

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., November 16, 1998, for the regularly scheduled Board Meeting, it being the third Monday.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

David L. Dutton, Jr., Chairman

A. Dial Gray, III, Vice Chairman

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

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:

Spruell Randolph Britt

Chairman David L. Dutton, Jr. called the meeting to order and Commissioner

C.W. Williams 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 November 2, 1998, Board Meeting, as recorded.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

Tax Refunds:

Request a refund for the user fee in the name of Sherwood Lee Enzor, c/o Annie Sue Enzor, 1737 Waccamaw Shores Rd., Lake Waccamaw, N.C. 28450. House is vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1997, Account #13-12220.

Request a refund in the name of Howard Lewis & Rhonda Jacobs, 154 Canal Dr., Riegelwood, N.C. 28456. Billed incorrectly for (2) homes that are not on their property. Amount \$689.25, Value \$72,300, Year 1997, Account #15-19909.

Request a refund in the name of Barbara Singletary (Etal), 19151 Hwy 410 S., Bladenboro, N.C. 28320. Paid user fee on house that was vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1997, Account #12-16390.

Request a refund in the name of Barbara Singletary (Etal), 19151 Hwy 410 S., Bladenboro, N.C. 28320. Paid user fee on vacant house. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #12-16390.

Tax Releases:

Release the user fee in the name of Bobby Allen, Jr. User fee double listed in the name of Wendell Prince. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #09-00043.

Release the user fee in the name of Arthur Thomas Batten. House vacant and cart returned. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #03-00680.

Release the user fee in the name of Hilbert H. & Frances Ann B. Benton. House is vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #07-08155.

Release the user fee in the name of Norman Curtis Benton. House is vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #07-00418.

Release the use fee in the name of Lloyd & Toni A. Blake. Mobile home is vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #15-02453.

Release both user fees in the name of Mrs. Ruth H. Canady. Both mobile homes are vacant. Amount \$200.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #03-02580.

Release the user fee in the name of Mary C. Dew, c/o of Eloise Coleman. Mobile home is vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #15-11980.

Release the user fee in the name of Wade Livingston Duncan. Property is

vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #03-05401.

Release the user fee in the name of Albert Edwards (Heirs), c/o Grover Edwards. House is vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #16-03840.

Release the user fee in the name of George Richard & W. Loren Edwards. This is one business that has three (3) buildings. Only has one trash cart. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #01-23023.

Release one of the user fees in the name of Stephen E. & Phyllis Edwards. There is only one mobile home on this property. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #09-07697.

Release the user fee in the name of Sherwood Lee Enzor, c/o Annie Sue Enzor. The house has been vacant for years. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #13-12220.

Release the user fee in the name of Evergreen Vol. Fire & Rescue. Billed by Waste Management and County. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #18-00155.

Release the user fee in the name of Fipps Holiness Church. They do not have a trash cart. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #18-00194.

Release the user fee in the name of Floyd Temple UH Church. Trash cart picked up. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #18-00343.

Release the user fee in the name of Brady & Hattie Godwin. No trash cart here. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #12-09509.

Release both user fees in the name of Hattie B. Godwin. Both houses are vacant and no trash carts left here. Amount \$200.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #16-05276.

Release one of the user fees in the name of Cecil Hammond, Sr. Mobile home vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #01-36610.

Release the user fee in the name of Elton Ray & Ellon Jacobs. House is vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #04-07983.

Release the user fee in the name of James Newton & Linda Jordan. House is

vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #15-20880.

Release the user fee in the name of Eric Joy. No house or mobile home on this property. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #04-09511.

Release one of the user fees in the name of Jessie L. & William Edward King. One house is vacant. Amount \$60.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #10-09928.

Release the user fee in the name of James McBride. House is vacant and no trash cart left here. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #12-16717.

Release the user fee in the name of Watson Dean Marlowe. Store is vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1997, Account #07-11940.

Release the user fee in the name of Watson Dean Marlow. Store is vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #07-11940.

Release the user fee in the name of Melanies Business. There was no trash cart left here. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #10-12137.

Release the user fee in the name of John Dean Powers. No trash cart left here. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #03-18041.

Release the user fee in the name of Maggie Bellamy Rogers. No trash cart at this address. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #01-77421.

Release the user fee in the name of Lennue Strickland. Did not get trash cart first of the year. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #16-14820.

Release the user fee in the name of Joseph Sumpter III. Trash cart picked up. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #01-91427.

Release the user fee in the name of Louise S. Troy. House torn down. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #15-36550.

Release the user fee in the name of Woody's Trucking Service Inc. Amount \$60.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #02-08877.

