

October 22, 1963

Present: All commissioners, Mr. W. S. Donaldson.

Assessor's Office

Mr. W. Herbert read letter requesting that Mr. Hewitt be promoted to an assessor. Would cost the county approximately \$200 more per year. Mr. Hewitt's present salary is \$4302 per year. If the promotion becomes effective December 1st, he would receive \$4790, increased to \$4982 on July 1st. If the promotion does not become effective until January 1st, Mr. Hewitt would stay at the \$4790 level for the year of 1964. If the promotion is not granted, Mr. Hewitt will get an increase as of January 1st, to \$4456 as an assessor's aide. This promotion must be approved by the commissioners. Mr. Herbert will be informed of their decision.

Mr. Herbert said that Mr. Guyther had checked the lots located at Colton's Point, Block 17, Lots 13 and 14, which Mrs. Gibson is interested in buying, and Mr. Guyther said the county cannot sell these lots, as it has never taken title to them. Mr. Donaldson said he and Mr. Herbert were in the process of itemizing all of the property the county has taken in the tax sales. There is some possibility that this might revert back to the people who originally owned it if the county has never taken it over. There is another piece of property in the 1st District in the name of Leon Strange, 9 acres in St. James, and Mr. S. Bradburn is interested in this.

The commissioners will discuss this further with Mr. Guyther and ask him if it is legal to sell property taken over for taxes at a price earning a profit.

Mr. Bowles will ask Mrs. Gibson to make an offer for the two lots she is interested in at Colton's Point.

Permits to Move Trailers

Mr. Herbert asked about issuing permits to move trailers, as he is having a great deal of difficulty keeping his records straight due to the fact that trailers are moved from one location to another and his office has no knowledge of this. There are about 100 per year moved in the county, and he feels some charge should be made for the permit to move a trailer. He suggested that when a building permit is issued for a trailer to locate on a piece of property, the people concerned should be informed that a permit will be required to move the trailer to another location. Trailer sales people should be likewise notified to so inform purchasers. Would have to determine if trailers being moved in and out of the county should also get a permit.

Mr. Burch suggested that all trailer owners be requested to register, provided they are not located in a trailer park, and set deadline for registration. (Mr. Guyther came in at this point). Mr. Guyther said the commissioners have the authority under the trailer law to do this by resolution. He suggested keeping the cost for locating a trailer in the \$2.00 bracket. This could be done by having the property owner pay the fee for locating the trailer on his property and this would be his responsibility.

Tax Sale Property

Mr. John H. Briscoe reported that he was representing a Mr. Peter Antonelis who had purchased property in a tax sale. It was sold in January 1961, and could not be foreclosed until one year from the date of the sale. Mr. Briscoe proceeded to foreclose after one year, and when he inquired as to whether this property had been redeemed, was told it was not. He searched the title and filed the necessary pleadings and went in to get the deed signed by Mr. Cecil. The deed was in the name of Gurvitz so far as Mr. Briscoe knew, but he now discovered it was no longer in Mr. Gurvitz's name. This man died, and in June of 1961, Mrs. Gurvitz came in and paid the taxes up to the day of the transaction, had this transferred on the assessors books and recorded the deed. When the people came in to pay the taxes, there was nothing on the books to show this tax had been paid. This property was transferred by deed but it was not in the index. Mr. Guyther said it would appear that the buyer did not have a good title.

Mr. Antonelis paid the taxes at the time of the sale, and the balance is paid when the property is obtained. The property could not legally be transferred by Mrs. Gurvitz. Mr. Antonelis is angry about the money he has spent in this matter and only has managed to get one piece of the original six pieces of property he purchased. He paid a deposit of \$8.19. The lot in question is #28, Scotland Beach.

Mr. Briscoe said he will work out a statement to present to the commissioners and will show Mr. Guyther the discrepancies on the books in the Hall of Records.

