

## COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, August 16, 2004

7:00 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 the purpose of conducting a Public Hearing and their regular scheduled meeting 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** (arrived: 8:01 P.M.)  
James E. Hill, Jr., **County Attorney**  
Darren L. Currie, **Assistant County Administrator**  
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**  
Roxanne Coleman, **Finance Officer**

**7:00 P.M.: Public Hearing - Fire Districts' Boundaries and Six (6) Mile Extension:** to receive public comments and input regarding the following two (2) items:

1. The update of all maps for the fire districts' boundaries located within Columbus County under the new GIS system; **and**
2. Extension of certain fire districts from five (5) miles to a six (6) mile response area for the following fourteen (14) departments: A.D.R., Bolton, Brunswick, Evergreen, Hallsboro, Klondyke/Chabourn, Lake Waccamaw, Nakina, North Whiteville, Old Dock/Cypress Creek, Roseland, St. James, White Marsh/Welches Creek and Williams Township.

### APPOINTEES ABSENT:

Billy Joe Farmer, **County Administrator**  
Roxanne Coleman, **Finance Officer**

### PUBLIC HEARING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:00 P.M., Chairman Memory called the Public Hearing to order and stated the purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive public comments and input regarding the update of all maps for the fire districts' boundaries located within Columbus County and the extension of fourteen (14) departments from five (5) miles to a six (6) mile response area. Chairman Memory requested Ronnie Hayes, Emergency Services Director, to explain.

### RONNIE HAYES' PRESENTATION:

Ronnie Hayes, Emergency Services Director, stated the following:

1. These districts have a 9S rating or better and some have 7S and 6S ratings;
2. By extending these districts, the citizens will have lower fire insurance premiums, for example, on a \$100,000 house, the savings on insurance premiums would be fifty to one hundred (\$50 - \$100) dollars per year;
3. These districts are done by actual road miles and not air miles;
4. By agreeing to this extension, the said departments will have to give mutual aid; **and**
5. This process was started before I came on board. We have previously submitted maps to the State but they were not approved.

The following people spoke:

1. **Monroe Enzor:** This is a wonderful idea and should have took place a long time ago.
2. **Edwin Ezzell:** this has been a long process that's been going on for approximately three (3) years.
3. **Jerry Gore:** this is a good idea for the citizens of Columbus County which needed to be done a long time ago.

Commissioner Godwin asked Mr. Hayes if there would still be some areas where the citizens would not be covered if these extensions were approve. Mr. Hayes replied stating yes there were a few areas, but the areas that would not be covered were mostly swamp areas.

**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED:**

At 7:11 P.M., there being no further comments, Commissioner Wilson 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 7:30 P.M., Chairman Memory called the meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner C.E. "Gene" Wilson. Everyone in attendance repeated the Lord's Prayer and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Agenda Item #3: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:**

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the August 2, 2004 Meeting with Columbus County Board of Education Minutes and the August 2, 2004 Regular Session Minutes, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #4: PAY PLAN UPDATE:**

Chris May, Executive Director of Cape Fear Council of Governments, presented the following update to the Board on the revised Columbus County Pay Plan.

1. I have completed the comparison now utilizing the figures from Robeson, Columbus, Bladen and Pender Counties;
2. I will have the completed plan by the last meeting in September, 2004; **and**
3. I will be at the next Department Head Meeting next week to start setting up appointments with the Department Heads for them to critique the employees' job descriptions.

Commissioner Godwin requested Mr. May to explain how this midpoint that he used actually worked. Mr. May replied stating you take the low figure and the high figure and divide by two (2) to get the midpoint.

Commissioner Godwin asked Mr. May if there would ever be an instance where two (2) people in the same department who performed the same duties where one employee would receive a greater increase than the other. Mr. May replied stating yes there may be. The salaries will be based on merritt, job skill and value to Columbus County, and in this instance, it would be the discretion of the Department Head.

