

**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 7:30 P.M., February 17, 1997, for the regularly scheduled Board Meeting, it being the third Monday.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

C.W. Williams, Chairman

Lynwood Norris, Vice Chairman

Spruell Randolph Britt

David L. Dutton, Jr.

A. Dial Gray, III

Sammie Jacobs

C.E. Wilson

James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney

Dempsey B. Herring  
Administrator

Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

The meeting was called to order by Chairman C.W. Williams and the invocation was given by Ed Worley, Aging Director.

**BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Commissioner Britt and passed unanimously to approve the Minutes of the February 3, 1997, Board Meeting, as recorded.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to approve the following consent agenda items.

**Tax Releases and Refunds:**

Clempson & Uldine Green: E-6-11, dwelling vacant. Amount \$60.00, year 1996, account #16-05940.

Paul & Mary Ann Leder: WH-3-745, double-listed to #01-51808, Mary Ann Leder. Amount \$202.40, valuation \$25,300, year 1996, account #01-51812.

William McBride (Heirs): Per deed and survey, does not own F-6-18 (1 acre tract). Amount \$28.90, valuation \$3,400, year 1996, account #13-25000.

Alpheus L. Nobles: Failed to receive the disability exemption on lot F-8-48. (received exemption on mobile home). Should be totally exempted of lot and mobile home since 1990. Amount \$223.48, valuation \$19,630, years 1990, 91 and 96, account #13-29340.

Gene Allen & Judy Nobles: WH-3-731, house vacant. Amount \$36.00, year 1996, account #01-65820.

Thomas & Darlene Nuccio: Mobile home double-listed to Willa Dean Nobles on 05-04732. Amount \$112.62, valuation \$9,630, year 1996, account #05-04803.

Mary Turner Ratcliff: Failed to receive the Senior-citizen's exemption on lot valued \$2,300. Was exempted of mobile home valued \$1,880. Amount \$22.94, valuation \$2,300, year 1996, account #12-23140.

George A. & Maxine Smith: K-5A-80-0, mobile home double-listed as real and personal. Amount \$367.76, valuation \$38,470, year 1996, account #01-85034.

Robert Delmas Smith % Adell Boone: W-2-126, house vacant. Taxes unpaid. Amount \$120.00, years 1990-93, account #15-35000.

James Ray Turner: C-3-12, clerical error. Amount \$38.66, valuation \$4,960, year 1995, account #12-28027.

E.J. & Patricia C. Sellers: Frame garage not on I-8-122A. Amount \$64.50, valuation \$7,500, year 1996, account #01-80400.

Rosemary S. & Bonnie Thompson: I-8-91, mobile home and house vacant. Amount \$120.00, year 1996, account #01-94727.

Roger Dale & Rhonda W. Ward: I-10-72A, house vacant. Amount \$60.00, year 1996, account #09-32610.

Lenoir Antoinette Webb: Discovered vehicle (1985 Ford) was listed in New Hanover County where she resided in 1988. Amount \$163.97, valuation \$6,390, year 1988, account #17-40233.

Charles Wilkins: Mobile home repossessed by Richard Hilburn prior to 1996 and moved to Brunswick County. Amount \$138.68, valuation \$9,170, year 1996, account #15-38906.

Ordered: That a refund check be issued to Harold D. & Brenda Bowen, 1852 Smyrna Road, Whiteville, NC 28472, in the amount of \$60.00 for year 1996. J-5-7A, house vacant. Account #01-07540.

Ordered: That a refund check be issued to David B. Goldston, Jr., 302 Lake Shore Drive, Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450, in the amount of \$216.84 for year 1996. LW4-158, house double listed on WS-2-191, David B. Jr. & Debra Golston on account 11-11127 Valuation \$27,800, account #08-06840..

Ordered: That a refund check be issued to C.B. Jr. and Margaret Inman, 139 Margaret Inman Lane, Whiteville, NC 28472, in the amount of \$303.37 for 1992 through 1996. K-4-10, lot (100 x 200) double-listed to Charles Robert Inman. Valuation \$40,600, account #01-45700.

Ordered: That a refund check be issued to Wanda W. Jones c/o D.P. Ward, 1270 Pine Level Church Road, Nakina, NC 28455, in the amount of \$8.58 for year 1996. Mobile home (pick up) was sold to Jack Cox in 1995. Valuation \$1,000, account #03-16324.

Ordered: That a refund check be issued to Stanley J. & Ladonna Korthanke, 1002 North 4th Street, Hiawatha, Kansas 66434, in the amount of \$50.00 for year 1995. J-4-98B, property not in the North Whiteville Fire District. All taxes paid through error. Account #01-50567.

