

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, June 21, 2004

7:30 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, for the purpose of holding a Public Hearing at **6:30 P.M.**, and for their regular scheduled meeting at **7:30 P.M.** on the third Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

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**

6:30 P.M.: PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET for FISCAL YEAR 2004 - 2005

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman Memory called the Public Hearing to order and stated the purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive input from anyone on the Proposed Columbus County Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2004 - 2005.

The following people spoke:

1. **Steve Smith:**

As a citizen of Columbus County for over thirty years and a property owner, I am interested in the financial stability of our County, and that is why I am here tonight.

I thank you for your service to the citizens of our County as you take on the difficult task of attempting to balance our budget.

For much of my professional career I have had the opportunity to deal with county governments from 15-20 other counties in Eastern and South Central North Carolina. It seems that all local government units are facing serious challenges, but we in Columbus County appear to have a disproportionate share of economic problems. We have consistently had the highest unemployment rate within our Region, and higher than the State and National averages. The rural water districts are carrying debt that it cannot seem to handle, and our County employees have not seen a pay raise in some time. Our jail is dangerously overcrowded, and both the county and city school districts and our local community college have been seriously underfunded in recent years.

The experts in economic development tell us that it is not likely that a place like Columbus County will be targeted for a large manufacturing company, as may have been the case a decade or two ago.

The answers are not easy, and I do not profess to stand here with them either. But as you deliberate the County budget, I hope it will be small business friendly". A statistic was recently cited that there are more small business startups in a year in the U.S. than there are births or marriages. Now that may not be the case in Columbus County, but our local governmental units need to be supportive of small business entrepreneurs as they go about setting policies and budgets.

Some ways you can do this are to: support our local small business by purchasing County goods and services from them at every available option that is practical.

Another is to take a hard look at the services that the Columbus County government chooses to provide directly to the public. Consider which of those services could be outsourced to local small businesses? Further, consider which of those services should the County continue to provide directly, and which could be turned over to the private sector for it to be provided as a free-market service. In my opinion, Government should not be providing any service that the private sector can and will provide. Otherwise it is probably inefficient, and possibly worst-yet, competing with tax-paying private small businesses.

In closing, I encourage Columbus County to identify the core services that ONLY it can provide, and do that well. Optional direct services should either be tabled, outsourced or turned over the private sector.

Again, I appreciate the job you are trying to do for Columbus County. Thank you.

2. **Chairman Memory/Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator:** After Mr. Smith had finished, Chairman Memory requested Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, to present the highlights of the Proposed Columbus County Operating Budget for 2004 - 2005. Mr. Farmer stated the following:
 1. We were able to keep the same services as before;
 2. There is not tax increase, except in Columbus County Water and Sewer District II and III and we hope this is only temporary until the district become solvent.
 3. The financing for the new jail and other capital projects have not been included;
 4. This budget is basically the same as last year's budget with the exception of the two (2) water districts;
 5. We received good participation and cooperation from the departments when preparing the budget by the following practices:
 - a. We ask each department to cut five (5%) percent from their budget and they did so;
 - b. We have been able to cut the Worker's Compensation premium approximately one-half (½) by choosing a self-insured plan;
 - c. We now have enough staff in the Solid Waste Department for them to check out the tax releases in lieu of just taking someone's word;
 - d. We have managed a savings of \$3 million on trash collection by negotiating the contract closely;
 - e. The new Purchasing Director has discovered a large savings on cellular phones; **and**
 - f. We will be centralizing county vehicle use and repair, thus resulting in longer vehicle life.
 6. Staff Compensation - Columbus County spends \$10 - \$12 million per year for employee salaries. We have contracted with Cape Fear Council of Governments for Chris May to do a new Pay Plan Study, using adjacent counties, to get our employees on the right salary level in comparison to their salaries. We could not implement the entire amount in this budget, but we hope to have all our employees at their mid point within two (2) years. If an employee has been here at least two (2) years and is already at their midpoint, they will get a 2.1% cost-of-living increase. If an employee has been here ten (10) but not twenty (20) years, they will get a 3% cost-of-living increase. For employees that have been here twenty (20) or more years, they will get a five (5%) percent cost-of-living increase.

Chairman Memory asked Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, how much money had been spent on these pay raises. Mr. Farmer replied stating, the amount was six hundred thousand and 00/100 (\$600,000.00) dollars.

- 3 **Betty Jordan:** what I want to talk about is this water situation. I need some questions answered as follows:
 - a. What is it going to cost the landowners?
Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, replied stating it would be less then two hundred forty and 00/100 (\$240.00) dollars per year, depending on the amount of property owned.
 - b. How many years will the landowners have to pay this tax?
Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, replied stating that you can't look at years. We hope this will be a one (1) year thing.
- 4 **Commissioner McKenzie:** I would like to say that we do have another option to this problem and that is to subsidize the water districts until they have had enough time to become solvent.
- 5 **Commissioner Godwin:** the flat fee we have been discussing is like a user fee and we have discovered, through out legal counsel, that this is not allowed legally. We do have an obligation to be physically responsible for the debt that has been created. I have requested Senator R.C. Soles, Jr. and Representative Dewey Hill to look at clarifying the law that will allow us to charge this user fee, but I have been told it was too late this year, but they will

check into this matter for the upcoming year. I cannot, with a clear heart, vote for the nineteen (\$.19) cents tax increase as proposed in the budget.

I have noticed an Economic Development line item in the budget that I am going to recommend that it be deleted. That is the interest paid on the shell building. We are paying forty thousand and 00/100 (\$40,000.00) dollars in interest on this debt each year. We need to dispose of this building even if we have to suffer a loss on it.

- 6 **Commissioner Dutton:** I would like to know how many people are hooking up every day since we extended the special offer. Leroy Sellers, Water Office Supervisor, replied stating there had been fifty (50).

I would like to know why the eleven (\$.11) cents and fifteen (\$.15) cents tax increase, as was discussed in the Budget Workshop, will not work. Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, replied stating those figures were based on property tax valuations he had at that time, and upon discovery, they figures were not accurate.

Commissioner Dutton stated he would go along with the eleven (\$.11) cents and fifteen (\$.15) cents tax increased, but not the nineteen (\$.19) cents tax increase.

- 7 **Commissioner Wilson:** I will go along with the tax increase if the Operation and Maintenance for the water districts is reduced by twenty (20%) percent and you can guarantee me this money will be turned back into the water systems. The amount budgeted does not correlate with the amount spent.

- 8 **Chairman Memory:** Through our legal counsel, we discovered the proposed two hundred forty and 00/100 (\$240.00) dollars per household for the water districts could not be done legally. We do not like having to raise property taxes nineteen (\$.19) cents, but we have an obligation to pay our debt. We will have to go before the Local Government Commission for money to fund the capital projects that are needed, and we cannot tell them the water districts are not in the black.

Staff is presenting to the Board a budget that is balanced with the exception of the water districts.

- 9 **Commissioner McKenzie:** The questions I am hearing from many citizens regarding the tax that has been proposed is "How can you tax me for something I don't have or have no access to". I strongly oppose any increase in taxes for Water Districts II and III. I also oppose any fee being charged in these districts.

- 10 **Vice Chairman Dutton:** Commissioner McKenzie you did not have a problem in voting for the seven hundred fifty thousand and 00/100 (\$750,000.00) dollars to be subsidized for Water Districts II and III.

- 11 **Commissioner Jacobs:** the worst job this board has got to do is to make these water districts work. We must keep the county solvent. We must do something.

- 12 **Commissioner McKenzie:** I feel like I work for the entire county and I strongly feel it is necessary to give the citizens in these two (2) water districts adequate time to hook onto the system before we take any other action.

- 13 **Commissioner Godwin:** this question is for our attorney and it is "The water districts are partially with water. What are our legal rights in placing this tax on the entirety of the districts?" James E. Hill, Jr., Columbus County Attorney, replied stating that in accordance with the North Carolina General Statutes, the proposed tax is legal and on the bond referendum that was voted on by the citizens, and passed, it states that a tax levy may be imposed. The special assessment is possible if it is done before any construction is done.

- 14 **Robert Adams:** I have attended the work sessions that have been conducted on these water districts and I am very surprised and alarmed that the figure for this tax increase is so much more than was proposed at the Budget Workshop.

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, stated the figures used at the workshop was based on an estimated tax value and the cost to the citizens would average less than the two

hundred forty and 00/100 (\$240.00) dollars per year.

Mr. Adams stated the end result of the last work session was to use the figure stated at the Budget Workshop and Columbus County would pick up the difference, if any.

15 **James Prevatte:** stated the following:

- A. I really appreciate the efforts you have put forth in the operation of the County;
- B. Based on the figures you have supplied thus far, this will cost everyone approximately six hundred and 00/100 (\$600.00) dollars per year, and is that not correct? Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, replied stating yes.
- C. I think you will agree with me that the property will become more valuable after the water lines are installed, thus increasing the taxes paid.
- D. I recommend that you, as a Board, to choose an alternative to what you are about to do regarding the water districts.
- E. I recommend you, as a Board, to move slowly on this issue and to give thought to a one (\$.01 cent sales tax which will bring in \$2.5 million dollars and by using this method, everyone will pay, not just the landowners.

16 **Commissioner Dutton:** Commissioner Wilson and I went to Raleigh a few years ago and ask to the one (\$.01) cent sales tax and we were practically run out of Raleigh. I do not think we would be very successful in accomplishing this. I would like to know if there has been a pickup in the water hookups. Leroy Sellers, Water Supervisor, stated it was slowly picking up.

17 **Cary Ransom:** I have a three (3) part question as follows:

- A. Why isn't the hookup one hundred and 00/100 (\$100.00) dollars and not four hundred and 00/10 (\$400.00) dollars?
- B. Why don't you furnish the hookup to people's houses? If you did, you would see more people hooking onto the water.
- C. Have you every seen taxes go up and then come back down? I have not.

18 **Private Citizen (did not state name):** How can I be taxes for something I don't even receive?

Chairman Memory replied stating the citizens voted for a Bond Referendum in 1997 and it passed which stated that a tax levy could be used.

The private citizen stated this is not fair and asked the question "Will the water every come by my house?."