Commissioner McKenzie asked Mr. May if the Board would receive this information before the last meeting in September, 2004. Mr. May replied stating the Board would receive a preliminary copy of the revised Columbus County Pay Plan by the middle of September, 2004. Mr. May stated there were three parts to this plan as follows:

1. Policy development;
2. Actual numbers for salaries; **and**
3. Job descriptions which tell what the employee actually does.

**Agenda Item #5: REFERENDUM PROPOSAL by ROBERT ADAMS:**

Robert Adams, private citizen, requested Board approval of the following referendum for a county-wide water system.

**Referendum Proposal**

Be it resolved that the citizens of Columbus County urge our County Commissioners consider and approve for voter approval on a county wide referendum of a water system. This proposal referendum should be worded so as the voters of Columbus County mandate this public water system is kept as a permanently voluntary water sytsem.

Be it resolved that the citizens (s) of Columbus County urge our County Commissioners consider

and approve this referendum with a five (5) cent per hundred dollars on property tax spending cap. This cap never to be exceeded and the county water system be grown under this spending cap; that as water sales allow that said system is completed county wide; that said special five (5) cent property tax be zeroed out of existence.

If it pleases our Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, our citizens (s) urge you to approve this proposal and its intent in our November general election of 2004. We also request that it be published and posted in as many public places for voter information and inspection.

Be it also resolved that our County Commissioners consider excluding all municipalities within our county from said referendum and county water system and its usage and taxing process.

Be it also resolved that municipalities that wish to participate voluntarily should reach an agreement with the county before referendum in November election.

This proposal is made for your intense consideration.

Thank-you

/s/	<b>Robert Adams</b>	/s/	<b>Luke Elkins</b>
/s/	<b>Barry Freedman</b>	/s/	<b>Dinah Elkins</b>

Mr. Adams stated the following:

1. Columbus County is presently spending at least one (\$ .01) cent of property tax money for feasibility studies that are being done for water;
2. Columbus County is presently spending at least one (\$ .01) cent of property tax money, or more, for the mistakes that have been made in these water districts;
3. It stands to reason that you can operate one (1) water district cheaper than six (6);
4. There are other counties surrounding Columbus County that phased their water districts in and did not attempt to build them in a short period of time; **and**
5. Water districts should be built wisely and efficiently.

Commissioner Godwin asked Mr. Adams what were the advantages of his proposal. Mr. Adams replied stating if the water systems would merge and operate as one (1) system, it could be run more efficiently and much cheaper, and the biggest advantage would be the spending cap.

Chairman Memory asked James E. Hill, Jr., Columbus County Attorney, if the existing water systems could be merged legally. Mr. Hill replied stating he would need to refer to N.C.G.S. §162A relative to formation and do some research.

Commissioner Wilson stated he understood that U.S. D.A. would not allow the water systems to merge due to outstanding indebtedness.

Chairman Memory asked James E. Hill, Jr., Columbus County Attorney, if Columbus County could have a non-binding referendum. Mr. Hill replied stating no.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to table this item pending further discussion and discovery, seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #6: EMERGENCY SERVICES - APPROVAL of UPDATED FIRE DISTRICT MAPS:**

Ronnie Hayes, Emergency Services Director, requested Board approval of the following. A Public Hearing was conducted on this matter at 7:00 P.M. previous to this meeting.

- A. Updated fire district maps for all fire districts located within Columbus County; **and**
- B. The extension of fourteen (14) fire districts from five (5) miles to a six (6) mile response areas as follows: A.D.R., Bolton, Brunswick, Evergreen, Hallsboro, Klondyke/Chadbourn; Lake Waccamaw, Nakina, North Whiteville, Old Dock/Cypress Creek, Roseland, St. James, White Marsh/Welches Creek and Williams Township.

