

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, April 1, 2002

7:30 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina for their regularly scheduled meeting.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Amon E. McKenzie, **Chairman**
 C.E. "Gene" Wilson, **Vice Chairman**
 Spruell R. Britt
 David L. Dutton, Jr.
 Sammie Jacobs
 Bill Memory
 Lynwood Norris

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Billy Joe Farmer, **County Administrator**
 James E. Hill, Jr., **County Attorney**
 Darren L. Currie, **Assistant County Administrator**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 7:30 P.M., Chairman Amon E. McKenzie called the meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Ms. Hammonds. All in attendance stood and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Memory to approve the March 3, 2002, March 18, 2002 and March 19, 2002 Board Minutes as recorded. The motion so carried.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Britt to approve the following Consent Agenda Items. The motion so carried.

REFUNDS (as submitted to Administration from the Tax Office): April 1, 2002

Request a refund in the name of Beaver, Joyce Lennon, 12183 Haynes Lennon Rd., Evergreen, NC 28438. Refund the value of a boat and the Columbus Rescue fee. Paid on boat that was sold in 1999 to someone in South Carolina. Amount \$39.50, Value \$4,937.00, Year 2001, Account # 12-01143, Bill # 81218.

Request a refund in the name of Dew, William A. Sr., c/o Carolyn Kennedy, 99 Moss Rd., Whiteville, NC 28472. Refund user fee. There is no trash can at this address. Amount \$100.00, Value \$0.00, Year 1997, Account # 11-07883, Bill # 41306.

Request a refund in the name of Dew, William A. Sr., C/O Carolyn Kennedy, 99 Moss Rd., Whiteville, NC 28472. Refund user fee. There is no trash can at this address. Amount \$100.00, Value \$0.00, Year 1998, Account # 11-07883, Bill # 45658.

Request a refund in the name of Dew, William A Sr., C/O Carolyn Kennedy, 99 Moss Rd., Whiteville, NC 28472. Refund user fee. There is no trash can at this address. Amount \$100.00, Value \$0.00, Year 1999, Account # 11-07883, Bill # 7315.

Request a refund in the name of Dew, William A. Sr., C/O Carolyn Kennedy, 99 Moss Rd., Whiteville, NC 28472. Refund user fee. There is no trash can at this address. Amount \$65.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 11-07883, Bill # 88291.

Request a refund in the name of Dew, William A. Sr., C/O Carolyn Kennedy, 99 Moss Rd.,

Whiteville,, NC 28472. Refund user fee. There is no trash can at this address. Amount \$75.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 11-07883, Bill # 88494.

Request a refund in the name of Richardson, John (Heirs), P.O. Box 101, Brunswick, NC 28424. Refund user fee. House burned in the 80's. Check should be written to Jennie Campbell. Amount \$100.00, Value \$0.00, Year 1997, Account # 03-19820, Bill # 60013.

Request a refund in the name of Richardson, John (Heirs), P.O. Box 101, Brunswick, NC 28424. Refund user fee. House burned in the 80's. Check should be written to Jennie Campbell. Amount \$100.00, Value \$0.00, Year 1998, Account # 03-19820, Bill # 65121.

Request a refund in the name of Richardson, John (Heirs), P.O. Box 101, Brunswick, NC 28424. Refund user fee. House burned in the 80's. Check should be written to Jennie Campbell. Amount \$100.00, Value \$0.00, Year 1999, Account # 03-19820, Bill # 27441.

Request a refund in the name of Richardson, John (Heirs), P.O. Box 101, Brunswick, NC 28424. Refund user fee. Home burned in the 80's. Check should be written to Jennie Campbell. Amount \$125.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 03-19820, Bill # 8969.

Request a refund in the name of Richardson, John (Heirs), P.O. Box 101, Brunswick, NC 28424. Refund user fee. House burned in the 80's. Check should be written to Jennie Campbell. Amount \$165.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 03-19820, Bill # 9726.

The following is based on recommendations from the Tax Administrator's Office.

TAX RELEASES (as submitted to Administration from the Tax Office):
April 1, 2002

Release the Property Value in the name of Carr, Margaret Tart. Release the deferred tax. Transfer was name change only due to marriage. Property is still in Margaret's name. Amount \$88.26, Value \$12,700.00, Year 1999, Account # 05-01322, Bill # 32610.

Release the Property Value in the name of Peterson, H.V.. Release the deferred tax and the Acme Delco Fire fee. Property was sold to a family member. Amount \$15.73, Value \$1,873.00, Year 2000, Account # 15-29560, Bill # 23685.

Release the Property Value in the name of Peterson, H.V.. Release the deferred tax and the Acme Delco Fire fee (2.24) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.37). Property was sold to a family member. Amount \$17.22, Value \$1,873.00, Year 2001, Account # 15-29560, Bill # 32684.

