

9-14-65 - Juvenile Hall

Graham Hill Hall Site Official

By Wallace Wood
Sentinel Staff Writer

County supervisors made official this morning their choice of the 37-acre Graham Hill road site for a new juvenile hall.

With district Supervisor Robert Burton abstaining, the board unanimously set October 19 at 11 a.m. as the time for a public hearing on purchasing the property.

The vote followed a stormy discussion on financing the hall that saw Burton pitting himself against the board, County Counsel William Card and Auditor George Kriz.

Burton declared he does not want to use "courthouse construction money" to buy the land for the \$500,000 hall. He claimed that the bond issue included the cost of land purchase and said that hall bond funds should be

used. He cited the wording of the board's resolution calling the bond issue and the ballot itself as including the purchase of land in the \$500,000.

Supervisors two weeks ago took \$150,000 from the general reserve fund to buy the Cowell property. This money, Burton claimed, belongs to the courthouse complex building fund.

About 10 acres of the 37 acres will be needed for a

juvenile hall, and the county may decide to sell the remainder, offsetting much of the purchase cost estimated at \$30,000 to \$50,000 by a juvenile justice commission committee.

Card, the county's attorney said he has consulted with Kriz and county bonding attorneys and decided the board intended the October, 1964, bond issue "for county building needs," and

added that "I drafted the resolution to exclude the purchase of land."

Burton, however, declared the ballot "supersedes the county counsel, the board and the courts," and pointed out it included acquisition of land.

"We are short of funds for the county courthouse—about \$1 million. We are going to be short \$150,000 on the county hospital. We shouldn't take any money from the courthouse," he said.

Supervisor Tom Black countered that "we took the money out of the reserve fund, not the courthouse fund," but McCallie pointed out that the county's special 15-cent tax for building needs goes to the unappropriated fund.

Kriz added that the money might have been appropriated partly to the courthouse, partly to the county hospital and juvenile hall in 1964, but declared that "at the end of the year, the funds were not spent, so the funds may be appropriated as the board sees fit."

Angered, Burton said, "You've gone a long way to prove me wrong. I'm tired of being wrong. I won't vote for the money and I doubt if I'll vote for the site until I know where the money is coming from."

Burton later repeated his argument and abstained on the vote to name the Cowell property as a hall site.