

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., April 19, 1999, for the regularly scheduled Board Meeting, it being the third Monday.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

C.E. Wilson, Chairman

Sammie Jacobs, Vice Chairman

Spruell R. Britt

David L. Dutton, Jr.

A. Dial Gray, III

Amon E. McKenzie

Lynwood Norris

James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney

Dempsey B. Herring
County Administrator

Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

PUBLIC HEARING - NC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR WRIGHT CORPORATION FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROJECT

Chairman Wilson called the Second Public Hearing to order for comments regarding an application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce for the wastewater treatment project for the Wright Corporation in conjunction with the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority.

The Chairman requested anyone wishing to speak concerning the Application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce to be recognized by stating their name.

Skip Green, representing Green Engineering, summarized the contents of the Small Cities Community Development Grant - Economic Development Application to

construct a 500,000 gallon wastewater treatment plant adjacent to Wright Corporation's facility located in the Acme community. The proposed wastewater treatment plant will have the capacity to serve industrial, residential and commercial users in the Acme-Delco-Riegelwood area. The total project cost is: \$1,550,000. The project is proposed to be funded as follows:

Community Development Block Grant	\$500,000
Commerce Finance Center Economic Development	500,000
NC Rural Center Supplemental Water/Sewer Grant	300,000
Local Funds (Wright Corporation)	250,000

Thomas Wright, Executive Officer for the Wright Corporation, reported that more stringent state discharge requirements will require more treatment than the Wright Corporation can provide with their present system. Columbus County will own the wastewater treatment plant and with its 500,000 gallons-per-day capacity and the Wright Corporation's need of 250,000 gallons-per-day, the additional 250,000 gallons that will be available should attract new industry for the area.

Floyd Flynn, a concerned citizen, questioned the location of the wastewater facility. Mr. Wright reported the wastewater plant will be constructed on an approximate ten (10) acre tract of land adjacent to Wright Corporation's facility that was previously used as a solid waste transfer station by Columbus County. The site is bounded by Neils Eddy Road, the Kings Bluff aqueducts and a natural gas pipeline and Mill Creek.

There were no other comments.

Chairman Wilson declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:52 P.M.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING COMMENCED

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order and Commissioner Sammie Jacobs gave the invocation.

BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to approve the Board Minutes of the April 5, 1999 Board Meeting, as recorded.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

Tax Refunds:

Request a refund in the name of Sara Frank & Eugene E. Lewis, P.O. Box 216, Riegelwood, N.C. 28456. Camper was double listed as a mobile home. Amount \$139.67, Value \$4,868, Year 1998, Account #15-23989.

Request a refund in the name of Kendall Ray Moore, P.O. Box 317, Delco, N.C. 28436. Property double listed in the name of Centura Bank Leasing. Amount \$312.75, Value \$45,000, Year 1997, Account #15-27738.

Request a refund in the name of Kendall Ray Moore, P.O. Box 317, Delco, N.C. 28436. Property double listed in the name of Centura Bank Leasing. Amount \$649.83, Value \$85,000, Year 1998, Account #15-27738.

Tax Releases:

Release the special district fee in the name of Richard Cordell Bordeaux. Mr. Bordeaux's property is not located in the Acme Delco Fire District. Amount \$10.13, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #15-03360.

Release a portion of the property value in the name of Inez White. Ms. White failed to receive full senior citizen's exemption. Amount \$20.65, Value \$2,971, Year 1998, Account #03-29180.

Release the user fee in the name of Chester (Jr.) & Margaret Graham. Property vacant. Amount \$60.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #01-34080.

Release the user fee in the name of Jimmy Dale & Shirley Long. Mobile home is vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #07-10700.

Release the user fee in the name of Dana Morris. User fee double listed in the name of Dana R. Morris. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #19-00053.

Release the user fees in the name of Cathy Nance. Mobile homes vacant, no trash carts. Amount \$200.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #10-12801.

Release the user fee in the name of David H. & Jeri Sue Nance. Mobile home

used to store hay. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #12-19540.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Mike & Sandra Barner. Home double listed in the name of Harold Jacobs. Amount \$143.93, Value \$4,900, Year 1998, Account #08-00681.

Release the deferred taxes in the name of Frederick M. (Jr.) & Eloise Bullock. Taxes double billed thru error. Amount \$84.27, Value \$10,600, Year 1998, Account #16-02460, bill #57562.

Release the deferred taxes in the name of Frederick M. (Jr.) & Eloise Bullock. Taxes billed twice thru error. Amount \$84.27, Value \$10,600, Year 1998, Account #16-02460, bill #57563.

Release the deferred taxes in the name of Frederick M. (Jr.) & Eloise Bullock. Taxes billed twice thru error. Amount \$56.32, Value \$7,183, Year 1998, Account #16-02460, bill #57564.