Release the Property Value in the name of Malpass, Larry. Release the value of a boat that was sold in 1999. Amount \$40.79, Value \$5,150.00, Year 2000, Account # 15-04324, Bill # 1689.

Release the Property Value in the name of Keaton, Wesley T.. Release the value of a boat and the Columbus Rescue fee. Boat is listed in Bladen County. Amount \$10.22, Value \$1,162.00, Year 2001, Account # 15-03057, Bill # 99758.

Release the Property Value in the name of Green, E.M. Jr.. Release a portion of the property value and a portion of the Cerro Gordo Fire fee (.90) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.18). Property should have been in the land use program. Amount \$8.10, Value \$900.00, Year 2001, Account # 16-06060, Bill # 31994.

Release the Property Value in the name of Galloway, Kelvin. Release the value of a mobile home and the North Whiteville Fire fee (50.00) and the Whiteville Rescue fee (7.40). Home was repossessed in 1999. Amount \$511.00, Value \$37,000.00, Year 2001, Account # 01-30222, Bill # 92164.

Release the Property Value in the name of Galloway, Kelvin. Release the value of a mobile home and the North Whiteville fire fee (50.00) and the Whiteville Rescue fee (7.40). Home was repossessed in 1999. Amount \$448.80, Value \$37,000.00, Year 2000, Account # 01-30222, Bill # 91904.

Release the Property Value in the name of Fowler, Beamon. Release the value of a boat and the Columbus Rescue fee. Boat was sold years ago to Mr. Fowlers brother. Amount \$194.07, Value \$3,304.00, Year 2001, Account # 06-10572, Bill # 91316.

Release the Property Value in the name of Edwards, Minta B.. Release the deferred tax. Property was transferred to a family member. Amount \$133.44, Value \$19,200.00, Year 1998, Account # 05-01860, Bill # 32635.

Release the Property Value in the name of Edwards, Minta B.. Release the deferred tax. Property was transferred to a family member. Amount \$133.44, Value \$19,200.00, Year 1999, Account # 05-01860, Bill # 32634.

Release the Property Value in the name of Edwards, Minta B.. Release the deferred tax. Property was transferred to a family member. Amount \$138.24, Value \$19,200.00, Year 2000, Account # 05-01860, Bill # 32633.

Release the Property Value in the name of Peterson, H.V.. Release the deferred tax and the Acme Delco Fire fee. Property was sold to a family member. Amount \$15.26, Value \$1,873.00, Year 1999, Account # 15-29560, Bill # 32686.

Release the Property Value in the name of Carr, Margaret Tart. Release the deferred tax. Name change due to remarriage. Property still in Margaret's name. Amount \$88.26, Value \$12,700.00, Year 1998, Account # 05-01322, Bill # 32611.

Release the Property Value in the name of Jones, Malichi. Release the value of a mobile home and the Brunswick Fire fee (1.90) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.54). Mobile home has been junked for years. Amount \$26.03, Value \$2,720.00, Year 2001, Account # 03-03233, Bill # 32533.

Release the Property Value in the name of Carr, Margaret Tart. Release deferred tax. Transfer was due to name change only due to marriage. Property is still in Margaret's name. Amount \$91.44, Value \$12,700.00, Year 2000, Account # 05-01322, Bill # 32609.

Release the Property Value in the name of Carr, Margaret Tart. Release the deferred tax and the Columbus Rescue fee. Transfer was name change only because she remarried. Property still in Margaret's name. Amount \$101.60, Value \$12,700.00, Year 2001, Account # 05-01322, Bill # 32608.

Release the Property Value in the name of Carolina Bridge Co. Inc.. Release the value of a mobile home and the Columbus Rescue fee. The mobile home was moved out of the county in 1997 when the job was complete. Amount \$188.94, Value \$2,721.00, Year 2001, Account # 07-01606, Bill # 85160.

Release the Property Value in the name of Carolina Bridge Co. Inc.. Release the value of a mobile home that was moved out of the county in 1997 when the job was complete. Amount \$147.43, Value \$2,832.00, Year 2000, Account # 07-01606, Bill # 85069.

Release the Property Value in the name of Carolina Bridge Co. Inc.. Release the value of a mobile home that was moved out of the county in 1997 when the job was complete. Amount \$122.32, Value \$2,919.00, Year 1999, Account # 07-01606, Bill # 4167.

Release the Property Value in the name of Carolina Bridge Co. Inc.. Release the value of a mobile home and the Yam City fee. Mobile home was moved out of the county in 1997 when job was complete. Amount \$123.53, Value \$2,691.00, Year 1998, Account # 07-01606, Bill # 29953.