Vice Chairman Dutton made a motion to approve the updated fire district maps for all fire districts located within Columbus County and the extension of fourteen (14) fire districts from five (5) miles to a six (6) mile response area, as listed above, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #7: PROCLAMATION - LITTER SWEEP FALL 2004 by the COMMISSIONERS of the COUNTY of COLUMBUS:**

Chuck Stanley, Solid Waste Director, requested Board approval of the following Proclamation.

**LITTER SWEEP FALL 2004  
by the COUNTY OF COLUMBUS  
A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Columbus annually organizes a spring countywide roadside cleanup to ensure clean and beautiful roads in Columbus County; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the fall 2004 "**LITTER SWEEP**" roadside cleanup will take place **September 18 - October 3, 2004** and we encourage local businesses and communities, civic and professional groups, churches, schools, families and individual citizens to participate in the Columbus County cleanup by sponsoring and organizing local roadside cleanups; **and**

**WHEREAS**, Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, Columbus County employees, Department of Correction inmates and community service workers, community leaders, local government agencies, community and civic organizations, businesses, churches, schools and environmentally concerned citizens annually conduct community cleanups during "**LITTER SWEEP**" and may receive certificates of appreciation for their participation; **and**

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

**WHEREAS**, the cleanup will increase awareness of the need for cleaner roadsides, emphasize the importance of not littering and encourage recycling of solid wastes; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the 2004 Fall cleanup will celebrate the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North Carolina Adopt-A-Highway Program and its 6,000 volunteer groups that donate their labor and time year round to keep our roadsides clean; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the "**LITTER SWEEP**" cleanup will be a part of educating the children of this Great County regarding the importance of a clean environment to the quality of life in Columbus County.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim **September 18 - October 3, 2004**, as "**LITTER SWEEP**" time in Columbus County, and encourage citizens to take an active role in making their communities cleaner.

**ADOPTED** this the 16th day of August, 2004.

**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 the Litter Sweep Fall 2004 by the Commissioners of the County of Columbus, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #8: CDBG GRANT # 03-C-1089 CONCENTRATED HOUSING NEEDS:**

Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution for the purpose of updating the signature card for this grant.

**DESIGNATION OF APPLICANT'S AGENT  
RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Columbus County has received a Concentrated Needs Housing Grant (No. 03-C-1089) from the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance; **and**

**WHEREAS**, Columbus County wishes to authorize certain individuals to sign the Requisition for Funds' forms and act as the County's Agent; **and**

**WHEREAS**, Columbus County is required to adopt this Resolution in accordance with the rules and

regulations governing the Concentrated Needs Grant.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners that the following people be authorized to sign the **Requisition for Funds'** forms and act as the **County's Agent**:

Bill Memory, Commissioner  
David L. Dutton, Jr., Commissioner  
Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator  
Roxanne Coleman, Finance Director

**ADOPTED** this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2004.

**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 the Designation of Applicant's Agent Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #9: CDBG GRANT # 03-C-1089 CONCENTRATED HOUSING NEEDS:**

Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator, is requesting Board approval of three (3) Agreements for Housing Demolition for Ronnie Simmons for the following locations and costs:

- |    |  |                 |
|----|--|-----------------|
| A. | 56 Henry Jones Sr. Drive, Whiteville, NC | \$2,225.00;     |
| B. | 44 Henry Jones Sr. Drive, Whiteville, NC | \$2,145.00; and |
| C. | 205 Pine Circle Drive, Tabor City, NC    | \$2,395.00.     |

A copy of these Agreements for Housing Demolition will be kept on file in the Office of Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator, for review.

Vice Chairman Dutton made a motion to approve the three (3) Agreements for Housing Demolition for Ronnie Simmons, at the state price above, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #10: CONTRACT - WEB SERVICES AGREEMENT APPROVAL:**

Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator, is requesting Board approval of a Web Services Agreement between Sage Island, Incorporated and Columbus County for a website design at the cost of eight thousand five hundred and 00/10 (\$8,500.00) dollars. The original vendor could not complete the project and another vendor has been secured. Columbus County has received a grant form RIAA (Rural Center) for a complete website design. A copy of the Web Services Agreement will be kept on file in the Office of Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator, for review.

