

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., June 2, 1997, for the regularly scheduled Board Meeting, it being the first 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 Commissioner A. Dial Gray III.

BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Britt and passed unanimously to approve the Board Minutes for the May 19, 1997 Meeting and the 1997-98 Preliminary Budget Work Session Minutes for May 13, and May 21, 1997, as recorded.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda Items as follows.

Tax Releases:

Nelson Applewhite, Jr: W-4-89, not in Acme-Delco Fire District. Amount \$118.80, years 1995-96, account #15-00437.

Clarence P. Edmund: D-3-48, deferred taxes billed thru error. Property transferred to family members only. Amount \$459.04, Valuation \$60,400, year 1996, year 1996 for 1993, 94 and 95, account #12-06710.

Anthony J. & Teresa Macon: Mobile Home (1980 12 x 60/pickup) traded in 1994 for a double-wide already billed on real estate X-6-8A. Double-listing. Amount \$162.30, valuation \$4,930, Year 1995-96, Account # 15-25240.

Phillip Lee Small: Mobile home (1984 14 x 70) sold in 1995. Amount \$77.95, valuation \$4,890, year 1996, account # 10-15780.

Vernella Simmons: I-11-41, deferred taxes billed thru error. Property transferred to family members only. Amount \$265.68, Valuation \$32,400, year 1996, year 1996 for 1993, 94 and 95, account # 09-26820.

Budget Amendments**Social Services:**

| | | |
|----------------------|--|----------|
| Increase 10-348-0804 | Child Services Coordinator Medicaid (Revenue earned for FY 1996-97) | \$49,139 |
|----------------------|--|----------|

Expend as follows:

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|--------|
| 10-587-11 | Telephone | 300 |
| 10-587-14 | Travel | 1,000 |
| 10-587-33 | Departmental Supplies | 5,000 |
| 10-587-46 | Drugs and Supplies | 500 |
| 10-587-74 | Capital Outlay | 42,339 |

| | | |
|----------------------|---|-----|
| Increase 10-335-0000 | Miscellaneous Revenue (Insurance Claim Settlement) | 478 |
|----------------------|---|-----|

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| Expend 10-592-3300 | Departmental Supplies | 478 |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----|

Health/Fund Balance:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|-----------|
| Appropriate 10-399-0000 | Fund Balance (Carry over funds for FY 1995-96) | 1,771,455 |
|-------------------------|---|-----------|

Expend as follows:

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------|
| 10-587-3300 | Departmental Supplies | 44,881 |
| 10-581-4600 | Drugs and Supplies | 47 |
| 10-592-4600 | Drugs and Supplies | 199,843 |

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 10-581-4600 | Drugs and Supplies | 3,199 |
| 10-593-7300 | Improvements | 1,523,485 |

Finance/Non-Departmental:

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Increase 10-440-0200 | Salaries | \$7,775 |
| Decrease 10-440-0400 | Professional Services | (500) |
| Increase 10-440-0500 | FICA | 300 |
| Increase 10-440-0600 | Insurance | 235 |
| Increase 10-440-0700 | Retirement | 345 |
| Decrease 10-440-1100 | Telephone | (90) |
| Decrease 10-440-1101 | Postage | (270) |
| Decrease 10-440-1400 | Travel | (925) |
| Increase 10-440-1600 | M/R Equipment | 390 |
| Decrease 10-440-2100 | Rent | (120) |
| Decrease 10-440-3200 | Office Supplies | (800) |
| Decrease 10-440-5300 | Dues | (90) |
| Decrease 10-440-5400 | Insurance (Prof Liab. Equip.) | (60) |
| Increase 10-440-7400 | Miscellaneous | 450 |
| Increase 10-440-7400 | Capital Outlay | 865 |
| Decrease 10-660-9999 | Contingency | (\$7,505) |

Maintenance/Special Appropriations/ Non Departmental:

