

(Agenda of meeting was posted in the Courthouse Administration Lobby at 9:24 a.m., on Thursday, February 20, 1992)

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE  
February 25, 1992

The Board of County Commissioners of Tulsa County met at the hour of 1:00 p.m., with the following members present: John Selph, Chairman; Robert N. Dick, Lewis Harris. Members absent: none. Others present: John Hooper, Mel Phillips, Linda Johnston, Wayne Carr, Dick Blakeley, Jerry Conrey, Bill Conly, Keith Ferguson, Mickey Oberste, Brenda Graham, Larry D. Shaffer, Joe Wilburn, Jr., Joe Wilburn, Sr., Kim Archer, Marshall Stewart, Clay Edwards, Melody Bishop.

John Selph, Chairman, presiding, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and stated that this special meeting was called in order to discuss food stamp distribution. Selph received a letter dated 2-4-92 notifying Tulsa County that the U.S. Postal Service would discontinue issuance of food stamps effective April 30, 1992.

John Hooper, programs administrator for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services stated a new distribution method will be needed for 61 of Oklahoma's 77 counties. He said 13 counties either operated their own programs or worked through community action agencies. The remaining three counties are served by the Lubbock, Texas, post office.

Harris stated the postal service has 21 branches in Tulsa County. The Department of Human Services (DHS) would like to provide the same number of outlets.

Harris questioned who had the final authority on choosing a new distribution system. Hooper stated the Board of County Commissioners have the final authority. DHS would do the training which would take approximately 8 hours.

Harris asked Hooper if the Board would be permitted to use more than one firm? Hooper stated this would be possible. The Board also discussed distribution of food stamps through tag agencies, check-cashing services and other outlets.

Selph commented that he appreciated everyone being at the meeting and stated we are all trying to find a solution to this problem. Selph is not sure Tulsa County can put together a distribution service between now and April 30, 1992.

DHS is meeting with ACCO members March 10 in Vinita to discuss food distribution.

The Board stated they hoped DHS could persuade the postal service to give the agency more time to set up a new way to distribute food stamps. DHS wants a 30-to-60 day extension. Hooper hopes to have an answer from Washington this week.

The Board asked Edwards and Johnston to begin working on the development of a Request for Proposal in the next two weeks with a deadline of March 20, 1992. If the postal service doesn't grant an extension, the Board may have to negotiate individual service contracts.