19 **Monroe Enzor:** This County is being run like seven (7) counties, not just one (1). These districts should be eliminated. You got us in this mess and now it is time for you to get us out.

20 **Commissioner Wilson:** I agree from the lady that spoke previously regarding the taxing of property. I have a neighbor who has one hundred eighty to two hundred (180 - 200) acres of land and this tax will hit them hard.

21 **Yvonne Norris:** I would like to know some information regarding the pay raises for the County employees. When will we see the before and after salaries? Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, replied stating it would be soon.

22 **Robert Adams:** Instead of spending such a large sum of money on an auditorium for Williams Township School, they should use one (1) building for the combination of activities and uses like a lot of the other schools are having to do.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED:

At 7:55 P.M., Chairman Memory asked if anyone had any other comments they would like to make. There were no further comments. Commissioner Norris made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Vice Chairman Dutton. The motion so carried.

7:30 P.M.: REGULAR SESSION

Agenda Items #1 and #2: MEETING CALLED to ORDER and INVOCATION:

At 8:07 P.M., Chairman Memory called the meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Godwin. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Agenda Item #3: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Vice Chairman Dutton made a motion to approve the May 24, 2004 Budget Workshop Minutes, the June 1, 2004 Budget Workshop Minutes and the June 7, 2004 Regular Session Minutes, as recorded. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #4: RESOLUTION - WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE:

Mr. David Lee McPherson, Ms. Marjorie Gore and Mr. Vernon Gurganous, Williams Township Committee, presented the following Resolution for Board acceptance.

RESOLUTION
WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Williams Township Committee wishes to express our sincere appreciation to the Columbus County Board of Commissioners for their interest in trying to help us rebuild our school and auditorium which was destroyed by fire in January, 2004; **and**

WHEREAS, the Williams Township Committee realizes the county has a number of issues before them that need attention; **and**

WHEREAS, the Williams Township Committee knows the importance of education, therefore, they must provide for their children and grandchildren the same educational facilities that were made available to them.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Williams Township Committee recommends the Columbus County Board of Commissioners send a resolution to the Columbus County Board of Education giving them the authority to go forward with plans for the schematics for the school and auditorium; **and**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Williams Township Committee suggests the Columbus County Board of Commissioners call upon whatever sources are available in order to finance the above project; **and**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the Columbus County Board of Education, Senator R.C. Soles, Representative Hill and Congressman Mike McIntyre.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to accept the Resolution - Williams Township Committee, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #5: PARKS and RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD:

Al Leonard, Fair Bluff Town Manager, requested Board approval of an appointment to the Columbus County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board from the Town of Fair Bluff with no name stated.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the appointment to the Columbus County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board from the Town of Fair Bluff, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #6: SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION:

Ed Worley, Aging Director, requested Board approval to declare a 1990 Dodge Van, County ID Sticker #06109, VIN #: 2b5wb35z51k785589, as surplus property, and to award the said van to Bread and Spirit Ministries.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the 1990 Dodge Van, County ID Sticker

#06109 as surplus property, and to award the said van to Bread and Spirit Ministries, seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

Mr. Worley introduced Revered Rob Priest with Bread and Spirit Ministries and thanked Mr. Priest for all the many things he had done for the Department of Aging. Reverend Priest thanked the Commissioners for the award of the van.

Agenda Item #7: EMERGENCY SERVICES - APPROVAL of the COLUMBUS COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (EOP):

Ronnie Hayes, Emergency Services Director, is requesting Board approval of the Columbus County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that was disbursed to the Board at the June 7, 2004 Board Meeting.

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to approve the Columbus County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #8: ADMINISTRATION - ESTABLISHMENT of the SECOND of TWO (2) PUBLIC HEARING for the CDBG MICRO-ENTERPRISE GRANT:

Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator, requested Board approval to establish the date of July 6, 2004, at 7:15 P.M., for the second of the two (2) public hearings required for the CDBG Micro-Enterprise Grant.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the establishment of July 6, 2004, at 7:15 P.M., for the second of the two (2) public hearings required for the CDBG Micro-Enterprise Grant, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #9: SOLID WASTE - APPROVAL of AMENDMENT IV to ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE REGULATING the ASSESSMENT and COLLECTION of SOLID WASTE USER FEES in COLUMBUS COUNTY":

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, is requesting Board approval of the following amendment.

**An Ordinance Regulating the Assessment and Collection of Solid Waste User Fees in Columbus County
Amendment IV**

Section 4:

ADD:

4.4 All farms or small businesses that are located in Columbus County on the same parcel of property and have the same parcel number maybe exempt from the Solid Waste user fees listed on their property taxes If the business is serviced by a commercial hauler and the commercial dumpster is located on the same parcel of property with the same parcel number, an application must be completed by the requesting party and submitted along with an application fee of \$30.00 to the Solid Waste Control Office. At that time the Solid Waste Director or his/her designee will check to verify that all information is correct for the release of the users fee. If there should be any false information given at the time of application is submitted the application maybe denied and no refund given.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ BILL MEMORY, Chairman
ATTESTED BY:
/s/ JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

Vice Chairman Dutton made a motion to approve Amendment IV to the Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Regulating the Assessment and Collection of Solid Waste User Fees in Columbus County", seconded by Commissioner Norris.

Discussion was conducted among the Board members relative to the effective date of this

amendment. It was determined that this amendment would become effective as of July 1, 2004.

Vice Chairman Dutton made an amended motion to approve Amendment IV to the Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Regulating the Assessment and Collection of Solid Waste User Fees in Columbus County" to be effective as of July 1, 2004, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The amended motion so carried.

Agenda Item #10: VETERANS - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Chairman Memory recommended that this Agenda item be tabled until July 6, 2004, as requested by Sherri Blackman, Veterans Director, due to a death in the family.

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to table this Agenda item until July 6, 2004, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #11: BUDGET - ADOPTION of the FY 2004 - 2005 COLUMBUS COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET:

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, presented the Columbus County 2004 - 2005 Budget Ordinance for approval and adoption to the Board. Vice Chairman Dutton made a motion to approve and adopt the Columbus County 2004 - 2005 Budget Ordinance with a tax increase in the amount of fifteen (\$.15) cents for Columbus County Water and Sewer District II, and a tax increase in the amount of eleven (\$.11) cents for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson.

*****NOTE:** The Budget Ordinance 2004-2005 is located at the end of these minutes due to the incompatibility of the software programs used in the creation of the Budget Ordinance and the creation of these Board Minutes.

Commissioner McKenzie made a substitute motion to table this matter for further discussion, seconded by Commissioner Godwin.

In-depth discussion was conducted by the Board regarding the necessity of the tax increase for the two (2) water districts and the need to proceed with adopting the 2004 - 2005 Budget.

A vote was taken on the substitute motion by Commissioner McKenzie to table this matter for further discussion with the following results:

AYES: Commissioners McKenzie and Godwin

NAYS: Chairman Memory, Vice Chairman Dutton, Commissioners Jacobs, Norris, Wilson.

The substitute motion failed with a five (5) to two (2) vote.

A vote was taken on the original motion made by Vice Chairman Dutton with the following results:

AYES: Chairman Memory, Vice Chairman Dutton, Commissioners Jacobs, Norris, Wilson and Godwin

NAYS: Commissioner McKenzie.

Agenda Item #12: ADMINISTRATION - APPROVAL of DELETION of CERTAIN VERBIAGE in the "ADDENDUM to AGREEMENT BETWEEN COLUMBUS COUNTY and WASTE MANAGEMENT of THE CAROLINAS, INCORPORATED":

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, requested Board approval of the removal of the following verbiage from the "Addendum to Agreement Between Columbus County and Waste Management of The Carolinas, Incorporated": **"Only Columbus County waste shall go to the Columbus County Transfer Station"**. Mr. Farmer stated this clause was in conflict with the original agreement.

Commissioner Godwin asked if this addendum had been signed by Waste Management yet,

and are they refusing to sign. Mr. Farmer replied stating no, the addendum had not been signed by Waste Management, and, no, they are not refusing to sign, but, before they will sign this document, they are requesting this clause be removed because it is in conflict with the original agreement.

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to remove the verbiage stating: **“Only Columbus County waste shall go to the Columbus County Transfer Station”** from the Addendum to Agreement Between Columbus County and Waste Management of The Carolinas, Incorporated. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #13: ADMINISTRATION - MANDATORY WATER HOOKUP DISCUSSION:

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, requested the Board’s discussion and direction regarding the removal of mandatory water hookup.

After discussion was conducted among the Board, Commissioner Wilson made a motion to remove mandatory water hookup for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts II and III, effective as of July 1, 2004, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #14: RESOLUTION - REQUEST for INSTALLATION of TRAFFIC SAFETY DEVICES at S.R. 1173 MOLLIE-IRON HILL ROAD and S.R. 1005 PEACOCK ROAD RESOLUTION:

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution based on Commissioner Norris’ request at the June 7, 2004 Board Meeting.

**REQUEST for INSTALLATION of TRAFFIC SAFETY DEVICES
at S.R. 1173 MOLLIE-IRON HILL ROAD and
S.R. 1005 PEACOCK ROAD RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, there exists an intersection within Columbus County at **State Road, 1173 Mollie-Iron Hill Road, and State Road 1005, Peacock Road**, which has claimed the lives of several people over the last ten (10) years; **and**

WHEREAS, the said intersection is considered to be highly dangerous and a source of fatality for drivers who utilize it; **and**

WHEREAS, historically, this intersection is heavily traveled by the citizens of Columbus County and by travelers outside of Columbus County; **and**

WHEREAS, recently, a fatal vehicular accident occurred at this intersection which claimed the lives of five (5) people and injuring several more; **and**

WHEREAS, there exists a great need for the installation of traffic safety devices (i.e.: flashing caution light, sign reading stop sign ahead, look right sign, mumble strips) at this particular intersection to avoid these accidents from happening that rob people of their lives and inflict devastating injury; **and**

WHEREAS, we, as the Board of Commissioners for the County of Columbus, do whatever is necessary, within the realms of our duties, to provide the best safety for our citizens and provide good and sound protection for them; **and**

WHEREAS, the need for the installation of safety traffic devices has existed for a long period of time, plus the additional utilization of this said intersection, has heightened this need to be executed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Columbus County Board of Commissioners requests the North Carolina Department of Transportation to install some type of traffic safety device (whatever is deemed appropriate) at the intersection of **State Road 1173 Mollie-Iron Hill Road and State Road 1005 Peacock Road**.