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Decrease 10-690-9200 | Reserve for Capital Projects | (\$100,000) |
| Increase 10-506-1500 | Maintenance/Repairs - Buildings | 15,000 |
| Increase 10-500-7300 | Improvements - Courthouse | 100,000 |
| Decrease 10-660-9999 | Contingency | (15,000) |

Social Services:

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Increase 40-348-0300 | Crisis Intervention Program | \$ 74,674 |
| Expend 40-616-0000 | Crisis Intervention Program | 74,674 |

Columbus County Water & Sewer District I:

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Increase 32-335-0000 | Miscellaneous Revenue | \$ 25,954 |
| Decrease 32-312-0000 | Refunds | (1,400) |
| Increase 32-359-0000 | Water Sales | 88,000 |
| Increase 32-359-0100 | Water Taps | 8,850 |
| Increase 32-359-0200 | Water Deposits | 1,500 |
| Increase 32-359-0300 | Penalties | 2,150 |
| Increase 32-359-0400 | Reconnect Fees | 150 |
| | TOTAL REVENUE | \$125,204 |

Expend as follows:

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| 32-690-0400 | Professional Services (Testing) | \$ 1,700 |
| 32-690-1100 | Telephone | 625 |
| 32-690-1101 | Postage | 1,440 |
| 32-690-1300 | Electricity-Meter Vaults | 575 |
| 32-690-1400 | Travel | 5,000 |
| 32-690-1500 | Maintenance/Repairs | 50 |
| 32-690-1600 | Service Installation | 3,600 |

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 32-690-3200 | Office Supplies | 1,565 |
| 32-690-3300 | Departmental Supplies | 7,410 |
| 32-690-4500 | Contract Services | 13,800 |
| 32-690-5400 | Insurance | 50 |
| 32-690-5700 | Miscellaneous Expenses | 500 |
| 32-690-6000 | Bulk Water Purchases | 34,000 |
| 32-690-9100 | Transfer to Debt Service Fund | 54,889 |
| | TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$125,204 |

PROCLAMATION - EMERGENCY

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and passed unanimously to approve to extend the Columbus County Emergency Proclamation until June 20, 1999.

**AMENDED EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION of the
COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, Columbus County suffered a "major disaster" September 5 and 6, 1996, when struck by a devastating hurricane; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has authorized federal agencies to provide disaster relief in North Carolina and Columbus County; and

WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers has, as a part of that effort, agreed to provide construction and demolition debris removal through its own personnel or through contractors operating in its behalf, from the public and private right-of-ways within Columbus County; and

WHEREAS, the Corps of Engineers requires authorization to enter private property and roadways within Columbus County for the sole purpose of removal of construction and demolition debris; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners has determined that such authorization is necessary to preserve the safety, health and welfare of people within the County.

IT IS THEREFORE PROCLAIMED by the Chairman of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners that a State of Emergency exists in Columbus County pursuant to N.C.G.S. 14-288.13. The Chairman has determined that it is necessary to

authorize the federal government to enter onto the private roads and property of the people of Columbus County for the sole limited purpose of removal of debris caused by Hurricane Fran in order to protect the public safety and welfare of persons in Columbus County. This authorization covers the Corps of Engineers, other federal agencies and those contracting with them for such debris removal.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this Proclamation shall take effect upon its execution and shall remain in effect until June 20, 1999.

This the 2nd day of June 1997.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ C.W. Williams, Chairman

/s/ IDA L. SMITH, Clerk to Board

CAPITAL PROJECTS - COMPLETED

A motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to approve closing the following Columbus County Airport Projects and permit Gayle Godwin, Finance Officer, to transfer the remaining balance of funds to the General Fund as follows.

