

COLUMBUS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

The Honorable Board of Columbus County Commissioners met in the Administrative Building Conference Room, 111 Washington Street, Whiteville, NC at 7:00 P.M., May 20, 1998, for the purpose of a 1998-99 Columbus County Preliminary Budget Work Session.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

David L. Dutton, Jr., Chairman

A. Dial Gray, III, Vice Chairman

Spruell Randolph Britt

Sammie Jacobs

Lynwood Norris

C.W. Williams

C.E. Wilson

James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney

Dempsey B. Herring
County Administrator

Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gayle Godwin, County Finance Officer

W.D. "Bill" Brooks, Tax Administrator (Departed at 7:30 P.M.)

Richard Gore, Land Records Supervisor (Departed at 7:30 P.M.)

Lee Hinnant, News Reporter Journalist

BUDGET WORK SESSION

The following items were discussed:

1. **Tax Releases and Refunds:** W.D. "Bill" Brooks, Tax Administrator reported that the excessive tax releases and refunds have been a result of the \$100.00 Solid Waste Tipping Fee.

2. **1998-99 Budget Overview:** Dempsey B. Herring, County

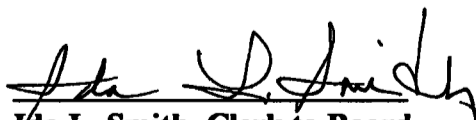
Administrator, gave the following report:

- a. Additional ad valorem taxes (increase from 1997-98) \$ 454,263.00.
 - b. Schools & College Current Expense (Increased 2%, plus \$260,000 for solid waste disposal).
 - c. Schools Capital Outlay (\$850,000 from sales tax - same as 1997-98).
 - d. College Capital Outlay (\$150,000 increase of \$50,000 from 1997-98).
 - e. Employees' Salary increase - 5% across-the-board.
 - f. Additional Positions:
 - Assistant Addressing Technician \$18,887, plus fringe benefits;
 - Detention Officer \$17,538, plus fringe benefits;
 - (If additional Detention Officer position is approved, we can delete four (4) part-time positions;
 - Detention Officer positions for a total of \$6,180; and
 - Environmental Health Specialist \$22,617, plus fringe benefits.
 - g. **Solid Waste:** There is an increase of \$1,203,515 from 1997-98 which includes an appropriation of \$431,700 for Landfill Closure.
 - h. **Medicaid:** There is an increase of \$107,470 from 1997-98 Budget.
3. **Medical Insurance:** Ida L. Smith, Clerk to the Board, reported Medical Insurance has increased \$145,800 from 1997-98 with decreased benefits. We have shopped for insurance coverage and found the best health plan with United Health Care.
4. **Life & Disability Insurance and Liability/Property/Worker's Compensation:** Gayle Godwin, Finance Officer, reported Life & Disability Insurance decreased \$29,000 from 1997-98. Liability/Property/Worker's Compensation decreased \$148,122 from 1997-98.

There was a lengthy discussion on the above items and the 1998-99 Proposed Operating Budget which is scheduled to be presented to the Columbus County Board of Commissioners on June 1, 1998.

Chairman Dutton declared the meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

APPROVED:


Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board


David L. Dutton, Jr., Chairman