Ordered: That a refund check be issued to Ellis Register, 939 Crusoe Island Road, Whiteville, NC 28472, in the amount of \$60.00 for year 1996. 0-9-42, house vacant. Paid all taxes through error. Account #03-18920.

Ordered: That a refund check be issued to Roger D. Walker, 583 Tommie

Wooten Road, Chadbourn, NC 28431, in the amount of \$142.84 for year 1996. H-5-50, mobile home was picked up on Real property for 1996, also was listed as personal property - double-listing. Valuation \$10,620, account #13-41440.

**Budget Amendments:**

Increase 10-348-0503 Environmental Health (State Funds - Food and Lodging)	\$ 3,857.41
Expend 10-575-0200 Salaries	\$ 3,857.41
Accept 10-354-0700 Glaxo Funds for Smart Start	\$21,500.00
Expend as follows:	
10-585-0200 Salaries	\$18,589.00
10-585-0500 FICA	1,422.00
10-585-1400 Travel	1,000.00
10-585-3300 Departmental Supplies	489.00
Accept 10-348-0701 Rural OB Care Incentive	\$30,000.00
Expend 10-592-4500 Rural OB Care	\$30,000.00

**AWARDS - RETIREMENT PLAQUES**

Chairman Williams presented "Retirement Plaques" to the following persons:

PRESENTED TO

HELMA T. ENGLISH

\* \* \* \* \*

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION OF YOUR SERVICE

AS A CHILD SUPPORT SUPERVISOR I

WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

\* \* \* \* \*

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

\* \* \* \* \*

PRESENTED TO

MONA T. MCLELLAND

\* \* \* \* \*

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION OF YOUR SERVICE

AS AN OFFICE ASSISTANT III  
WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

11-09-78 - 11-30-96

\* \* \* \* \*

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**PARKS & RECREATION - MASTER PLAN APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Britt, and passed unanimously to accept the Columbus County Department of Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Grant Application as presented by the Parks and Recreation Director, Darren Currie.

**AGING - COLUMBUS COUNTY DESIGNATED AS LEAD AGENCY**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Dutton, and passed unanimously to designate the Department of Aging as Lead Agent for Columbus County.

**AGING - COMMUNITY CARE BLOCK GRANT COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Britt, and passed unanimously to schedule a meeting for the Home & Community Care Block Grant Committee for April 2, 1997 at 2:00 P.M.

**APPOINTMENT - HOME & COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT COMMITTEE**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs, and passed unanimously to appoint Mrs. Mildred Dutton to serve on the Home & Community Care Block Grant Committee to represent Zone 7, to replace Mr. Chester "Bo" Stevens", who resigned.

**FIRE & RESCUE - AIR TRUCK CHASSIS APPROVAL**

Jimmy Jackson, Fire Marshal, presented the Board with three (3) bids for a chassis for the air truck that is owned by Columbus County. The bids are as follows:

Triad Freightliner	\$31,364.00
--------------------	-------------

Triple T Parts & Equipment Company	\$39,000.00
------------------------------------	-------------

Freightliner of Charlotte	\$38,000.00
---------------------------	-------------

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs, and passed unanimously to allow Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, to purchase the Cab and Chassis for the air truck upon negotiating the price by securing more bids with payment contingent on the best price financed over two (2) years. The Fire Departments within the County will be responsible for partial funding of the Cab and Chassis from the 1997-98 County budget appropriation to the Fire Departments.

**FIRE & RESCUE - FAIR BLUFF FIRE & RESCUE RADIO APPROVAL**

Jimmy Jackson, Fire Marshal, reported that a request for a radio for a new 1997 Pierce pumper/tanker has been received from Fair Bluff Volunteer Fire Department. The bids received are as follows:

Motorola	\$1,185.75
Piedmont Communications, Inc.	\$1,322.55
Communication Specialists Company	\$1,140.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Dutton, and passed unanimously to award the Fair Bluff Volunteer Fire Department the sum of ONE THOUSAND FORTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$1,045.00) in accordance with policy adopted 11-19-90 toward the purchase of a radio of their choice to be installed on the newly purchased equipment with the purchase to be coordinated by the Columbus County Fire Marshal.

**APPOINTMENT - FOUR-COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Dutton, and passed unanimously to appoint Commissioner C.E. "Gene" Wilson to serve on the Four-County Community Services, Incorporated's Board, to fill the unexpired term of Roy L. Lowe, expiring 6-30-99.

