

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Tuesday, January 18, 2005

5:15 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Cooperative Extension Building, 45 Government Complex Road, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, as requested by Senator R.C. Soles, Jr. and Representative Dewey L. Hill for the purpose of a special announcement to be made.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Sammie Jacobs, **Chairman**  
 Kipling Godwin, **Vice Chairman**  
 Amon E. McKenzie  
 Bill Memory  
 Lynwood Norris

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

Billy Joe Farmer, **County Manager**  
 James E. Hill, Jr., **County Attorney**  
 Darren L. Currie, **Assistant County Manager**  
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

James E. Prevatte  
 David L. Dutton, Jr.

**APPOINTEE ABSENT:**

Roxanne Coleman, **Finance Officer**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Senator R.C. Soles, Jr.  
 Representative Dewey L. Hill  
 Gail Edwards  
 Mike Helm

**PRESENTATION of THE ORDER OF THE LONG LEAF PINE CERTIFICATE:**

Senator R.C. Soles, Jr. stated he and Representative Dewey L. Hill requested this meeting for the purpose of making a special presentation to someone who is rarely recognized for all the hard work and time they invest in the work that is performed in the process of running and operating the functions of the County of Columbus as a governmental entity. I, myself, performed the duties of Columbus County Attorney for nine (9) years, and I can truly say that it is not an easy task and it certainly does not pay very well.

We would like to recognize James E. Hill, Jr., Columbus County Attorney, for all his tireless efforts, time, dedication and endless hours of work performed in his role to ensure that the governmental functions of Columbus County are performed in a satisfactory manner. Mr. Hill has performed this task for the past thirty, plus, (30+) years and has done an outstanding job. We would like to present, along with Governor Michael F. Easley, the following certificate to James Earl Hill, Jr..

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

Michael F. Easley  
 Governor

Reposing special confidence in the integrity, learning and zeal of  
**James Earl Hill, Jr.**

I do by these presents confer

**The Order of the Long Leaf Pine**

with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary privileged to enjoy fully all rights granted to members of this exalted order; among which is the special privilege to propose the following North Carolina Toast in select company anywhere in the free world:

**Here's to the land  
 of the long leaf pine,  
 The summer land  
 where the sun doth shine,  
 Where the weak grow strong  
 and the strong grow great,  
 Here's to "down home"  
 the Old North State!**

(Seal)

By the Governor  
/s/ MIKE EASLEY  
Date: January 18, 2005

**5:30 P.M.: ANNUAL MEETING and DINNER at COLUMBUS COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION:**

At 5:30 P.M., Jacqueline D. Roseboro, Director, welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting and Dinner sponsored by the Columbus County Cooperative Extension Service. A very nice and delicious meal, that was prepared by the in-house staff as a cost-saving measure, was served buffet style.

After the meal was finished, Ms. Roseboro recognized the various groups that were in attendance and stated the following:

1. The Extension Service is a gateway to the resources of North Carolina State University, North Carolina A & T State University, the national network of land-grant universities and the United States Department of Agriculture - taking practical knowledge from the university system to the people;
2. Our goal is to provide timely, problem-solving educational programs based on the latest and best research;
3. We are pleased to share our Extension Highlights 2004 which is a brief summary of our educational programs and achievements during 2004;
4. Please accept our thanks for your support throughout the year;
5. We look forward to a great year in 2005; **and**
6. We are here to help you put knowledge to work.

Ms. Roseboro distributed copies of the Extension Highlights 2004 for everyone's review and reading, and stated that this department performed a variety of functions and rendered help in a variety of ways to the public when requested. She requested Ms. Colene Stanley, a private citizen, to share her story of how one (1) of her employees had rendered such help. Ms. Stanley stated the following:

1. I retired from the school system;
2. I have been paying United Healthcare for medical insurance coverage from 1972 until last year in the amount of twenty-nine and 38/100 (\$29.38) dollars per quarter and that equates to a total of thirty, plus (30+) years;
3. I had a hospital bill in the amount of eighteen thousand and 00/100 (\$18,000.00) dollars which United Healthcare refused to pay; **and**
4. Carolyn McLean helped me in getting this matter resolved and United Healthcare finally paid my hospital bill.

