

*COLUMBUS COUNTY**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS***MINUTES**

The Honorable Board of Columbus County Commissioners met in their said office at 111 Washington Street, Whiteville, NC, at 8:00 A.M., May 6, 1996, it being the first Monday.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Spruell Randolph Britt, Chairman

C.E. "Gene" Wilson, Vice Chairman

David L. Dutton, Jr.

A. Dial Gray, III

Sammie Jacobs

Lynwood Norris

C.W. Williams

James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney

Dempsey B. Herring
County Administrator

Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

Chairman Spruell R. Britt called the meeting to order and Ed Worley, Aging Director, gave the invocation.

BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and passed unanimously to approve the Minutes of the April 15, 1996, Board Meeting as recorded.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner

Williams and passed unanimously to approve the following consent agenda items.

Tax Releases:

Gilbert James Anderson: Deferred taxes billed through error. C-7-6A transferred to the Farm, Incorporated's account only on #10-04318. Amount \$93.80, valuation \$11,200, year 1995, year 1995 for 94, 93, and 92, account #10-00380.

Earl Allen: Leasehold on V-1-5A (old house) torn down. Amount \$64.24, valuation \$8,000, years 1986-1995, account #15-00245.

Elbert Clemmons Brown: Discovered vehicles (1971 and 1966 Ford) traded and listed on regular list on #12-03380, Elbert C. Brown. Amount \$23.65, valuation \$2,500, year 1986, account #17-03950.

Ethel Ellis Robbins Crisco: Discovered vehicle (1977 Ford) listed in Brunswick County where she resides. Amount \$7.67, valuation \$1,010, year 1992, account #17-07881.

Payton C. Cunningham: Discovered vehicle (1988 Ford Thunderbird) totaled prior to 1-1-91 while stationed in Germany. Amount \$71.42, valuation \$9,410, year 1991, account #17-07894.

Oscar Frink: Discovered vehicle (1980 Chevrolet) junked in 1988. Amount \$23.05, valuation \$3,390, year 1989, account #13-14258.

Denny Deans Godwin: F-11-39, double listed on #06-12740 of Wade W. and Sadie Fowler as 26 Acre/Tract, map F-11-39. Amount \$21.50, valuation \$2,500, year 1987, account #06-14142.

Clarence Graham: Mobile home double listed on #16-05602, same name. Amount \$132.61, valuation \$11,260, year 1995, account #16-05630.

Ronald Keith Grainger Heirs: Discovered vehicle wrecked and totaled 12-7-91 (deceased 12-7-91). Amount \$46.68, valuation \$6,150, year 1992, account #17-14406.

Keith Russell Hill: Mobile Home (1991 14 x 70) repossessed November 1994. Amount \$167.43, valuation \$12,520, year 1995, account #12-12037.

Simon Hernandez: Discovered vehicle sold. Moved out of County to Mexico, prior to 1-1-92. Amount \$19.21, valuation \$2,530, year 1992, account #17-17791.

Willie Henry Holland: (Deceased) Did not own vehicle in 1992. Amount \$7.28, valuation \$960, year 1992, account #17-18582.

Doreen P. Ivey: Lives in Pembroke - mobile home vacant. Amount \$120.00, valuation \$790, year 1990, 94, 95, account #13-21065.

Juanita Jones (Heirs): 1978 Oldsmobile sold prior to 1-1-92. Amount \$7.46, valuation \$980, year 1992, account #01-48636.

Tommy J. McCray: Discovered vehicle (1975 Plymouth), insurance canceled prior to 1988. Amount \$76.40, valuation \$470, year 1988, account #17-24335.

Helina Bullock McMillan: 1988 Oldsmobile acquired after 1-1-89. Listed through error. Amount \$47.80, valuation \$6,390, year 1989, account #10-10710.

Jimmy McMillian: 1979 mobile home moved out of County prior to 1992. Amount \$50.70, valuation \$3,000, year 1992, account #10-10852.

J.B. McPherson: Storage bin located on F-7-59, rebilled for 5 years instead of 2. Was acquired in 1994. Amount \$78.54, valuation \$10,200, year 1995 for 91, 92, 93, account #13-26360.

Earl Nealey: Discovered vehicle (1978 Dodge) sold prior to 1-1-91. Amount \$9.42, valuation \$1,240, year 1991, account #17-27578.

Felton Norris: Discovered vehicle (1986 Dodge) repossessed by Trans America in 1991. Amount \$28.69, valuation \$3,780, year 1992. Account #17-27813.