Release the Property Value in the name of Byrd, Locke Jr.. Release the deferred tax and the Whiteville Rescue fee. Property was sold to a family member. Amount \$1,132.50, Value \$158,394.00, Year 1999, Account # 01-11648, Bill # 32606.

Release the Property Value in the name of Byrd, Locke Jr.. Release the deferred tax and the Whiteville Rescue fee. Property was sold to a family member. Amount \$1,172.10, Value \$158,394.00, Year 2000, Account # 01-11648, Bill # 32605.

Release the Property Value in the name of Byrd, Locke Jr.. Release the deferred tax and the Whiteville Rescue fee. Property was sold to a family member. Amount \$1,267.14, Value \$158,394.00, Year 2001, Account # 01-11648, Bill # 32604.

Release the Property Value in the name of Blackwell, Harold. Release a portion of the property value that was billed with incorrect value. Amount \$11.72, Value \$1,628.00, Year 2000, Account # 16-00947, Bill # 82076.

Release the Property Value in the name of Benton, Martin L.. Release a portion of the house value and the Acme Delco fee (12.60) and the Columbus Rescue fee (2.10). House is only 75% complete. Amount \$96.60, Value \$10,500.00, Year 2001, Account # 15-02100, Bill # 81643.

Release the Property Value in the name of Edwards, Minta B.. Release the deferred tax and the Columbus Rescue fee. Property was transferred to a family member. Amount \$153.60, Value \$19,200.00, Year 2001, Account # 05-01860, Bill # 32632.

Release the Property Value in the name of Watts, Junior L.. Release the deferred tax and the Brunswick Fire fee (1.99) and the Whiteville Rescue fee (.56). Property was sold to a family member. Amount \$23.02, Value \$2,843.00, Year 2000, Account # 02-03240, Bill # 32734.

Release the Property Value in the name of Green, E.M. Jr.. Release a portion of the property value and a portion of the Cerro Gordo fire fee (28.60) and the Columbus Rescue fee (5.72). Property should have been in the land use program. Amount \$257.40, Value \$28,600.00, Year 2001, Account # 16-06060, Bill # 31993.

Release the Property Value in the name of Peterson, H.V.. Release the deferred tax and the Acme Delco Fire fee. Property was sold to a family member. Amount \$15.26, Value \$1,873.00, Year 1998, Account # 15-29560, Bill # 32687.

Release the Property Value in the name of Webb, Floyd C.. Release a portion of the property value and a portion of the Bolton Fire fee. Billed with incorrect value. Amount \$7.47, Value \$488.00, Year 2000, Account # 04-16480, Bill # 18469.

Release the Property Value in the name of Watts, Junior L.. Release the deferred tax and the Brunswick Fire fee (1.99) and the Whiteville Rescue fee (.56). Property sold to a family member. Amount \$22.31, Value \$2,843.00, Year 1997, Account # 02-03240, Bill # 32737.

Release the Property Value in the name of Watts, Junior L.. Release the deferred tax and the Brunswick Fire fee (1.99) and the Whiteville Rescue fee (.56). Property was sold to a family member. Amount \$22.31, Value \$2,843.00, Year 1999, Account # 02-03240, Bill # 24735.

Release the Property Value in the name of Washington, Joann. Release a portion of the property value that was billed with incorrect value. Amount \$8.54, Value \$1,095.00, Year 2000, Account # 14-05208, Bill # 18078.

Release the Property Value in the name of Thompson, Lewis. Release a portion of the Whiteville Rescue fee that was billed in error. Amount \$1.00, Value \$0.00, Year 1996, Account # 01-94230, Bill # 67651.

Release the Property Value in the name of Strickland, Kenneth. Release a portion of the property value that was billed with incorrect value. Amount \$4.62, Value \$642.00, Year 2000, Account # 10-16417, Bill # 14515.

Release the Property Value in the name of Rhiel, Emma Ruth. Release the deferred tax and the Cerro Gordo Fire fee. Property was not in the land use program. Amount \$38.14, Value \$4,652.00, Year 2000, Account # 16-12647, Bill # 32695.

Release the Property Value in the name of Rhodes, Charles A.. Release the value of a jet ski and the Columbus Rescue fee. Jet ski was junked in 2000. Amount \$13.51, Value \$1,535.00, Year 2001, Account # 13-34295, Bill # 9625.

Release the Property Value in the name of Rhiel, Emma Ruth. Release the deferred tax and the Cerro Gordo Fire fee. Property was not in the land use program. Amount \$36.98, Value \$4,652.00, Year 1998, Account # 16-12647, Bill # 32697.