Harry Shuman, member of the Farmer's Market Board, stated the following:

1. The Farmer's Market began in 1998;
2. We started out with a ten thousand and 00/100 (\$10,000.00) dollars RAFI Grant;
3. In 1999, we were operating out of Gerald's parking lot downtown;
4. In 2001, we moved to the Government Complex;
5. We have received two (2) grants from the Golden Leaf Foundation; **and**
6. We would still like to get the street running through to Highway 74/76 to help promote sales and attract more people.

Ms. Esther Collier, member of the Extension Advisory Board stated the following:

1. The Cooperative Extension Department serves citizens in a variety of helpful ways that are not always visible to the eye;
2. One (1) of the most beneficial ways is the 4-H Club that is started with very young children which they carry this teaching through to their adult life and proves to be most beneficial to them;
3. My experience with Cooperative Extension has proven to be most rewarding; **and**
4. The cost savings to citizens is unbelievable.

Ms. Roseboro presented a mock check in the amount of two hundred sixty-six thousand four hundred ninety-six and 10/100 (\$266,496.10) dollars which represents the cost savings the

Cooperative Extension Department has saved Columbus County.

**7:00 P.M.: PUBLIC HEARING - Adoption of Outreach Plan and Verifiable Percentage Goal:**

The Honorable Columbus County Board of 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 holding a Public hearing and their regular scheduled meeting on the third Monday.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

Billy Joe Farmer, **County Manager**  
James E. Hill, Jr., **County Attorney**  
Darren L. Currie, **Assistant County Manager**  
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**  
Roxanne Coleman, **Finance officer**

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

James E. Prevatte

**PUBLIC HEARING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 7:00 P.M., Chairman Jacobs called the Public Hearing to order and stated the purpose of this Public Hearing is to allow public comments and open discussion prior to any consideration of the adoption of a resolution establishing goals for participation of minority businesses in public building construction contracts governed by the North Carolina General Statutes. Chairman Jacobs requested Stuart Carroll, Purchasing Director, to give a brief history of the details surrounding this matter. Mr. Carroll stated the following:

1. The North Carolina General Statutes requires a Public Hearing to be conducted;
2. After the Public Hearing has been held, then a set of guidelines must be established;
3. The purpose of the Outreach Plan and Verifiable Percentage Goal is to make sure everything is being done to reach minority groups; **and**
4. This applies to contracts in the amount of three hundred thousand and 00/100 (\$300,000.00) dollars and above.

James E. Hill, Jr., Columbus County Attorney, stated Columbus County has been meeting this requirement on a case-by-case basis, but, at this time, did not have a set of written guidelines in place. Mr. Hill stated the General Contractors, when used, will verify that the subcontractors are using these guidelines.

Commissioner Memory asked Mr. Carroll if we were suggesting that priority be given to minorities. Mr. Carroll replied stating no, and this would only give the minorities every right to participate in the bidding process.

Robert Adams, private citizen, stated he was glad this was being put into place to give all the local contractors a better opportunity.

**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED:**

At 7:09 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. 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 Jacobs called the meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Vice Chairman Godwin. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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

Commissioner Memory made a motion to approve the following Board Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

- A. December 28, 2004 Public Hearing Minutes;
- B. January 03, 2005 Regular Session Minutes;
- C. January 03, 2005 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes **(first meeting)**;
- D. January 03, 2005 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes **(second meeting)**; and
- E. January 03, 2005 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes.

**Agenda Item #4: NORTH CAROLINA FOREST SERVICE:**

Jamie Ward, Columbus County Ranger, requested discussion to the Board relative to the possibility of converting a part-time job to a full-time job. Mr. Ward introduced Shane Hardee, District Forrester, and stated he would be the person to present this information to the Board. Mr. Hardee stated the following:

1. At present, we have an eleven (11) month seasonal position so entitled "Smoke Chaser";
2. This position requires extensive training at a high cost;
3. The Smoke Chaser is a seasonal position and is only part time which leads to a high turnover in personnel;
4. Each time a person in this position leaves employment, the cost and time of training them is lost;
5. The duties the Smoke Chaser can perform is limited;
6. We would like to convert this position to a permanent position entitled "Assistant County Ranger";
7. As is evident from the handout I have given you, this position will require additional County funds but will be cost savings in the long run by avoiding high personnel turnover;
8. If this position is approved, it will allow other personnel the time needed to concentrate on the development and implementation of programs and plans for the betterment of forest lands that they have not had adequate time to do;
9. This position will not start until the next fiscal year; **and**
10. If this position is approved, we will need a letter sent to the local legislators requesting they implement the necessary legislation to add this position to the State system and to Columbus County.