ADOPTED this the 21st day of June, 2004.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **BILL MEMORY, Chairman**

ATTESTED BY:

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

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the Request for Installation of Traffic Safety Devices at S.R. 1173 Mollie-Iron Hill Road and S.R. 1005 Peacock Road Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #15: RESOLUTION - RESOLUTION in SUPPORT of AMENDMENT ONE - SELF-FINANCING BONDS: a LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOL to CREATE QUALITY JOBS, REVITALIZE COMMUNITIES and ATTRACT NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES in COLUMBUS COUNTY:

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AMENDMENT ONE - SELF-FINANCING BONDS:
A LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOL TO CREATE QUALITY JOBS,
REVITALIZE COMMUNITIES AND ATTRACT NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
IN COLUMBUS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Columbus County has a need to attract more jobs and economic development;
and

WHEREAS, self-financing development bonds will have a direct impact on creating new jobs, new investment, and strengthening the tax base in our state; **and**

WHEREAS, communities across the nation have used these bonds successfully to promote economic development; **and**

WHEREAS, the use of these bonds will make a difference for every community – urban, suburban and rural; **and**

WHEREAS, these bonds will give local governments flexibility to pursue multiple types of economic development projects including industrial site development, redevelopment of existing industrial and Brownfield sites, affordable housing and community revitalization; **and**

WHEREAS, these bonds allow North Carolina's local governments to use a new mechanism to invest in public improvements designed to attract private sector investment; **and**

WHEREAS, North Carolina is only one of two states in the nation that do not have this economic development tool; **and**

WHEREAS, self-financing development bonds have received wide-range bi-partisan support from the General Assembly and the business community, as well as municipal, county and state government and Governors Holshouser, Martin and Hunt; **and**

WHEREAS, North Carolina will have some of the strongest safeguards in the country to ensure self-financing bonds are used for good purposes; **and**

WHEREAS, these bonds are subject to voter approval on the November 2004 ballot and deserve rightful consideration by the citizens of the State; **and**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Columbus County Board of Commissioners strongly supports self-financing development bonds because now is the time to enhance our ability to create new jobs and investment in Columbus County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Columbus County pledges to work to educate and inform the citizens of our state and community about the importance of self-financing development bonds in providing jobs and improving the economic competitiveness, and pledges to encourage voters to approve the measure in November 2004.

This is the 21st day of June, 2004.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ BILL MEMORY, Chairman

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

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the Resolution in Support of Amendment One - Self Financing Bonds: A Local Economic Development Tool to Create Quality Jobs, Revitalize Communities and Attract New Economic Opportunities in Columbus County, seconded by Vice Chairman Dutton. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #16: RESOLUTION - REQUEST for PAVEMENT of STATE ROAD 1405, HENRY GINES ROAD RESOLUTION:

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution.

REQUEST for PAVEMENT of STATE ROAD 1405, HENRY GINES ROAD RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners have been made aware of a certain road that is in crucial need of paving, namely the Henry Gines Road, State Road 1405; **and**

WHEREAS, over the past several years, many of our citizens have voiced their requests regarding this road, either by letter or by telephone; **and**

WHEREAS, the said road develops large pot holes during rainy conditions and becomes very slippery, thereby making traveling conditions very difficult; **and**

WHEREAS, among the citizens that reside along this road are elderly people with medical conditions that require emergency vehicle transport to and from the hospital and the emergency vehicles have experienced difficulty in the process of transporting the said citizens that need emergency assistance; **and**

WHEREAS, available funds have been made available for the much-needed paving of State Road 1405, Henry Gines Road; **and**

WHEREAS, it is our understanding the description of the work for this road would be: grade, drain, base, pave and erosion control from State Road 1401 to dead end - 0.6 mile, at an estimated cost of two hundred ten thousand and 00/100 (\$210,000.00) dollars; **and**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has requested our consent to agree with this request.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Columbus County Board of Commissioners does agree with the request that has been made to pave State Road 1405, Henry Gines Road.

ADOPTED this the 21st day of June, 2004.

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

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

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to approve and adopt the Request for Pavement of State Road 1405, Henry Gines Road Resolution, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #17: RESOLUTION - RESOLUTION of SUPPORT for the COLUMBUS COUNTY GREENWAY/BLUEWAY PLANNING INITIATIVE:

Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE COLUMBUS COUNTY GREENWAY/BLUE WAY

PLANNING INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, a group representing county government, several municipalities, the Greater Whiteville Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Fair Bluff Chamber of Commerce, the County Tourism Bureau, Southeastern Community College, the Boys and Girls Home of Lake Waccamaw, the Museum of Forestry, Cape Fear Resource Conservation & Development, the 21st Century Communities Committee and others have expressed interest in developing a greenways and blueways plan for the county; **and**

WHEREAS, the East Coast Greenway is considering running their Maine to Key West route through or near Columbus County; **and**

WHEREAS, connecting to the East Coast Greenway is seen as being an asset to the county; **and**

WHEREAS, neighboring Brunswick County is pursuing a connection to the East Coast Greenway; **and**

WHEREAS, the National Park Service offers technical assistance at no charge to local governments through its Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program to help the county plan possible greenway and blueway routes and facilities; **and**

WHEREAS, the Cape Fear Council of Governments has offered to provide local staff support and guidance through its Rural Planning Organization to a steering committee formed to assist the National Park Service if the county is selected as a local government to participate in the RTCA Program.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners does hereby support the initiative to apply for and receive National Park Service assistance through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program.

ADOPTED this the 21st day of June, 2004.

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

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

Don Eggert with the Cape Fear Council of Governments was introduced by Commissioner Godwin. Mr. Eggert stated the following:

1. I appreciate what you have done by adoption this Resolution;
2. We really appreciate the people of this area taking advantage of their resources;
3. This plan was derived from a similar plan in Brunswick County;
4. The Greenway/Blueway will be running from Key West, Florida to Maine;
5. This is definitely a long-term proposition;
6. We are hoping this trail will run through Wilmington, North Carolina and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina;
7. The people, in general, are looking at this as being a very good project; **and**
8. We thank the National Park Service for their help and assistance in planning this.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the Resolution of Support for the Columbus County Greenway/Blueway Planning Initiative, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #18: PROCLAMATION - RESOURCE CONSERVATION and DEVELOPMENT WEEK in COLUMBUS COUNTY:

Commissioner Godwin presented the following Proclamation for Board approval and adoption.

PROCLAMATION
RESOURCE CONSERVATION and DEVELOPMENT WEEK

in COLUMBUS COUNTY

WHEREAS, Resource Conservation & Development Councils have contributed countless hours of community service to help people care for and protect their natural resources in a way that will improve the area's economy, environment, and living standards since 1964; **and**

WHEREAS, the Cape Fear RC&D Council, through its providing a way for people to work together to plan and carry out activities, has made our county a better place to live.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED the Columbus County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the week of **July 11-17, 2004**, to be "**RC&D Week**" in Columbus County to recognize the fact that during this week, across the nation, Resource Conservation and Development Councils are performing community service projects to improve their communities.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that we congratulate and thank the Cape Fear Resource Conservation and Development Council for its continued success in brightening the future of our communities by bringing together diverse groups of local volunteers to strengthen the spirit of community service in Columbus County, not only this week but throughout the year.

ADOPTED this twenty-first day of June, 2004.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **BILL MEMORY, Chairman**

ATTESTED BY:

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

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to approve the Resource Conservation and Development Week in Columbus County Proclamation, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

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

The following committee appointments, reappointments, approvals were made.

A. Economic Development Commission Board of Directors:

Commissioner Godwin, Zone VI, reappointed George Wooten for a three (3) year term, with term expiring 06/30/2007.

Vice Chairman Dutton, Zone VII, appointed Bob High, 1105 Gores Trailer Road, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, Telephone: (910) 642-5752, to serve a three (3) year term, with term expiring 06/30/2004, to replace Elwood Watts. Commissioner Dutton requested a letter of appreciation to be sent to Mr. Watts for his years of service.

B. Home and Community Care Block Grant for Aging Services Advisory Council:

Commissioner McKenzie, Zone I, appointed Cathy Hinson, Post Office Box 299, Cerro Gordo, North Carolina 28430, Telephone: (910) 654-5169, to serve a three (3) year term, with term expiring 06/30/2007 to fill the vacancy.

C. Columbus County Housing Advisory Committee:

Commissioner Godwin, Zone VI, reappointed Henry Edmund for a two (2) year term, with term expiring 06/30/2006.

Commissioner Jacobs, Zone III, reappointed Harold Rains for a two (2) year term, with term expiring 06/30/2006.

Vice Chairman Dutton stated this committee has requested a County Commissioner serve as a member, and made a motion to appoint Commissioner Godwin to serve a two (2) year term, with term expiring 06/30/2006, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

D. Industrial Facilities Pollution Control Financing Authority:

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to reappoint Robert Howard for a six (6) year term, with term expiring 06/30/2010, seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

Vice Chairman Dutton made a motion to appoint Larry Buffkin, 285 Singletary Road, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, Telephone: (910) 642-8289, for a six (6) year term, with term expiring 06/30/2010, to fill the vacancy, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

E. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council:

Commissioner Wilson, Zone II, appointed Beverlee Nance, Southeastern Community College, Post Office Box 151, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, Telephone: (910) 642-7141, Ext: 208, for a one (1) year term, with term expiring 06/30/2005, to replace Dr. Brantley Briley.

Agenda Item #20: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Vice Chairman Dutton. The motion so carried.