Release the property value in the name of Mrs. Anzie Brown. Failed to receive full senior citizens exemption. Amount \$100.97, Value \$140.00, Year 1998, Account #05-00700.

Release a portion of the property value in the name of H. B. Byrd. Double

wide double listed in the name of Dorothy Blackwell Nobles. Amount \$325.23, Value \$31,500, Year 1997, Account #01-11603.

Release a portion of the property value in the name of H.B. Byrd. Double wide double listed in the name of Dorothy Blackwell Nobles. Amount \$388.23, Value \$31,500, Year 1998, Account #01-11603.

Release the property value in the name of Darren P. & Kimberly J. Gore. Property double listed in the name of Wayne & Barbara Prince. Amount \$26.24, Value \$3,300, Year 1998, Account #06-14383.

Release a portion of the property value in the name of Denise W. Gore. Billed for full value of property instead of land use value. Amount \$230.05, Value \$33,100, Year 1998, Account #07-05191.

Release a portion of the property value in the name of Michael Gore. The double wide has been moved off the property. Amount \$346.13, Value \$30,200, Year 1998, Account #15-15860.

Release the property value in the name of Tracey King. Property double listed in the name of Suzanna King. Amount \$153.41, Value \$6,430, Year 1998, Account #04-09564.

Release a portion of the property value in the name of A.G. Smith. Mobile home double listed in the name of Sherlene Barrett. Amount \$106.95, Value \$1,000, Year 1998, Account #03-22180.

Release a portion of the property value in the name of Betty S. Thompson. House has been condemned. Amount \$142.87, Value \$18,200, Year 1998, Account #03-25160.

Release a portion of the property value in the name of Bridgette L. Williamson. Double wide home double listed in the name of Oliver Stanley. Amount \$250.82, Value \$21,700, Year 1998, Account #07-05304.

Release a portion of the property value in the name of Margaree Williamson. Billed with full property value instead of land use value. Amount \$496.23, Value \$71,400, Year 1998, Account #07-19300.

Amendments to November 2, 1998 Tax Refunds/Releases:

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Cindy Smith, 140 N.E. Holly Drive, 36th Street, Long Beach, NC 28461. Home belongs to Cindy Smith at 60 Watts Lane, Whiteville, NC. District: should be \$4.13 instead of \$4.12.

Release the property value in the name of Roger D. Walker. Property double listed in the name of George Walker, Sr. Total amount should be \$160.59 instead of \$160.33.

The hog farm equipment in the name of H. Rossie and Karen Bullock is being released from the real value and rebilled as personal property on business account #12-01650. Total amount should be \$303.66 instead of \$300.46.

The hog farm equipment in the name of Bobby C. And Diana M. Collins is being released from real value and rebilled to personal property on business account #01-05525. There is no North Whiteville fee of \$15.00 to release. Total amount to release is \$980.48 instead of \$995.48.

Budget Amendment:

Accept 10-335-000 Miscellaneous Revenue from CP&L	\$ 2,825.00
Expend 10-495-5700 Miscel. Expense for Strategic Plan	\$ 2,825.00
Accept 10-348-1690 NC DOT Work First Transportation	\$10,156.00
Expend 10-700-9703 DSS - Work First Transportation	\$10,156.00

PROCLAMATION - AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Theresa Formyduval, Whiteville NCAE President, and Barbara Yates, Columbus County NCAE President, requested the Board to proclaim November 15-21, 1998 as American Education Week in Columbus County.

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

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK**PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing

young people with the tools they'll need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility and equality; and

WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and

WHEREAS, education employees - be they custodians or teachers, bus drivers or librarians - work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders and elected officials in a common enterprise.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim November 15 - 21, 1998 as the 77th annual observance of:

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK.

SIGNED this the 16th day of November 1998.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ DAVID L. DUTTON, JR., Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ IDA L. SMITH, Clerk to Board

RESOLUTION - SCHEDULING PUBLIC HEARING FOR CLOSING A PORTION OF THIRD STREET IN RANSOM TOWNSHIP

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to adopt the following Resolution to schedule a public hearing for closing a portion of Third Street in Ransom Township.