Release the Property Value in the name of Rhiel, Emma Ruth. Release the deferred tax and the Cerro Gordo Fire fee. Property was not in the land use program. Amount \$36.98, Value \$4,652.00, Year 1999, Account # 16-12647, Bill # 32696.

Release the Property Value in the name of Shortt, Delma D.. Release a portion of the property value that was billed with incorrect value. Amount \$11.06, Value \$1,536.00, Year 2000, Account # 01-82763, Bill # 11022.

Release the Property Value in the name of Watts, Junior L.. Release the deferred tax and the Brunswick Fire fee (1.99) and the Whiteville Rescue fee (.56). Property was sold to family member. Amount \$22.31, Value \$2,843.00, Year 1998, Account # 02-03240, Bill # 32736.

Release the Property Value in the name of Rhiel, Emma Ruth. Release the deferred tax and the Cerro Gordo Fire fee (4.65) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.93). Property was not in the land use program. Amount \$41.86, Value \$4,652.00, Year 2001, Account # 16-12647, Bill # 32694.

Release the User Fee in the name of Strickland Produce. Release user fees. All mobile homes are vacant. Amount \$330.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 06-38222, Bill # 15475.

Release the User Fee in the name of Strickland Produce. Release user fees. All mobile homes are vacant. Amount \$150.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 06-38222, Bill # 14583.

Release the User Fee in the name of Southern Bell Tel & Tele. Release user fee. There is no trash can here. Amount \$75.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 18-00224, Bill # 23557.

Release the User Fee in the name of Southern Bell Tel & Tel Co.. Release user fee. There is no trash can here. Amount \$65.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 18-00224, Bill # 21082.

Release the User Fee in the name of Smith, Charles M.. Overcharge on user fee due to computer error. Amount \$15.33, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 13-36641, Bill # 11800.

Release the User Fee in the name of Richardson, Henry Jr.. Release user fee. No trash can here. Amount \$165.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 11-22721, Bill # 9725.

Release the User Fee in the name of Vaught, Larry. Overcharge on user fee due to computer error. Amount \$12.02, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 10-17522, Bill # 16658.

Release the User Fee in the name of Mise, Virgie Mae. Release one of two user fees. One house is vacant. Amount \$165.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 09-21080, Bill # 4749.

Release the User Fee in the name of Brown, Elijah, (Heirs). Release user fee. House is vacant. Amount \$125.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 15-05060, Bill # 83213.

Release the User Fee in the name of Pittman, Donald C.. Release a portion of the user fee. Property is inside the city limits. Amount \$140.78, Value \$0.00, Year 1999, Account # 10-13495, Bill # 25605.

Release the User Fee in the name of Sealey, Oscar. Release one of two user fees. Mobile home is used as storage. Amount \$75.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 13-35520, Bill # 11051.

Release the User Fee in the name of Harris, David & Teresa. Release user fee. No trash can here. Amount \$165.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 09-13164, Bill # 95691.

Release the User Fee in the name of Fair Bluff Housing (Inc). Release user fee. They are using a commercial hauler. Amount \$75.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 18-00250, Bill # 23576.

Release the User Fee in the name of Fair Bluff Housing (Inc). Release user fee.. They use a commercial hauler. Amount \$65.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 18-00250, Bill # 21103.

Release the User Fee in the name of El-Amin, Beverly. Release user fee. No trash can here. Amount \$165.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 01-04023, Bill # 89552.

Release the User Fee in the name of El-. Amount \$0.00, Value \$0.00, Year , Account # , Bill # .

Release the User Fee in the name of Delco Community Center. Release user fee. No trash can here. Amount \$165.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 18-00018, Bill # 23822.

Release the User Fee in the name of Delco Community Center. Release user fee. No trash can here. Amount \$125.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 18-00018, Bill # 21351.

Release the User Fee in the name of Brown, Elijah, (Heirs). Release user fee. House is vacant. Amount \$165.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 15-05060, Bill # 83266.

Release the User Fee in the name of Brown, Elijah (Heirs). Release user fee. House is vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$0.00, Year 1999, Account # 15-05060, Bill # 2352.

Release the User Fee in the name of McKee, William K.. Release user fee. House is vacant. Amount \$75.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 16-01714, Bill # 3153.

Release the User Fee in the name of Johnson, Zabrina. Release user fee. There is no trash can here. Amount \$165.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 14-05021, Bill # 99228.

Release the User Fee in the name of Byrd, Jerry. Release user fee. House is vacant. Amount \$165.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 11-04861, Bill # 84654.

The following is based on recommendations from the Tax Administrator's Office.

Amendments to the 03/18/2002 Refunds/Releases:

Randy T. Todd - Year 2000 - Release the value of a mobile home that Mr. Todd never owned. Account number should be 13-36387 instead of 15-36387.