Chairman Jacobs asked Mr. Hardee if this position would be available to anyone in Columbus County. Mr. Hardee replied stating yes it would.

Commissioner Memory asked if this additional money required for this position was in the Budget. Mr. Hardee stated this position would not be effective until the next fiscal year. Mr. Memory asked Mr. Hardee what area of Columbus County would the Assistant County Ranger cover. Mr. Hardee replied stating the area would be Highway 130 South and Highway 701 East to the State line and sometimes portions of the Green Swamp.

Commissioner Memory made a motion to approve the conversion of the Smoke Chaser to Assistant County Ranger, adding this position to Columbus County and to look at the Budget for the necessary funds, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #5: TRANSPORTATION - TRANSFER OF FUNDS:**

Charles Patton,, Director of Columbus County Transportation, requested Board approval of the transfer of funds in the amount of twenty thousand and 00/100 (\$20,000.00) dollars for the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Division, Grant. Mr. Patton stated the following relative to this request:

1. These funds are for travel for the general public;
2. This program has gained so much popularity that the funds allocated for this program have been exhausted;
3. The North Carolina Department of Transportation has offered Columbus County Transportation (CCT) an additional twenty thousand and 00/100 (\$20,000.00) dollars through a fifty-fifty (50-50) grant;
4. Columbus County Transportation needs to pull twenty thousand and 00/100 (\$20,000.000)

dollars from their reserve fund to match this grant, and this will not be county funds; **and**  
 5. This will enable us to finish the fiscal year with adequate funding.

Commissioner Memory made a motion to approve the transfer of funds in the amount of twenty thousand and 00/100 (\$20,000.00) dollars from the reserve fund of Columbus County Transportation to match the fifty-fifty (50-50) grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation, seconded by Commissioner Dutton. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #6: TRANSPORTATION - REGIONALIZATION UPDATE:**

Charles Patton, Director of Columbus County Transportation, delivered the following update on the North Carolina Department of Transportation’s, Public Transportation Division, plans for regionalization of the Public Transportation Systems in our area.

**The Coming Regionalization of the  
 Public Transportation Systems  
 (Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover and Pender Counties)**

The North Carolina Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Division, has announced the upcoming plans for the **regionalization** of all North Carolina public transportation systems. The purpose of the plan is to better coordinate regional mobility and save money through the combination of administration costs and vehicle purchasing. Within two to three (2 - 3) years, there will be only **one (1)** administration system running the proposed Cape Fear Public Transportation System (New Hanover, Brunswick, Pender and Columbus Counties).

North Carolina Department of Transportation will hire a consultant to study, plan and implement the new system. Any system or county that chooses **not** to participate will have their transportation budget frozen and will not increase from year to year as in the past. Also, any funds needed for expansion vehicles (if system grows) will not be funded.

The final step for the proposed regional system is to become an **AUTHORITY**. It will probably be called the Cape Fear Regional Transit Authority. The tax board of the authority (mad up of appointees, see below) can raise a tax for needed funding. If there are insufficient funds to run the authority, it will be able in addition, without a petition, call for a special election, to submit to the voters a proposal to levy a special tax or to issue bonds. This tax could be in the form of a five dollar (\$5.00) fee on vehicle registration.

An **Authority** also has franchising rights. It will control all public transportation within its region such as private transportation providers, taxis, charter buses, etc.

ITRE has recommended (as an example) that the Governing Board be made up as follows: (July 2003)

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Appointees</u>
City of Wilmington	92,688	2
New Hanover	76,362	2
Brunswick	81,810	1 ?
Columbus	54,557	1
Pender	43,699	1
Appointed at Large	-----	<u>2</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>9</b>

Wilmington has just combined their county and city public transportation system into an authority. I’m not sure what the implications are of an authority within an authority. The Wilmington Authority is presently asking for permission to levy a five (\$5.00) dollar vehicle registration fee.

