

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS****Monday, December 01, 2003****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:**

C.E. "Gene" Wilson, **Chairman**  
 Bill Memory, **Vice Chairman**  
 David L. Dutton, Jr.  
 Kipling Godwin  
 Sammie Jacobs  
 Amon E. McKenzie  
 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**  
 Gayle B. Godwin, **Finance Officer**

**Agenda Items #1 and #2: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order and the invocation was delivered by Vice Chairman Memory. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Agenda Item #3: APPOINTMENTS: CHAIRMAN and VICE CHAIRMAN:**

Chairman Wilson turned the meeting over to James E. Hill, Jr., Columbus County Attorney, to be the Acting Chairman, for the purpose of appointing a new Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Mr. Hill stated in accordance with G.S. §153A-39, the appointment of the new Chairman and Vice Chairman would be for a one (1) year term and would be done by acclamation. If more than one nomination is stated, then it would be handled in reverse order. Mr. Hill stated he now entertained a motion for the nomination of the new Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to nominate Bill Memory as the new Chairman and David L. Dutton, Jr. as the new Vice Chairman for the ensuing year, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. There were no other nominations made. The vote was unanimous.

James E. Hill, Jr., Columbus County Attorney, stated that by acclamation, Bill Memory would be the new Chairman of the Columbus County Commission and David L. Dutton, Jr. would be the new Vice Chairman for a one (1) year term.

Commissioner Memory assumed the duties as Chairman and the following business was transacted.

**Agenda Item #4: AWARD: PRESENTATION OF "PLAQUE of APPRECIATION to C.E. "GENE" WILSON:**

Chairman Memory presented the following "Plaque of Appreciation" to outgoing Chairman C.E. "Gene" Wilson.

**PRESENTED TO****C.E. "GENE" WILSON**

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**THIS THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2003****IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION OF YOUR DEVOTED LEADERSHIP****AS CHAIRMAN TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS****12-7-98 - 12-6-99 - 12-02-02 - 12-01-03**

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**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Agenda Item #5: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:**

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to approve the November 17, 2003 Board Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #6: GOVERNING BODY - AMENDMENT to the OCTOBER 20, 2003 BOARD MINUTES:**

June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, requested approval of an Amendment to the October 20, 2003 Board Minutes. The October 20, 2003 Board Agenda, Item #5, was incorrectly listed as CDBG Scattered Site Housing Grant # 02-C-0947, as per the Request for Board Action Form. It should have been listed as CDBG Concentrated Needs Grant # 03-C-1089. The correction is as follows.

**AMENDMENT #1 to the**  
**October 20, 2003 Columbus County Board of Commissioners' Meeting Minutes**

**Item #5: ~~CDBG SCATTERED SITE HOUSING CONCENTRATED NEEDS GRANT # 02-C-0947~~ 03-C-1089 - Bid Award for Lead Based Paint Risk Assessor:**

Floyd Adams, The Adams Company, Incorporated, has received bids for the Lead Based Paint Risk Assessor for the CDBG ~~Scattered Site Housing~~ **Concentrated Needs** Grant # ~~02-C-0947~~ **03-C-1089** and recommends this bid be awarded to the low bidder which is Carolinas Environmental, Incorporated at the amount of nine hundred twenty-five and 00/100 (\$925.00) dollars per unit, with a four hundred fifty and 00/100 (\$450.00) dollars Return Visit for Failed Clearance amount. Mr. Adams stated he knew this company and had done business with them before and they are a reputable company.

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to award the bid for Lead Based Paint Risk Assessor to Carolinas Environmental, Incorporated at the amount of nine hundred twenty-five and 00/100 (\$925.00) dollars per unit, with a four hundred fifty and 00/100 (\$450.00) dollars Return Visit for Failed Clearance amount, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve Amendment #1 to the October 20, 2003 Columbus County Board of Commissioners' Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #7: SURETY BONDS - EXAMINATION and APPROVAL:**