A. Budget Amendments

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	50-410-7540	Property Betterment and Additions	\$7,767
Revenue	50-300-2826	Appropriation of Operating Reserve	\$7,767
Expenditure	50-410-4110	Administrative Salaries	\$2,877
	50-410-4130	Legal	(\$1,425)
	50-410-4150	Travel	(\$1,177)
	50-410-4160	Indirect Cost	\$5,177
	50-410-4170	Accounting and Auditing	(\$1,522)
	50-410-4190	Sundry	\$2,818
	50-410-4400	Maintenance and Repair Equipment	(\$195)
	50-410-4510	Insurance	(\$145)
	50-410-4540	Emp Bene-FICA, Ret, Life	(\$640)
	50-410-4590	Adm Expense-Portable	(\$1,000)
	50-410-4715	Housing Assistance Payments	\$25,100
	50-410-4716	Housing Assistance Payment-Portable	\$18,000
	50-410-6010	Residual Receipts	(\$1,425)
	50-410-7540	Property Betterments and Additions	(\$51.00)
Revenue	50-300-2826	Appropriation of Operating Reserve	\$46,392
Expenditure	20-661-5700	2003 Refunding Bonds Expense	\$77,737
	20-661-8100	Principal on Bonds	\$65,000
	20-661-8200	Interest on Bonds	(\$109,155)
	20-661-9100	Transf Proceeds to Cap Project-Renovation of Hill Building	\$48,506
	10-506-7200	Renovation Hill Building	\$48,506

Revenue	20-340-0000	2003 Refunding Bonds Proceeds	\$82,088
	10-397-0400	Contribution-Debt Service Fund	\$48,506
Expenditure	10-900-6000	Transfer-Capital Projects	\$7,405
Revenue	29-336-0000	Transf From CCIT (GF)	\$7,405
	29-348-2002	NCDOT-Transit Facility	(\$7,405)
	10-336-0000	Transf to Transit Facility	\$7,405
Expenditure	54-510-7400	Capital Outlay (for gravel and hauling)	\$5,600
Revenue	54-399-0000	Funds Appropriated	\$5,600
Expenditure	10-510-7400	Capital Outlay (for 2 surplus HP cars)	\$19,043
Revenue	10-335-0000	Miscellaneous Income (Insurance on wrecked vehicles)	\$8,883
	10-335-0000	Miscellaneous Income (Money rec'd from auction)	\$10,160
Expenditure	73-700-6000	Acme Delco Riegelwood Rescue	\$2,925
	73-700-6100	Buckhead Rescue	\$2,925
	73-700-6200	Cerro Gordo Rescue	\$2,925
	73-700-6300	Chadbourn Rescue	\$2,925
	73-700-6400	Fair Bluff Rescue	\$2,925
	73-700-6500	Lake Waccamaw Rescue	\$2,925
	73-700-6600	Nakina Rescue	\$2,925
	73-700-6700	Tabor City Rescue	\$2,925
Revenue	73-310-0000	County Rescue Tax .02 Cents	\$23,400
Expenditure	10-900-1200	Transfer to Aging	\$80,002
Revenue	10-399-0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$80,002
Expenditure	54-510-3300	Departmental Supplies	\$13,275
	54-510-7400	Capital Outlay	\$24,307
Revenue	54-399-0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$37,582
Expenditure	10-660-0600	Hosp Ins - Retiree	(\$77,639)
	10-660-0900	Unemployment Expense	(\$2,000)
	10-660-5400	Insurance - Workers Comp	(\$230,000)
	10-660-5700	Miscellaneous	(\$5,000)
	10-660-7400	Computers/Programs	(\$5,000)
	10-410-5400	Insurance - Workers Comp	\$410,239
Revenue	10-399-0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$90,600
Expenditure	54-510-9150	Transfer to General Fund	\$10,573
Revenue	54-399-0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$10,573
Expenditure	10-520-4600	Medical Expenses	\$48,000
Revenue	10-358-0000	Jail Fees	\$48,000
Expenditure	24-605-7200	Building	\$23,000
	24-605-7300	Site Preparation	\$8,000

	24-605-7302	Plumbing Installation	\$15,000
	24-605-7303	Electrical Installation	\$10,000
	24-605-7305	Landscaping and Maintenance	\$4,000
Revenue	24-348-2002	NC Tobacco Trust Fund	\$60,000
Expenditure	10-430-5701	HAVA Grant - Accessibility	\$15,619
Revenue	10-348-2400	NC Dept Admin - HAVA Grant	\$15,619
Expenditure	35-580-3301	Pesticide Grant - Dept Supplies	\$631
Revenue	35-399-0000	Retained Earing Approp	\$631
Expenditure	10-660-9999	Contingency	(\$714)
	10-690-9808	Miscellaneous Appropriations	\$714
Expenditure	54-510-9000	Transfer to Jail Project	\$4,300
	64-520-7100	Land	\$5,690
	64-520-0400	Professional Services	(\$1,390)
Revenue	54-399-0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$4,300
	64-397-0100	Transfer From Special Alcohol	\$4,300
Expenditure	10-573-0200	Salaries	\$3,000
	10-575-0200	Salaries	\$25,961
	10-577-7400	Capital Outlay	\$24,000
	10-580-0200	Salaries	\$13,000
	10-581-0200	Salaries	\$54,900
	10-590-0200	Salaries	(\$120,861)
Expenditure	62-640-0200	Salaries	\$40,000
	62-640-4500	Contracts	\$10,000
	62-640-1100	Telephone	\$6,000
	62-640-3200	Office Supplies	\$1,000
	62-640-9100	Transfer to Gen Fund, Indirect Costs	\$40,220
	62-650-3000	Housing Replacement	\$349,995
Revenue	62-348-2000	B1 Housing Coordinator	\$97,220
	62-348-2010	R1 Rehab/Replacement	\$349,995
Expenditure	30-600-3100	Automotive Supplies	\$2,500
	30-600-1101	Postage	\$1,000
	30-600-1200	Water Permits	\$1,000
	30-600-2600	Advertising	\$500
Revenue	30-359-0100	Tap Fees	\$4,000
	30-359-0000	Water Sales	\$1,000
Expenditure	10-506-7100	Land - Prison	\$7,500
	10-506-7200	Buildings (Hill Building)	\$160,000
	10-690-9200	Reserve - Capital Projects	(\$167,500)
Revenue	36-312-0000	Refunds	(\$9,800)

	36-329-0000	Interest	\$150
	36-348-2002	NC Rural Center Grant	\$4,200
	36-399-0000	Retained Earnings Appropriated	\$5,450
Revenue	37-310-0000	Evergreen Fire - Special District Tax	\$5,900
Expenditure	37-700-9200	Evergreen Fire - Remit to District	\$5,900
Revenue	38-310-0000	St. James Fire - Special District Tax	\$1,700
Expenditure	38-700-9200	St. James Fire - Remit to District	\$1,700
Revenue	39-310-0000	North Whiteville - Special District Tax	\$10,900
Expenditure	39-700-9200	North Whiteville - Remit to District	\$10,900
Revenue	41-310-0000	Old Dock/Welches Creek-Spec District Tax	\$3,400
Expenditure	31-700-9200	Old Dock/Welches Creek-Remit to District	\$3,400
Revenue	42-310-0000	Hallsboro Fire Special District Tax	\$3,100
Expenditure	42-700-9200	Hallsboro Fire Remit to District	\$3,100
Revenue	43-310-0000	Roseland Fire Special District Tax	\$3,000
Expenditure	43-700-9200	Roseland Fire Remit to District	\$3,000
Revenue	44-310-0000	Yam City Fire Special District Tax	\$7,300
Expenditure	44-700-9200	Yam City Fire Remit to District	\$7,300
Revenue	45-310-0000	Acme Delco Fire Special District Tax	\$14,600
Expenditure	45-700-9200	Acme Delco Fire Remit to District	\$14,600
Revenue	46-310-0000	Klondyke Fire Special District Tax	\$4,800
Expenditure	46-700-9200	Klondyke Fire Remit to District	\$4,800
Revenue	47-310-0000	Coles Service District Special District Tax	\$2,500
Expenditure	47-700-9200	Coles Service District Remit to District	\$2,500
Revenue	48-310-0000	Cerro Gordo Fire Special District Tax	\$2,500
Expenditure	48-700-9200	Cerro Gordo Fire Remit to District	\$2,500
Revenue	49-310-0000	Williams Township Special District Tax	\$3,100
Expenditure	49-700-9200	Williams Township Remit to District	\$3,100
Revenue	51-310-0000	White Marsh/Welches Creek Special District Tax	\$3,100
Expenditure	51-700-9200	White Marsh/Welches Creek Remit to District	\$3,100
Revenue	52-310-0000	Whiteville Rescue Special District Tax	\$7,500
Expenditure	52-700-9200	Whiteville Rescue Remit to District	\$7,500
Revenue	56-310-0000	Brunswick Fire Special District Tax	\$2,900
Expenditure	56-700-9200	Brunswick Fire Remit to District	\$2,900
Revenue	58-310-0000	Bolton Fire Special District Tax	\$1,300
Expenditure	58-700-9200	Bolton Fire Remit to District	\$1,300
Revenue	59-310-0000	Buckhead Fire Special District Tax	\$1,400
Expenditure	59-700-9200	Buckhead Fire Remit to District	\$1,400

AGENDA ADD-ON:

One (1) Item: BUDGET AMENDMENT - TRAVEL and TOURISM:

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

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	10-496-5700	Miscellaneous Grants	\$6,750
Revenue	10-348-0015	NC Dept Commerce - Tourism	\$6,750

B. Tax Refunds and Releases:

*****NOTE: This information can be found near the end of these minutes due to the incompatibility of the computer program between the Tax Office and the Governing Body Office.**

Agenda Item #21: COMMENTS:**A. Public:**

Chairman Memory opened the floor for comments from anyone who wanted to speak. The following people spoke.

1. **Penny Long Grainger:** stated the following:
 - A. I am here on behalf of the Columbus County Concerned Citizens and Taxpayers;
 - B. I would like to commend the Board for their efforts in trying to resolve this water issue;
 - C. You need to increase the number of gallons of water used from two thousand (2,000) to three thousand (3,000);
 - D. The water bills that are being sent for the distance of three hundred (300') feet should be stopped;
 - E. The old bills under mandatory hookup should be eliminated;
 - F. We, the citizens will vote for voluntary hookup, but not for mandatory hookup; **and**
 - G. This will put the people who are no limited incomes in a bind.