**RESOLUTION - CANCELLATION OF MARCH 3, 1997 BOARD MEETING**

A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Britt, and passed unanimously to adopt the following Resolution:

**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 17th day of February, 1997, 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. on the first Monday and at 7:30 P.M. on the third Monday of each month; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, is planning to attend the National Association of County Commissioners' Legislative Conference on March 1, 1997; and

**WHEREAS**, a majority is needed to form a quorum under North Carolina law.

**BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF COLUMBUS COUNTY**, North Carolina, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153A-40, shall cancel the regular meeting of the said Board scheduled for March 3, 1997, be, and the same is hereby canceled, and the next regularly scheduled meeting of the said Board shall be in the Columbus County Commissioners' Chambers, 111 Washington Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, on Monday, March 17, 1997, at 7:30 P.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

**DOT - REQUEST FOR NORTH HALLSBORO COMMUNITY TO BE DESIGNATED  
BY SIGNAGE**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Commissioner Norris, and passed unanimously to write a letter to the Department of Transportation requesting the North Hallsboro Community be designated by signage and denoted on future County maps identifying the community (S.R. 1001 at the intersection of S.R. 1001 and S.R. 1710).

**RESOLUTION - INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Britt, and passed unanimously to adopt the following Resolution.

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION  
OF**

**THE INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT (KNAPP BUILDING)**

**WHEREAS**, the Institute of Government, since 1931, has made important contributions to North Carolina's good government and its excellent financial management by serving the entire state from its base in Chapel Hill; and

**WHEREAS**, the Institute's building has been inadequate and outmoded for many years, which threatens its ability to maintain the highest quality of services for North Carolina's public officials; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1994 General Assembly recognized the need for a renovated and expanded building by appropriating \$700,000 to plan necessary improvements and additions to the Institute of Government; and

**WHEREAS**, the Institute has planned the necessary capital improvements that will enable it to provide North Carolina's public officials with the latest and most efficient instructional technologies and a higher quality of service; and

**WHEREAS**, the necessary improvements will include a teleconferencing classroom, a computer training room, increased classroom and office space, an expanded and accessible library, increased parking, improved dining facilities, and access for persons with



disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the planned capital project has been approved by the UNC-CH Board of Trustees and is rated as one of the University's highest capital priorities, and it also is a legislative priority for the UNC Board of Governors.

**NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, THAT** by way of this Resolution, the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County fully and enthusiastically encourages the 1997 North Carolina General Assembly to appropriate \$16.1 million to fund this urgently needed capital renovation and expansion project.

**ADOPTED** this 17th day of February, 1997.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

C.W. WILLIAMS, Chairman

**ATTESTED BY:**

IDA L. SMITH, Clerk to the Board

**HOSPITAL - ANNUAL MEETING APPROVED**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Dutton, and passed unanimously to schedule a joint meeting with the Columbus County Hospital Board of Trustees to review the annual Audit Report, March 17, 1997, at 5:30 P.M., at the Columbus County Hospital Administrative Conference Room.

**COUNTY PROPERTY (SURPLUS) - APPROVAL OF DISPOSAL**

A motion was made by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, and passed unanimously to permit Dempsey B. Herring, Administrator, to dispose of surplus equipment and vehicles in accordance with procedures governed by the N.C. General Statutes.

**PROCLAMATION - APPRECIATION TO MARVELANN NORRIS**

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

**PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION TO**

**MARVELANN WILLIAMS NORRIS**

In recognition of **MARVELANN WILLIAMS NORRIS**, the Board of County Commissioners, at their regular meeting on February 17, 1997, unanimously adopted the following proclamation:

**BE IT PROCLAIMED** that whereas Marvelann Williams Norris is a life long resident of Columbus County, North Carolina, being reared in the Williams Township Community and having graduated from Williams Township High School in the class of 1955; and

**WHEREAS**, Marvelann Williams Norris began employment as Marvelann Williams in November, 1955, in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Columbus County, North Carolina under Leo Luther Fisher; and

**WHEREAS**, Marvelann Williams married Bobby Norris in March, 1956 and moved her home to Chadbourn, North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, from the union of Bobby Norris and Marvelann Williams, two (2) sons were born, to wit: Bobby Glenn Norris and Lester Carroll Norris; and

**WHEREAS**, Marvelann Williams Norris worked in a supervisory capacity for twenty-one (21) years under the authority and direction of Leo Luther Fisher until his death; and

**WHEREAS**, Marvelann Williams Norris became the Assistant Register of Deeds in October, 1976, as one of the first acts of Ila N. Penny, the present officer holder; and

**WHEREAS**, Marvelann Williams Norris has remained as the Assistant Register of Deeds for the past twenty (20) years under said tenure of Ila N. Penny; and

**WHEREAS**, Marvelann Williams Norris has served for more than forty-one (41) years as a trusted and loyal employee of Columbus County, giving unselfishly of her time and energy in a friendly manner to the people of Columbus County through her work in the Office of The Register of Deeds; and

**WHEREAS**, Marvelann Williams Norris constantly arrives at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the beginning of the work day and often stays beyond the closing hour, as

work schedules dictate, to accomplish the tasks required and to assist in the supervision, when necessary, in the place of Ila N. Penny.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, that they do hereby recognize the true, loyal, and faithful service of Marvelann Williams Norris to the citizens of Columbus County, and in particular to the Office of the Register of Deeds of Columbus County, and do hereby declare February 28, 1997 as Marvelann Williams Norris Day throughout Columbus County in honor of her retirement.