Angeline V. Riggins: Mobile home (year 1990, 14 x 78) double listed on

Joseph Richburg, account #06-31198 (taxes paid). Amount \$150.40, valuation \$11,590, year 1995, account #06-31197.

Thomas Strickland c/o Barbara Hammond): 1978 Ford, junked vehicle prior to 1989. Priced through error. Amount \$10.54, valuation \$1,550, year 1989, account #13-38723.

Wood'N Stuff: Business closed 1992. Vehicle (1980 Chevrolet Van) junked prior to 1993; priced though error. Amount \$9.79, valuation \$1,360, year 1993, account #02-08517.

Clarence Graham: Mobile home is located outside the city limits of Cerro Gordo. Amount \$114.73, valuation \$56,240, years 1992-95, account #16-05630.

N.C. Strawberry Festival Fireworks Approval:

To allow the N.C. Strawberry Festival, Chadourn, NC, to exhibit fireworks in accordance with the North Carolina General Statutes 14-410.

AGREEMENT - COLUMBUS COUNTY HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION

Chairman Britt, presented the following letter to the Board that was received from the Columbus County Hospital Board of Trustees:

May 3, 1996

Spruell R. Britt, Chairman
Columbus County Commissioners
Administrative Office
111 Washington Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

Dear Randy:

Realizing the urgent need to provide daytime ambulance service to Columbus County, the hospital will assume responsibility for the balance of the existing general obligation bonds due in the amount of \$585,437.50. This contribution pays the bonds in full and allows funds to be used towards daytime ambulance service and/or other needed projects. The hospital also takes responsibility for future hospital revenue bond payments totaling approximately \$800,000 per year thereby relieving this financial responsibility from the county. The hospital will also be responsible for the development of a physical therapy/office building at a cost of approximately \$3 million dollars. It is also our understanding that the existing lease will be extended to meet the terms of the new bonds.

As both of our boards work for the betterment of Columbus County, you can be assured that the hospital will continue to look for ways that we may contribute toward better health care for all of our citizens.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bobby D. Deans/wsc
Chairman
Board of Trustees

BDD/pc

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Gray and passed unanimously to accept the letter as received from Columbus County Hospital contingent upon financing arrangements for the hospital project and a Contract Agreement with Columbus County.

AWARD (POSTHUMOUS) - SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO ANNE WILLIAMSON

W.D. "Bill" Brooks, Tax Administrator, presented a special recognition plaque to Ms. Sharon Enyart, sister of Anne Williamson, deceased, as follows:

PRESENTED TO

ANNE WILLIAMSON

* * * * *

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION OF YOU SERVING

AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

1985-1995

AND YOUR DEVOTED LEADERSHIP

CHAIRPERSON TO THE BOARD

1989-1995

* * * * *

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

PROCLAMATION - INFORMATION AND REFERRAL AWARENESS WEEK

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to adopt the following Proclamation:

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL AWARENESS WEEK

1996

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**A PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, information and referral agencies work to affirm the dignity, self-worth and independence of individuals by facilitating their decisions and action, tapping their experiences, skill and knowledge and enabling their continued contribution to the community; and

WHEREAS, information and referral agencies function as a point of entry, helping individuals to help themselves and each other, and offering service or access to community services as needed; and

WHEREAS, special recognition should be given to information and referral agencies and their role in serving individuals throughout the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, information and referral agencies in our communities serve as a viable commitment to the citizens of North Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Board of Commissioners, of Columbus County, do hereby proclaim May 12-18, 1996, as "Information and Referral Awareness Week" in Columbus County and commend this observance to our citizens.

ADOPTED this the 6th day of May, 1996.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTESTED BY: /s/ Spruell Randolph Britt, Chairman

/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

PROCLAMATION - ELIGIBILITY WORKERS DAY

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Gray and passed unanimously to adopt the following Proclamation.

ELIGIBILITY WORKERS DAY

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION - 1996

WHEREAS, our County's Income Maintenance Eligibility Workers are dedicated providing prompt and accurate benefits to its needy citizens; and

WHEREAS, these professionals continue to provide excellent customer service in spite of increased caseloads and budget cuts in these times of uncertainty regarding welfare reform; and

WHEREAS, while providing and promoting quality service, the Income Maintenance Eligibility Workers continue to dedicate themselves to improving their overall skills and professionalism worthy to Income Maintenance Eligibility Workers; and

WHEREAS, Income Maintenance Eligibility Workers are deserving of appropriate recognition for their extraordinary efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, do hereby proclaim May 9, 1996, as "Eligibility Workers Day" in Columbus County and commend this observance to our citizens.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ Spruell R. Britt, Chairman