Budget Amendments:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	10-510-1700	Maintenance/Repair Vehicles	\$12,980
Revenue	10-335-0000	Miscellaneous Revenue	\$12,980
Expenditure	10-470-0402	Professional Services	\$17,000
Revenue	10-399-0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$17,000
Expenditures	10-613-7548	Capital From NCDOT	\$4,500
Revenue	10-348-1695	NCDOT - Admin & Capital	\$4,500

CHAF PROGRAM UPDATE

Floyd Adams, The Adams Company, Incorporated, presented the following update on the Columbus County CHAF Program.

Columbus County Summary Sheet**CHAF Program**

Total Houses			491
Houses Inspected			488
Replacement		278	
Repair		210	
Repair Work		210	
Work Write-up/Lawyer Processing	11		
Bids Complete, Not Awarded	26		
Board Awarded, No Construction	114		
Under Construction	30		
Complete	29		
Replacement Work		278	
Work Write-up/Lawyer Processing	4		
Board Awarded, No Construction	138		
N.O.E. Sent, Under Construction	85		
Complete	51		
Not Visited			3
Legal Work	440		
Total Titles Requested		182	
Titles Requested, Not Complete		107	
Preliminary Title Complete		45	
Prom. Note/Deed of Trust Requested, Not Signed		106	
Prom. Note/Deed of Trust Recorded			

OLD DOCK/CYPRESS CREEK FIRE DISTRICT EXTENSION

A Public Hearing was conducted on February 19, 2002, at the Old Dock/Cypress Creek Fire Department for the purpose of hearing any public comments on extending this fire district from a five (5) mile district to a six (6) mile district. There was no opposition to this matter. Commissioner Dutton made a motion to approve extending this district from a five (5) mile district to a six (6) mile district, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

WHITEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION APPROVAL

Dr. Danny D. McPherson, Superintendent, requested approval of the following Resolution to transfer money from Capital Outlay to Current Expense.

RESOLUTION

March 11, 2002

WHEREAS the Whiteville City Schools prepared and submitted its original 2001-2002 budget based on information provided by federal, state, and local agencies/entities; and

WHEREAS the final Whiteville City Schools' operating budget was planned with the appropriation as approved by the Columbus County Commissioners, effective July 1, 2001; and

WHEREAS neither the Board of Commissioners nor the Board of Education anticipated the severe cuts made by the state; and

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners had to reduce the original appropriation to the Whiteville City Schools by 5% (\$79,042) to meet the reduction in funding by the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS expenditures and personnel contracts were issued based on the July 1, 2001 appropriations by the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS the increased costs of electricity and fuel have depleted all excess funds; and

WHEREAS the Whiteville City Board of Education has already budgeted a portion of the required fund balance to meet its current 2001-2002 budget; and

WHEREAS GS 11 5C-433 (d) states that "the board of education may amend the budget to transfer money to or from the capital outlay fund to or from any other fund, with the approval of the board of county commissioners, to meet emergencies unforeseen and unforeseeable at the time the budget resolution was adopted. When such an emergency arises, the board of education may adopt a resolution requesting approval from the board of commissioners for the transfer of a specified amount of money to or from the capital outlay fund to or from some other fund;" and

WHEREAS these financial and budgetary issues were "unforeseeable" to both the Columbus County Board of Commissioners and the Columbus County Board of Education;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Whiteville City Board of Education respectfully requests permission to transfer \$79,042 from our capital outlay fund to our current expense fund for FY 2001-2002.

/s/ Terry W. Carroll, Chairman
/s/ Danny D. McPherson, Secretary

RESOLUTION CITING THE GREEN SWAMP AS A NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK APPROVAL

Jeff Lane, Chairman of Friends of the Green Swamp, stated in 1974 the Green Swamp had been declared a National Natural Landmark by the Park Service. In addition, it has been recognized by State and National Government. Annual Earthday will be here shortly and I am requesting approval and adoption of the following Resolution by the County Commissioners.

**RESOLUTION
CITING THE GREEN SWAMP
AS A NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK
BY THE COLUMBUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 1, 2002**

WHEREAS the Green Swamp of southeastern North Carolina is the largest and most unique mosaic of wetland communities in the Carolinas, containing an assemblage of unusual community types and a great abundance of rare and endemic plant species such as pitcher plants and other carnivorous plant species; and

WHEREAS the 300-square-mile Green Swamp is one of the last refuges for the black bear, alligator, diamondback rattlesnake and puma in eastern North Carolina; and WHEREAS the Green Swamp has significant natural and scenic areas, including the Nature Conservancy's largest N.C. ecological preserve, the Green Swamp Scenic Byway, and the Lake Waccamaw State Park; and

WHEREAS the U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service has registered the Green Swamp in southeastern North Carolina as a national natural landmark; and

WHEREAS the United States has celebrated Earth Day for over three decades and will again this year on April 22, 2002,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in acknowledgment of its unique properties and special geological and ecological features, the Columbus County Commissioners hereby recognize the Green Swamp of southeastern North Carolina on Earth Day 2002;

This the _____ day of April, 2002.