This unanimously adopted the 17th day of February, 1997.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

/s/ C.W. Williams, Chairman

(SEAL)

ATTESTED BY:

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

We adopt the foregoing:

/s/ C.E. Wilson	/s/ Dial Gray, III
Sammie Jacobs	Spruell R. Britt
Lynwood Norris	David L. Dutton, Jr.
James E. Hill, Attorney	Dempsey B. Herring, Administrator

**BUDGET AMENDMENT - SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Gray and passed unanimously to approve the following budget amendment for Columbus County

Water and Soil Conservation:

Accept 10-348-0101 Funds from NC Department of Environment, Health & Natural Resources	\$2,000
---	---------

Expend as follows:

10-606-1400 Travel	\$ 600
10-606-5700 Miscellaneous	\$1,000
10-606-7400 Capital Outlay (Fax Machine)	400

**TRAVEL AND TOURISM - FORESTRY MUSEUM ENDORSEMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Commissioner Norris

and passed unanimously to endorse the efforts that are being undertaken by the Columbus County Travel and Tourism Board to establish a Forestry Museum in Whiteville, NC.

**TRAVEL AND TOURISM - BYLAW AMENDMENT APPROVED**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Britt and passed unanimously to amend the Travel & Tourism Bylaws as follows:

Article IV, Section: Election and Term: The officers of the corporation shall be elected by the Board of Directors. Such elections may be held at the first meeting of the Board or as soon after the appointments of the new Board is in place.

**SHERIFF - ADDITIONAL JAILER POSITIONS APPROVED**

Jimmy Ferguson, Sheriff, made a presentation and an appeal to the Board of Commissioners regarding the overcrowded conditions at the Columbus County Jail. The jail is licensed for sixty-seven (67) beds, and on Monday, February 17, 1997, there were one hundred twenty (120) inmates for the sixty-seven (67) bed spaces. The overcrowding is a critical situation and additional jailers are needed to help with controlling the large numbers that are incarcerated.

A motion was by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Britt and passed unanimously to approve four (4) additional jailer positions to help control the overpopulated jail and approve a budget amendment appropriating funds as follows:

Appropriate	10-660-9999 Non-Departmental Contingency	(\$16,071.00)
Decrease	10-425-0200 Planning - Salaries	(\$16,071.00)

To be expended:

10-520-0200 Salaries	\$ 22,257.00
10-520-0500 FICA	1,703.00
10-520-0600 Insurance	3,573.00
10-520-0700 Retirement	1,113.00
10-520-3600 Uniforms & Clothing	3,496.00

**SHERIFF - NON-BONDABLE INMATES**

Sheriff Jimmy Ferguson related to the Commissioners that there are a large number of inmates who cannot, and will probably never, make bond and are housed for very long periods of time at County expense.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner

Wilson and passed unanimously to request the District Attorney and staff to try and expedite trial dates for those inmates who cannot make bond to help alleviate the overcrowding jail space at the Law Enforcement Center.

**ADMINISTRATOR - EVALUATION**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously for Chairman Williams to collect from each Commissioner the evaluation that has been done on Dempsey B. Herring, Administrator, and summarize the results and present to the Board at the next Board Meeting.

**AWARD - MARVELANN NORRIS' CHAIR**

A motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to retire Marvelann Norris' secretarial chair and award it to her when she retires on February 28, 1997, from the Register of Deeds' Office after forty-one (41) years of service, for the sum of one cent (\$.01).

**EMPLOYMENT - NEW POSITIONS PARTIALLY FUNDED MUST BE APPROVED**

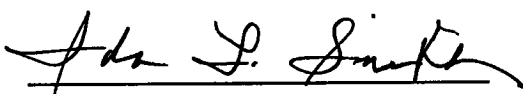
**BY THE BOARD**

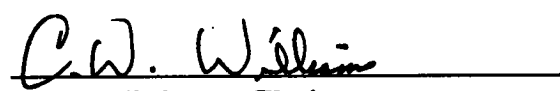
A motion was made by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Commissioner Britt and passed unanimously to write a letter to all departments advising them that no new positions (partially funded) can be created without the prior approval of the Board if the County is expected to fund a portion of the salary.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**APPROVED:**

  
 Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

  
 C.W. Williams, Chairman