Obstruction Removal Project:

| Account Nos. | Description | Prior Years | Current Year | Total |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 60-329-0000 | Interest | 785.00 | 472.00 | 1,257.00 |
| 60-348-9000 | State Aid | 7,500.00 | .00 | 7,500.00 |
| 60-397-1300 | County Approp | 7,500.00 | .00 | 7,500.00 |
| BALANCE | | \$15,785.00 | 472.00 | \$16,257.00 |

Land Acquisition & Construction for Runway Extension Project:

| Account Nos. | Description | Prior Years | Current Year | Total |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 60-329-0000 | Interest | 4,241.00 | 2,624.00 | 6,865.00 |
| 60-348-9001 | State Aid | .00 | 15,450.00 | 15,450.00 |
| 60-397-1400 | County Approp | 98,800.00 | .00 | 98,800.00 |
| 60-650-7200 | Expenditure | -29,355.00 | - 1,545.00 | - 30,900.00 |
| BALANCE | | \$73,686.00 | \$16,529.00 | \$90,215.00 |

Also, transfer excess County funds appropriated for the Land Acquisition and Construction for the Runway Extension Project to the General Fund as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|
| Account # 60-397-1500 | County funds originally appropriated | \$150,000.00 |
| | Local match per letter from NDDOT | - 104,647.00 |
| | Local match required for FY 1997 Funds | - <u>25,794.00</u> |
| | BALANCE | \$ 19,559.00 |

ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT) - CAPITAL AIRPORT PROJECT NUMBER
9.9933960

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

COLUMBUS COUNTY AIRPORT

CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

ORIGINAL ADOPTION: May 20, 1996

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 Amendment is HEREBY ADOPTED:

SECTION 1. The project authorized is the Columbus County Airport Land Acquisition and Construction Runway Extension (Project Number 9.9933960).

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:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| N.C. Dept. Of Transportation (State Aid to Airports) | \$232,141 |
|--|-----------|

(Account Number 60-348-9600)

County Appropriation (Account Number 60-397-1500). (19,559)

AMENDED REVENUE INCREASE **\$ 212,582**

SECTION 4. The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

State Aid - Airport Project 9.9933960

(Expenditure Account Number 60-650-7300) \$212,582

AMENDED EXPENSE INCREASE **\$212,582**

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 June 1997.

ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT) - CAPITAL AIRPORT PROJECT NUMBER 9,9443910

A motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to adopt the following Columbus County Airport Project Ordinance Amendment:

COLUMBUS COUNTY AIRPORT

CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

ORIGINAL ADOPTION: January 15, 1990

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 Amendment is **HEREBY ADOPTED**:

SECTION 1. The project authorized is the Columbus County Airport Land Acquisition and Construction Runway Extension Environmental Assessment (Project Number 9.9443910).

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:

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| N.C. Dept. Of Transportation - State Aid to Airports (Account Number 60-348-9001) | (\$83,350) |
| County Appropriation (Account Number 60-397-1400) | <u>(\$83,350)</u> |
| AMENDED REVENUE DECREASE | (\$166,700) |

SECTION 4. The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| State Aid - Airport Project 9.9443910 (Expenditure Account Number 60-650-7200) | <u>(\$166,700)</u> |
| AMENDED EXPENDITURE DECREASE | (\$166,700) |

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 June 1997.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - PROPOSED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

REQUEST TAKEN UNDER ADVISEMENT

Steve Yost, Economic Development Director, requested the Board to consider establishing an economic development fund that would assist in matching state and federal grants that provide the infrastructure (water, sewer, gas) for new industries and existing industries that want to expand in the amount of \$50,000 - \$100,000.

Chairman Williams informed Mr. Yost that his request will be taken under advisement prior to the adoption of the Proposed 1997-98 Operating Budget.

APPOINTMENT - YOUTH TASK FORCE

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to appoint Laura Brooks to serve on the Youth Task Force Board of Directors to represent the Columbus County Mental Health Department for an indefinite term. Ms. Brooks will replace Ms. Patsy Ganus.

ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT) - SOLID WASTE

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to amend the Solid Waste Ordinance that was originally adopted July 1, 1990.

