

MINUTES SPECIAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 21, 1978

The special meeting of County Council held in the auditorium of Utica School was opened by Chairman Phinney with the invocation by Mr. Crain. All Council Members were present.

Ordinance 78-9 "Sale of Oconee County General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes" was adopted on Third and final Reading. Motion by Mr. Ables seconded by Mr. Thomas. Voting in favor 4 opposed 1 (Earle). Councilmen Bailes, Cox and Herring had not arrived for the meeting at the time of the vote.

Mr. Frady moved to award the bid for the new rock crushing equipment to The Interstate Equipment Co. of Statesville, N.C. The amount of the bid (turn key job) is \$605,825 plus state tax if applicable. The bid to be awarded Interstate Equipment Co. according to the terms and conditions of their bid. Mr. Crain seconded the motion which passed by a 5 to 1 vote. Voting in favor: Councilmen Cox, Crain, Thomas, Frady and Ables. Voting against: Councilman Earle. (Councilmen Bailes and Herring were not present at the time of the vote) .

Chairman Phinney announced Council would only hold one meeting in December. This meeting will be at 3 P.M. Tuesday December 5th.

Mr. Thomas moved to adjourn for a meeting with the Superintendent of Education, Oconee County School Board and Oconee County Education Association. Mr. Ables seconded and it was agreed.

MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING COUNTY COUNCIL NOVEMBER 21, 1978

A special meeting of County Council, Oconee School Board and County Teachers Association was held at 7 P.M. in the auditorium of the Utica School. The meeting was opened by Chairman Phinney with the invocation by Mr. Fred Hamilton.

Fred Hamilton, Supt. of Education, spoke on behalf of the Teachers supporting a 6% pay increase. During his presentation, he cited numerous facts and statistics as they pertained to how Oconee County ranked among other counties in the State on average teacher pay. For example he stated that the school year 75/76 Oconee County ranked 12th of 92 school districts whereas in the school year 1978-79 the ranking was 28 of 92.

Mr. Dick Ellenburg's remarks pertained principally to citing situations, facts and circumstances that would justify the 6% pay increase. He, too, cited numerous statistics; for example, he compared how 3rd and 7th grade students in Oconee County compared to the National and State average in language pointing out that Oconee County students were above both the State and National average. He expressed concern that unless the teachers receive a pay increase that it could result in Oconee County losing quality professional personnel that are currently teaching in Oconee.

Following Mr. Ellenburg's presentation, Chairman Phinney received questions from the audience. Two teachers, Mrs. Sheffield and Mr. Thompson asked questions of Council. Following the questions, Councilman Crain spoke to the audience and pointed out that the responsibility of determining where and how operational funds would be spent was on the shoulders of the Oconee County School Board. Further, he explained that during the past several years the School operating Budget had been increased each year. He also stated that there were more teachers and teacher aides on board than was necessary to meet the States criteria for accreditation. He also pointed out that during this budget year the School had received approximately \$491,000 more State funds than last year and approximately \$125,000 more of county funds. Mr. Hamilton, in response, gave a breakdown of how the approximate \$616,000 had been used.

Mr. Cox followed Mr. Crain and stated that he felt that if teachers are given an increase that county employees should be given an increase and suggested that an advisory referendum be held.

Mr. Ables stated that he felt the time had come to "stop passing the buck" and there should be closer working relations between the Council and School Board, further, that he would look into the matter with the Budget Committee and Council and determine if there were any funds available to assist with the raise and render a report at a later date.

Mr. Herring stated that he "was between a rock and a hard place" since he was both a Member of Council and an employee of the School System. He stated he favored a budget increase during budget proceedings and supported a pay raise.

Page Two November 21, 1978

Chairman Phinney told Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Ellenburg and the assembled group that the Council would accept for information the data that had been presented and refer it to the Budget Committee for further study.