

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, August 5, 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 regular scheduled meeting on the first Monday.

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 McKenzie called the meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Britt. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the July 15, 2002 Minutes with one (1) correction. The correction is as follows:

- 3 **Tom Brigman, Contractors, Incorporated - Contract 3 - Change Order Number 4:**
— Commissioner ~~Wilson~~ **Memory** made a motion for the Change Order to be tabled pending further information, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion so carried.
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The motion was seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

RELEASES (as submitted to Administration from the Tax Office):
August 5, 2002

Release the Property Value in the name of Freeman, James E.. Release the value a building and the Buckhead fire fee (12.66) and the Columbus rescue fee (4.22). Building is double listed in the name of Eddie L. Freeman. Amount \$181.46, Value \$21,100.00, Year 2001, Account # 04-04843, Bill # 91799.

Release the Property Value in the name of Webb, Archie. Release the value a well and septic tank and the St. James fire fee (1.08) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.36). The well and septic and not located on this parcel of land. Amount \$15.48, Value \$1,800.00, Year 2001, Account # 14-17500, Bill # 19468.

Release the Property Value in the name of FormyDuval, Doris. Release the value of a mobile home and the Brunswick fee (3.68) and the Whiteville rescue (1.05) that is double listed in the same name, same acct. number, but with a different bill number. Amount \$129.84, Value \$5,253.00, Year 2001, Account # 01-28772, Bill # 32837.

Release the Property Value in the name of Hilburn, Rudolph. Release the value of a boat and the

Columbus Rescue fee, that was sold in 2000. Amount \$16.00, Value \$2,000.00, Year 2001, Account # 12-11980, Bill # 96660.

Release the Property Value in the name of Mitchell, Ronnie. Release the value of a single wide home and the St. James fee. Home was traded for a double wide. Amount \$145.98, Value \$6,090.00, Year 1999, Account # 08-13143, Bill # 22925.

Release the Property Value in the name of Mitchell, Ronnie. Release the value of a single wide home and a the St. James fee. This home was traded for a double wide. Amount \$177.32, Value \$6,760.00, Year 2000, Account # 08-13143, Bill # 4254.

Release the Property Value in the name of Mitchell, Ronnie. Release the value of a single wide home and the St. James fee (3.65) and the Columbus Rescue fee (1.31). This home was traded for a double wide home. Amount \$221.21, Value \$6,570.00, Year 2001, Account # 08-13143, Bill # 4886.

Release the Property Value in the name of Nobles, Pete. Release the value of a mobile home and the Columbus Rescue fee. Home is double listed in the name of Clyde Nobles. Amount \$97.35, Value \$2,540.00, Year 2001, Account # 10-03337, Bill # 6216.

Release the Property Value in the name of Smith, Christopher. Release a portion of the property value and the Williams Fire fee (4.38) and the Whiteville Rescue (1.46). Double wide was billed with incorrect size. Amount \$62.78, Value \$7,300.00, Year 2001, Account # 03-03010, Bill # 12673.

Release the Property Value in the name of Smith, Chris. Release the value of a double wide, the Williams Fire fee (23.18) and the Whiteville Rescue (7.73). Home is double listed in the same name with a different account number. Amount \$497.26, Value \$38,635.00, Year 2001, Account # 03-03782, Bill # 12671.

Release the Property Value in the name of Formyduval, Doris. Release the value of a mobile home and the Brunswick fire (3.69) & Whiteville rescue (1.05) that is double listed on the same account number but with a different bill number. Amount \$120.52, Value \$5,274.00, Year 2000, Account # 01-28772, Bill # 32838.

Release the User Fee in the name of Watts, Ricky. House is vacant. Amount \$165.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 02-03321, Bill # 19340.

Release the User Fee in the name of Memory, Robert. House is vacant. Amount \$65.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 01-61180, Bill # 3643.

Release the User Fee in the name of Marley, Willie. Home repossessed in 1998. No trash can here. Amount \$100.00, Value \$0.00, Year 1999, Account # 05-04726, Bill # 20524.

Release the User Fee in the name of Marley, Willie. Home repossessed in 1998. No trash can here. Amount \$125.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 05-04726, Bill # 1803.

Release the User Fee in the name of Marley, Willie. Home repossessed in 1998. No trash can at this address. Amount \$165.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 05-04726, Bill # 2362.

Release the User Fee in the name of Memory, Robert. House vacant. Amount \$75.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 01-60985, Bill # 4255.

Release the User Fee in the name of Memory, Robert. House vacant. Amount \$65.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 01-61180, Bill # 3641.

Release the User Fee in the name of Memory, Robert. House is vacant. Amount \$75.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 01-61180, Bill # 4259.

Release the User Fee in the name of Memory, Robert. House is vacant. Amount \$75.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 01-61180, Bill # 4261.