Rescind exemption categories for solid waste user fees as follows:

**ORDINANCE REGULATING THE ASSESSMENT
AND COLLECTION
OF SOLID WASTE USER FEES IN COLUMBUS COUNTY**

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Ordinance Book 1, pages 53 and 54, Section 4 - 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 rescind the following: Section 4.

- 4.1 Certain categories of exemption from the Solid Waste User Fees may be developed and implemented within the authority of this Ordinance.
- 4.2 These categories may also include exemptions granted as a result of house and mobile home values falling below a minimum amount.
- 4.3 These exemption categories shall be established and adjusted as necessary by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, shall be recorded in the official minutes of the Board meeting at which the changes were adjusted, and shall appear on an exemption schedule attached to the Ordinance.

ATTACHMENT I

AMENDMENT III

SOLID WASTE USER FEES

Tipping Fee

\$ 30.00/Ton

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Collection and Landfill Fee for County Residents | 100.00/Annually |
| Landfill Fee for Municipal Residents | 60.00/Annually |

EXEMPTION CATEGORIES FOR SOLID WASTE USER FEES:

Items 2 and 3 rescind as follows:

2. House value is below \$4,000.00.
3. Mobile home value is below \$2,000.00.

The above Solid Waste Exemption Categories for Solid Waste User Fees rescinded and the Solid Waste User Fee Ordinance Amendment was passed by the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County on June 2, 1997, to become effective July 1, 1997, upon motion by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously and is recorded in Ordinance Book 1, Pages 236 and 237.

AYES: Commissioners, Dutton, Norris, Gray, Williams, Britt, Jacobs, and Wilson

NOES: None

COUNTY PROJECTS (COMPLETED) - REPORT BY DEMPSEY B. HERRING

Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, reported on the projects completed in Columbus County in 1996-97 as follows:

I. Columbus County Courthouse:

1. Install six (6) water heaters for all bathrooms. Wire water heaters and run water lines throughout building;
2. Replace lavatories in bathrooms where fixtures were found to be in bad condition and install new water mixing valves and faucets;
3. Install new 1000 AMP main panel with new service entrance and access panels for air conditioning/heat system;
4. Install new air conditioning/heat system consisting of eight (8) units upstairs, four (4) units downstairs with two (2) fan-forced wall heaters in bathrooms on porches. Installation included new duct work and grilles throughout building;
5. Install new drop ceilings in all areas of second floor with drop-in light fixtures installed in grid;

6. Take out public restrooms upstairs and on the porch downstairs and meet ADA for facilities. Includes the following: new drop ceiling, tile floors, wall covering, doorways opened to thirty-six (36") inches, commodes, lavatories and light fixtures;
7. Renovate District Attorney's Office: repair floors, move walls, install electric locks, new carpet, drop ceilings and assemble three (3) work stations to replace existing desks;
8. Remove all old radiators throughout building and start removing all radiator pipes and steam lines; and
9. Remove old carpet and seating from both Courtrooms, Judges' Chambers, Grand Jury and Petty Jury Rooms. Install new carpet throughout, approximately eight hundred (800) yards. Repair floors in all areas and install new church-type pews. Drop ceiling and light fixtures in all areas.

II. Old Department of Social Services Building:

1. Renovate East Wing for Sheriff's Offices. Includes the following:
 - A. Removal of walls and flooring;
 - B. Renovate bathrooms to ADA with new fixtures and thirty-six (36") inch doorways;
 - C. Add two (2) new bathrooms at the back of building;
 - D. Replace all windows with new aluminum windows and install blinds;
 - E. Carpet entire building;
 - F. Paint entire building and repair roof;
 - G. Drop ceiling and new drop-in light fixtures throughout building;
 - H. Paint entire building inside and out with new gutters installed and vinyl installed on flashings;
 - I. New heat and air-conditioning system and ducts installed;
 - J. Install handrail; and
 - K. Install new water line from street to Sheriff's Office.
2. **Families First**: responsible for plumbing. Install drop ceiling, light fixtures, carpet,

paint inside and out, renovate bathrooms to ADA, repair existing HVAC system.