/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

**DOT - RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ADDITION OF THOMPSON ROAD
TO THE STATE MAINTAINED SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner

Williams and passed unanimously to approve the following Resolution requesting the addition of Thompson Road to the state maintained secondary road system.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
REQUEST FOR ADDITION TO STATE MAINTAINED
SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM

NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF COLUMBUS

ROAD DESCRIPTION: Thompson Road

WHEREAS, the attached petition has been filed with the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Columbus requesting that the above described road, the location of which has been indicated in red on the attached map, be added to the Secondary Road System; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioner is of the opinion that the above described road should be added to the Secondary Road System, if the road meets minimum standards and criteria established by the Division of Highways of the Department of Transportation for the addition of roads to the System.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Columbus that the Division of Highways is hereby requested to review the above described road, and to take over the road for maintenance if it meets established standards and criteria.

CERTIFICATE

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus at a meeting on the 6th day of May, 1996.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this the 6th day of May, 1996.

/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk, Board of Commissioners

County of Columbus

SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE - 1996-97 BUDGETPRESENTATION

Dr. Steve Scott, Southeastern Community College President, presented the 1996-97 Southeastern Community College Budget request as follows:

Current Expense	\$1,106,594.00
Capital Outlay	370,743.00
Total 1996-97 Request	<u>\$1,477,337.00</u>

Chairman Britt advised Dr. Scott that Southeastern Community College will be given consideration in their requests during the County budgeting process.

COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT I - CONTRACT V BIDAWARD

Dempsey Herring, Administrator advised the Board that the following bids were received for the Columbus County Water and Sewer District I, Contract V - 200,000 gallon elevated storage tank, HUA No. CC9302:

Brown Steel Contractors, Inc. Newnan, Georgia	\$338,400.00
Caldwell Tanks, Inc. Louisville, Kentucky	\$352,000.00
Phoenix Fabricators and Erectors, Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana	\$381,899.00
Pittsburgh Tank and Tower Company, Inc. Henderson, Kentucky	\$452,417.00(Alternate bid)

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to award the bid to the low bidder, Brown Steel Contractors, Inc., Newman, Georgia, in the amount of \$338,400.00.

APPOINTMENT - TOWN OF BRUNSWICK PLANNING BOARD

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to reappoint Ms. Caletta Faulk to serve

a one (1) year term on the Town of Brunswick Planning Board, with term expiring May 17, 1997.

FIRE & RESCUE - EVERGREEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT TAX

FEE APPROVAL

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to accept the Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department Fire Fee Schedule as presented at the public hearing on April 16, 1996. The schedule is as follows:

1. A single family dwelling or manufactured home, and apartment structures, plus up to five (5) acres of surrounding land. The fees on this class property with valuation up to \$40,000 will be \$25.00. Valuation from \$40,001.00 up will be \$50.00. The fee on this class property will not exceed \$50.00 per site per year.
2. Unimproved land other than the five (5) acres of land classified as part of a single-family dwelling or manufactured home. The fee on this class property may not exceed two (2) cents per acre per year. The county may establish a minimum fee for unimproved land of not more than five dollars (\$5.00) per year.
3. An animal production or horticulture operation. The fee on this class of property may not exceed ten dollars (\$10.00) per site per year.
4. A commercial facility other than an animal production or horticulture operation. The fee on this class property may not exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00) per site per year for commercial facilities with structure encompassing less than 5,000 square feet and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per site per year for commercial facilities with structures encompassing 5,000 square feet or more.
5. A multiple-family dwelling. The fee on a duplex may not exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00) per building per year. The fee on a triplex may not exceed seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per building per year. The fee on any other multiple-family dwelling may not exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per building per year.
6. Any other class of property selected by the county. The fee on these classes of property may not exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00) per year.

FIRE & RESCUE - WHITEVILLE APPROVAL FOR RADIO

Shannon Strickland, Whiteville Rescue Chief, requested the Board to fund a radio for a new Type II ambulance that has been purchased by the department. The

following bids were received:

Piedmont Communications	\$1,216.04
Motorola	\$ 771.15
Communications Specialists	\$1,808.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Gray and passed unanimously to approve the purchase of a radio for the Whiteville Rescue Squad and award the bid to the lowest bidder, Motorola, in the amount of \$771.15 with funds to be appropriated from Non-Departmental - Contingency (10-660-9999) and expend in Special Appropriations (10-690-9501) .