Release the User Fee in the name of Memory Robert. House is vacant. Amount \$165.00, Value

\$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 07-12030, Bill # 4267.

Release the User Fee in the name of Memory, Robert. House is vacant. Amount \$165.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 02-60981, Bill # 4251.

Release the User Fee in the name of Kelley, Doris B.. No house on property. Amount \$75.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 01-49460, Bill # 99812.

Release the User Fee in the name of Sunderland, Deborah. No trash can here. Amount \$165.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 03-02827, Bill # 15797.

Release the User Fee in the name of Powell, Anna. House vacant, trash can picked up. Amount \$165.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 14-12020, Bill # 7978.

**REFUNDS (as submitted to the Administration Office from the Tax Department):
August 5, 2002**

Request a refund in the name of Bellamy, Ruby G., 729 Chadwick Rd., Fayetteville,, NC 28301. Refund value of mobile home, & Columbus Rescue fee. Home was repossessed in 2000. Total amount of refund should be \$342.75 including \$8.20 interest. Make check payable to Margaret Dunham. Amount \$334.58, Value \$19,270.00, Year 2001, Account # 13-01988, Bill # 81487.

Request a refund in the name of Eddie L. Freeman, 399 Freeman Rd., Bolton,, NC 28423. Refund the value of a building and the Buckhead fire fee (7.20) and the Columbus Rescue fee (1.80). Building is double listed in the name of James E. Freeman. Amount \$77.40, Value \$9,000.00, Year 2001, Account # 04-04590, Bill # 91738.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	10-606-6100	Drainage Project	\$15,000
Revenue	10-399-0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$15,000
Expenditure	72-526-7400	Equipment	\$27,100
	72-525-7400	Equipment	\$11,000
Revenue	72-399-0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$38,100

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

**Previous
8-01-02**

TOTAL HOUSES			491	
Houses Inspected			491	
Replacement		286		285
Repair		205		206

Repair Work		205		
Work Write-up	0			0
Bids Complete, Not Awarded	0			0
Board Awarded, No Construction	111			121
Under Construction	25			27
Complete	69			58
Replacement Work		286		
Work Write-up	2			3
Board Awarded, No Construction	162			112
N.O.E. Sent	41			24
Under Construction	68			72
Complete	81			74
Not Visited			0	0
Legal Work				
Total Titles Requested	491			441
Titles Requested, Not Complete		137		124
Preliminary Title Complete		106		92
Prom. Note/Deed of Trust Requested, Not Signed		46		48
Prom. Note/Deed of Trust Recorded		202		176

Commissioner Norris informed Floyd Adams, The Adams Company, Incorporated, there was a house in the Tabor City area in this program that was in too good of a condition to be destroyed and he knew someone that was interested in purchasing this house and I would like to know if this will be permitted under this program.

Floyd Adams responded by stating it could be done. It would have to be advertised in the local newspapers and information sent out to bidders. Commissioner Jacobs made a motion for this specified house to be advertised and sold and any other house that would be suitable for sale, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

Commissioner Memory asked Floyd Adams what was being done about the prior taxes not being paid on the houses in the program. Mr. Adams responded by stating the first step that has to be done is to obtain a permit from Chuck Stanley, Solid Waste Officer. If it is discovered the taxes have not been paid, they will be charged with two (2) years of prior taxes before getting a new house.

HOME and COMMUNITY CARE BLOCK GRANT for OLDER ADULTS, AGREEMENT for the PROVISION of COUNTY-BASED AGING SERVICES (DOA-735)

Ed Worley, Director of Columbus County Department of Aging, presented the above referenced document to the Board for approval and signature. Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Britt. The motion so carried. A copy of this document will be kept on file in the Administration Office filed under Department of Aging 2002.

DOT - BRIDGE NAME REQUEST

Sheriff Jimmy P. Ferguson is requesting the Board dedicate and name the new bridge over US 74 at NC 410 Intersection the "Robert H. "Bob" Hinson Memorial Bridge". This officer was slain on June 18, 1991 while on duty. Commissioner Wilson made a motion the new bridge over US 74 at NC 410 Intersection be named the "Robert H. "Bob" Hinson Memorial Bridge", seconded by Commissioner Dutton. The motion so carried. It was the entire recommendation of the Board to send a letter to Robert Crumpler, District Engineer with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, requesting this action to be done.

TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT

Larry Moore, Director of Columbus County Department of Social Services, requested the Board to award the Rural Transportation Program's Transportation Contract to L & D

Transportation. Two (2) bids were received and the low bidder informed him to award the contract to the other bidder if a "fixed" price was needed. Commissioner Wilson made a motion to award this contract to L & D Transportation, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion so carried.

FLOODWAY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, is requesting the Board set a Public Hearing on the adoption of the Amendment to the Columbus County National Flood Insurance, Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance as this is the first required step. It was the general consensus of the Board to set the Public Hearing for September 3, 2002 at 7:00 P.M.