B Board of Commissioners:

1. **Commissioner Godwin:** I wish to make two (2) motions.

Motion 1: I make a motion to provide an incentive to the citizens of Water Districts II and III, to become effective immediately, that we offer a one hundred and 00/100 (\$100.00) dollars meter fee and a fifty and 00/10 (\$50.00) dollars tap-on fee until September 30, 2004, seconded by Vice Chairman Dutton.

Chairman Memory stated that we already have an ongoing incentive in effect of the citizens being allowed to pay five and 00/100 (\$5.00) dollars toward the four hundred and 00/10 (\$400.00) dollars signup fee, and this incentive is in effect until July 7, 2004.

Discussion was conducted among the Board members and it was the general consensus of the Board to leave the ongoing incentive in place until July 7, 2004, as well as starting the new incentive, effective immediately, and being effective until September 30, 2004.

The above state motion made by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Vice Chairman Dutton so carried.

Motion 2: I make a motion that all the operations of Columbus County Water and Sewer District I to be taken over by the Columbus County Public Utilities Department, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion so carried.

2. **Commissioner McKenzie:** I would like to know the status of Columbus County Water and Sewer District I hooking onto Columbus County Water and Sewer District II. Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, replied stating he will check into this and have the answer

at the next meeting.

3. **Chairman Memory:** I would like to know if we have to use the money left over on the Wright Chemical project right now. Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, replied stating he would check on this and advise. Commissioner Wilson stated this money needed to be used before the contract closes out.
4. **Commissioner McKenzie:** I would like to address the problem being experienced by the citizens who reside on Smith Street in Chadbourne. I have met with the Town of Chadbourne and have asked them to annex this area and they have informed me they are not going to annex the said area. This has been an ongoing problem for several years and these citizens need water. I would like to ask the Board to run water to Smith Street in Chadbourne.

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, stated there was a big problem with Smith Street, and that is getting to it. Running water lines would involve several additional feet of water lines due to the way it is situated and the accessibility route which would incur a large amount of additional monies.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion for the Board to run water to Smith Street in Chadbourne. The motion fails for a lack of a second.

5. **Commissioner Jacobs:** I would like to inform the Board that I had a meeting with the Town of Sandyfield regarding the Feasibility Study for the eastern end of the County. I was informed that they have acquired the services of two (2) good college interns who are willing to work on this study at no cost to the Town of Sandyfield and at no cost to Columbus County.
6. **Commissioner McKenzie:** stated the following regarding the Town of Boardman:
 - A. I have met with Boardman's Town Council, the Mayor of Boardman and Al Leonard regarding the Water Agreement between Columbus County and the Town of Boardman;
 - B. The Town of Boardman wishes to get out of this agreement and go back to purchasing water from Robeson County;
 - C. They are stating we have bad water quality and poor service;
 - D. I requested the Town of Boardman to give us six (6) months to improve and then address this issue at that time;
 - E. They did agree to purchase water from Columbus County, but they would maintain their own water system and bill their own customers;
 - F. They did agree to continue with Columbus County if we allow them to maintain their own system and bill their own customers;
 - G. They are requesting that Columbus County sell them bulk water and allow them to do everything else.

I make a motion to sell bulk water to the Town of Boardman at bulk rate and allow them to maintain their own system and bill their own customers, seconded by Vice Chairman Dutton.

Chairman Memory asked if we were making any money off of the Town of Boardman. Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, replied stating no.

Leroy Sellers, Water Superintendent, stated he had met with Boardman's Town Council and Mayor and gave each member one of my business cards and told each one if there were any problems of any nature to please call and I would check into the situation. As of this date, no one has called me.

A motion was made by Commissioner Godwin to table this matter for further discussion at the next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Wilson.

Further discussion was conducted by the Board and a vote was taken with the following results:

AYES: Chairman Memory, Commissioners Jacobs, Norris, Wilson and Godwin
NAYS: Vice Chairman Dutton and Commissioner McKenzie.

The motion passed on a five (5) to two (2) vote.

Agenda Item #22: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. §143-318.11:

Vice Chairman Dutton made a motion to adjourn Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. §143-318.11, seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

Upon consultation with James E. Hill, Jr., Columbus County Attorney, it was determined the subject matter for discussion did not qualify for a Closed Session, therefore, a Closed Session was not officially entered into.

RESUME REGULAR SESSION:

At 9:05 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to resume Regular Session.

OTHER:

Chairman Memory asked if anyone had any other matter they wish to discuss. Sheriff Batten stated the following:

1. I read the article in the News Reporter about the cap being lifted at the Jail;
2. I have talked to Donnie Byrd about this cap being lifted and, at this time, he stated he does not know anything about this; **and**
3. I wish to assure the Board that we are doing everything we can to reduce the population at the jail.

TAX REFUNDS and RELEASES (See Agenda Item #20.B.):**TAX REFUNDS (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):
June 21, 2004**

The Tax Administrator's Office recommends that the values listed below be refunded to the following citizens:

Type	First Name	Amount Released	Property	Year	Account #	Bill #	Total
Refunds	Walker Roedell M/H		Refund user fee on mobile home that is vacant. Approved by Solid Waste. Make check payable to Ezzelle Walker.	2003	01-9978	6701	\$177.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00				
	P.O. Box 979 Whiteville						
	NC 28472						
Refunds	Smalls, Bertha		Refund user fee on a house and mobile home that are vacant. Refund approved by Solid Waste. Make check payable to Michelle Evans.	2002	15-3436	9060	\$354.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00				
	73 Weirfield St. Brooklyn						
	NY 11221						

**TAX RELEASES (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):
June 21, 2004**

The Tax Administrator's Office recommends that the values listed below be released to the following citizens:

Type of Release	First Name	Amount Released	Property	Year	Account #	Bill #	Total
Property	Duncan, Ray M.		Release the property value, the Brunswick Fire fee (4.20) and the Whiteville Rescue fee (1.20) that is double listed in the name of Linwood Pridgen.	2003	03-0536	37016	\$52.20
		\$46.80	\$6,000.00				
Property	Duncan, Ray M.		Release a portion of the property value, the Brunswick Fire fee (4.20) and the Whiteville Rescue (1.20) that is double listed in the name of Linwood Pridgen.	2002	03-0536	66709	\$11.81
		\$6.41	\$822.00				
Property	Graham, Michael		Release the value of a house, the Buckhead fire fee				

(3.72) and the Columbus Rescue fee (1.24). The house has been taken of the property. Release of user fee approved by Solid Waste.

Property	Jones, James S.	\$48.36	\$6,200.00	2003	04-0809	42211	\$230.32	Release the value of single wide home and the
								Welches Creek Fire fee that was traded for a double wide. Release of user fee approved by Solid Waste.
Property	Jones, James S.	\$20.63	\$2,645.00	2003	14-0792	47762	\$200.28	Release the value of a single wide home and the
								Welches Creek Fire fee that was traded for a double wide. Release of user fee approved by Solid Waste.
Property	Jones, James S.	\$20.28	\$2,600.00	2002	14-0792	77281	\$202.17	Release the value of a single wide home and the
								Welches Creek Fire fee that has been traded for a double wide. Release of user fee approved by Solid Waste.
Property	Parker, David	\$19.81	\$2,540.00	2001	14-0792	99433	\$189.59	Release the value of a mobile home, the Acme Delco
								Fire fee (3.40) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.57). The home was sold prior to 2001. Release of user fee approved by Solid Waste.
Property	Parker, David	\$22.07	\$2,830.00	2003	15-2899	55586	\$205.64	Release the value of a mobile home and the
								Columbus Rescue fee. The home was sold prior to 2001.
Property	Parker, David	\$25.46	\$3,264.00	2001	15-2899	7021	\$28.72	Release the value of a mobile home, the Acme Delco
								Fire fee (3.67) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.61). The house was sold prior to 2001.
Property	Sanchez, Victorio	\$23.85	\$3,038.00	2002	15-2899	84949	\$30.94	Release the value of a mobile home and the
								Columbus Rescue fee that is double listed in the same name in a different township. Release of user fee approved by Solid Waste.
User Fee	Dowless, Eugene	\$290.16	\$37,200.0	2003	03-0271	59358	\$474.60	Release one of three user fees. Old house is vacant.
								Approved by Solid Waste.
User Fee	Fowler, Ralph D	\$0.00	\$0.00	2003	11-0808	36695	\$177.00	Release user fee. Customer is using a commercial
								hauler. Approved by Solid Waste.
User Fee	Fowler, Ralph D.	\$0.00	\$0.00	2003	03-0806	39566	\$177.00	Release user fee. Customer is using a commercial
								hauler. Approved by Solid Waste.
User Fee	McKoy, Timothy	\$0.00	\$0.00	2003	03-0806	39563	\$177.00	Release a portion of the user fee. Customer did not
								have the can for a full year. Approved by Solid
User Fee	Prince Mobile Homes	\$0.00	\$0.00	2003	11-0240	51915	\$132.75	Release seven (7) user fees. Customer billed with
								twelve (12) user fees only has five (5) trash cans. Approved by Solid Waste.
User Fee	Prince Mobile Homes	\$0.00	\$0.00	2003	06-2972	57521	\$1,239.	Release seven (7) user fees. Customer billed with
								twelve (12) user fees only has five (5) trash cans. Approved by Solid Waste.
User Fee	Sellers, Lloyd	\$0.00	\$0.00	2002	06-2972	86845	\$1,239.	Release user fee that is double listed in the same
								name and same account number. Approved by Solid Waste.

User Fee	Smalls, Bertha	\$0.00	\$0.00	2003	11-2384	83218	\$177.00
		Release user fee on house and mobile home that are vacant. Approved by Solid Waste.					
		\$0.00	\$0.00	2003	15-3436	61306	\$354.00

BUDGET ORDINANCE 2004-2005 (See Agenda Item #11):

BUDGET ORDINANCE 2004-2005

COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina.