Vice Chairman Dutton made a motion to approve the Web Services Agreement between Sage Island, Incorporated, and Columbus County for a website design, subject to James E. Hill, Jr.'s, Columbus County Attorney, approval, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #11: MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING for HOST of WEBSITE:**

Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator, is requesting Board approval of a generic Memorandum of Understanding for Host of Website to be used for the towns and cities within Columbus County, to allow Columbus County to serve as the host of their website. A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding for Host of Website will be kept on file in the Office of Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator, for review.

Vice Chairman Dutton made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Host of Website, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #12: TOWN OF BOARDMAN - TRANSFER of WATER LINES:**

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, requested Board approval to transfer the water lines in the Town of Boardman back to the Town, at a later date, as requested by Larry Williamson,

Mayor of Boardman.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the transfer of the water lines in the Town of Boardman back to the Town, at a later date, as requested by Larry Williamson, Mayor of Boardman, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #13: SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION:**

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, requested Board approval to declare certain standing timber, commonly known as the Prevatte Tract, located north of U.S. 74 / U.S. 76 (Andrew Jackson Highway, east of U.S. 701 Highway, and west of U.S. 701 Business, James B. White Highway) as surplus property.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the declaration of certain standing timber, commonly known as the Prevatte Tract, located north of U.S. 74 / U.S. 76 (Andrew Jackson Highway, east of U.S. 701 Highway, and west of U.S. 701 Business, James B. White Highway) as surplus property, seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #14: RESOLUTION - DECLARATION of SURPLUS PROPERTY RESOLUTION:**

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution for the sale of certain standing timber, by sealed bids, which has been declared as surplus property.

**DECLARATION of SURPLUS PROPERTY  
RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Columbus County is desirous of selling certain surplus property, to wit: standing timber located on the property north of U.S. 74 / U.S. 76 (Andrew Jackson Highway, east of U.S. 701 Highway, and west of U.S. 701 Business, James B. White Highway), commonly known as the Prevatte Tract; **and**

**WHEREAS**, this property is now declared surplus property; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the value of this timber is depreciating tremendously through the aging process and bug infestation; **and**

**WHEREAS**, N.C.G.S. §160A-268 allows the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, to adopt a resolution authorizing the appropriate official to dispose of the timber by sealed bids; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, has elected to dispose of the said timber by sealed bids the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2004, at 10:00 A.M., at the office of Carolina Forest Resources, 2689 Sam Potts Highway, Hallsboro, North Carolina, upon the sale being confirmed by the entire Board of County Commissioners. Michael Rhodes, R.F., Carolina Forest Resources, is the appropriate and official person to conduct the sale of the said standing timber.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners that the said Michael Rhodes, R.F., Carolina Forest Resources, is selected as the appropriate and official person who will direct the disposal of certain standing timber commonly known as the Prevatte Tract located north of U.S. 74 / U.S. 76 (Andrew Jackson Highway, east of U.S. 701 Highway, and west of U.S. 701 Business, James B. White Highway) in Whiteville, Columbus County, North Carolina, to the highest bidder for cash, certified check or company check, on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2004, at 10:00 A.M., at the office of Carolina Forest Resources located at 2689 Sam Potts Highway, Hallsboro, North Carolina (approximately 2.0 miles west of the intersection of S.R. 1001 and N.C. 214. The sale will be by sealed bid only and the said bids will be opened and immediately read and made public at 10:00 A.M. on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2004. At any time prior to bid opening, you may request a showing of the timber and any boundary lines. Written instructions for submitting the bid shall be made available at the said Carolina Forest Resources at no costs. The sale consists of a CLEAR CUT, excepting any and all marked buffers and Streamside Management Zones.