Suit Against Commissioners - Plater

Mr. Guyther discussed this suit pending against the commissioners, arising from an accident which happened three years ago in 1960. Mr. Guyther said that the law should be changed to state that any person having a claim against the county should so notify the commissioners within 90 days.

Animal Shelter Radio Equipment

Letter read from the Charles County commissioners concerning installation of such equipment in the Tri-County Shelter, requesting opinion of the SMC commissioners as to settlement of this account, in the amount of \$934.00. Mr. Burch stated that he had been shown a letter stating that this was to be paid for by Charles County, written by Mr. John Sullivan. A copy of this letter will be requested. Equipment was installed by Motorola Communications and Electronics, Inc.

Roads

Senator Raley, Delegate Fowler, Mr. M. C. Thompson, Mr. T. Hall, met with the commissioners to determine priority list for secondary roads and the "go" program. List revised and copies in files. Two copies of the revised priority list will be mailed to Mr. John Funk, Chairman-Director of the SRC. Copies will also be mailed to those present.

Clark's Landing Road - Mr. Thompson said the state is going to put 20 feet of blacktop on their part of this road, and this road has been removed from the priority list.

Mr. Hall said that at the end of the fiscal year we were \$10,000 in the "red", as this was taken away for debt service. Anticipated revenue is \$20,410. Has spent \$5800 so far this month up until last night. Mr. Thompson said that getting the roads ready for surface treating should have been included in the bond issue money, then it would not have pulled their maintenance figure down. Mr. Hall said they should pick up \$12,000 with the anticipated revenues. Mr. Thompson suggested that Mr. Hall go back and take the money used for patching and preparation of these roads and have it transferred over to maintenance.

Funds for reconstruction on Riceville Road in the amount of \$3,065.73, and Wolfrain Road in the amount of \$1,501.02, requested. Request granted by the commissioners.

Mr. Hall said he would try to keep maintenance costs this month under \$8,000.

Mr. Thompson said he had an appointment with Capt. Schumann about getting right of way from the navy for dual lane highway, which would run along the track of the navy railroad. Also said the bond issue money must be accounted for. This will be mentioned to Mr. Donaldson. Could put this in the construction account for X number of dollars and say it was for rehabilitation of roads.

Have had complaints from dump areas at Ridge and Willows Road about people shooting guns. Suggested the commissioners pass a resolution and post same and then there would be something to enforce regarding this. Mr. Hall will place signs prohibiting shooting in the dump areas and see what the results will be.

Mr. Thompson said he can get a cross-over located on his plans on Route 235 when the road is built, between the two lanes at Mr. G. Dorsey's subdivision. He said he will get the permit for the crossing when they get the right of way from the navy. He will request a crossing at that point and the captain can say yes or no. Mr. Burch said he would like to be with Mr. Hall when he relays this information to Mr. Dorsey.

Concerning the request for additional funds for the rental of Mrs. Abell's dump, a new lease will have to be negotiated.

Civil Defense

Mr. Thompson said the director's position is a full time job, five days per week, eight hours per day. Mentioned that these salaries can be recovered from the government at the rate of 50%. He feels that the Control Tower is undermanned with just four men. He would recommend a paid director, Charles Donaldson as operations officer or administrative officer, and the commissioners could request that these men be placed under the merit system. County could also be under the state retirement system.

Mr. Thompson asked about statement from the Southern Oxygen Company in the amount of \$15,981.69 for eight generators. He explained that the county pays the entire amount and sends the bill to Civil Defense, and they will reimburse for half. The bill should be certified. The county will pay \$7,000, which is in the budget from last year, and the \$998.04 over and above the amount in the budget for this.

Mr. Thompson said he will send in his resignation when the commissioners chose a man to replace him. Mr. Henry Fowler thanked Mr. Thompson for his fine service to the county and said the people were not fully aware of how completely he had served them. Some men suggested for the position of Director of Civil Defense were Col. Cobb, Col. Baxter, Capt. Lee.

Meeting adjourned.

Approved,

F. Elliott Burch
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President

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