SECTION I: BUDGET ADOPTION 2004-2005

There is hereby adopted the following Operating Budget for the County of Columbus for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005; the same being adopted by fund and activity within each fund as listed:

**GENERAL FUND
REVENUES:**

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Current Year Ad Valorem Taxes	\$18,506,682
Prior Year Ad Valorem Taxes	\$1,425,000
Discounts	(\$168,000)
Refunds	(\$6,000)
Releases	(\$150,000)
Penalty and Interest	\$390,000
Privilege License	\$2,500
Excise Tax - RD	\$113,000
Marriage License	\$19,500
Interest on Investments	\$155,000
Rent	\$62,360
Rent- Whiteville Depot	\$6,750
Miscellaneous - General Fund	\$215,000
General - Local Fees	\$6,000
Miscellaneous Revenue - Library	\$40,000
Elections	\$12,000
Miscellaneous- Concessions	\$200
Miscellaneous - Cooperative Extension	\$6,000
Mapping- Tax Office	\$8,000
Miscellaneous – Airport Rent: Tie Downs	\$6,500
Airport – Aviation Fuel Sales	150,000
Columbus County Interagency Transportation	\$25,000
Sale of Timber	100,000
Misc. Recreation Fac. Fees	\$600
Reimbursement-Tabor City Recreation Position	\$15,97
Columbus County School Resource Officers	\$294,174
Local 1 Cent Sales Tax	\$2,620,000

½ Cent Sales Tax	\$1,250,000
Second ½ Cent Sales Tax	\$710,000
Third ½ Cent Sales Tax	\$1,325,000
½ Cent Sales Tax- County Schools	\$383,561
Second ½ Cent Sales Tax - County Schools	\$800,000
½ Cent Sales Tax - City Schools	\$146,439
Second ½ Cent Sales Tax - City Schools	\$290,115
CSC Fines & Forfeitures	\$200,000
ABC Profit Distributions	\$30,000
5 Cent ABC Tax	\$14,000
NC - CCPS State Aid - Emergency	\$0
State Aid - Veteran Services of America	\$,000
State Aid - Soil Conservation	\$45,695
NCENR- Simmons Bay Project	\$19,791
NC CORR- Justice Grant	\$75,103
NC- ADC Civil License Rev.	\$6,200
Food and Lodging - State Grant	\$5,913
General - State Grant	\$32,890
NCDHHS-Bio-terrorism Prep	\$74,181
General - Medicaid	\$4,100
Childhood Lead Poisoning	\$8,280
Wise Woman State Grant	\$11,132
Family Planning - Medicaid	\$81,000
Family Planning Grant	\$67,206
Immunization Action Plan	\$18,560
Immunization- Medicaid	\$30,000
Maternal Health Grant	\$118,658
Child Health State	\$66,864
Child Services Coordinator	\$46,415
Child Services Coordinator - Medicaid	\$95,000
Child Health - Medicaid	\$113,00
Home Health - Medicaid	\$782,000
Home Health - Medicare	\$2,624,728
March of Dimes Grant	\$25,522
Home Health - Local	\$140,000
DMA - Health Check	\$33,873
Health Promotion	\$59,641
Comp Breast Screening - State	\$32,000
Health Promotion - Medicaid	\$20,500
Children's Spec Health -Medicaid	\$1,152
Children's Spec Health - State	\$4,141
Maternal Health Medicaid	\$161,004
WIC - State	\$323,058
Dental - Medicaid Reimbursement	\$273,000
Comm. Disease - State	\$46,233
Comm. Disease - Medicaid	\$5,500

Tuberculosis - State	\$1,529
Environmental Health	\$5,500
10.561 Food Stamp Administration	\$359,353
93.558 Work First Block Grant	\$771,760
93.563 IV-D	\$399,811
93.568 Energy Administration	\$58,421
93.568 Crisis Intervention	\$28,116
93.596 Child Care Dev-Adm	\$87,559
93.645 Permanency Planning	\$20,614
93.658 IV-E Administration	\$198,900
93.667 Social Services Block Grant	\$247,521
93.674 Independent Living	\$37,450
93.767 N.C. Health choice	\$98,486
93.778 Medicaid Ad Medicaid Administration	\$999,521
CP&L Energy	\$7,534
NON I'VE Adoption/Foster Children	\$180,094
NCDOT- Work First/ Emp. Transportation	\$12,167
NCDOT - Interagency Transportation	\$165,900
State Aid to DSS Administration	\$71,000
Food Stamp Fraud Recovery	\$28,615
State Aid- Foster Care I'VE	\$243,450
State Aid- Foster Care - State	\$25,861
Day Care	\$2,824,221
Incentive &IVD	\$220,542
AFDC/TANF Incentives	\$18,721
TANF Transfer to SSBG	\$9,460
State in Home	\$16,662
TANF CPS Adopt/ Foster Children	\$73,510
State Adult Home Spec	\$12,298
Adult Home Case Management	\$74,542
IV-D Blood Test	\$2,700
IV-D Filing Expenses	\$6,600
Adult Day Care	\$9,375
Food Stamp Employment and T	\$2,700
TANF Domestic Violence	\$8,740
NC Partnership for Children	\$18,000
Emergency Food Administration	\$5,000
State Aid - Library	\$128,000
NC DOT Rural Operating	\$165,900
CCIT Gasoline Reimbursement Trans.	\$48,000
Airport FAA- 36237.53.1.1	\$150,000
Concealed Weapon Fees	\$5,500
Arrest Fees	\$60,000
Facilities Fees	\$120,000
Children's Spec Health Serv - FE	\$1,000
Dental - Donations/Ins. Payment	\$44,500

Environmental Health Fees	\$57,000
Family Planning Fees	\$25,000
Health Promotion Fees	\$87,000
Child Health Fees	\$8,300
Comm. Disease - Local	\$1,700
Maternal Health - Local	\$900
Building Permits	\$160,000
Fire Inspection Fees	\$10,000
Register of Deeds' Fees	\$280,000
Sheriff's Department Commission	\$1,500
Jail Fees - Clerk of Court	\$180,000
No Till Drill Rental Fees	\$4,000
Animal Control Fines/Fees	\$11,000
Cable Franchise Fees	\$55,000
Occupancy Tax	\$80,500
Tax - Rental Vehicles	\$12,000
Hold Harmless Reimbursement	\$400,000
Gasoline Tax Refund	\$15,000
5% Commission on Tax Coll-Riegelwood	\$2,300
1 ½ Coll Fee - Towns Veh	\$5,000
Transfer from Aging	\$406,250
Transfer from Water Dist. I	\$0
Transfer from Water Dist. II	\$0
Transfer from Water Dist. III	\$0
Transfer from Solid Waste	\$1,100,000
Fund Balance Appropriated	\$1,300,000

TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE: \$46,740,282

EXPENDITURES:

DEPARTMENT	EXPENDITURE
Governing Body	\$267,596
County Administration	\$367,363
Personnel	\$54,453
Purchasing	\$70,598
County Garage	\$118,390
Elections	\$313,486
Finance	\$333,327
Tax Administration	\$807,677
Management Information Systems (MIS)	\$262,007
Professional Services	\$152,496
Register of Deeds	\$440,207
Economic Development	\$396,167
Travel and Tourism	\$82,999
Courthouse and Grounds	\$195,666
Judges Chambers	\$4,670

Social Services Building	\$403,408
Admin Building/Grounds	\$51,081
Senior Center Building	\$25,155
Miller Building	\$344,434
Public Buildings - All Others	\$1,404,481
Farm Services Building	\$171,606
Sheriffs Department	\$3,167,573
District Court	\$18,025
CJPP Grant	\$75,103
Law Enforcement Center	\$1,888,523
Fire Marshal	\$92,829
Emergency Services	\$1,056,436
Emergency Medical Services	\$42,100
Planning/Inspections	\$268,141
Wise Woman	\$11,132
March of Dimes	\$25,832
Environmental Health	\$331,373
Childhood Lead Poisoning	\$8,280
Bio-terrorism - Health	\$74,181
DMA Health Check	\$33,187
Immunization Action 93.268	\$49,965
Comp Breast Screening	\$32,000
Comm. Disease - AIDS & T B	\$57,778
Healthy Carolinians	\$19,890
Health Promotion	\$167,141
Child Services Coordination	\$138,194
Child Health Care	\$187,202
Cooperative Health	\$732,201
Family Planning	\$178,806
Maternal Health	\$314,290
Home Health	\$3,514,206
Mobile Dental Van Grant	\$317,501
Children's Spec Health Service	\$6,293
WIC	\$323,058
Animal Control	\$156,292
Coroner & Medical Examiner	\$47,155
Cooperative Extension	\$433,074
Soil Conservation	\$159,689
Veterans Services Officer	\$94,286
Social Services Administration	\$5,660,475
Public Assistance Program	\$7,762,698
Interagency Transp Grant #9918	\$255,687
Recreation	\$404,204
Library	\$1,132,268
Airport	\$363,699
Non-Departmental	\$520,641
Education	\$8,862,155
Special Appropriations	\$775,054

Miscellaneous	\$229,140
Interfund Transfers	\$475,138

TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES: \$46,740,282

B. LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT FUND

REVENUE:

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
LLEBG-US Department of Justice	\$0
Transfer from Special Alcohol	\$0
TOTAL LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT FUND:	\$0

EXPENDITURES:

Local Law Enforcement Block Grant \$0

C. AGING FUND

REVENUES:

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Miscellaneous	\$440,356
Misc. Income – USDA/CONG	\$25,530
Misc. Income – USDA/ HDM	\$7,520
Donations	\$0
Gifts/Donations MHRNF	\$200
Gifts/Donations - Nutrition	\$13,900
Gifts/Donations HDM	\$3,700
Gifts/Donations - Transportation	\$800
Lease Purchase Proceeds	\$0
Federal Grant – CMF	\$114,908
Federal Grant – SCDF	\$6,197
Federal Grant - TCSC	\$6,197
Federal Grant - MHRF	\$19,800
Federal Grant - Nutrition	\$94,509
Federal Grant - HDM	\$58,898
Federal Grant - Transportation	\$32,037
Federal Grant - SCBH	\$6,197
Federal Grant - FBSC	\$6,197
Federal Grant – Level III CHO	\$94,710
Federal Grant – East Columbus	\$6,197
Federal Grant – Bolton SC	\$12,394
Long-Term Screening	\$1,733,132
Personal Care	\$1,568,885
Title III-B	\$135,936
County Appropriations	\$56,800
Fund Balance Appropriated	\$406,250
TOTAL AGING FUND:	\$4,851,250