June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, requested examination and approval of the following Surety Bonds for stated employees.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>BOND AMOUNT</b>	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>
Gayle Godwin	Finance Officer	\$100,000	Indefinite
Christopher Lee Batten	Sheriff	\$50,000	12-02-2006
Richard Jerome Gore	Tax Administrator	\$25,000	Indefinite
Shirley J. Settlemyre	Deputy Tax Administrator	\$25,000	Indefinite
Brenda Strickland	HUD Director	\$25,000	Indefinite
Linwood Cartrette	Coroner	\$15,000	12-06-2004
William H. Hannah, Sr.	Assistant Coroner	\$15,000	12-06-2004
Kandance Whitehead	Register of Deeds	\$10,000	12-04-2004

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to approve the listed Surety Bonds, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #8: CHAF PROGRAM UPDATE:**

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

**Columbus County Summary Sheet**

**CHAF Program**

**Previous**  
**11-01-03**

<b>TOTAL HOUSES</b>				491		
<b>Houses Inspected</b>				491		
Replacement					296	296
Repair					195	195
<b>Repair Work</b>				195		
Work Write-up				0		0
Bids Complete, Not Awarded				0		0
Board Awarded, No Construction				0		1
Title Opinion NOT Requested					0	0
Waiting on Title Opinion					0	0
Waiting on Prom. Note/D.O.T.					1	1
Waiting on Contractor					0	0
Under Construction				1		0
Complete				194		194
<b>Replacement Work</b>				296		
Work Write-up				0		0
Board Awarded, No Construction				0		0
Title Opinion NOT Requested					0	0
Waiting on Title Opinion					0	0
N.O.E. Not Sent					0	0
Waiting on Client					0	0
Under Construction				24		26
Complete				272		270
<b>Not Visited</b>					0	0
<b>Legal Work</b>						
Total Titles NOT Requested					0	0
Total Titles Requested					491	491
Titles Requested, Not Complete					0	0
Preliminary Title Complete					3	6
Prom. Note/D.O.T. Requested, Not Signed					47	44
Prom. Note/D.O.T. Recorded					441	441

Mr. Adams stated that as of this date, four hundred sixty-six had been completed and two (2) were completed in November. I hope that December is a better month for us.

Commissioner McKenzie asked Mr. Adams if the total mobile homes with Chris Parker was eight (8). Mr. Adams replied stating the total number of mobile homes with Chris Parker was nine (9).

**Agenda Item #9: BUILDING INSPECTIONS - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:**

Kenny Davis, Chief Building Inspector, presented the following Departmental Update to the Board.

1. Stated statistical data for inspections by quarterly periods;
2. We have received new software for this department;
3. Fine tuning the departmental procedures;

- 4. We are attending workshops and receiving educational training;
- 5. Complaints regarding dilapidated houses are being received; **and**
- 6. Making efforts to clean up roads and addresses.

Commissioner McKenzie asked Mr. Davis what the procedures were regarding dilapidated houses. Mr. Davis replied stating a representative from the department does an inspection and if the house does not meet the established codes, the owner of the house is cited and we receive an average of three (3) complaints regarding these dilapidated houses per week.

Commissioner Jacobs requested that Mr. Davis provide the County Commissioners with a running total of inspections.

Commissioner McKenzie asked Mr. Davis how many staff members he had. Mr. Davis replied stating there were two (2) full-time inspectors, one (1) Administrative Assistant and one (1) part-time inspector.

**Agenda Item #10: TRANSPORTATION - APPROVAL of AGREEMENT for REDUCTION in FACILITY CONTRACT AMOUNT:**

Charles Patton, Director, requested Board approval of the following Agreement to reduce the original contract amount by seven thousand six hundred fifty-nine and 00/100 (\$7,659.00) dollars. This will allow NCDOT/PTF to reimburse Columbus County Transportation in this amount for pre-construction costs which came out of their reserve fund. This document will be kept on file in the Office of the Clerk to the Board and in the Transportation Department for review.

Amendment to AIA Document A101-1997 Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor, dated December 30, 2002.

Original Contract Amount	\$229,032.00
Deduct	<u>7,659.00</u>
<b>New Contract Amount</b>	<b>\$221,373.00</b>

/s/ BILL MEMORY  
**OWNER** (signature)

BILL MEMORY, Chairman  
**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
 COUNTY OF COLUMBUS

I, June B. Hall, a Notary Public for said County and State, do hereby certify that Bill Memory personally appeared before me this day and signed the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2003.

/s/ JUNE B. HALL  
 Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 09-25-2008.