This will be effective in eighteen to thirty (18-30) months and the two (2) members appointed at large will be appointed by the Governor.

Discussion was conducted among the Board members relative to Columbus County being grouped with counties in another region more similar in population and economic status.

Commissioner Memory made a motion to appoint Vice Chairman Kipling Godwin to the Columbus County Interagency Transportation Advisory (CCIT) Board, seconded by Commissioner



9. Several miscellaneous bicycles
10. Air Compressor
11. Push Lawn Mower
12. Miscellaneous lumber, window and press board

Commissioner Memory made a motion to approve the declaration of the above listed items as surplus property and to approve the donation of two (2) surplus vehicles to the Town of Bolton, seconded by Commissioner Dutton. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #8: PURCHASING - RESOLUTION for COUNTY of COLUMBUS to ADOPT OUTREACH PLAN and to ESTABLISH PERCENTAGE GOAL for PARTICIPATION by MINORITY BUSINESSES in the AWARDING of BUILDING CONTRACTS PURSUANT TO N.C.G.S. §143-128.2:**

Stuart Carroll, Purchasing Director, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution for the adoption of the Outreach Plan and Verifiable Percentage Goal.

**RESOLUTION FOR COUNTY OF COLUMBUS TO ADOPT OUTREACH PLAN AND TO ESTABLISH VERIFIABLE PERCENTAGE GOAL FOR PARTICIPATION BY MINORITY BUSINESSES IN THE AWARDING OF BUILDING CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS PURSUANT TO N.C.G.S. §143-128.2**

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted Session Law 2001 - 496, Senate Bill 914 to enhance and improve the good faith efforts to recruit and select minority businesses for participation in public building construction or repair contracts by adding N.C.G.S. §143-128.2; **and**

**WHEREAS**, N.C.G.S. §143-128.2 requires each city, county, or other local entity to adopt, after notice and a public hearing, an appropriate verifiable percentage goal for participation by minority businesses in the total value of work for building projects costing \$300,000 or more; **and**

**WHEREAS**, N.C.G.S. §143-128.2 (b) requires a public entity awarding a building contract where the total cost equals or exceeds \$300,000 to establish, prior to solicitation of bids, good faith efforts that it will take to make it feasible for minority businesses to submit successful bids or proposals for the contracts for building projects; **and**

**WHEREAS**, N.C.G.S. §143-128.2 (e)(1) requires a public entity awarding a building construction or repair contract where the total cost exceeds \$300,000, prior to awarding a contract, to develop and implement a minority business participation outreach plan; **and**

**WHEREAS**, notice of the public hearing was duly published in The News Reporter on January 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and the required public hearing was held on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

1. That Columbus County shall have a 5% verifiable percentage goal for participation by minority businesses in the total value of work for building projects awarded by Columbus county and costing \$300,000 or more.
2. That Columbus County shall follow the guidelines of Columbus County Minority-owned, Women-owned, Disadvantaged-owned Outreach Plan and Guidelines for minority business participation in building construction or repair contracts.
3. That this resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

**READ, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED**, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2005.

(SEAL)

/s/ SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the Resolution For County of Columbus To Adopt Outreach Plan And To Establish Verifiable Percentage Goal For Participation By Minority

Businesses In The Awarding Of Building Construction Contracts Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-128.2, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #9: SOLID WASTE - APPROVAL to PURCHASE 2005 ROLL-OFF TRUCK:**

Chuck Stanley, Solid Waste Director, requested Board approval for the purchase of a 2005 roll-off truck. Mr. Stanley stated the following:

