

**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., for the regularly scheduled Board Meeting, Monday, December 2, 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  
Administrator

Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Chairman Britt called the second Public Hearing to order regarding the application for the Community Development Block Grant for Scattered Housing in Columbus County.

The Chairman requested anyone wishing to speak in regards to the public hearing to be recognized by stating their name.

Robert Shaw, a concerned citizen, requested an explanation on the grant application procedure.

Haskell Rhett, III, representing Cape Fear Council of Governments, reported that the Columbus County Housing Advisory Committee which consisted of representation

from Social Services and the Department of Aging prepared the application in 1995 for the Single-Family Housing Rehabilitation Program and the first public hearing was held February 6, 1996.

There were no more comments.

**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED**

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to close the Public Hearing at 8:05 A.M.

**OATHS OF OFFICE - COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

At 8:05 A.M., Oaths of Office were administered by Superior Court Judge, William C. Gore, Jr., to the relected Commissioners as follows

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY**

**OATH OF OFFICE**

“I, A. Dial Gray, III, do solemnly and sincerely swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; and that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as a member of the Board of Columbus County Commissioners, so help me God.”

/s/ A. Dial Gray, III

Sworn to before me this 2nd day of December 1996.

(SEAL)

/s William C. Gore, Jr., Judge

**ATTESTED BY:**

/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

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**NORTH CAROLINA**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY**

**OATH OF OFFICE**

**“I, Sammie Jacobs, do solemnly and sincerely swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; and that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as a member of the Board of Columbus County Commissioners, so help me God.”**

*/s/ Sammie Jacobs*

**Sworn to before me this 2nd day of December 1996.**

**(SEAL)**

*/s/ William C. Gore, Jr., Judge*

**ATTESTED BY:**

*/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board*

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**NORTH CAROLINA**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY**

**OATH OF OFFICE**

**“I, L. Lynwood Norris, do solemnly and sincerely swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; and that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as a member of the Board of Columbus County Commissioners, so help me God.”**

*/s/ L. Lynwood Norris*

**Sworn to before me this 2nd day of December 1996.**

**(SEAL)**

*/s/ William C. Gore, Jr., Judge*

**ATTESTED BY:**

*/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board*

\* \* \* \* \*

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY**

**OATH OF OFFICE**

**“I, C.E. “Gene” Wilson, do solemnly and sincerely swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; and that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as a member of the Board of Columbus County Commissioners, so help me God.”**

**/s/ C.E. “Gene” Wilson**

**Sworn to before me this 2nd day of December 1996.**

**(SEAL)**

**/s/ William C. Gore, Jr., Judge**

**ATTESTED BY:**

**/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board**

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**OATHS OF OFFICE - REGISTER OF DEEDS**

Oaths of Office were administered by Woodrow F. Penny, Notary Public, to Ila N. Penny, Register of Deeds and her deputies as follows:

I, Ila N. Penny, do solemnly affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States.

I, Ila N. Penny, do further solemnly and sincerely affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; and that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability.

I, Ila N. Penny, do further solemnly affirm that I will faithfully and truly, according to the best of my skill and ability, execute the duties of the office of REGISTER OF DEEDS for the County of Columbus, in all things according to law.

/s/ Ila N. Penny

(SEAL)

Subscribed to and affirmed before me this 2nd day of December, 1996.

/s/ Woodrow F. Penny

My Commission Expires: 10-29-99

Notary Public

\* \* \* \* \*

The following Oath of Office was administered to the Register of Deeds' Assistant and Deputies by Woodrow F. Penny.

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States; so help me, God.

I do further solemnly and sincerely swear (or affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; and that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my skill and ability, execute the duties of the office of Assistant Register of Deeds/Deputy REGISTER OF DEEDS for the County of Columbus in all things according to law; so help me, God.

- /s/ Marvelann Norris, Assistant Register of Deeds
- /s/ Frances V. Burge, Deputy Register of Deeds
- /s/ Kandance H. White, Deputy Register of Deeds
- /s/ Nancy J. Tolley, Deputy Register of Deeds
- /s/ Jeannie G. Stocks, Deputy Register of Deeds

Subscribed to and affirmed before me this 2nd day of December, 1996

/s/ Woodrow F. Penny

My Commission Expires: 10-29-99

Notary Public

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING COMMENCED**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Spruell R. "Randy" Britt and the invocation was given by Ed Worley, Aging Director.