All bids are subject to deposits as set forth by the North Carolina General Status §143-29,

as amended, and the instructions for bidders therein contained. No proposal shall be considered acceptable by the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, unless at the time of the filing of the proposal, the same shall be accompanied by a deposit of cash, a cashier's check or a certified check on some bank or trust company insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in an amount equal to not less than five (5%) percent of the bid. In lieu of making the cash as above provided, such bidder may file a bid bond executed by a corporate surety licensed under the laws of North Carolina to execute such bonds, conditioned that the surety will upon demand forthwith make a payment to the obligee upon said bond if the bidder fails to execute the contract in accordance with the bid bond.

That all bids are subject to confirmation by the entire Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County and any and all bids may be rejected for any or no reason by the entire Board.

Any questions concerning the said sale should be directed to Michael Rhodes, R.F., Carolina Forest Resources, 2689 Sam Potts Highway, Hallsboro, North Carolina 28442, Telephone: (910) 646-3999.

The said surplus timber may be viewed and examined on site by calling Michael Rhodes at telephone: (910) 840-9257.

**ADOPTED** this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2004.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

/s/ **BILL MEMORY, Chairman**

**ATTESTED BY:**

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

/s/ **JAMES E. HILL, JR.**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**102 Courthouse Square**

**Whiteville, NC 28472**

**Telephone: (910) 642-8136**

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to approve the Declaration of Surplus Property Resolution, for the sale of certain standing timber, by sealed bids, which has been declared as surplus property, commonly known as the Prevatte Tract, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #15: ADMINISTRATION - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:**

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, presented the following update to the Board on the Administration Departmental activities.

1. We have been working on increasing the efficiency in the operation of the County;
2. Concentrating on getting the Worker's Compensation claims down. Last year three hundred thirty thousand and 00/100 (\$330,000.00) dollars were paid out for Worker's compensation claims, and so forth, this year, only fifty-six thousand and 00/100 (\$56,000.00) dollars have been paid out. This is based on calendar year and we were forced to go with being self insured;
3. We are working on team effort with a team concept and have been holding Team Management Meetings on a regular basis; **and**
4. We have been working on developing a Planning Department with a Planner.

Commissioner Jacobs asked Mr. Farmer if we were in the process of hiring a Planner. Mr. Farmer replied stating yes.

**Agenda Item #16: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

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

**A. Budget Amendment:**

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
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<b>Expenditure</b>	10-700-9707	Transportation Fares - RGP	\$2,088
<b>Revenue</b>	10-336-0050	Transportation Fares - RGP Revenue	\$2,088

**B. Tax Releases:**

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

**C. Amendment to August 16, 2004 Tax Releases:**

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Carlton Long for the year 2001. The home was repossessed in 1998. Release the Whiteville Rescue fee of \$5.98. This should be the Williams Fire District.

**Agenda Item #17: COMMENTS:**

**A. Public:**

Chairman Memory stated that two (2) people had signed up to speak. It was made known by the audience that the first speaker, Ernie Gaskins, had left previous to this time. The second speaker, Benjamin Bill Ivey, Jr., will wait until after Closed Session to speak.

**B. Board of Commissioners:**

- Commissioner Norris:** I would like to recognize Ed Worley, Director of the Columbus County Aging Department, for the accomplishments he has done at the Aging Department during his tenure, and I would like for Mr. Worley to explain to us about the latest accomplishment he has been able to do.

**Ed Worley:** We have received thirty-eight (38) additional CAP slots, and by doing this, we will generate one million three hundred thirty thousand and 00/100 (\$1,330,000.00) dollars in revenue for Columbus County. These CAP slots are for senior citizens who we provide in-home services to for a period of seven to eight (7-8) hours a day. We have a waiting list of two hundred twenty-five (225) people.

- Commissioner Jacobs:** Ed Worley and myself have served on the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Worley resigned from this Board to become the Aging Director. I would like to commend him for the great job he is doing, and has done.
- Commissioner Godwin:** I would like to enter into record the following Resolution of Reconstruction of Williams Township School of which a copy was included in our Board envelope along with our Board Packet, and each County Commissioner was sent a Certified Copy through the U.S. Mail.