WORK FIRST BLOCK GRANT COMMITTEE

Larry Moore, Director of Social Services, requested the Board to appoint a committee of local leaders as required by N.C.G.S. 108A-27, designate the status as Standard and designate a primary contact person. Commissioner Norris made a motion to appoint the recommended members to this committee, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. This motion was amended to treat both requests as one (1) action by Commissioners Norris and Jacobs. Commissioner Norris made a motion to appoint the recommended members to this committee, designate the status as Standard and designate Mary Thompson as the primary contact person. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Memory and so carried. A copy of this information will be on file in the Administration Office and Columbus County Department of Social Services.

LETTER of AUTHORIZATION to BARRICADE SR 1821

Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator, is requesting the Board to send a letter of authorization to Wright Chemical to barricade SR 1821. Commissioner Dutton made a motion to send this requested letter of authorization to Wright Chemical, seconded by Commissioner Memory. James E. Hill, Jr., Columbus County Attorney, informed the Board this matter needed further review and I recommend this matter be tabled. Commissioner Dutton withdrew his motion to send the letter of authorization and Commissioner Memory withdrew his second. Commissioner Norris made a motion that this matter be tabled pending further review, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

RESOLUTION of ENDORSEMENT for ADDITIONAL SITE WORK for WHITEVILLE DEPOT

Based upon a request from Kim Neisler, Project manager for the Whiteville Depot Project. Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, requested the Board adopt the following Resolution of Endorsement for Additional Site Work for Whiteville Depot. This would include curb, gutters and various other infrastructure improvements.

RESOLUTION of ENDORSEMENT for ADDITIONAL SITE WORK NCDOT ENHANCEMENT FUNDING

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, Whiteville, North Carolina, endorses the Greater Whiteville Chamber of Commerce in their application to the North Carolina Department of Transportation Enhancement Funding for additional site work at the Whiteville Depot; **and**

WHEREAS, this funding will allow additional site work for the Whiteville (Vineland) Train Station Depot (curb, gutters, etc.); **and**

WHEREAS, it is our understanding this additional work is for the further improvement of the train depot; **and**

WHEREAS, it is further understood there will be no monetary cost to Columbus County but will allow the depot project to be further improved for the residents and visitors of Columbus County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Columbus County Board of Commissioners endorses and is willing to sponsor the project for the Greater Whiteville Chamber of Commerce in their application to the North Carolina Department of Transportation Enhancement Funding for additional site work at the Whiteville Depot.

ADOPTED this the 5th day of August, 2002.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

Commissioner Memory made a motion to adopt, seconded by Commissioner Britt. The motion so carried.

LITTER SWEEP 2002 PROCLAMATION

Upon recommendation of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, requested the Board to adopt the following Proclamation to proclaim September 16 - 29, 2002 a fall Litter Sweep in Columbus County.

LITTER SWEEP

2002

**BY THE COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
A PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation annually organizes a statewide fall roadside cleanup to assure clean and beautiful roads across our State, and to preserve a sound environment for the generations to come; and

WHEREAS, a fall "**LITTER SWEEP**" roadside cleanup has been planned for September 16 - 29, 2002, to give government agencies, civic and professional organizations, churches, schools, businesses, families, and concerned citizens the opportunity to partner with the Department of Transportation in its goal of clean and beautiful roadsides by organizing community cleanups in all 100 counties across the State; and

WHEREAS, Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, Department of Transportation employees, local government officials and workers, community and civic organizations, churches, schools, businesses, Department of Correction inmates and community service workers, and environmentally concerned citizens, annually conduct fall community roadside cleanups during "**LITTER SWEEP**," and may receive Certificates of Appreciation for their efforts; and

WHEREAS, the grand natural beauty of our County and a clean environment are sources of great pride for all Columbus County citizens, attracting tourists and aiding in recruiting new industries; and

WHEREAS, the 2002 fall cleanup will celebrate the 14th Anniversary of the North Carolina Adopt-A-Highway program and the thousands of volunteers who contribute their labor and time year round to keep our roadsides clean;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim September 16-29, 2002, as "**LITTER SWEEP**" in Columbus County, and encourage all citizens to take an active role in making their communities cleaner and more beautiful.

