

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21, 1982

The Board of County Commission met this day in regular session with the following members present, to-wit: Jack Bowman, Chairman, Drew Peacock, Monroe Cox, Donnell Whitfield and Roy Bailey.

Clerk Willie D. Wise, Sheriff William G. Smith and Attorney Bill Corbin were present and acting. The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Smith followed with prayer by Commissioner Whitfield.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cox, seconded by Commissioner Peacock and duly carried to rehire Charles F. Bailey as County Road Superintendent.

A motion was made by Commissioner Whitfield, seconded by Commissioner Peacock and duly carried to rehire Alvin Roberts as Courthouse Maintenance Supervisor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Whitfield to rehire Bill Corbin as County Attorney. Motion died for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peacock to temporarily hire Frank Baker to serve as County Attorney until the position is properly advertised. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cox.

A delegation of about 50 people were present to speak on Bill Corbin's behalf and to speak on behalf of the issue of changing county attorney.

Mr. Wayne Posey presented a list of 122 names supporting Bill Corbin as County Attorney and opposing any change by the Board. Mr. Posey asked the Board if the Petition would have any bearing on Mr. Corbin's position. Chairman Bowman stated it would not make any difference, and he would not vote to rehire Bill at all.

Mr. Ray Bailey presented the Board with a newspaper and asked that an article be read stating that Frank Baker was fined for not filing a financial disclosure statement when Mr. Baker represented the Town of Malone, Florida.

Mr. Wallace Bailey also spoke on Mr. Corbin's behalf, and stated the Board should check more closely on Frank Baker before hiring him.

Mr. Corbin stated he would like to ask each commissioner their reason for firing him. Commissioner Cox stated that he had no serious problem with him and that he felt he was a qualified attorney at law. Commissioner Cox stated that there were times he thought Attorney Corbin had not pushed as hard as he should and that the rest of the Board had questioned this also. Commissioner Cox stated he thought Mr. Baker was also a qualified attorney at law, and that he believed Attorney Baker could save the County money as he had given a lower rate as a retainer fee and also an hourly rate. He also said he would be at each of the regular meetings, and if, for some reason he could not be at the meeting, that some member of the law firm would be there to represent us and stay as long as the Board required him to. Commissioner Cox stated he was willing to give him a chance to do this.

Mr. Posey asked Commissioner Peacock and Commissioner Bailey if any pressure was put on them to fire Mr. Corbin by Harold Shelton or Billy Daniels. The alleged pressure was because Mr. Corbin had represented Jean Daniels against Billy Daniels in her divorce case regarding Billy Daniel's refusal to pay child support. Commissioner Peacock stated he had not. Mr. Shelton stated he had not discussed Mr. Corbin with anyone, but he was for whatever the Board did.

Attorney Corbin stated that an outside attorney would have to be hired on some of the cases the County is involved with if Frank Baker's lawfirm was hired, and it would be very costly to the taxpayers.

After some discussion by the Commissioners, the motion was withdrawn by Commissioner Peacock.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peacock, seconded by Commission Cox and duly carried to advertise for an attorney and retain Bill Corbin for 30 days according to his contract. Commissioners Bowman, Cox and Peacock voted "yes". Commissioner Whitfield voted "no". Commissioner Bailey abstained saying he had a conflict of interest

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Attorney Corbin stated that he had requested a reason from the Board why he was being fired at the last meeting, and it was tabled. Attorney Corbin asked Chairman Bowman why it was brought up at a Special HUD Meeting. Commissioner Bowman stated he could bring up anything he wanted to at any meeting.

Mr. Edwin Strawn asked if Bill Corbin would be considered for rehiring. Commissioner Bowman stated he would not - speaking for himself only. Mr. Strawn stated the Board should listen to the citizens on this issue.

Attorney Corbin asked Commissioner Bowman again if his bid would be considered. Commissioner Bowman stated "no", speaking for Jack Bowman only.