**Resolution  
August 9, 2004**

**WHEREAS,** the auditorium and two-story classroom building at Williams Township School were destroyed by fire during the early morning of January 5, 2004; **and**

**WHEREAS,** the Columbus County Board of Education has moved with all possible haste to provide a safe and orderly learning environment for the students who were displaced by the fire and their teachers; **and**

**WHEREAS,** instructional services have been provided at the school site in mobile units which are rented at a monthly cost of approximately \$8,200 per month; **and**

**WHEREAS,** with the destruction of the auditorium there has been no on-campus facility for students and the community to use for programs and events; **and**

**WHEREAS,** the Board of Education did, in May, as provided by law, advise the Board of County Commissioners by letter of its need for an additional \$1.2 million for classrooms and \$4



million for an auditorium in its annual request to the Board of County Commissioners for funding; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the reconstruction of the Williams Township School is the utmost desire of the Williams Township Community, the students, teachers and school administration; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the cost of construction, less the insurance settlement, is \$5,650,366 in compliance with the wishes of the Williams Township Community; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education lacks the financial resources to complete this project and pursuant to State Statute §115C-521(b) respectfully requests the Board of County Commissioners to exercise its duty under said statute and provide funds for the project.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Columbus County Board of Education hereby petitions the Columbus County Board of Commissioners to commit, as soon as possible, to fund the needed balance of \$5,640,366 for the student and community at Williams Township School.

This Resolution is hereby adopted by the Board in Regular Session on August 9, 2004.

/s/	Ricky Bullard, Chairman	/s/	Dale Ward, Vice-Chairman
/s/	Junior Dew, Member	/s/	Bill Johnson, Member
/s/	Raymond Shaw, Member	/s/	Thomas A Nance, Secretary

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to take the Resolution under Advisement until after the meeting with the Local Government Commission on August 26, 2004, seconded Vice Chairman Dutton. The motion so carried.

- 4. **Commissioner McKenzie:** I have a Certificate of Appreciation from the American Red Cross and would like for this certificate to be displayed in the Commissioners Chambers.
- 5. **Commissioner Wilson:** I would like for it to go on record that I am opposed to the fact that Columbus County citizens are having to pay taxes on land where no water lines are running by.

**OTHER:**

**THANK-YOU FROM RONNIE HAYES:**

Ronnie Hayes, Emergency Services Director, stated he would like for it to go on record as saying a big thank you for everyone’s help this weekend during Hurricane Charlie. We had very good cooperation from numerous agencies, businesses, fire and rescue departments, county employees, private citizens and many more. I would like for the people who helped and are here tonight to please stand and be recognized for your willingness to help. The people stood and were given a hand of applause.

Chairman Memory asked Mr. Hayes for a list of the names of everyone involved with helping this past weekend to enable the Board to send a letter of recognition.

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, stated he would like to thank Mr. Hayes for putting together an Emergency Services Plan in which existed good cooperation from everyone involved, good harmony and good communication.

Chairman Memory stated that Ronnie Hayes, Emergency Services Director, has put together a good plan for everyone involved to utilize.

**GEORGE SOUTHERN - ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION:**

George Southern, private citizen, stated he had been discriminated against by the Sheriff’s Department. Mr. Southern stated the following:

- 1. My house was broken into by a man, along with four (4) children, and the man was not arrested or charged due to a payoff from one of the children’s parents;
- 2. This incident happened on Saturday morning;
- 3. A lot of building repair material was taken and feces was left behind in several locations;
- 4. I, personally, caught this man and four (4) children breaking into my house;

5. I, also have an eye witness;
6. On June 14, 2004, this same type of crime was committed by two (2) black men who were immediately arrested and charged;
7. I have tried on several occasions to set up an appointment with Sheriff Batten and have not been able to do so; **and**
8. I strongly believe I am being discriminated against and I want the Board of County Commissioners to do something about this.