/s/ STEVE BRITT  
**CONTRACTOR** (signature)

STEVE BRITT, President  
 (Printed Name and Title)

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
 COUNTY OF ROBESON

I, Mary Ann Pittman, a Notary Public for said County and State, do hereby certify that Steve Britt personally appeared before me this day and signed the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2003.

/s/ MARY ANN PITTMAN  
 Notary Public

My Commission Expires: May 28, 2006.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the Agreement for Reduction in Facility

Contract Amount in the amount of seven thousand six hundred fifty-nine and 00/100 (\$7,659.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #11: EMERGENCY SERVICES - APPROVAL of GRANT ACCEPTANCE from the NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT of CRIME CONTROL and PUBLIC SAFETY (through the Department of Homeland Security FY 03 Part II):**

Ronnie Hayes, Director, requested Board approval of grant acceptance from the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, through the Department of Homeland Security FY 03 Part II, in the amount of one hundred sixty-eight thousand, five hundred twenty and 00/100 (\$168,520.00) dollars by approval of Billy Joe Farmer's, Columbus County Administrator, signature on the Memorandum of Agreement. This document will be kept on file in the Office of the Clerk to the Board and in the Emergency Services Department.

Commissioner Jacobs requested Mr. Hayes to provide an explanation. Mr. Hayes replied stating this was the second part of the money from the original grant and it is for training for the first responders to emergencies.

Commissioner McKenzie asked Mr. Hayes who does the training. Mr. Hayes replied stating the training would be done by out-of-state personnel.

Mr. Hayes stated the State was receiving fifty-four and one-half (54 ½) million dollars to be used for this purpose and he did not know, at this time, how much of this amount Columbus County would be receiving.

**Agenda Item #12: APPROVAL OF HOME CARE COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT:**

Ed Worley, Aging Director, requested approval and acceptance of additional unduplicated funding from the Home Care Community Block Grant in the amount of three thousand six hundred thirty-five and 00/100 (\$3,635.00) dollars, with a ten (10%) percent local match of four hundred four and 00/100 (\$404.00) dollars, equating to a total of four thousand thirty-nine and 00/100 (\$4,039.00) dollars.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve and accept the additional unduplicated funding from the Home Care Community Block Grant in the amount of three thousand six hundred thirty-five and 00/100 (\$3,635.00) dollars, with a ten (10%) percent local match of four hundred four and 00/100 (\$404.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #13: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - APPROVAL of PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS (POTW) CONTRACT ADDENDUM:**

Billy Joe Farmer, Columbus County Administrator, is requesting approval of the Addendum to the Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) Contract with O'Brien and Gere, in the amount of fifty thousand eighty-one and 00/100 (\$50,081.00) dollars to allow for a number of additional requirements that have been added. The original contract was approved at the April 1, 2002 Board Meeting. This document will be kept on file in the Office of the Clerk to the Board and in the Economic Development Office.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the Addendum to the Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) Contract with O'Brien and Gere, in the amount of fifty thousand eighty-one and 00/100 (\$50,081.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #14: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - ESTABLISHMENT of PUBLIC HEARING DATE for PENN VENTILATION INCENTIVE APPROVAL:**

Phyllis Owens, Economic Development Executive Director, requested the Board to establish a date for a Public Hearing to approve the incentive contract with Penn Ventilation for their expansion at the Tabor City facility.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to establish the Public Hearing date to be January 5, 2004, at 7:15 P.M., in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the approval of the incentive contract with Penn Ventilation for their expansion at the Tabor City facility. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #15: FINANCE - WORKER’S COMPENSATION AGREEMENT by RESOLUTION:**

Gayle Godwin, Columbus County Finance Officer, requested Board approval of the following Resolution to Adopt the Interlocal Agreement and to Join the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Joint Risk Management Agency Worker’s Compensation Fund.

