

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGETARY WORKSHOP**

**Thursday, June 6, 2002
7:00 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Columbus County Administration Building, Economic Development Conference Room, Whiteville, North Carolina for the purpose of holding a Budgetary Workshop.

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**
Darren L. Currie, **Assistant County Administrator**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

James E. Hill, Jr., **County Attorney**

MEETING RESUMED and CALLED to ORDER

Chairman McKenzie called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Britt.

SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONCERN by LONNIE FOX

Lonnie Fox, Finance Director for Southeastern Community College, stated the main purpose of his presence was to address the Board regarding a concern on the printout of the Budget information he received. We do appreciate the Board of Commissioners allowing us to transfer the sum of money requested from Capital Outlay to Current Operational Expense. This allowed Southeastern Community College to get through the fiscal year. In reviewing the allocation for Southeastern Community College, in comparison to the allocation for the county and city schools, the percentage of reduction was more. I am requesting for you to take another look at this figure and determine if the figures are indeed correct.

Chairman McKenzie informed Mr. Fox that Gayle Godwin, Columbus County Finance Officer, would check into this situation.

2002-2003 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

Chairman McKenzie stated the purpose of this meeting was to determine the status of the 2002-2003 Proposed Operating Budget. Billy Joe Farmer, Columbus County Administrator, informed the Board the two (2¢) cents tax increase had been eliminated by additional departmental reductions and reimbursements to the General Fund from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund. Chairman McKenzie, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, thanked Billy Joe Farmer, Columbus County Administrator, Darren L. Currie, Assistant County Administrator, and Gayle B. Godwin, Columbus County Finance Director, for their diligent efforts in preparing the documentation for this Budget.

ONE-HALF (½) CENT SALES TAX BILL

Billy Joe Farmer, Columbus County Administrator, informed the Board he received notification Senator Tucker had introduced two (2) bills before the House Appropriations on the one-half (½) cent sales tax, and requested the Board send a letter of support for these two (2) bills. Commissioner Memory made a motion for this letter of support to be composed and mailed, seconded by Commissioner Britt. The motion so carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Memory made the following appointments to the following committees from District IV:

Economic Development Commission Board of Directors

R. Mitchell Tyler (Replaces John E. Thompson, Jr.)
2601 Waccamaw Shores Road, Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450
Telephone: (910) 641-3900 (W), (910) 616-4502 (H)
Three (3) year term (term expiring 06-30-2005)

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

JoAnn Rhodes (Reappointment)
American Red Cross
704 North Thompson Street
Whiteville, NC 28472
Telephone: (910) 642-3364
Two (2) year term (term expiring 06-30-2004)

Library Board of Trustees

Nancy Sigmon (Replaces Mary Frances Alsup)
P.O. Box 125
Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450
Telephone: (910) 646-4255 (H)
Four (4) year term (term expiring 06-30-2006)

Columbus County Department of Aging Advisory Council

Dr. Melvin Powell (Reappointment)
P.O. Box 98
Hallsboro, NC 28442
Telephone: (910) 642-6301 (H), (910) 646-3501 (S)
Three (3) year term (term expiring 06-30-2005)

CELLULAR TELEPHONE/PAGER USAGE COST

Based on collective information, Billy Joe Farmer, Columbus County Administrator, reported to the Board the amount expended annually for cellular telephones was approximately forty-four thousand five hundred seven and 03/100 (\$44,507.03) dollars. The amount expended on pagers was approximately twenty-one thousand eight hundred thirty-nine and 77/100 (\$21,839.77) dollars. The total approximate annual cost for cellular telephones and pagers is sixty-six thousand three hundred forty-six and 80/100 (\$66,346.80) dollars. It was the general consensus of the Board this amount was excessive and instructed Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, to do a study and determine the number of cellular telephones and pagers by department and the need basis.

NUMBER of HEALTH DEPARTMENT SANITATION INSPECTORS EMPLOYED by COLUMBUS COUNTY

Commissioner Wilson asked how many Sanitation inspectors were presently employed by the Columbus County Health Department. The response stated was five (5). Commissioner Wilson requested to know why we had so many when related required activity did not justify this number of inspectors. Billy Joe Farmer, Columbus County Administrator, was asked to check into this matter.

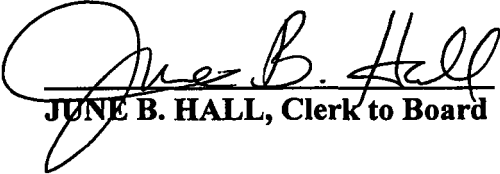
MENTAL HEALTH

Commissioner Memory informed the Board the Columbus County Transportation

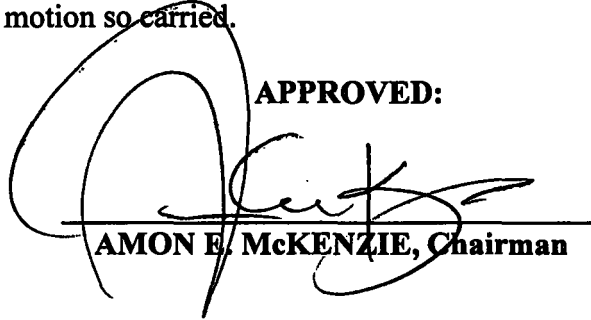
Department could be utilized to transport non-violent patients to mental facilities in lieu of the Sheriff's Department, thereby freeing the Sheriff's Department personnel up and ultimately saving Columbus County money. The question arose if this would be allowable. Billy Joe Farmer, Columbus County Administrator, was asked to find out the requirements from the State and report back to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35 P.M., there being no further business, Commissioner Norris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Britt. The motion so carried.



JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

APPROVED:


AMON E. MCKENZIE, Chairman