RESOLUTION

The Columbus County Board of Commissioners, at its regular meeting held on November 16, 1998, unanimously adopted the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, it has been brought to the attention of the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County that a portion of Third Street located in Ransom

Township is not serving any useful purpose; and

WHEREAS, the portion of Third Street measuring 50 feet by 332 feet and being the area in front of Lots 1 and 11 of Block N and Lots 10 and 20 of Block H of the Newberlin Townsite as shown on map recorded in Map Book N-1, page 242, Columbus County Registry, and said area running from Burnham Avenue over Third Street and into South Front Street with the lands on one side owned by Glenn D. Brown, Jr. and wife, Jean Y. Brown, and on the other side owned by Verna Malpass Gainey; and

WHEREAS, Glenn D. Brown, Jr. and wife, Jean Y. Brown and Verna Malpass Gainey and their attorney, Benton H. Walton, III have requested that this area of Third Street be closed; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, acting pursuant to the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 153-241, hereby declares its intent to close that portion of Third Street located in Ransom Township mentioned above, and a public hearing on the question of closing this road is hereby called.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners that a public hearing be and it is hereby set for January 4, 1999 at 8:00 A.M. in the Columbus County Commissioners' Office, Whiteville, NC and that public notice of said hearing be published in the News Reporter for once a week for four (4) successive weeks, which publication shall be December 7, 14, 21 and 28, 1998, so that all parties having any interest or affected by the proposed closing of a portion of Third Street of the Newberlin Townsite in Ransom Township may be present and be heard.

Unanimously adopted, this the 16th day of November 1998.

/s/ David L. Dutton, Jr., Chairman

/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

AGREEMENT - TOWN OF BRUNSWICK FOR TAX BILLING AND COLLECTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and passed unanimously to approve the following Agreement.

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN COLUMBUS COUNTY
AND TOWN OF BRUNSWICK**

FOR TAX BILLING AND COLLECTION**NORTH CAROLINA
COLUMBUS COUNTY**

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this the 16th day of November, 1998, by and between the **COUNTY OF COLUMBUS**, North Carolina, party of the first part, herein referred to as **County**, and the **TOWN OF BRUNSWICK**, North Carolina, party of the second part, herein referred to as **Town**:

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, both parties feel that it would be mutually advantageous to cooperate in developing a single system for billing and collecting all ad-valorem taxes within the County, to be reimbursed on a fee basis.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants of the parties hereto and for the purpose aforesaid, it is hereby agreed by and between County and Town as follows:

1. County will bill and collect ad valorem taxes due Town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999 and subsequent years so long as this Agreement shall continue in force. County shall remit at least monthly to the Town the sums actually collected by County on Town's behalf.
2. Town shall pay County one dollar and seventy-five cents (\$1.75) per account serviced by it on behalf of Town as reimbursement for County's services rendered under the terms of this Agreement. County shall bill Town annually for services performed under this Contract.
3. When a partial payment is made by a taxpayer, unless otherwise indicated on the payment, the partial payment shall be credited first to the County taxes, and then to the Town taxes.
4. The parties agree that Town and County taxes may be billed on the same tax notice which will be mailed by the County or on a separate tax notice, whichever is more convenient to the County. Town and County will offer the same prepayment discount as agreed upon. The frequency of the billing shall be determined by the County. County agrees to prepare and mail further tax bills and/or notices for Town in conjunction with further County tax bills and/or notices at no additional cost to Town. Legal expenses incurred in collection of Town and County taxes that are not borne by taxpayers will be paid by Town and County on a pro-rata basis.
5. The Town agrees that the County shall not be liable to any taxpayer for any mistake or omission in any tax bill sent to the taxpayer by the County on behalf of the Town. The Town further agrees to execute a Release Agreement on an individual case basis should any mistake or omission occur.

THIS RESOLUTION may be rescinded by a Resolution adopted by majority vote of either the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County or the Governing Body of the Town of Brunswick and upon 120 days written notice given by either party.

THIS AGREEMENT for joint tax collection functions between Town and County shall be valid for a period of two (2) years from the date hereof, and automatically renewed thereafter for periods of one (1) year until rescinded pursuant to the preceding paragraph.

THIS AGREEMENT is separate and apart from the Agreement dated June 23, 1993 pertaining to the billing and collecting of taxes on classified motor vehicles.

THIS AGREEMENT bears an effective date of January 1, 1999.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Columbus County and the Town of Brunswick have caused this instrument to be signed by their proper officials, by authority of the Resolution of the Governing Body of each tax unit, duly adopted.

COLUMBUS COUNTY

ATTEST:

/s/ David L. Dutton, Jr., Chairman

/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

TOWN OF BRUNSWICK

ATTEST:

/s/ Callie A. Davis, Mayor

/s/ Minerva Williams, Town Clerk

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - AWARD CONTRACT FOR WELL IMPROVEMENTS TO SERVE CONFLANDEY AND SOUTHEAST REGIONAL PARK

Steve Yost, Economic Development Director, reported three bids were received for well improvements to serve Conflandey and Southeast Regional Park ranging from a low of \$71,500.00 to a high of \$146,474.00. Mr. Yost requested the Board to consider awarding the bid to the lowest bidder submitted by Bill's Well Drilling, Fayetteville, NC in the amount of \$71,500.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner

Williams and passed unanimously to award the well improvements contract to Bill's Well Drilling, Fayetteville, NC in the amount of \$71,500.00.