EXPENDITURES:

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Chadbourn Senior Center	\$48,251
Bolton Senior Center	\$34,870
Personal Care Services	\$1,434,415
Bug Hill Senior Center	\$44,435
Chore Title IIIB; Title XX	\$745,135
Community Alternative Program	\$1,804,276
Information/Case Assistance	\$145,865
Tabor City Senior Center	\$38,580
Whiteville Senior Center	\$69,538
Nutrition	\$212,085
Minor Home Repairs	\$19,800
Transportation	\$56,040
Home Delivered Meals	\$110,315
Fair Bluff Senior Center	\$45,165
East Columbus Senior Center	\$42,480
TOTAL AGING FUND:	\$4,851,250

**D. DEBT SERVICE FUND
REVENUES:**

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Contribution- School Bldg. Capital Funds	\$325,000
Contribution - Hospital	\$983,062
Contribution- Schools ½ cent Sales Tax	\$730,000
Contribution - General Fund	\$378,338
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND:	\$2,416,400

EXPENDITURES:

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Principal on Bonds	\$1,275,000
Interest on Bonds	\$158,338
Principal on Bonds- Hospital	\$511,883
Interest- Hospital	\$471,179
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND:	\$2,416,400

E. INTERNAL SERVICE FUND

REVENUES:

ACCOUNT	Amount
Contribution- General Fund	\$0

EXPENDITURES:

Total Internal Service Fund \$0

F. COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT IV.

REVENUES:

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Water signup fees	\$0

EXPENDITURES:

Water District IV \$0

G. COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER

REVENUES:

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Refunds	\$0
Interest Earned	500
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$0
Water Sales	\$3,840
Water Tap on Fees	\$6,000
Water Deposits	\$0
Penalties	\$500
Reconnect Fees	\$500
Transfer from General Fund	\$0
TOTAL COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT I:	\$30,840

EXPENDITURES:

Columbus County Water and Sewer:
TOTAL \$30,840

H. COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT IV.

REVENUES:

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Refunds	\$0
Interest Earned	\$0
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$0
Water Sales	\$33,300
Water Tap on Fees	\$1,200
Water Deposits	\$0
Penalties	\$400
Reconnect Fees	\$200
Transfer from General Fund	\$0

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
TOTAL COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT I:	\$35,100

EXPENDITURES:

Columbus County Water & Sewer District IV:

TOTAL **\$35,100**

I. COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT I**REVENUES:**

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Refunds	\$0
Interest Earned	\$00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$0
Water Sales	\$340,000
Water Tap on Fees	\$10,000
Water Deposits	\$0
Penalties	\$10,000
Reconnect Fees	\$5,000
Transfer from General Fund	\$0
TOTAL COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT I:	\$365,000

EXPENDITURES:

Columbus County Water District I:

TOTAL **\$365,000**

J. COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT II**REVENUES:**

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Refunds	(\$3,000)
Interest Earned	\$1,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$500
Other Revenue	\$423,897
Water Sales	\$216,000
Water Tap on Fees	\$20,000
Water Deposits	\$0
Penalties	\$12,000
Reconnect Fees	\$5,000
Retained Earnings Appropriated	\$0
Transfer from General Fund	\$0
TOTAL COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT I:	\$675,397

EXPENDITURES:

**Columbus County Water District II
TOTAL**

\$675,397

K. COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT III.

REVENUES:

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Refunds	(\$1,000)
Interest Earned	\$1,000
Other Revenue	\$194,212
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$0
Water Sales	\$300,000
Water Tap on Fees	\$20,000
Water Deposits	\$0
Penalties	\$6,000
Reconnect Fees	\$4,500
Retained Earnings Appropriated	\$0
Transfer from General Fund	\$0
TOTAL COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT I:	\$524,712

EXPENDITURES:

**Columbus County Water District III:
TOTAL**

\$524,712

L. SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND

REVENUES:

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Refunds	(\$12,000)
Releases	(\$140,000)
Interest	\$2,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$100
Miscellaneous - Recyclable Material	\$0
State Aid - Tire Disposal F	\$62,000
State Aid - White Goods	\$22,000
Landfill User Fees	\$3,442,300
Solid Waste Permit Fees	\$22,000
Tipping Fees	\$724,645
Transfer - General Fund	\$0
Fund Balance Appropriated	\$0
TOTAL SOLID WASTE:	\$4,123,045

EXPENDITURES:

Solid Waste Enterprise:

TOTAL

\$4,123,045

M. H.U.D. FUND**REVENUES:**

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Annual Contr Earned	\$1,694,982
TOTAL H.U.D. FUND:	\$1,694,982

EXPENDITURES:

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Public Housing Admin Expense	\$1,694,982
TOTAL H.U.D. FUND:	\$1,694,982

N. SPECIAL ALCOHOL/DRUG FUND**REVENUES:**

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Interest	\$0
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$981
Controlled Substance Tax	\$47,754
U.S. Marshal - DEA	\$58,798
Fund Balance Appropriated	\$0
TOTAL SPECIAL ALCOHOL/DRUG FUND:	\$107,533

O. REVALUATION FUND**REVENUES:**

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Contribution - General Fund	\$40,000
Fund Balance	\$48,250
TOTAL REVALUATION FUND:	\$88,250

EXPENDITURES:

Revaluation Fund	\$88,250
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P. EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM**REVENUES:**

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Surcharge - E911	\$504,000
Wireless E911	\$116,000
Interest	\$0

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Fund Balance Appropriated	\$75,170
TOTAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM:	\$695,170

EXPENDITURES:

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM **\$695,170**

Q. COUNTY-WIDE RESCUE TAX

REVENUES:

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
County Rescue Tax (\$.02)	\$330,000
Refunds	\$0
Releases	\$0

EXPENDITURES:

COUNTY-WIDE RESCUE TAX **\$330,000**

R. FIRE and RESCUE TAX

REVENUES/EXPENDITURES:

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	TOTAL REVENUES	TOTAL EXPENDITURES (REMITTANCE TO DISTRICT)
Evergreen Special District Tax	\$20,000		
Refunds	\$50-		
Releases	\$250-		
TOTAL EVERGREEN FIRE DISTRICT:		\$20,300	\$20,300
St. James Special District Tax	\$12,400		
Refunds	\$10-		
Releases	\$190-		
State Shared Revenue	\$0		
TOTAL ST. JAMES VOLUNTEER:		\$12,200	\$12,200
North Whiteville Special District Tax	\$56,600		
Refunds	\$50-		

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	TOTAL REVENUES	TOTAL EXPENDITURES (REMITTANCE TO DISTRICT)
Releases	\$550-		
TOTAL NORTH WHITEVILLE:		\$56,000	\$56,000
Nakina Special Tax District	\$30,300		
Refunds	\$50-		
Releases	\$250-		
TOTAL NAKINA FIRE DISTRICT		\$30,000	\$30,000
Old Dock-Cypress Creek Special District Tax	\$26,200		
Refunds	\$50-		
Releases	\$150-		
State Shared Revenue	\$0		
TOTAL OLD DOCK-CYPRESS CREEK:		\$26,000	\$26,000
Hallsboro Fire Special District Tax	\$40,300		
Refunds	\$50-		
Releases	\$250-		
State Shared Revenue	\$0		
TOTAL HALLSBORO FIRE:		\$40,000	\$40,000
Roseland Fire Special District Tax	\$35,300		

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	TOTAL REVENUES	TOTAL EXPENDITURES (REMITTANCE TO DISTRICT)
Refunds	\$50-		
Releases	\$250-		
State Shared Revenue	\$0		
TOTAL ROSELAND FIRE:		\$35,000	\$35,000
Yam City Fire Special District Tax	\$71,000		
Refunds	\$50-		
Releases	\$950-		
State Shared Revenue	\$0		
TOTAL YAM CITY FIRE:		\$70,000	\$70,000
Acme-Delco Fire Special District Tax	\$176,000		
	0		
Refunds	\$100-		
Releases	\$900-		
State Shared Revenue	\$0		
TOTAL ACME-DELCO FIRE:		\$175,000	\$175,000
Klondyke Fire Special District Tax	\$87,500		
Refunds	\$50-		
Releases	\$450-		

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	TOTAL REVENUES	TOTAL EXPENDITURES (REMITTANCE TO DISTRICT)
State Shared Revenue	\$0		
TOTAL KLONDYKE FIRE:		\$87,000	\$87,000
Cole's Service Special District Tax	\$40,500		
Refunds	\$100-		
Releases	\$400-		
State Shared Revenue	\$0		
TOTAL COLES'S SERVICE:		\$40,000	\$40,000
Cerro Gordo Special District Tax	\$55,500		
Refunds	\$50-		
Releases	\$450-		
State Shared Revenue	\$0		
TOTAL CERRO GORDO:		\$55,000	\$55,000
Williams Township Special District Tax	\$55,500		
Refunds	\$50-		
Releases	\$450-		
State Shared Revenue	\$0		
TOTAL WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP:		\$55,000	\$55,000

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	TOTAL REVENUES	TOTAL EXPENDITURES (REMITTANCE TO DISTRICT)
White Marsh-Welches Creek Special District Tax	\$30,300		
Refunds	\$50-		
Releases	\$250-		
State Shared Revenue	\$0		
TOTAL WHITE MARSH- WELCHES CREEK:		\$30,000	\$30,000
Whiteville Rescue Service Special District Tax	\$128,00 0		
Refunds	\$100-		
Releases	\$900-		
State Shared Revenue	\$0		
TOTAL WHITEVILLE RESCUE SERVICE:		\$127,000	\$127,000
Brunswick Fire Special District Tax	\$82,600		
Refunds	\$500-		
Releases	\$550-		
State Shared Revenue	\$0		
TOTAL BRUNSWICK FIRE:		\$82,000	\$82,000
Bolton Fire Special District Tax	\$23,300		
Refunds	\$50-		
Releases	\$250-		

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	TOTAL REVENUES	TOTAL EXPENDITURES (REMITTANCE TO DISTRICT)
State Shared Revenue	\$0		
TOTAL BOLTON FIRE:		\$23,000	\$23,000
Buckhead Fire Special District Tax	\$8,300		
Refunds	\$10-		
Releases	\$90-		
State Shared Revenue	\$0		
TOTAL BUCKHEAD FIRE:		\$8,200	\$8,200

S. CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

All Capital Projects are continued.