Several other people also stated their opinion concerning Attorney Corbin, and stated that since the commissioners could find no fault with his services for the past 10 years, that he should be retained as County Attorney. During the discussion, Commissioners Bowman, Cox and Bailey stated they thought Mr. Corbin had been dragging his feet on two cases - these being the "Glory Road" case and the St. Joe Paper Company case. Attorney Corbin showed the Board a letter from the Clerk dated March 11, 1981, telling him that, pursuant to instructions from Commissioner Bowman, he was not to do any more work on the case regarding Glory Road. Attorney Corbin also stated that the Department of Revenue's attorneys were the ones really doing the work on the St. Joe Paper Company matter - not him - and that he had followed the Board's instructions for ten (10) years not to spend anymore time on cases than necessary so as to save money.

Mr. J. D. Fuqua with Chipola River Soil Conservation met with the Board on an erosion program for Calhoun County. Ms. Candy Trimble made a report to the Board on the program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Whitfield, seconded by Commissioner Peacock and duly carried to send a letter supporting the program.

Mr. Harold Shelton asked about the voting house at Chason. After some discussion, the Board agreed to move the house to the park.

Mr. Fernwood Bailey, Road Superintendent, stated he needed a ditch cleaner for the John Deere backhoe and a batwing mower.

A motion was made by Commissioner Whitfield, seconded by Commissioner Bailey and duly carried for the road superintendent and the Clerk to write up specifications and advertise for the mower and ditch cleaner where all companies making that equipment could bid.

Chairman Bowman stated that a bill was received on CETA employees for workers compensation in the amount of \$4,800.00 for additional payroll audit on CETA. HUD's bill was \$10,300.00.

Bids were opened as advertised for gas, oil and fuel. Gulf Oil Company placed the only bid.

A motion was made by Commissioner Whitfield, seconded by Commissioner Peacock and duly carried to accept the low and best bid, and the bid notice was advertised as stated by Commissioner Whitfield.

The minutes of the December 7 and December 15, 1982, meeting were read and approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Whitfield, seconded by Commissioner Bailey and duly carried to turn the claim in which David Smith is demanding \$100,000.00 payment due to the death of his son at Calhoun General Hospital. Commissioner Bowman stated he had already denied the claim.

Commissioner Cox stated that the drainage problem by Mrs. Grace Peacock's needed to be taken care of. After some discussion, the Board agreed for Commissioner Cox to handle this since it is in his district.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peacock, seconded by Commissioner Bailey and duly carried for the Senior Citizens to put a driveway cover on the building.

A motion was made by Commissioner Whitfield to hire Earnest Mears as Weatherization Superintendent. Motion seconded by Commissioner Peacock and duly carried. Chairman Bowman stated that Weatherization

Commissioner Whitfield stated the Board, at a previous meeting, had asked the Apalachee Regional Planning Council to check on the hazardous waste into the Chipola River. Chairman Bowman stated this would be handled.

Commissioner Whitfield inquired as to the Planning Grant for the City of Altha. Chairman Bowman stated he had discussed this with Dave Watkins, and he stated the Grant would be in by December 25, 1982.

Commissioner Bailey stated that each commissioner needs to get a list of roads in each target area to present to HUD to be paved.

The Board discussed the hiring procedures of the County.

Chairman Bowman presented a letter concerning the Tax Collector's office from Mike Tucker, Certified Public Accountant.

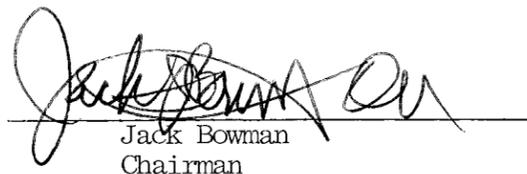
FUND	VOUCHER NO.	AMOUNT
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There being no further business, the Board did then adjourn.

ATTEST:



Willie D. Wise
Clerk



Jack Bowman
Chairman