Chairman, Columbus County Commissioners

Commissioner Memory made a motion for the approval and adoption. The motion died for the lack of a second. Commissioner Memory made a substitute motion to request staff to look into this matter and report to the Commissioners at the second meeting in May which will be approximately forty-five (45) days. Motion dies for the lack of a second.

USE of COUNTY FUNDS for PERSONNEL for VOLUNTEER RESCUE UNITS

Kenneth Sasser, President of Columbus County Fire/Rescue Association, and Brady Watts, Chief of the Nakina Rescue and Fire Department, addressed the Board regarding the use of the County funds for personnel that were being given to the rescue departments.

Kenneth Sasser:

1. The rescue departments within Columbus County are receiving money for additional personnel and the fire departments are not.

2. At a meeting held on March 25, 2002, I was told that twenty-nine thousand and 00/100 (\$29,000.00) dollars are given to the rescue department within Columbus County which is being issued on a bi-yearly basis.

3. Due to the fire departments assisting the rescue departments on their calls, I feel the fire departments are due extra personnel and dollars also.

4. I do not think the daytime EMT's should be fighting fires and then leaving the scene of a fire and going to rescue someone.

5. I am requesting you be fair to the fire departments, as well as the rescue departments. I want three (3) additional people in the Hallsboro Fire Department.

Commissioner McKenzie stated that this matter would be taken under advisement.

Brady Watts:

1. We are paying one (1) person eight (8) hours per day.

2. We answer calls twenty-four (24) hours per day.

3. We are presently paying per call.

4. The system we have developed is working well.

Commissioner Dutton stated that this matter would be taken under advisement. Chairman McKenzie informed Mr. Sasser and Mr. Watts that a meeting with the fire and rescue chiefs would be set up this week for further discussion and a decision would be rendered by Friday.

GREEN ACRES COMMUNITY

Luther Williams, a resident of the Green Acres Community, addressed the Board with the following two (2) issues.

1. The Green Acres Community needs more frequent visits from the Sheriff's Department to make the residents feel safer and for more protection. We prefer you use unmarked patrol cars so as not to alert the criminals of your presence.

2. We need fire hydrants for this community. There are fifty plus (50+) houses in this community and not a single fire hydrant.

In response to the #1 issue, Sheriff Ferguson informed Mr. Williams he did not have the personnel or vehicles to patrol the area he requested more often than presently being patrolled, but they would patrol the area as often as possible.

In response to the #2 issue, Commissioner Norris informed Mr. Williams the water lines were only 4 (4") inch lines in that community and this size line could not accommodate fire hydrants.

DETENTION/NUTRITION CENTER (REQUEST for ADDITIONAL FUNDS)

After reviewing the financial data on this project, Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, is requesting approval to apply for additional finding from USDA Rural Development to cover the anticipated cost of completion. The amount to be applied for is three hundred thousand and 00/100 (\$300,000.00) dollars. Commissioner Britt made a motion to approve, Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion so carried.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK PROCLAMATION

Ms. Annie Hayes, CCAVE Director, along with the many other volunteer organizations in Columbus County, is requesting the Board of Commissioners to approve the following Proclamation proclaiming the week of April 21 - 28, 2002 as National Volunteer Week.

Proclamation

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
April 21-28**

WHEREAS, the spirit of volunteerism has been a long standing tradition in America. The history of this great State of North Carolina and Columbus County reflects the efforts of men, women and youth who gave of themselves for no other reason than the satisfaction of helping others; and

WHEREAS, by putting the special needs and interest of others before their own, volunteers work to better the world and to improve the quality of life for those around them. Their tremendous endeavors help to brighten the lives and the hearts of the people they help; and

WHEREAS, volunteer centers strive to preserve and enhance the tradition of volunteerism by providing an abundance of resources to our communities; and

WHEREAS, many local organizations, including Columbus County Literacy Council, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Retired Senior Volunteer Center, Columbus County Association for Volunteer Experiences, Cooperative Extension Services, Columbus County Health Department, Communities in Schools Program and many more benefit greatly from the services rendered by volunteers;

WHEREAS, volunteer centers help individuals, groups and others find rewarding experiences; assist with training for volunteer management; recognize volunteer accomplishments; and assist local employers in developing dynamic workplace programs; and

THEREFORE, in special recognition of OUR VOL UNTEERS, the Columbus County Board of County Commissioners, does hereby proclaim the week of April 21- 28, 2002 as the special week for VOLUNTEERS in Columbus County in celebration of NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK We encourage all county citizens to join us in honoring these outstanding volunteers for their many distinguished achievements.