T. TOTAL FUNDS

TOTAL REVENUES (ALL FUNDS):	\$ 63,649,361
TOTAL EXPENDITURES (ALL FUNDS):	\$ 63,649,361

SECTION II. TAX RATE LEVY

There is hereby levied for the fiscal year 2004-2005 an ad valorem property tax on all property having a situs in Columbus County as listed for taxes as of January 1, 2004, at a rate of Seventy-eight (\$0.78) Cents per one hundred (\$100.00) dollars of assessed value of such property pursuant to and in accordance with the Machinery Act of Chapter 105 of the North Carolina General Statutes and other applicable laws. The estimated revenues from the ad valorem property tax are based on an established collection during the 2003-2004 fiscal year of Ninety-five (95%) percent of the levy and the estimated taxable base of two billion, four hundred thirteen million, six hundred ninety eight thousand, four hundred fifty five dollars and 00/100 (\$2,497,527,800.00).

Special district tax rates for purpose of providing Fire and Rescue Protection are also levied as follows:

DISTRICT	FEE
Evergreen Fire	Fee

DISTRICT	FEE
Acme-Delco Fire	\$.12
Bolton Fire	\$.06
Brunswick Fire	\$.07
Buckhead Fire	\$.06
Cerro Gordo Fire	\$.10
Cole Fire	\$.10
Hallsboro Fire	\$.06
Klondyke Fire	\$.07
Nakina Fire	\$.08
North Whiteville Fire	Fee
Old Dock – Cypress Creek Fire	\$.08
Roseland Fire	\$.06
St. James Fire	\$.06
Tabor City Fire	\$.10
White Marsh / Welches Creek Fire	\$.08
Whiteville Rescue	\$.02
Williams Township Fire	\$.06
Columbus County Rescue Tax	\$.02

Special district tax rates for Water District II at \$0.15 per \$100 property valuation and Water District III at \$.11 per \$100.00 property valuation for property located within each water district.

SECTION III. BUILDING INSPECTION FEES

Building Inspection fees are amended as reflected by Board action.

FEE SCHEDULE Building Permits

Residential

Stick Built (4 trips) based on \$50.00 per square foot heated floor space.

Heated Floor Space

- Base Fee- \$150
- \$4.00 per \$1,000 over \$50,000

Unheated Floor Space:

- Closed in Garage \$20.00/sq.ft.
- Porches \$20.00/sq.ft.
- Decks \$20.00/sq.ft.
- Storage Buildings (above 200 sq.ft.) \$20.00/sq.ft.

Mobile/Modular Homes (marriage wall inspection required) (3 trips)

- SW Mobile home Set-up & footings \$100
- DW Mobile Home Set-up & footings \$150
- Modular Home \$150
- Garages \$20/Sq.ft.

Miscellaneous (2 trips)

- Buildings moved onto lots (Residential) \$100
- Plus Plumbing and HVAC \$25 each
- Any addition to a building will be an added fee per square foot.

Commercial**Heated Floor Space (4 trips)**

- Base Fee \$150
- \$4 per \$1,000 over \$50,000

Unheated Floor Space

- Based on \$20/Sq.Ft. for all unheated and unfinished area

Plumbing**Residential (2 trips)**

- 0-12 fixtures \$10/ fixture
- 13 & up \$120 + \$2 per fixture
- Minimum fee for plumbing \$40
- Mobile Home Connections \$50
- Relocated House \$50
- Relocated House w/additional fixtures \$75

Commercial (2 trips)

- 0-12 fixtures \$10/ fixture
- 13 & up \$120 + \$5 per fixture

Electrical**Residential (New Construction) (2 trips)**

- 0-200 amps \$70
- 201-400 amps \$110
- >400 amps \$130+ \$.30 per amp

Commercial (New Construction) (2 trips)

- 0-200 amps \$90
- 201-400 amps \$130
- >400 amps \$70 + \$.50 per amp

Service Upgrade (New Service) (1 trip)

- 0-200 amps \$50
- 201-400 amps \$70
- 400 & up \$70 + \$.30 per amp over 400

Wiring for Additions and Renovations with No Upgrades (1trip)

- 20 outlets \$30
- > 20 outlets \$40

Electrical Verification of Existing Service

- Residential \$30
- Commercial \$30
- Temporary Pole \$30

Mechanical**Heat and Air (2 trips)**

- Up to 1,000 sq. ft. \$60
- > 1,000 sq. ft. \$60 + \$30 per 500 sq. ft.
- Unit Change Out No fee

Miscellaneous Permits

- Insulation \$30
- Swimming Pool \$100
- Reinspection Fee \$30

- Signs & Billboards (up to \$25,000) \$75
- >\$25,000 \$150
- Towers (up to \$50,000) \$150
- >\$50,000 \$150 + \$5 per \$1,000 in valuation
- All Additional Inspections \$30

SECTION IV. SCHEDULE BUSINESS LICENSES

The business license fees are hereby continued for Fiscal Year 2004-2005.

SECTION V. ENTERPRISE FUNDS

A. SOLID WASTE FEES

The Solid Waste Tipping Fees are as follows for Fiscal Year 2004-2005. The Collection and Landfill Fees are hereby continued for Fiscal Year 2004-2005.

Commercial and Residential Tipping Fee	\$ 45.00/Ton
LCID and C&D Materials Tipping Fee	\$ 35.00/Ton
Collection and Landfill Fee for County Residents	\$177.00/Annually
Landfill Fee for Municipal Residents	\$ 87.00/Annually

B. WATER DISTRICT RATES

The following Water District Fees will take effect as of July 1, 2004.

- DISTRICT I:** \$21 Flat rate (1st 2,000 gals.)
\$ 3/ 1,000 gals. after the 1st 2,000 gals.
- DISTRICT II:** \$22.50 flat rate (1st 2,000 gals.)
\$ 4/ 1,000 gals.
- DISTRICT III:** \$22.50 flat rate (1st 2,000 gals.)
\$ 4/ 1,000 gals.
- DISTRICT IV.** \$17 flat rate (1st 2,000 gals)
\$ 4/1000 gals. after the 1st 2,000 gals.

SECTION VI. SALARIES

The following provision shall govern salary and wage compensation for Fiscal Year 2004-2005.

PAY PLAN: There is hereby continued a pay plan applicable to all County employees. The pay plan shall have a range and a mid point.

Full-time and part-time salaried employees, employed on or before July 1, 2004, will receive salary compensation equal to:

- Less than six months employment - no increase
- Less than two years – 2.1% cola
- More than two years, but less than 10 – ½ way to midpoint, if at midpoint 2.1%
- Ten years but less than 20 years – 3% if over mid point
- Twenty or more years – 5% if over mid point

SECTION VII. BUDGET CONTROLS

The Board of Commissioners, in approving the proposed Budget, has utilized to the fullest extent possible its revenue sources and the County Administrator is herein directed to initiate steps to ensure that the Budget fixed herein is lived within.

SECTION VIII. APPROPRIATIONS

The amount of the General Fund proposed for the fiscal year 2004-2005 is hereby appropriated to the County Administrator for the operations of the Columbus County Government and its departments and agencies for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2005. In administering the program authorized under this Ordinance, the County Administrator is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations within a fund between objects of expenditures within a department without limitations and without a report being requested, and between departments within a fund not to exceed two thousand and 00/100 (\$2,000.00) dollars. Appropriations for land and new buildings included in this Ordinance, can be expended only after release by the Board of Commissioners. The Chairman of the Board and the Administrator are hereby authorized to execute the necessary agreements within funds included in the Budget Ordinance for the following purposes:

- (1) Grant agreement to Public and Non-Public Agencies;
- (2) Leases of normal and routine business equipment;
- (3) Consultant, Professional, or Maintenance Service Agreements;
- (4) Purchase of apparatus, supplies and materials where formal bids are not required by law;
- (5) Agreements for acceptance of State and Federal Grant Funds; **and**
- (6) Construction or repair work where formal bids are not required by laws.

SECTION IX. RESTRICTED REVENUES

The Finance Officer is hereby directed to fund appropriations, which have been specified revenue prior to the funding with General Fund monies. This is to include, but not limited to Fines and Forfeiture, ABC profits and Forestry Revenues.

SECTION X. PUBLIC PURPOSE LIMITATION

In accordance with Article V of the North Carolina Constitution which states in part, that "Power and Taxation shall be exercised for public purposes" and/or division of the State Supreme Court, the County Administrator shall require the following before releasing public funds to other governmental agencies or private groups:

- (1) The activity in question is for a public purpose;
- (2) The activity in question is one which the County is authorized to undertake or for which the County has specific statutory authorization for giving financial aid to the agencies in question; **and**
- (3) Through appropriate means, the County retains some degree of control over the expenditures of its funds.

SECTION XI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become effective July 1, 2004.

.....**Adopted** this the day of June 2004.

Motion by Vice Chairman Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and passed with a five (1) to one (1) vote.

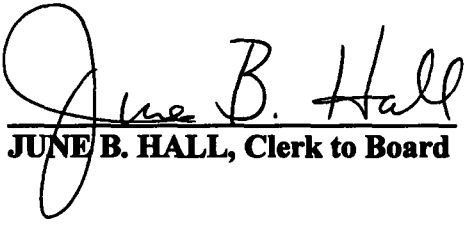
AYES: Chairman Memory, Vice Chairman Dutton, Commissioners Jacobs, Norris and Godwin
NAYS: Commissioner McKenzie.

/s/ **BILL MEMORY, Chairman**
COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD
COMMISSIONERS

ATTESTED BY:
/s/ **June B. Hall, Clerk to Board**

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:21 P.M., Commissioner Wilson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman Dutton. The motion so carried.


JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

APPROVED:


BILL MEMORY, Chairman