1. State law is limiting the hours for the pulls at the convenience centers, and after a certain time of day no more pulls can be made;
2. The over-run from the storage bins cannot be left on the ground;
3. If citizens come to the convenience centers with items to be disposed of, and find no room is available for such, the majority will not take the items back home with them, instead, they will dump the items in illegal places;
4. We are averaging one hundred forty-nine (149) pulls per month;
5. This extra truck will allow the convenience centers to stay in good condition;
6. Waste Management wrote the plan for these convenience centers and the State goes by this plan;
7. We are presently pulling five (5) days a week;
8. This 2005 roll-off truck will cost one hundred thousand and 00/100 (\$100,000.00) dollars in payments of twenty-five thousand and 00/100 (\$25,000.00) dollars for four (4) years;
9. We plan to use revenue funds from the State for this purchase that are derived from white goods;
10. If we have to utilize Waste Management for the pulls we cannot make, the cost is ninety-three to one hundred (\$93.00 - \$100.00) dollars per each pull made; **and**
11. The expected life of this truck is twenty (20) years.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2005 roll-off truck, seconded by Commissioner Dutton.

Discussion was conducted among the Board members relative to the need of a new truck versus the purchase of a used truck due to the good performance of the used truck that is now being used.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

**AYES: Chairman Jacobs, Vice Chairman Godwin, Commissioners McKenzie, Norris and Dutton**  
**NAYS: Commissioner Memory**  
**ABSENT: Commissioner Prevatte**

The motion passed on a five (5) to one (1) vote.

**Agenda Item #10: RESOLUTION REQUESTING FUNDS for WATER LINE EXTENSIONS on SMITH STREET and SILVERSPoon ROAD:**

Commissioner McKenzie requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution Requesting Funds for Water Line Extensions on Smith Street and Silverspoon Road.

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING FUNDS for  
 WATER LINE EXTENSIONS on  
 SMITH STREET and SILVERSPoon ROAD**

**WHEREAS**, Columbus County is presently in the process of providing potable water to its citizens in as many areas as our sources of funding will allow; **and**

**WHEREAS**, there exists great demand in certain areas within Columbus County where potable water was not made available and these areas entail critical environmental issues that need to be considered; **and**

**WHEREAS**, within Columbus County, there are areas where the water supply contains high levels of sulphur and iron content which is compounded by failing septic systems that are in close proximity; **and**



**WHEREAS**, the life span of a septic system is twenty to thirty (20-30) years and the age of the majority of the houses located within Columbus County far exceeds this span of time; **and**

**WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of the County of Columbus to provide the most healthy and safe environment for our citizens that is afforded to us; **and**

**WHEREAS**, Columbus County is suffering from a major impact of economic duress resulting from our manufacturers closing, and the Tobacco Buyout Program, which were the main sources of income for our citizenry; **and**

**WHEREAS**, this much needed infrastructure would greatly aid in the economic development process of future industries locating within Columbus County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners requests your thorough and concentrated consideration of grant funds to allow Columbus County to provide safe and potable water to our citizens in these areas, thereby, ensuring an healthier environment for the affected citizens.

**ADOPTED** this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2005.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
/s/ **SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman**

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

Commissioner McKenzie stated these water line extensions involved a one-fourth (1/4) mile distance on Smith Street and a one (1) mile distance on Silverspoon Road, and these were the first areas where funds were requested for water line extensions and they had not been extended as of this date.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution Requesting Funds for Water Line Extensions on Smith Street and Silverspoon Road and these extensions to be done with grant money, and for this document to be forwarded to the appropriate funding agencies, seconded by commissioner Dutton. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #11: H.U.D. - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:**

Brenda Strickland, H.U.D. Director, presented the following Departmental Update to the Board.

1. Columbus County Public Housing Agency began operation in July, 1976 with a HUD allocation of one hundred fifty-five (155) Section 8 Rental Certificates. We presently have funding for four hundred fifty-six (456) low income families to receive rental assistance. Each month we are leased to the maximum with the dire housing need in Columbus County.
2. We have a staff of four (4).
3. In the past two (2) years, our program has undergone many stressful changes. Funding is short and in many cases will be cut considerably during the next six (6) months to provide additional money for the servicemen and war being fought in Iraq. We are presently not able to offer raises to our property owners that provide housing for assisted families. We have over six hundred (600) families on the waiting list.
4. Our staff continues to offer outstanding assistance to the applicants seeking housing as well as to the families that continue to receive assistance on our program. We refer families to the twenty-two (22) housing projects in Columbus County that stay leased up with our referrals. We strive to give these families in need hope of some type of good housing while waiting three (3) years for assistance on our program. Many families that we refer to housing projects remain in the project when their name reaches the top of our waiting list allowing use of their slot to others.
5. We have recently updated our computer system and network program which has taken much time and effort to learn. We appreciate the outstanding assistance provided by Allen James and his department during this transition. Our monthly score of 98 to 100 on our annual Section Eight Management Assessment Review shows that much work and cooperation is provided by all staff in meeting our goals.
6. This is our 29th year of operating under the leadership of H.U.D. and Columbus County