Release the deferred taxes in the name of Frederick M. (Jr.) & Eloise Bullock. Taxes billed twice thru error. Amount \$56.32, Value \$7,183, Year 1998, Account #16-02460, bill #57566.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Tara Shawn Coleman. Home double listed in the name of Kevin Coleman. Amount \$9.36, Value \$1,000, Year 1996, Account #09-04812.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Tara Shawn Coleman. Home double listed in the name of Kevin Coleman. Amount \$107.65, Value \$1,000, Year 1997, Account #09-04812.

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Release the property value in the name of Seth S. & Paula K. Cummings. Property double listed in the name of NC Indian Housing Authority and is tax exempt. Amount \$189.93, Value \$12,940, Year 1997, Account #04-02948.

Release the property value in the name of Seth S. & Paula K. Cummings.

Property double listed in the name of NC Indian Housing Authority, and is exempt. Amount \$364.10, Value \$38,000, Year 1998, Account #04-02948.

Release the property value in the name of John Earlin & Teresa J. Freeman.

Property double listed in the name of NC Indian Housing Authority, and is exempt. Amount \$358.97, Value \$34,300, Year 1998, Account #04-04918.

Release the value and user fee of a mobile home that is junked, and two user fees in the name of Albert Lacy Hayes, Jr. Mr. Hayes' home was listed as a triplex and billed with three (3) user fees. Amount \$306.95, Value \$1,000, Year 1997, Account #13-18240.

Release the value and the user fee on a mobile home that is junked in the name of Albert Lacy Hayes, Jr. Also, release two (2) user fees on his home that was listed as a triplex. Amount \$306.95, Value \$1,000, Year 1998, Account #13-18240.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Coolidge Harrelson. Home double listed in the name of Tommy Harrelson. Amount \$214.93, Value \$12,820, Year 1998, Account #15-17698.

Release the property value in the name of Jehrie Lynn Jacobs. Property double listed in the name of NC Indian Housing Authority, and is tax exempt. Amount \$361.99, Value \$34,700, Year 1998, Account #04-08241.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Alice Kartak. Home double listed in the name of Ned Watts. Amount \$9.36, Value \$1,000, Year 1996, Account #03-12511.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Alice Kartak. Home double listed in the name of Ned Watts. Amount \$107.65, Value \$1,000, Year 1997, Account #03-12511.

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Release the property value in the name of James & Cynthia Kirkland. Property double listed in the name of NC Indian Housing Authority, and is tax exempt. Amount

\$342.36, Value \$32,100, Year 1998, Account #08-10641.

Release the property value in the name of Bernice Smith. Property double listed in the name of NC Indian Housing Authority, and is tax exempt. Amount \$343.87, Value \$32,300, Year 1998, Account #08-16671.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Marsier Williams. Home double listed in the name of Jimmy Dale & Shirley Long. Amount \$128.15, Value \$4,050, Year 1998, Account #06-43337.

Budget Amendment:

Appropriate 10-399-0000 Fund Balance	\$1,000,000.00
Expend 10-690-9513 N.C. Forestry Museum	1,000,000.00

AWARDS - LEADERSHIP COLUMBUS CERTIFICATION PRESENTATION

Kandance Whitehead, Columbus County Register of Deeds' Office, and Gina Bullock, Branch Banking & Trust, reported on the projects the Leadership Columbus participated in for the past year which consist of: Franklin Street cleanup and Families First landscaping grounds and painting.

Chairman Wilson and Janice Young, Leadership Columbus Facilitator, presented the following persons with Leadership Columbus Graduation Plaques.

Teddy Bullard	Brunswick Electric
Gina Bullock	Branch Banking & Trust
Christine Lewis	Columbus County Hospital
Australia Little	Branch Banking & Trust
Tyrone Merritt	International Paper
Aletha Spaulding	Carolina's Home Care
Kandance Whitehead	Columbus County Register of Deeds' Office

Dean Turner, Turner Tech Consulting, and Lana White, Southeastern Community College, were not present to receive their plaques.

APPOINTMENT - SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Commissioner Sammie Jacobs reappointed Samuel Koonce to serve on the Southeastern Community College Board of Trustees for a four (4) year term, expiring June

30, 2003 to represent Commissioner Jacobs' District.

SOCIAL SERVICES - APPROVAL OF VEHICLE ON A TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR BASIS

A motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to allow Larry Moore, Social Services Director, to have access to an agency vehicle on a twenty-four-hour basis as requested by the Department of Social Services Board of Directors, to be used for County business only.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - REQUEST A REPORT FROM STATE ON EVALUATION OF COUNTY EMERGENCY NEEDS

A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to direct Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, to send a formal request to the State Office of Emergency to insist the Columbus County Emergency Management Study, an evaluation of County needs, be completed prior to May 3, 1999.