Sheriff Chris Batten stated the following:

1. I am aware of this incident and I assigned this to a Sergeant to handle due to the fact I cannot handle every case that comes through the Sheriff's Department; **and**
2. I am not aware of you not being contacted by the Sergeant, and I understood this incident had been handled by the District Attorney's office.

Chairman Memory informed Mr. Southern the Board of County Commissioners could not do anything about this situation due to the fact the Sheriff is an elected official and for him to work with Sheriff Batten in getting this matter resolved.

Sheriff Batten stated he would like for it to go on record that Mr. George Southern would be guaranteed a meeting with District Attorney Rex Gore and Sergeant Nobles regarding this matter.

**RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION:**

At 8:33 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(6), seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

No official action was taken.

**ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:**

At 9:07 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion so carried.

**OTHER:**

**BENJAMIN IVEY**

Chairman Memory informed Benjamin Ivey his request had been discussed in Closed Session and stated it was the desire of the Board for this matter to be tabled until the next meeting.

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to table the Benjamin Ivey request until the next meeting, pending further discussion and discovery, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion so carried.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER INVITATION:**

Commissioner Norris stated he had received a fax copy of an invitation from the Board of Directors and Staff of Columbus County Community Health Center to the Annual Community Open House and Meeting on Tuesday, August 31, at 6:00 P.M., at the Medical Center, 209 Virgil Street, Whiteville. He requested each member of the Board to attend.

**TAX RELEASES (See Agenda Item #16B):**

***TAX RELEASES (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office for the July 19, 2004 Meeting which was cancelled):***

***August 16, 2004***

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

<i>Type of Release</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Amount Released</i>	<i>Property</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Account #</i>	<i>Bill #</i>	<i>Total</i>
Property	Augustus, Gladys		Release the property value, the Acme Delco Fire				fee (47.88( and the Columbus County Rescue fee


									(7.98). The property is double listed in the name of Danny P. Latham. Release of user fee approved by Solid Waste.
Property	Duplessiss, Harold	\$311.22	\$39,900.0	2003	15-0101	27777	\$544.08		Release the value of a double wide, the Brunswick
									Fire fee (29.96) and the Whiteville Rescue fee (8.56). The home was repossessed prior to 2000. Release of user fee approved by Solid Waste
Property	Duplessiss, Harold	\$308.16	\$42,800.0	2000	01-0281	88930	\$471.68		Release the value of a double wide, the Brunswick
									fire fee (29.96) and the Whiteville Rescue fee (8.56). The home was repossessed prior to 2000. Release of user fee approved by Solid Waste
Property	Duplessiss, Harold	\$333.84	\$42,800.0	2001	01-0281	89145	\$537.36		Release the value of a double wide, the Brunswick
									fire fee (29.96) and the Whiteville Rescue fee (8.56). The home was repossessed prior to 2000. Release of user fee approved by Solid Waste.
Property	Duplessiss, Harold	\$333.84	\$42,800.0	2002	01-0281	66776	\$549.36		Release the value of a double wide, the Brunswick
									fire fee (29.96) and the Whiteville Rescue fee (8.56). The home was repossessed prior to 2000. Release of user fee approved by Solid Waste.
Property	Poole, Tyler W.	\$333.84	\$42,800.0	2003	01-0281	37084	\$549.36		Release the value of a boat and the Columbus
									Rescue fee. The boat is listed in Pender County.
Property	Strickland, Charles	\$30.03	\$3,850.00	2003	08-0555	56512	\$33.88		Release the deferred tax, and the Cole Service fire
									fee. The property is still in the land use program.
Property	Strickland, Charles	\$272.88	\$37,900.0	2000	16-1397	83161	\$310.78		Release the deferred tax, the Cole Service fire fee
									(37.90) and the Columbus Rescue fee (7.58). The property is still in the land use program.
Property	Strickland, Charles	\$295.62	\$37,900.0	2003	16-1397	83158	\$341.10		Release the deferred tax, the Cole Service fire fee
									(37.90) and the Columbus Rescue fee (7.58). The property is still in the land use program.
Property	Strickland, Charles	\$295.62	\$37,900.0	2002	16-1397	83159	\$341.10		Release the deferred tax, the Cole Service fire fee
									(37.90) and the Columbus Rescue fee (7.58). The property is still in the land use program.
Property	Stubbs, Marvin	\$295.62	\$37,900.0	2001	16-1397	83160	\$341.10		Release a portion of the property value, a portion
									of the Hallsboro Fire fee (49.80) and a portion of the Whiteville Rescue fee (16.60). The house is only 50% complete. Release of user fee approved by Solid Waste.
Property	Stubbs, Marvin	\$647.40	\$83,000.0	2003	11-0365	64469	\$890.80		Release a portion of the property value, a portion
									of the Hallsboro Fire fee (59.76) and a portion of the Whiteville Rescue fee (19.92). The house is only 40% complete. Release of user fee approved by Solid Waste.
Property	Williams, Timothy	\$776.88	\$99,600.0	2002	11-0365	93750	\$1,033.		Release the value of a double wide and the
									Columbus Rescue fee. The home was repossessed in 2000. Release of user fee approved by Solid Waste Department.
Property	Williams, Timothy	\$312.78	\$40,100.0	2001	10-0291	20609	\$395.80		Release the value of a double wide and the