Adopted this 1st day of April, 2002.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ Amon E. McKenzie, Chairman**

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board

RESOLUTION to ESTABLISH a WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM

Phyllis Owens, Economic Development Director, is requesting the Board to adopt the following Resolution as a part of the extension of water service from Old Northwest to Wright.

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS: The Columbus County Board of Commissioners desires to establish a Water Conservation Education Program; and

WHEREAS: The Water Conservation Education Program will provide the County's water users with information to assist in conservation and cost reduction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

That Columbus County has established a Water Conservation Education Program and will pursue an active program of water conservation and education through its Public Utilities Department

and

That the County will obtain brochures and flyers detailing methods of water conservation and distribute them through the County office and the Public Utilities Department to water customers.

ADOPTED this 1st day of April, 2002.

/s/ Amon E. McKenzie, Chairman
ATTESTED BY:

/s/ June B. Hall, Clerk to Board

CERTIFICATE OF RECORDING OFFICER

The undersigned duly qualified and acting as Clerk for the Columbus County Board of Commissioners does hereby certify: That the following action was unanimously approved by the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County by Resolution and is a true and accurate copy of the Resolution authorizing

THAT COLUMBUS COUNTY HAS ESTABLISHED A WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM, ADMINISTERED BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT.

THAT THE COUNTY WILL OBTAIN BROCHURES AND FLYERS DETAILING METHODS OF WATER CONSERVATION AND DISTRIBUTE THEM THROUGH THE COUNTY OFFICE AND PUBLIC UTILITIES OFFICE TO WATER CUSTOMERS.

As regularly adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County duly held on the 1st day of April, 2002, and, further, that such Resolution has been fully recorded in the journal of proceeding and records of my office,

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of April, 2002.

/s/ June B. Hall, Clerk to Board

PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS PROJECT

Phyllis Owens, Economic Development Director, stated Columbus County has been working with Wright Corporation on this project. Dan Wilkinson has been doing the feasibility and treatment studies and an employee of TRC Triangle. He is now employed with O'Brien and Gere. In order for Columbus County to continue the efforts, stay on track and save money, we need to contract for this work with Dan at O'Brien and Gere. A copy of which will be on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board. Commissioner Wilson made a motion for Columbus County to contract with O'Brien and Gere, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

RESOLUTION in SUPPORT of RAIL SERVICE THROUGH COLUMBUS COUNTY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation will be determining which of two (2) rail routes will be funded in the near future. The Columbus County Transportation Committee is supporting the western route. To support our neighbors to the west and to hopefully bring high speed rail service closer to our residents, the Committee requests the Board of Commissioners and each municipality adopt the following resolution.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RAIL SERVICE THROUGH COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Whereas: Columbus County residents can benefit from improved rail service through Fayetteville, NC and into Wilmington, NC; and

Whereas: High speed rail service and improved rail freight service will contribute to the economic growth, vitality and prosperity of the county and the region by providing safe, energy efficient and environmentally sound travel to all citizens, including those with special needs; and

Be it therefore resolved that this County Commission representing the citizens of Columbus County meeting in Whiteville, NC, on Monday, April 1, 2002, declares its unanimous support for improved intercity passenger rail services as a viable component of a balanced state and national transportation policy; and

Be it therefore resolved that our delegates serving in the State and Federal legislatures be encouraged to support the intercity passenger rail initiatives of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, to include the timely development of the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor; and

Be it therefore resolved that our delegation to the North Carolina General Assembly be asked to support the proposed intercity passenger rail service through Fayetteville, North Carolina which will connect Wilmington to Raleigh and the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor; and

Be it finally resolved that a copy of this resolution be provide to our State and Federal Congressional delegations, to the Honorable Lyndo Tippett, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Transportation and to the Honorable Mike Easley, Governor of the State of North Carolina.

/s/ Amon McKenzie, Chairman
Columbus County Board of Commissioners

Adopted: April 1, 2002

Commissioner Memory made a motion to approve and adopt this Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion so carried.

AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT (DEPOT) APPROVAL

The City of Whiteville approved the Amendment to Lease Agreement for the Depot contingent on approval by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners. A copy of which will be on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board. Commissioner Wilson made a motion for approve, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

H.J. RESOLUTION 81 APPROVAL

The Columbus County Board of Commissioners go on public record in support of the following H.J. Resolution 81 by adopting the same.