ADMINISTRATION - ADMINISTRATOR'S EVALUATION

Commissioner Wilson, Chairman, presented the Board with the Annual Evaluation of the County Administrator, Dempsey B. Herring, stating the score was 56 out of a possible 60 points which only lacks 4 points of being clearly outstanding. The score average was 3.7 on a zero-to-four scale.

The Board reached a general consensus to extend the Contract of Employment for Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, with Columbus County for an additional period of one (1) year which will be through April 19, 2001.

SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE - COLUMBUS COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN

Dr. Steve Scott, Southeastern Community College President, presented the Board with a copy of the 1998-2007 Columbus County Strategic Plan which was funded by the Ford Foundation through the Rural Community College Initiative to implement the planning process of the Strategic Plan and Carolina Power and Light Company provided the funds to publish the document.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and passed unanimously to accept and endorse the 1998-2007 Columbus County Strategic Plan as presented by Dr. Steve Scott.

APPOINTMENT - BOARD OF HEALTH

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Commissioner Britt and passed unanimously to appoint W.C. Burns, D.V.M. to serve on the Board of Health as the veterinary member, as an at-large appointment for the remainder of a three (3) year term, expiring December 31, 2000.

RECREATION - FANNIE WALDEN, FARMERS UNION, REQUEST FOR COUNTY ASSISTANCE FOR RECREATION AREA

Ms. Fannie Walden, a resident of Farmers Union, reported to the Board the Farmers Union Community has been given a five (5) acre tract of land to be utilized for a recreation facility. Ms. Walden requested the Columbus County Parks and Recreation to assist the Farmers Union Community in the development of a recreation area with recreational equipment.

The Board directed Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, and Darren Currie, Recreation Director, to meet with Ms. Walden and review the recreation development plan for the proposed recreation facility.

LIVESTOCK (POULTRY) - PETITION AGAINST CONSTRUCTION OF POULTRY HOUSE

Samuel Lennon, a concerned citizen from the Christian Plain-Rico Community, presented the Board with a Community Petition of approximately three-hundred (300) names stating the following:

We, the members of the Christian Plain-Rico Community petition the Ruffin Shaw descendants to refrain from building or allowing to be built a poultry house on your property on the Baldwin Road or vicinity. We believe such an operation would be offensive to our community; therefore, we urge you to discontinue work on this project.

James E. Hill, Jr., County Attorney, reported that Columbus County Rules

Intensive Livestock Operation was adopted by the Columbus County Board of Health, effective January 1, 1997 stating construction permits are required and issued by the Columbus County Health Department after meeting all necessary criteria listed in the Intensive Livestock Operation Rules.

Mr. Hill advised Mr. Lennon that a copy of the Columbus County Rules Intensive Livestock Operation could be obtained from his office at 102 Courthouse Square, Whiteville, NC.

COUNTY PROPERTY - PUBLIC AUCTION FOR REAL ESTATE APPROVED

James E. Hill, Jr., County Attorney, reported a public auction was held April 14, 1999 as directed by Resolution adopted by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners March 15, 1999 for County property being located on the north side of N.C. Highway 130 between Whiteville and Chadbourn and being more particularly described as follows:

Being Lot # 1 and 2 Block A of the R.B. Lennon subdivision as shown on a plat recorded in Map Book 1, Page 22, Columbus County Registry, and being the same property described in a Deed dated February 4, 1929 from Daniel J. Bowen to Jasper Bowen and wife, Martha Bowen as recorded in Book 136, Page 163, Columbus County Registry.

Being also those same lands described in a Deed dated 5 March 1970 from Martha Maude Bowen, widow to the County of Columbus, a body corporate and politic, said instrument being recorded March 16, 1970 in Book 257, Page 368, Columbus County Registry.

Mr. Hill reported the sale was held on the 14th day of April 1999 at 12:00 Noon. Mr. Randy L. McKeithan and Mr. Chester Graham, Jr. were the only persons in attendance who bid on the property. The final bid was received from Mr. Randy L. McKeithan in the amount of Thirty-Five Thousand, Five Hundred and no/100 dollars (\$35,500.00). Mr. Hill advised the Board they have the right to accept or reject the bid.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and unanimously passed to accept the bid for the above described property in the amount of Thirty-Five Thousand, Five Hundred and no/100 dollars (\$35,500.00) and allow the

Chairman to sign all legal documents pertaining to the sale of the property.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:45 P.M., a motion was made by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to enter into a closed session in accordance with N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(5).

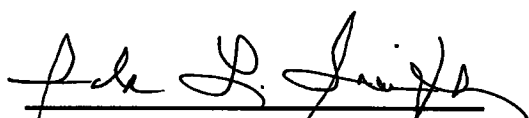
RESUMED REGULAR SESSION

At 9:35 P.M., a motion was made by Commissioner McKenzie, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to adjourn closed session and resume regular session.

No action was taken.


ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and passed unanimously to adjourn the Board Meeting at 9:40 P.M.



Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

APPROVED:



C.E. Wilson, Chairman