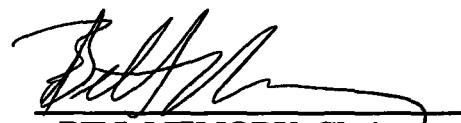


Property	Mills, Ronald Ray								
				Release the value of a boat, the Bolton Fire fee (.76) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.25). The boat is double listed to Rex Hinson.					
		\$9.90	\$1,269.00	2002	04-0104	82613		\$12.00	
Property	Mills, Ronald Ray								
				Release the value of a boat and the Columbus Rescue fee. The boat is double listed to Rex					
		\$10.61	\$1,360.00	2001	04-0104	4684		\$11.97	
Property	Seaman, Denise								
				Release the value of a house and the Nakina Fire fee. The house burned in 1997.					
		\$381.42	\$48,900.0	2003	03-2074	59810		\$420.54	
Property	Seaman, Denise								
				Release the value of a house that burned in 1997.					
		\$339.86	\$48,900.0	1998	03-2074	66286		\$339.86	
Property	Seaman, Denise								
				Release value of house that burned in 1997.					
		\$339.86	\$48,900.0	1999	03-2074	28672		\$339.86	
Property	Seaman, Denise								
				Release the value of a house that burned in 1997.					
		\$352.08	\$48,900.0	2000	03-2074	10226		\$352.08	
Property	Seaman, Denise								
				Release the value of a house and the Columbus Rescue fee. The house burned in 1997.					
		\$381.42	\$48,900.0	2001	03-2074	11058		\$391.20	
Property	Seaman, Denise								
				Release the value of a house and the Columbus Rescue fee. The house burned in 1997.					
		\$381.42	\$48,900.0	2002	03-2074	89114		\$391.20	
User Fee	Long, Lou Ann								
				Release user fee. Customer did not get trash can until 2003. Approved by Solid Waste.					
		\$0.00	\$0.00	2001	06-2356	1709		\$119.56	
User Fee	Long, Lou Ann								
				Release user fee. Customer did not get trash can until 2003. Approved by Solid Waste.					
		\$0.00	\$0.00	2002	06-2356	79632		\$177.00	

**Agenda Item #19: ADJOURNMENT:**

At 9:09 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman Dutton. The motion so carried.

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

**APPROVED:**  
  
**BILL MEMORY, Chairman**