motion was made by Commissioner Marlowe, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed that the budget be amended to cover the cost of the moving of the offices to the old PCA Building and the installation of an air conditioner in the building at a cost of \$3,490.00. Building renovations are estimated at \$2,500.00. Other amendments are to be made to the following: Tax Supervisor's Office - Telephone - Increase \$500.00 and Capital Outlay - Increase \$5,200.00; Tax Collector's Office - Telephone-Increase \$4,500.00, Maintenance & Repairs to Equipment - Increase \$2,718.00 and Contract Service - Increase \$1,500.00; Finance Office - Capital Outlay - Increase \$700.00. Funds to be appropriated from Surplus.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until June 7, 1982, at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVED:

Emogene W. Seegs
Clerk

Junior Dent
Chairman