Government. Our goal remains the same as always to strive to provide decent, safe and sanitary housing for low income families who have this need in Columbus County. We listen to all families and individuals with housing needs and make referral to housing projects, Red Cross, Social Services, Health Department, Help Mission, S.C.C., Transportation, Employment Security Services and other agencies to assist these families with any specific needs they may have. By working with other agencies, we can accomplish much.

#### HUD RENTAL UNITS in COLUMBUS COUNTY

Columbus County Housing	456	Section 8 Voucher
Waccamaw Siouan, Bolton	225	Section 8 Voucher
Whiteville Housing Authority	58	Public Housing
Madison Hill Apartments	39	Section 8 Voucher (Elderly)
Columbus Courts Apartments	40	Public Housing
Oxford Village, Tabor City	38	Section 8 Voucher (Elderly)
Cypress Village, Fair Bluff	<u>36</u>	Section 8 Voucher (Elderly)
<b>HUD RENTAL UNITS:</b>	<b>892</b>	

**Agenda Item #12: ADMINISTRATION - CONTRACT AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE (1) for WARE BONSALL ARCHITECTS (COLUMBUS COUNTY DETENTION CENTER ADDITION and RENOVATIONS):**

Gail Edwards, Project Manager, requested Board approval of the following Contract Amendment Number One (1) to the Agreement for Architect's Services for the Columbus County Detention Center Addition and Renovations that was approved at the June 7, 2004 Board Meeting.

#### **Amendment #1**

**December 1, 2004**

In accordance with Paragraph 1.3.3, the Agreement for Architect's Services for the Columbus County Detention Center Addition and Renovations between Columbus County and Ware Bonsall Architects, PLLC, as transferred on June 7, 2004 from contract originally date November 1, 2000, shall be amended as follows:

#### **1.1.2.8**

Add the following:

"Architect shall make revisions to Construction Documents per the revised plans dated November 8, 2004 (copies attached)" **(These copies should be on file in the Administration Office for review.)**

**1.1.2.5.1** Change Project Budget to: "\$7,200,000.00"

**1.1.2.5.2** Change budget for Cost of the Work to: "\$6,500,000.00"

**1.1.2.6** Change time parameters to: "Design Phase - 3 months Bid Phase - 3 months  
Construction Phase - 16 months"

**1.1.3.1** Change Owner's Designated Representative to: "Billy Joe Farmer"

**1.1.3.4** Change Architect's Designated Representative to: "Glenn Johnson Ware, AIA  
Ware Bonsall Architects,  
PLLC  
10710 Sikes Place, Suite 250  
Charlotte, NC 28277"

**1.5.1** Change compensation as follows:

"Compensation for work remaining:

Design Phase \$ 196,000.00

Bid Phase \$ 14,000.00

Construction Phase \$ 114,684.39

**Total Compensation for work remaining: \$ 324,684.39"**

This Amendment entered into as of the day and year first written above.

COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

By: \_\_\_\_\_ (seal)

Billy Joe Farmer  
County Administrator

WARE BONSTALL ARCHITECTS, PLLC

By: /s/ Glenn Johnson Ware, AIA  
Managing Member

Commissioner Memory made a motion to approve Amendment Number One (1) to the Agreement for Architect's Services for the Columbus County Detention Center Addition and Renovations between Columbus County and Ware Bonsall Architects, PLLC that was approved at the June 7, 2004 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #13: ADMINISTRATION - ADOPTION of MEMORANDUM of PARTICIPATION with LUMBER RIVER COG:**

Darren Currie, Assistant County Manager, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Memorandum of Participation with Lumber River Council of Governments.