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT AND TO JOIN THE NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JOINT RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY WORKER’S COMPENSATION FUND**

**WHEREAS**, Columbus County is required to provide payment of workers’ compensation claims to employees; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Workers’ Compensation Joint Risk Management Agency d.b.a. NCACC Workers’ Compensation Pool, hereafter called the Pool, has been established pursuant to G.S. §153A-445 (a)(1) and G.S. §160A-460 through §160A-464; and

**WHEREAS**, it is desirable for Columbus County to join the Pool to provide a method of risk sharing and/or group purchase of coverage.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County hereby adopts the interlocal agreement entitled “Interlocal Agreement for a Group Self-Insurance Fund for Workers’ Compensation Risk Sharing or Group Purchase of Coverage” and thereby joins and agrees to participate in the NCACC Workers’ Compensation Pool which has been formed to create a group fund to pay and service the workers’ compensation claims of the employees of the counties and other local agencies joining the Pool.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Billy Joe Farmer is authorized to execute the application to join the NCACC Workers’ Compensation Pool.

This the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2003.

Attest: /s/ **JUNE B. HALL, Clerk**

**BILL MEMORY, Chair**  
**Columbus County Board of Commissioners**

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution to Adopt the Interlocal Agreement and to Join the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Joint Risk Management Agency Worker’s Compensation Fund, seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #16: HEALTH - DECLARATION of SURPLUS PROPERTY:**

Marian Duncan, Columbus County Health Department Director, requested Board approval to declare the following two (2) vehicles as surplus property:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Lic. Plate #</u>	<u>VIN #</u>	<u>Mileage</u>
1995 Ford XLT Aerostar-VAN	64021R	1FMDA31XXSZA38860	94753.2
1995 Ford Taurus GL - SW	64020R	1FALP57U95A176403	123622.6

Ms. Duncan stated these two (2) vehicles had left workers stranded out-of-town and the department was incurring several repair bills for them.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the declaration of the above listed two (2) vehicles as surplus property, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #17: ADMINISTRATION - SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS UPDATE:**

Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator, presented the following update to the Board on Subdivision Regulations.

1. I have given a draft to you and the Planning Board members for the meeting in December and since then, the December Meeting has been cancelled.
2. I have met with the Building Inspections Department, the Environmental Inspections

Department, the GIS Department, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the Register of Deeds, the City Schools and the County Schools regarding these Subdivision Regulations.

3. I have received recommendations by staff to be included in these regulations.
4. I would like for the Board to look through these regulations and make any recommendations deemed necessary.
5. I cannot tell you when these will be finished.

Commissioner Memory asked Mr. Currie if these Subdivision Regulations had been shown to the local developers. Mr. Currie replied stating no they have not been, but I plan to do so. The main thing I wanted to get done is to get the copies for the review process for all involved to get started.

Mr. Currie stated that a major subdivision involved five (5) or more tracts.

Commissioner Godwin asked Mr. Currie if there would be a time for the public to have input on these regulations. Mr. Currie replied stating yes and there would be a public hearing conducted on this matter.

**Agenda Item #18: APPOINTMENTS - COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH:**

June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, requested reappointments of the following two (2) members of the Columbus County Board of Health: Peggy Blackmon and C.L. "Buddy" Tate, Jr.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to reappoint the following At-Large members for a three (3) year term, with term expiring 12-31-2005, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion so carried.

Peggy Blackman      510 N. Madison Street, Whiteville, NC 28472, Telephone: (910) 641-6152,  
Term Expiring: 12-31-2005

Commissioner Memory reappointed the following member in Zone 4 for a three (3) year term, with term expiring 12-31-2005.

C.L. "Buddy" Tate, Jr.      P.O. Box 249, Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450, Telephone: (910) 646-3068

**Agenda Item #19: COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS / REAPPOINTMENTS and APPROVALS:**

June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, requested the following appointments and/or reappointments be done to maintain the Columbus County Committees and Boards Notebook.

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS / REAPPOINTMENTS / APPROVALS**  
**December, 2003**