GOVERNMENT COMPLEX - REQUEST FOR THROUGH ROAD FROM 701 BUSINESS TO 701 BYPASS

Commissioner Gray advised the Board that several farmers have contacted him requesting the construction of the through road that was originally planned, running between the Farm Services Building and the Social Services Building connecting US 701 Bypass and US 701 Business.

Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, reported the reason for not constructing the through road running from US 701 Bypass to US 701 Business is due to the Corp of Engineers discovering wetlands which would involve traversing the wetlands by the construction of a bridge. The total cost for the road project is approximately \$200,000.00 which the County will have to incur, plus once the road is constructed, the County will be required to maintain.

The Board directed Mr. Herring to write a narrative regarding the construction of the road from 701 Bypass to 701 Business and present to Coke Gray, ASCS Director and Jacqueline Roseboro, Cooperative Extension Agent for their review.

TAX - EMPLOYMENT OF INTERSTATE CREDIT BUREAU COLLECTIONS FOR COLLECTING VEHICLE TAXES

W.D. "Bill" Brooks, Jr., Tax Administrator, requested the Board to approve the employment of Interstate Credit Bureau Collections, a collection agency, to assist with collecting vehicle taxes. Interstate Credit Bureau Collections does not offer no guarantees but neither do they require a minimum number of accounts be submitted to them, nor do they require a contract.

Mr. Brooks recommended the County submit 1,544 accounts to them at a cost of \$3.50 per account which represents delinquent vehicle accounts for tax year 1998-99 that amount to \$100.00 or more.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Gray and passed unanimously to employ Interstate Credit Bureau Collections, Winston

Salem, NC to begin the collection process on 1,544 delinquent vehicle accounts that amount to \$100.00 or more for tax year 1998-99, at a cost of \$3.50 per account.

COLUMBUS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES (CAVE)

- LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR GRANT APPLICATION

Evelyn Troy, a CAVE Board Member, requested the Board to support an application to the Pepsi/North Carolina Mentoring Initiative for grant funds in the amount of \$25,000 to provide a Volunteer Center and part-time coordinator to increase public awareness and need for volunteers and coordinate volunteer services in Columbus County. Ms. Troy requested the County provide office space, furniture and telephone as an "in kind" contribution.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to direct Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, to write a letter of support for the grant application and provide initial start-up office space, furniture and local telephone service as an "in kind" contribution.

AWARD - RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR COMMISSIONER C.W. WILLIAMS

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and passed unanimously to adopt the following "Resolution of Appreciation" for Commissioner C.W. Williams.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Columbus County, North Carolina, at their regular meeting on the 16th day of November 1998, in Whiteville, North Carolina, unanimously adopted the following Resolution.

W I T N E S S E T H :

WHEREAS, C.W. Williams, was first elected to office as a County Commissioner December 1992; and

WHEREAS, C.W. Williams, was the first African American elected to serve as a County Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, *C.W. Williams* has successfully completed one (1) two (2) year term and one (1) four (4) year term as a County Commissioner serving the better interests of the citizens of Columbus County; and

WHEREAS, during these six (6) years of service as a County Commissioner, *C.W. Williams* has served in the capacity of Chairman to the Board; and

WHEREAS, *C.W. Williams'* years of experience in displaying good judgement and making sound decisions toward better government in Columbus County is evident; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners recognizes the excellent job he has done in dealing with the responsibilities of being a Commissioner and desires to publicly express their appreciation to *C.W. Williams* for the service he has rendered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners takes this opportunity to unanimously express its appreciation to *C.W. Williams* for a job well done as a leader in Columbus County.

ADOPTED this 16th day of November 1998.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David L. Dutton, Jr., Chairman
A. Dial Gray, III, Vice Chairman
Spruell R. "Randy" Britt
Sammie Jacobs
Lynwood Norris
C.E. "Gene" Wilson

ATTESTED BY:

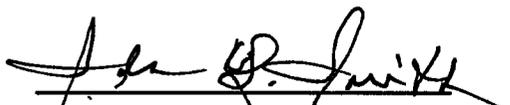
Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

Dempsey B. Herring, Administrator
James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to adjourn the Board Meeting at 8:10 P.M.

APPROVED:


Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board


David L. Dutton, Jr., Chairman