

MINUTES OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 4, 1977

The regular meeting of the County Council was opened by Chairman Phinney with the opening prayer by Mr. Crain. Councilmen Ables and Herring were absent.

Minutes of the September 20th meeting were approved as furnished. Mr. Cox made the motion, Mr. Crain seconded and it was carried.

Retirement coverage for PSE employees was discussed by PSE Coordinator, Frank Hix and Council Members. Mr. Bailes moved to discontinue retirement for these employees as they are considered temporary. Mr. Moore seconded and the motion was unanimously carried. It was ruled that before any new county jobs can be created to include all PSE, they will have to be approved by Council.

Tax Collector, John Fowler, gave the following update on delinquent tax collection for the first quarter of 1977-78.

July	\$26,824.54
August	23,072.31
September	<u>16,583.83</u>
Total	\$66,480.68

Mr. Fowler projected a collection of some \$110,000 in the second quarter if he were allowed to hire an additional clerk. Council asked Mr. Fowler for a breakdown of delinquent taxes as to the percentage for personal property and real estate. He gave an estimate of 70% personal and 30% real estate. Mr. Fowler agreed to furnish Council a monthly report of nula bonas showing name, reason, etc. Mr. Cox then moved to hire an extra clerk for Mr. Fowler as his present clerk will be retiring in about 6 months. Mr. Bailes seconded and it was carried. The salary for this clerk is to be \$5,840 and an evaluation will be made in 6 months to see if two clerks are needed.

Joyce Hightower, floating clerk for the Treasurer and Auditor, has requested permission to pay retirement for the year or so that she was employed as part time in the Tax Assessors Office. She agrees to pay both the individual and employers share. She also requested this time she worked part time be counted for her with regard to vacation and sick days. Mr. Cox moved to concur with the request, Mr. Thomas seconded and it was approved.

Mr. Frady offered proposed office changes as recommended by the Buildings and Grounds Committee and moved to approve the following:

1) Sheriff's offices to be occupied by the Probation Office, with the exception of one office which will be given to the Probate Judge. This will be done when the Sheriff moves to the Law Enforcement Center.

2) Judge Howard Ballenger to occupy space vacated by Probation Office which will eliminate the \$350.00 per month rent we are now paying.

3) Assessor and Clerk of Court to occupy space in Communications room when they move to the Law Enforcement Center.

4) One office will be available at the Planning Board when Civil Defense office moves to the Law Enforcement Center.

Mr. Thomas seconded Mr. Frady's motion to approve these changes and all votes were favorable.

Mr. Thomas moved to notify Mr. Keasler of the Appalachian Health Council of the County's acceptance of his offer to assist with applications for county health programs. Mr. Moore seconded stating he wanted Council to recommend projects on a priority list - All votes were in favor.

Budget Director, Richard Lay, gave Council an update on a site presently being considered for a landfill near the present Lakeview site on property already owned by the County. Preliminary borings have been completed, no rock was discovered and the land is considered suitable, however the Governing Body must hire an Engineer to do the topographic survey and this is expected to take 3 months. It is hoped, however, according to Mr. Lay, that approval can be obtained to open one trench, which, if approved, could be ready in two to four weeks. The only requirement of the county would be to furnish water, electricity and fencing.

The question of a 5% raise for employees after the six month probationary period was discussed and Mr. Cox moved to include this in the personnel policy. Mr. Bailes suggested more study be given to this and Mr. Cox withdrew his motion.

Council Members agreed when new permanent employees are hired they be introduced to Council so they can be made aware of their duties. Mr. Crain suggested that Council Members be furnished a list of job vacancies.

Council adjourned at 9:30 P.M. for a film "Emergency Operations Center" shown by Civil Defense Director June Black.