COMMITTEE	ZONE	APPOINTEE(S)	EXP. DATE	BOARD ACTION
Columbus County Airport Authority	II	Alex N. Jordan	10/20/03	<b>Reappoint</b>
	IV	Lloyd Pebo Collier, Jr.	10/20/03	<b>Reappoint</b>
	V	William C. Cox	10/20/03	<b>Reappoint</b>
Animal Control Advisory Council	I	Loretta Gore	12/13/03	<b>Hold Off</b>
	II	Leonard Walker	12/13/03	<b>Reappoint</b>
	III	Paula Lewis	12/13/03	<b>Reappoint</b>
	IV	Pat Gould	12/13/03	<b>Hold Off</b>
	V	Walter Batten	12/13/03	<b>Reappoint</b>
	VI	Dr. Jeff Burroughs	12/13/03	<b>Reappoint</b>
	VII	Penny Obrecht	12/13/03	<b>Reappoint</b>
Health -Board of- (Columbus County) <b>*W.C. Burns, D.V.M.:</b> <b>Motion: Commissioner Wilson</b>	At Large	*W.C. Burns, D.V.M.	12/31/03	<b>Reappoint</b>
	V	Stephen D. Grubb, M.D.	12/31/03	<b>Reappoint</b>
	III	George Floyd	12/31/03	<b>Reappoint</b>

<b>Second: Vice Chairman Dutton</b> <b>The motion so carried</b>				
Lake Waccamaw Board of Adjustments <b>*Clerk to notify Town of Lake Waccamaw</b>	Extra-territorial Extra-territorial	Vacant Vacant Alternate		<b>*Hold Off</b> <b>*Hold Off</b>
Nursing/Adult Care Home Joint Community Advisory Committee <b>*Betty Page:</b> <b>Motion: Commissioner Wilson</b> <b>Second: Commissioner McKenzie</b> <b>The motion so carried.</b>	Industry Nominee Slot Caecum	<b>*Betty Page</b>  Vacant ( <b>Catherine Cook Resigned</b> )	11/03/03  07-01-03	<b>Reappoint</b>  <b>Hold Off</b>
Whiteville (City of) Planning and Zoning Board <b>Motion: Commissioner Wilson</b> <b>Second: Commissioner Norris</b> <b>The motion so carried.</b>	Co. Comm.	<b>*Robert White</b>	9/8/03	<b>Reappoint</b>
Whiteville (City of) Zoning Board of Adjustment <b>Motion: Commissioner McKenzie</b> <b>Second: Commissioner Godwin</b> <b>The motion so carried.</b>	Extra-territorial	<del>Vance Maulsby</del> <b>Vacant</b>	7/31/03	<b>Table</b>

**Agenda Item #20: CONSENT AGENDA ITEM:**

**Budget Amendment:**

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the following Budget Amendment, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
<b>Expenditure</b>	10-610-6070	Crisis Intervention	\$6,538
<b>Revenue</b>	10-348-1621	Crisis Intervention	\$6,538

**Agenda Item #21: COMMENTS:**

A. Public:

Chairman Memory asked if anyone in the audience had anything they would like to say. The following people spoke:

- Michael Barnes:** I have been reviewing the 1997 Referendum for Water District II and in Section 5 (General), it states that seventy-five (75%) percent participation is needed. There are seven thousand five hundred seventy-two (7,572) registered voters in Water District II. From the information I have received, there were four hundred thirty-eight (438) votes for water and one hundred seven (107) against water. These figures equates to approximately seven (7%) percent of the total registered voters for this district. Why would you take a seven (7%) percent participation rate and proceed with this? Why would you proceed with this with such a low voter turnout? You have stated there was a third party involved here and you proceeded based on the advise of the engineering firm, Hobbs and Upchurch. Why not hold Hobbs and Upchurch liable for this money instead of the citizens of Water District II? They can afford to pay this money much better than the citizens of Water District II.
- Debra Crawford (Rough-N-Ready Road):** I contacted the Columbus County Administrative officials on several occasions when this water issue was first started and was told it would not be mandatory to hook up. I expended a lot of money for a water well and related expenses. I am now being told it is mandatory. After expending the amount of



money I have for a well and the related expenses, I cannot afford a water bill.