ADOPTED, this the 5th day of August, 2002.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:
/s/ JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

Commissioner Norris made a motion to adopt this Proclamation and proclaim September 16 - 29, 2002 as fall Litter Sweep in Columbus County, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

CLARIFICATION of CERTAIN AUDIT PROCEDURES

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, requested clarification and direction from the Board in regards to the full audit requirements from the rescue and fire departments within Columbus County. Mr. Farmer stated he needed to know at what date was the requirement for the full audits from the fire and rescue departments to be officially started. Through discussion, it was discovered that a portion of the fire and rescue departments were set up from January 1 through December 31 and a portion was set up from July 1 through June 30. As a result of some of the departments having already prepared partial audits, it was recommended by Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator to set the required date for full audits to be July 2003. If this date is established, a portion of the departments would have a full year to implement this action and a portion of these departments would have six (6) months to implement this action. Commissioner Norris made a motion for the date to be established for the required full audits from the fire and rescue departments within Columbus County to be July, 2003. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Dutton. The motion so carried.

PRIVATE CITIZEN PRESENTATION

Chairman McKenzie stated there was a private citizen who wished to address the Board in regards to some concerns she had. Ms. Kay King, a private citizen stated the following concerns to the Board:

1. I own and run a business called Parties and More located at 5578 James B. White Highway. On October 20, 1999, I paid the \$100.00 tap-on fee for the county water. I have yet to have access to any water nor have I received my money back. I have made numerous telephone calls to various county employees inquiring why I did not have any water yet or why I did not receive my money back.
2. I visited the Columbus County Public Utilities Office in person and was informed that this road would not be getting county water now and never would get county water. I would like to know why the county has kept my money this long and not let me know anything.
3. I have also paid a tap-on fee for my residence on River Road in the Pireway area and I have assisted the county in passing out brochures for District V.
4. Another problem I am experiencing is I still do not have a trash container at the Parties and More address. I was promised a trash container 2 ½ years ago and still do not have one.
5. One other issue is the Department of Transportation was to come and look at the ditch in front of this business entitled Parties and Moore and a tree to see what could be done about their condition. This has not been done yet.
6. My main question to the Board is why I have been misinformed about all these issues.
7. I have decided to sell this business and now I do not need county water at the Parties and More address and I do not need a trash container.

Chairman McKenzie apologized to Ms. Kay King for all the problems she had been experiencing and advised her these matters would be checked into. It was the general consensus of the Board for Administration to submit a Resolution or letter to the Department of

Transportation asking that they look into this matter regarding the ditch and tree at 5578 James B. White Highway. Mr. McKenzie further informed Ms. King she could call him or Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator at work or at home when she experienced more multiple problems they could assist her with.

UPDATE on SCATTERED SITE HOUSING GRANT

Chris May, Cape Fear Council of Governments, informed the Board the Scattered Site Housing Grant was on schedule. When we initially decided to be the administrator of this grant, I did not take into consideration the funds we would receive would be stretched out over a period of two to three (2-3) years. In essence, I did some simple math and have reached the conclusion that this project would not be a feasible endeavor for the Cape Fear Council of Governments. In addition to the Scattered Site Housing Grant, the Concentrated Site Housing Grant Application is due on September 23, 2002. We are requesting the Board allow us to pass this work on to someone else who is more familiar with this type of endeavor. We are willing to supply all the work and information that has been done so far on to the next administrator. We feel the transition can be a seamless transition. On the Concentrated Site Housing Grant, you need to advertise for the Administrator of this grant.

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to allow Cape Fear Council of Governments to pass the Scattered Site Housing Grant on to another administrator, seconded by Commissioner Dutton. The motion so carried.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:15 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. §143-318.11, seconded by Commissioner Britt. The motion so carried.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and RESUME REGULAR SESSION

At 8:51 P.M., Commissioner Britt made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session.

No official action was taken.

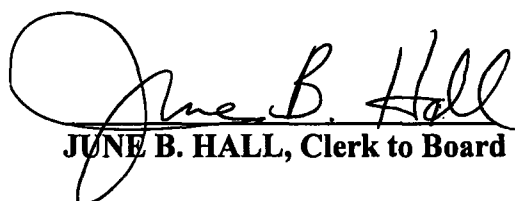
PROMOTIONS and SALARY INCREASES

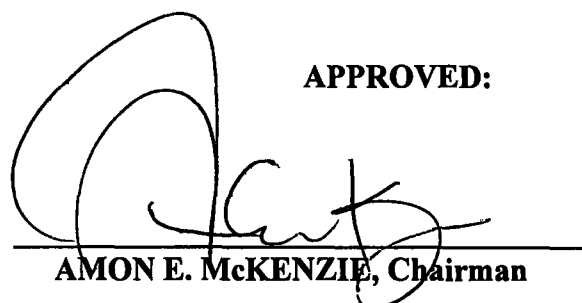
Commissioner Memory made a motion to approve two employee title reclassifications and pay increases as follows, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1. | Dan Meares | - New Title: GIS Coordinator/Appraiser | Salary: \$27,454; and |
| 2. | Tracy Simmons | - System Analyst II | Salary: \$25,495. |

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:11 P.M., Commissioner Britt made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Dutton. The motion so carried.


JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

APPROVED:

AMON E. MCKENZIE, Chairman