**APPOINTMENTS - GOVERNING BODY CHAIRMAN & VICE CHAIRMAN**

James E. Hill, Jr., County Attorney, presided as Acting Chairman to transact the appointments of Chairman and Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

Acting Chairman Hill briefed the Board on the procedure for selecting officers and then opened the floor for nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Commissioner Gray nominated Commissioner Williams for Chairman and Commissioner Norris for Vice Chairman.

There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to close the nominations.

The vote was unanimous for Commissioner Williams to serve as Chairman and Commissioner Norris to serve as Vice Chairman.

Attorney Hill announced that Commissioner C. W. Williams was appointed as Chairman and Commissioner Lynwood Norris as Vice Chairman by acclamation.

Chairman Williams and Vice Chairman Norris are authorized to sign all instruments on behalf of Columbus County. A Resolution is on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board.

**RESUMED BOARD MEETING - CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS PRESIDING**

Immediately, after reorganization of the Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Williams assumed the duties as Chairman and the following business was transacted.

**AWARD - PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION PRESENTED TO PAST CHAIRMAN**

**SPRUELL R. BRITT**

Chairman Williams presented past Chairman, Spruell R. Britt the following "Plaque of Appreciation."

*PRESENTED TO*

*SPRUELL R. "RANDY" BRITT*

\* \* \* \* \*

*THIS THE 2ND DAY OF DECEMBER*

*IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION OF YOUR DEVOTED LEADERSHIP*

*AS CHAIRMAN TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS*

*12-4-95 - 12-2-96*

\* \* \* \* \*

*COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS*

**AWARD - PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION PRESENTED TO DOROTHY REAVES****WHO RETIRED**

Chairman Williams read aloud a "Plaque of Appreciation" in honor of Dorothy Reaves, who retired October 31, 1996. Ms. Linda Creech accepted the Plaque on behalf of Dorothy Reaves due to her absence.

*PRESENTED TO*

*DOROTHY M. REAVES*

\* \* \* \* \*

*IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION OF YOUR SERVICE*

*AS THE 4-H EXTENSION SECRETARY*

*TO THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE*

*3-1-53 - 10-31-96*

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*COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS*

**BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to approve the Minutes of the November 18, 1996, Board Meeting, as recorded.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to approve the consent agenda items as follows:

**Tax Releases:**

Vernon & Betty B. Babson: H-1-13, 2nd house vacant. Amount \$60.00, year 1996, account #12-00400.

Norman Curtis Benton: L-14-7, house vacant. Amount \$60.00, year 1996, account #07-00418.

Roscoe Davis (Etal): K-8-155, valuation placed on house (40% complete) was based through error on the 1997 value per square foot. Amount \$79.17, valuation \$9,100, year 1996, account #03-04627.

Beulah Irene Hargrave: W-1-43, 2nd house vacant. Amount \$60.00, year 1996, account #15-17441.

James Newton & Linda Jordan: X-4-130A, one house only. Mobile home moved away several years ago. Amount \$60.00, year 1996, account #15-20880.

Cardie Belle F. & Calvin Moore: T-1-49, failed to receive the Senior-citizen's exemption on lot and house. Also, store unoccupied for several years. Amount \$246.00, valuation \$15,000, years 1995-96, account #04-11816.

Paul Munce: WS-1-51, failed to receive the Disability exemption on his residence. Amount \$117.00, valuation \$15,000, year 1996, account #11-18180.

Marion Annette Norris: H-5-46, mobile home double-listed on account #13-37663 on map H-5-45 to Edward & Debra Spivey. Amount \$9.30, valuation \$1,000, year 1987, account #13-31200.

Cory Patrick: Personal property (mobile home) double-listed on 08-14520, Hubert Patrick. Amount \$291.84, valuation \$27,600, year 1996, account #08-14463.

Glen Allen Ray: J-5-172, not in North Whiteville Fire District. Amount \$50.00, year 1996, account #01-75073.

Fabian Washington: Double-wide mobile home acquired March 1996, (affixed for 1997). Amount \$492.17, valuation \$49,110, year 1996, account #02-02695.

Roedell Walker: WH-5-45, value of lot incorrect. Amount \$268.06, valuation \$33,900, years 1994-96, account #01-99800.

Ruby T. Bordeaux: BT-1-207, house burned 12-30-95. Amount \$310.68, valuation \$32,700, year 1996, account #04-01017.

#### **Refunds:**

Ordered: That a refund check be issued to James N. & Linda Jordan, 92 Swimming Hole Road, Delco, NC 28436, in the amount of \$60.00 for year 1995. Mobile home moved off X-4-130A, several years ago. Account #15-20880.