FINANCE - PURCHASING POLICY AMENDED

A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Gray and passed unanimously to approve an amendment to the purchasing policy to increase the dollar limit needing to be approved by the Finance Officer and Administrator to \$200.00 as requested by the Finance Office and recommended by the County Auditors, Thompson, Price & Company.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION - APPROVAL OF EXTENSION 4-H AGENT'S POSITION

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to approve the employment of Ms. Tracy Kulm for the Cooperative Extension 4-H Agent's position as recommended by the Cooperative Extension Director, Jacqueline Roseboro.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION - DEPUTY FINANCE OFFICER

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to appoint Tracy Kulm as Deputy Finance Office for the Cooperative Extension 4-H Account, effective June 1, 1996, to replace Jacqueline Roseboro, Cooperative Extension Director.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - CDBG WATER MAIN ASSESSMENT POLICY**APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Gray and passed unanimously to approve the Community Development Block Grant Water Main Assessment Policy for Haworth, Incorporated.

COLUMBUS COUNTY**HAWORTH, INC. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT****WATER MAIN ASSESSMENT POLICY**

Columbus County is required, as a condition of a Community Development Block Grant for Economic Development to provide water main improvements to Haworth, Inc. located in Chadbourn, NC, to adopt an assessment policy regarding any future users of water mains funded through the Grant. The water mains are designed to meet the immediate needs of Haworth, Inc. and to provide for any future development the opportunity for service. The assessment policy delineated herein is designed to give Columbus County a mechanism to equitably provide water main improvements to future users of the lines constructed through the CDBG-ED grant.

1. Future users connecting to the water main funded through the CDBG-ED Grant shall be required to pay an assessment fee of \$500 per connection to Columbus County. This fee shall be paid in full prior to the connection to the line.
2. The assessment fee required in Section 1 shall be imposed on any business that is owned by low to moderate income individuals, or any residence that is owned and occupied by low to moderate income individuals.
3. Columbus County reserves the right to reduce the assessment fee charged to any future users based upon the economic impact on the County's overall economy.
4. All revenue generated by this assessment policy prior to completion of the project shall be used to reduce the amount of the CDBG-ED grant. For all revenue generated by the assessment policy thereafter for a period of five (5) years, ½ will be returned to the Commerce Finance Center and ½

shall be used to finance future capital improvements to the water main.

ADOPTED, this the 6th day of May, 1996.

/s/ Spruell R. Britt, Chairman
Columbus County Board of Commissioners

/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to the Board
Columbus County Board of
Commissioners

(SEAL)

FIRE & RESCUE - ACME DELCO/RIEGELWOOD PUBLIC HEARING

SCHEDULED

Steve Camlin, Acme Delco/Riegelwood Fire Chief, requested the Board to schedule a public hearing for the district to consider increasing the fire district tax rate. The present rate is \$.10 per \$100.00 evaluation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to schedule the public hearing for a proposed tax increase for the Acme Delco/Riegelwood Fire District for June 20, 1996 at 7:30 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING - SCHEDULED FOR PROPOSED INSTALLMENT

PURCHASE AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to schedule a public hearing concerning a proposed installment purchase agreement for Columbus County to be held at 7:15 P.M., May 20, 1996, for the purpose to obtain financing pursuant to Section 160A-20 of the General Statutes of North Carolina of the acquisition, construction and equipping of a project consisting of (a) new facilities for offices and support services of the County's Register of Deeds and Agricultural Services Agencies and renovations to existing Courthouse, and (b) parking facilities, streets, drainage facilities and other site improvements, including landscaping, related to such facilities and improvements.

BUILDINGS - LENDING INSTITUTIONS NEGOTIATIONS APPROVAL

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and passed unanimously to permit Dempsey B. Herring, Administrator, to

negotiate property financing with lending institutions for the best interest rate.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:45 A.M., a motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to enter into closed session in accordance with the N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

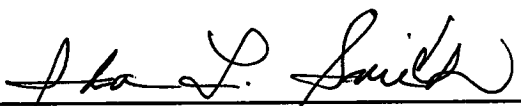
RESUMED REGULAR SESSION

At 9:18 A.M., a motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to adjourn closed session and resume regular session.

No action was taken.

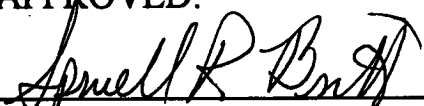
ADJOURNMENT

Immediately thereafter, a motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.



Ida L. Smith, Clerk to the Board

APPROVED:



Spruell R. Britt, Chairman