Resolution Urging the Reinstatement of Prayer in the Public Schools

WHEREAS, our Country was founded on the precepts of freedom, liberty, diversity and the right of people to acknowledge God according to the dictates of conscience; and

WHEREAS, neither the United States nor any State shall establish any official religion, but the people's right to pray and to recognize their religious beliefs, heritage and traditions on public property, including schools, shall not be infringed; **WHEREAS**, the United States and the States shall not compose school prayers, nor require any person to join in prayer or other religious activity; and **WHEREAS**, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners urges all cities and counties across the United States to join in an effort to reinstate prayer in the public schools by passing similar resolutions and uniting in a grass roots movement for that purpose; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners strongly supports House Joint Resolution 81 introduced in the 107th Congress, 1st Session on December 20, 2001.

ADOPTED, this 1st day of April, 2002, in Columbus County, North Carolina

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Amon E. McKenzie, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ June B. Hall, Clerk to Board

REFINANCING MUNICIPAL LEASE with GOVERNMENT LEASING COMPANY

Morris Pridgen, Jr., Director of Columbus County Library, requested the Board to approve this lease which will finance the upgrade to our online public access catalog (opac) and save the County a total of approximately fourteen thousand two hundred forty-two and 001/00 (\$14,242.00) dollars. A copy of which will be on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board. Commissioner Memory made a motion for approval, seconded by Commissioner Dutton. The motion so carried.

APPROVAL of EMS PLANNING TEAM

The North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services has mandated each county to create an EMS Plan by December, 2002. Per the instructions given at the November 5, 2001 Commissioners Meeting, county-wide representation has been received. Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator is requesting the Board to approve the following Committee.

PLANNING TEAM FOR COLUMBUS COUNTY EMS SYSTEM**COUNTY GOVERNMENT:**

Administrator/Assistant
Emergency Services
Health Department

Billy Farmer/Darren Currie
John Moore/Kay Worley
Marian Duncan/Hilda Memory

COLUMBUS COUNTY HOSPITAL:

Assistant Administrator

Hardy Ledbetter

Emergency Medical Director
Nurse Liaison

Dr. W. Fred Obrecht
Becky Smith

SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

Training Coordinator Fire/Rescue David Ransom

PROVIDERS:

Chief, ADR Rescue	Donna Hammonds
Chief, Buckhead Rescue	Gary Simmons
Chief, Cerro Gordo Fire/Rescue	Terry Floyd
Chief, Chadbourn Fire/Rescue	Allen Yates
Chief, Fair Bluff Fire/Rescue	Butch Meares
Chief, Lake Waccamaw Fire/Rescue	Eddy Morgan
Chief, Nakina Fire/Rescue	Brady Watts
Chief, Tabor City Rescue	Ronnie Watts
Chief, Whiteville Rescue	Shannon Strickland

Ameritec, Inc.	Ervin Jacobs
Carolina's Medical Response	Lloyd Buffkin
Columbus Transport	Randy Guyton
MEDAC Transport	Linda Stocks

FUTURE PROVIDERS:

Evergreen Fire Department	Glen Price
Old Dock Fire Department	Edwin Ezzell

INTEREST GROUPS:

President, Fire/Rescue Association	Kenneth Sasser
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(Law Enforcement will be included as needed)

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION

At 8:29 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to recess regular session and enter into Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:33 P.M., Closed Session was entered into, in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318-11. No official action was taken.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and RESUME REGULAR SESSION

At 9:09 P.M., Commissioner Wilson made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session.

APPRECIATION for ACTION

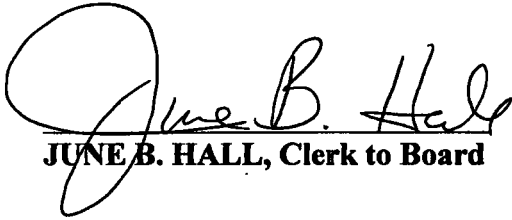
Les High returned thanks to the Commissioners for their approval of the Depot Lease Agreement Amendment.

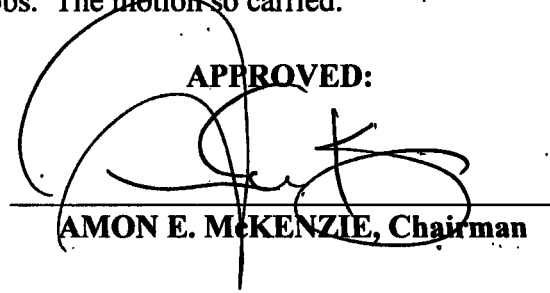
RESOLUTION REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH

Commissioner Wilson informed the Board there was a Resolution in Information Section of the Board Packet on Mental Health. He asked the Commissioners to review this information.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Wilson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion so carried.


JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

APPROVED:

AMON E. MCKENZIE, Chairman