Repaint all of outside of building.

III. Landfill (Columbus County):

Remove underground storage tank - twelve thousand (12,000) gallons.

IV. Law Enforcement Center:

1. Removal of mobile units for Town of Bolton;
2. Remove underground storage tanks, (1) 6,000 (2) 6,000 (3) 12,000 gallon tanks and haul dirt to fill tank holes;
3. Put in a ground water test well at site;
4. New roof installed on entire building with six (6) new HVAC units and one (1) gas pack for Annex;
5. Install new eighty (80) KW generator and wire for a power back up;
6. Fence entrance; and
7. Renovate upstairs.

V. Maintenance Shop:

1. Remove two (2) twelve thousand (12,000) gallon tanks in rear of building and fill in with dirt;
2. Remove two (2) twelve thousand (12,000) gallon steel boilers from boiler room at old Maintenance Shop and clean out old Boiler Room of tanks, pipes and unusable materials; and
3. Install new waterlines and electrical service for building.

VI. Miller Building:

1. Replace main water line under parking lot with new three (3") inch PVC waterline;
2. Pave and remark parking lots in front and rear; and
3. Build up and pave E-911 parking lot.

VII. Administration Building/Courthouse Annex:

1. Dig and remove stumps in parking area and pave at Annex;
2. Excavate for more parking behind Administration Building and old jail building; and

3. Repave and mark all parking areas.

VIII. E-911 Building:

Cut and remove sixty (60) trees around building.

IX. Old Jail Building:

Renovation of downstairs of:

- a. CJPP Office;
- b. Judges' Office;
- c. Litter Patrol Office;
- d. Maintenance Office;
- e. Community Services Office; and
- f. Probation Office.

SOCIAL SERVICES - REPORT FROM LARRY MOORE ON SENATE BILL 1015

SHORT TITLE: WELFARE REFORM ACT OF 1997

Larry Moore, Social Services Director, gave the Board a synopsis of Senate Bill 1015 - Welfare Reform Act of 1997 that has already passed the House and has been sent to the Senate for consideration. Mr. Moore urged the Board to write a letter in opposition of this bill to State Legislators that represent Columbus County as it will have a great impact on Columbus County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to write a precautionary letter to the State Legislatures who represent Columbus County requesting them to review Senate Bill 1015 and what effects it has on Columbus County before making a decision. The Board also requested Mr. Moore to provide a copy of Senate Bill 1015 to Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, to enable him to provide the Board of Commissioners with a copy for their review.

BUDGET (1997-98 PROPOSED) - ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNING BODY

Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, presented the Board with the 1997-98 Columbus County Proposed Budget for their acceptance and consideration for a grant total of FIFTY-THREE MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED AND NINETY DOLLARS (\$53,844,790.00). The Administrator

reviewed the Budget Message with the Board. The 1997-98 Proposed Budget is on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board for public inspection.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to accept the 1997-98 Proposed Budget for consideration as presented.

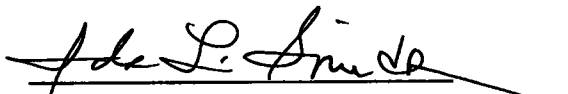
1997-98 BUDGET (PROPOSED) - PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Gray and passed unanimously to schedule a public hearing on the 1997-98 Proposed Budget for Monday, June 16, 1997, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at 6:00 P.M.

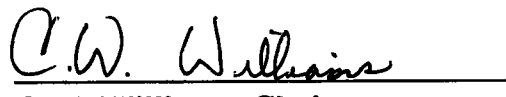
ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Britt and passed unanimously to adjourn the Board Meeting at 9:25 A.M.

APPROVED:



Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board



C.W. Williams, Chairman