3. **Noah David Long:** stated the following:
- A. I have provided each one of you with a copy of the Ordinance of Mandatory Connection and the Uniform Rules for All Water Districts and Retail Water Facilities Operated by Columbus County Public Utilities. I have highlighted the areas of improprieties and would like an explanation as to why.
  - B. I would like to know why the cleanup at Myra Perritt's residence has not been done yet. Leroy Sellers, Acting Water Superintendent, replied stating that the installation contractor was pushing to get the majority of the meters installed before they back track and do the cleanup work. I do have a very short list of complaints and these will be done as soon as possible.  
Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, stated these complaints needed to be brought before the Water and Sewer Advisory Commission and then to the Board of Commissioners.  
Chairman Memory stated he understood that one-half (½) of the services had been done.
  - C. I need a clarification of the Change of Occupancy stated in the Uniform Rules due to a situation that has arose.
  - D. Did the Board of Commissioners ask to be included in House Bill #469? Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, replied stating it was the general consensus of the Board to do so.
  - E. You, as a Board have been deceitful and have greatly misinformed the citizens regarding the water districts. Commissioner Dutton rebutted on this statement and stated that he would not sit and listen to anyone making statements of this nature and suggested that his presentation be brought to an end.

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**Penny Grainger:** stated the following:

- I am a Columbus County citizen.
  - All of us citizens voted to put all of you in office.
  - We, as citizens, have a right to hear what Noah David Long has to say.
  - We are still learning about these water districts.
- 

**Noah David Long (cont'd):**

- F. I am making a formal request for the resignation of the entire Board of Columbus County Commissioners.
4. **Edward Butler (Chadbourn):** I would like to know one thing, and that is, who is going to pay the rent that is owed me for my rental property. The renters have up and left with an outstanding bill and I have got a three hundred and 00/100, plus, (\$300.00<sup>b</sup>) water bill. I will make a deal with you. If you pay me the rent that is due me, then I will pay this water bill.
5. **Ronald Hedgpeth:** I would like to know what the distance is from the road to where your house is located, to allow you to not connect to the water system. Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, replied stating the distance was three hundred (300') feet or greater, or front yard must be at least one-eighth (1/8) of the depth of the lot, from water main, whichever is greater.
6. **Wayne Cartrette:** The installation crew has come on my property and went through the tile messing it up, the water meter is on the ground and not installed. They have made a mess.  
Chairman Memory informed Mr. Cartrette to get with Leroy Sellers, Acting Water Superintendent, and this would be fixed. Mr. Cartrette replied stating he did not want Leroy Sellers or anybody else on his property.

**B. Board of Commissioners:**

2. **Commissioner McKenzie:** stated the following:
- A. I know that several of the citizens are very upset about this water situation but you cannot settle matters with knives and guns like some incidences that have occurred recently;
  - B. We, as a Board, know that you do not like this water situation, but the only other alternative, at our discretion, was to tax the entire district and we did not think that

- would be fair to the citizens who would not be offered access to the water.
- C. We were only conducting business in the best way we have accessible to us.
  - D. We have requested the citizens to provide us with some ideas to solve this problem and present a better solution than the one that we have chosen, and, so far, we have not received any solutions from the citizens.
  - E. Please let it be known, we do not have any other feasible choice.
3. **Commissioner Godwin:** I would like to state that in the Dates to Remember on the Information Page of the Board Packet, the Candlelight Walk is listed with a date of December 14, 2003 and it should be December 8, 2003.
- A. Public (continued):
- 7 **Ernestine Swinton:** I am a seventy-one (71) year widow and live on a pension with a mortgage to pay. I have a two hundred eighty-eight and 00/100 (\$288.00) dollars water bill to pay. What do I do?
- 8 **Waddus Hedgpeth:** I have a solution to this problem and the solution is to change to a flat twenty and 00/100 (\$20.00) dollars flat charge per month, for the water and discontinue the mandatory hookup. You need to allow the citizens to hookup on a volunteer basis. Then, if the results are not sufficient, after a period of time, then enforce the mandatory hookup. I believe the results of a voluntary hookup will be much better than the method you are using now.

Commissioner McKenzie thanked Mr. Hedgpeth for his recommendation and stated this was the first solution that had been presented to the Board.

**OTHER:**

**FINANCE - EARLY PAYCHECKS for DECEMBER, 2003:**

Gayle Godwin, Columbus County Finance Officer, recommended the Columbus County employees receive their December payroll checks on December 19, 2003.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion for the Columbus County employees to receive their December, 2003 payroll checks on December 19, 2003, seconded by Vice Chairman Dutton. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #22: ADJOURNMENT:**

At 9:19 P.M., there be no further business, Vice Chairman Dutton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

**APPROVED:**

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**JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board**

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**BILL MEMORY, Chairman**