Ordered: That a refund check be issued to Roedell Walker, Post Office Box 979, Whiteville, NC 28472, in the amount of \$227.65 for 1992 and 1993. (Taxes paid.) WH-5-45, value of lot incorrect. Valuation 31,400, account #01-99800.

#### **Budget Amendments:**

Accept 10-348-0703 Community Traffic Safety Funds	\$1,416.00
Expend 10-578-1400 Travel	1,416.00
Accept 10-348-0703 Community Traffic Safety Funds	19,688.00



## Expend as follows:

10-578-02	Salaries	14,424.00
10-578-05	FICA	1,104.00
10-578-06	Insurance	1,703.00
10-578-07	Retirement	720.00
10-578-14	Travel	500.00
10-578-32	Office Supplies	300.00
10-578-33	Departmental Supplies	937.00

Accept 40-348-0300	Crisis Intervention	62,966.00
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Expend 40-616-0000	Crisis Intervention	62,966.00
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Accept 10-348-3400	State Library Grants	107,603.00
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## Expend as follows:

10-631-3200	Office Supplies	1,139.00
10-631-3300	Books	60,095.00
10-631-3307	Machine Readable Material	300.00
10-631-1400	Travel	200.00
10-631-1100	Telephone	491.00
10-631-4500	Contract Services	245.00
10-631-7400	Capital Outlay	45,133.00

Increase 10-631-3300	Books	7,906.00
Increase 10-631-0200	Salaries	5,100.00
Increase 10-631-3200	Office Supplies	1,324.00
Increase 10-631-7400	Capital Outlay	1,532.00
Increase 10-631-3307	Machine Readable Material	9,049.00
Decrease 10-630-3300	Books	(7,906.00)
Decrease 10-630-0200	Salaries	(5,100.00)
Decrease 10-630-3200	Office Supplies	(1,324.00)
Decrease 10-630-7400	Capital Outlay	(1,532.00)
Decrease 10-630-3307	Machine Readable Material	(9,049.00)

**APPOINTMENT - COUNTY ATTORNEY**

A motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed to appoint James E. Hill, Jr., representing Hill and High Attorneys, as County Attorney for the ensuing year.

**BONDS (SURETY) - EXAMINATION AND APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Britt and passed unanimously to approve the Surety Bonds for 1996-97 on the following employees as listed.

Gayle Godwin, Finance Officer	-	\$100,000
W.D. Brooks, Tax Administrator	-	75,000
Jimmy Ferguson, Sheriff	-	50,000
Brenda Strickland, HUD Director	-	25,000
Ila Penny, Register of Deeds	-	15,000
Linwood Cartrette, Coroner	-	15,000
William Hannah, Assistant Coroner	-	15,000

**PAYROLL - APPROVAL FOR DISTRIBUTION OF DECEMBER PAY CHECKS AND CHRISTMAS BONUSES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and passed unanimously to approve the distribution of the December payroll checks and Christmas bonuses on December 20, 1996.

**CHRISTMAS BONUSES - AMOUNT APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to set the amount for the employees' Christmas Bonuses at \$35.00 each.

**LIBRARY - GRANTS ACCEPTED**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and passed unanimously to accept State Library Grant Awards (cost share 80/20) for specified programs with the 20% match to be funded within the 1996-97 Library Budget as follows:

-	Non-Fiction Collection Development	\$50,000
-	Public Access Technology Update	\$41,768
-	Preschool Story Boxes	\$12,124

Also, accept the Readers Advisory Grant in the amount of \$3,711.00 which does not require any matching funds.

**BOLTON (TOWN OF) - NEGOTIATE SALE OF TRAILER AND REPORT TO BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION**

Dempsey Herring, Administrator, reported that Frank A. Wilson, Mayor, is requesting to purchase one of the trailers that are being used by the Sheriff's Department that will be vacated when the renovated offices are occupied.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Gray and passed unanimously to authorize Dempsey B. Herring, Administrator, and James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney, to negotiate the trailer transaction with Mayor Frank A. Wilson and present to the Board for consideration of approval.

**GOVERNING BODY - RESOLUTION TO CANCEL DECEMBER 16, 1996 BOARD MEETING**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to adopt the following Resolution canceling the December 16, 1996 Board Meeting.

**NOTICE and RESOLUTION to CANCEL MEETING**  
**of the BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**of COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

The Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, unanimously approved on the 2nd of December 1996, to adopt the following Resolution.

**W I T N E S S E T H :**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, has presently scheduled meetings at 8:00 A.M. the first Monday and 7:30 P.M. on the third Monday of each month; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, is desirous of canceling the meeting scheduled for the third Monday in December, only.

**BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153A-40, shall hold the next regularly scheduled meeting in the Columbus County Commissioners' Chambers, 111 Washington Street, Whiteville, North Carolina on Monday, January 6, 1997 at 8:00 A.M.

**BE IT, FURTHER, RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners that a copy of this Resolution and Notice shall be placed on the Courthouse Bulletin Board, as well as mailed to all of the news media who has requested notice.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**/s/ C.W. Williams, CHAIRMAN**

**ATTESTED BY:**

/s/ Ida L. Smith, CLERK TO BOARD

**ORDINANCE (CAPITAL PROJECT) - COLUMBUS COUNTY HOSPITAL**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Britt and passed unanimously to adopt the following Capital Project Ordinance.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY HOSPITAL****(ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS)****CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus, North Carolina, that pursuant to Section 159-13.2 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following Capital Project Ordinance is HEREBY ADOPTED:

**SECTION 1.** The project authorized is the Columbus County Hospital Additions and Renovations.

**SECTION 2.** The project director is hereby directed to proceed with the construction of the project within the terms of the various grant and loan agreements executed with the Federal and State governments in accordance with the limitations set forth in Section 143 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, and within the funds appropriated herein.

**SECTION 3.** The following revenues are anticipated to be available to the County to complete the project:

68-385-96	First Union Bank Loan	\$12,000,000
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**SECTION 4.** The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

68-900-0400	Professional Services	\$ 1,140,042
68-900-5700	Miscellaneous Expense	169,000
68-900-7300	Building Renovation	6,744,301
68-900-7400	Equipment	3,946,657

<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$12,000,000</b>
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**SECTION 5.** The Finance Officer is directed to report quarterly on the financial status of the project. She shall also keep the Governing Body informed at each regular meeting of any unusual occurrence.

**SECTION 6.** Copies of the Capital Project Ordinance shall be made available to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out the project.

**ADOPTED** this 2nd day of December 1996.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ C.W. Williams, Chairman

**ATTESTED BY:**

/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to the Board

**RESOLUTION - FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR STORM LITIGATION PROJECT APPLICATION**

A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Britt and passed unanimously to adopt the following Resolution requesting Federal Disaster Assistance for storm litigation project application.

**R E S O L U T I O N**

**(DESIGNATION OF APPLICANT'S AGENT)**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY** the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County that Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, is hereby authorized to execute for and on behalf of Columbus County, a public entity established under the laws of the State of North Carolina, this application and to file it in the appropriate State office for the purpose of obtaining certain Federal financial assistance under the Disaster Relief Act (Public Law 288, 93rd Congress) or otherwise available from the President's Disaster Relief Fund.

**THAT** Columbus County, a public entity established under the laws of the State of North Carolina, hereby authorizes its agent to provide to the State and to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for all matters pertaining to such Federal disaster assistance the assurances and agreements printed on the reverse side hereof.

Passed and approved this 2nd day of December, 1996.

C.W. Williams, Chairman

Lynwood Norris, Vice Chairman

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Ida L. Smith, duly appointed and Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution passed and approved by the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County on the 2nd day of December, 1996.

/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to the Board

**NCACC BOARD OF DIRECTORS - LEGISLATIVE GOALS PACKAGE**

Commissioner Spruell R. Britt, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners District Director, reported that each Commissioner has been provided with the Legislative Goals Package and requested each Board Member to review and advise him if they would like additional items lobbied for as the final determination of Legislative Goals will be at the statewide Legislative Conference to be held January 9 & 10, 1997, at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel, located at Research Triangle Park.

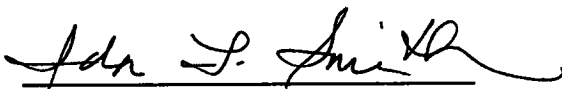
**TAX - REVALUATION APPEALS SCHEDULED**


W.D. "Bill" Brooks, Tax Administrator, reported that 1,240 informal revaluation appeals have been scheduled through December 20, 1996. After that date, anyone who wishes to appeal, must do so by contacting the Tax Office and the Tax Administrator will hear the appeal or the appeal can be heard by the Equalization and Review Board which is scheduled to meet in April 1997.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Britt and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 A.M.

APPROVED:

  
Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

  
C.W. Williams, Chairman