**Memorandum of Participation  
Agreement between the Lumber River Council of Governments, regional  
local governments, and major water users to participate in the Central  
Southern Coastal Plain Water Source Plan - 2005**

In October 2004, the Lumber River Council of Governments (representing local governments and other water users in Bladen, Columbus, Hoke, Robeson, Sampson, and Scotland Counties) signed a Cooperative Agreement with the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) and the Division of Water Resources (DWR) to assure that ground water levels are monitored and recorded, regional plans for long-range sustainable water supply sources are developed, and that ground water declines are managed to avoid damage to the aquifers.

In order to accomplish the tasks outlined in the Cooperative Agreement in a timely manner, there is an immediate need for regional water users to work together toward formulating plans for the development and use of water resources. The purpose of this Memoranda of Understanding is to demonstrate the intent to work toward a regional plan that will:

- Develop strategies to meet future water needs / sustainability
- Address the EMC/ DWR concerns about aquifer use
- Develop water source / infrastructure scenarios in order to avoid future catastrophic costs due to regulations

The **County of Columbus** agrees to participate in the *Central Southern Coastal Plain Water Source Plan* for the purpose of examining potential opportunities for source water development. By participating in this consortium of governments and major water users, the county/town/industry seeks to work cooperatively with these users through a Water Supply Technical Workgroup, responsible for general development and review of water resource planning work, and a Water Supply Action Council, responsible for project recommendations and major decision-making.

This initiative will result in a comprehensive report on current and future water needs and water sources in the study area, including the feasibility and cost-analysis of future options and infrastructure scenarios. An extensive GIS database will be assembled including data on regional water intakes, discharges, water/sewer lines, junctions, and well locations. The water source plan will examine methods to improve water use efficiency / reduce losses, water conservation efforts, and conjunctive use of surface/groundwater. The plan will also promote alternative water use strategies such as shifting some users from groundwater to surface water sources, utilizing reclaimed water, developing under-utilized aquifers, and increasing interconnections between county/municipal public water systems.

This MOP does not obligate the participating stakeholders to any particular future action, but does set the stage for the development of inter-local agreements where appropriate.

/s/ SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman

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

(SEAL)

Vice Chairman Godwin made a motion to approve and adopt the Memorandum of Participation with Lumber River Council of Governments, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #16: THE GREATER TABOR CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - REQUEST for CONSIDERATION of DATE CHANGE of the FEBRUARY 07, 2005 BOARD MEETING:**

Cynthia S. Nelson, Executive Vice President of The Greater Tabor City Chamber of Commerce, requested the Board's consideration of changing the February 07, 2005 Meeting date to allow attendance of the Columbus County Commissioners, and staff, at the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet and the Centennial Celebration on February 7, 2005.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to change the February 07, 2005 Board Meeting date to Tuesday, February 08, 2005, by approval and adoption of the following Resolution, seconded by Vice Chairman Godwin. The motion so carried.

**NOTICE and RESOLUTION to CHANGE MEETING DATE of the BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

The Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, unanimously approved on the 18th day of January, 2005, to adopt the following Resolution.

**W I T N E S S E T H :**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, has presently scheduled meetings at 7:30 P.M. on the first Monday and at 7:30 P.M. on the third Monday of each month; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, is desirous of changing the meeting scheduled for the first Monday in February, only.

**BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF COLUMBUS COUNTY**, North Carolina, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153A-40, to change the regular meeting of the said Board scheduled for February 07, 2005 be, and the same is hereby changed, and the next regularly scheduled meeting of the said Board shall be in the Columbus County Commissioners' Chambers, Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, on Tuesday, February 08, 2005.

**BE IT, FURTHER, RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners that a copy of this **Resolution** and **Notice** shall be placed on the Courthouse Bulletin Board, as well as forwarded to all of the news media who has requested notice.

**ADOPTED** this the 18th day of January, 2005.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
/s/ **SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman**

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

**Agenda Item #14: ADMINISTRATION - ESTABLISHMENT of TWO (2) PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

Darren Currie, Assistant County Manager, requested the Board to establish two (2) Public Hearing dates for the following:

- A. 2005 Scattered Site Housing Application - (second of two (2) required public hearings); **and**
- B. 2003 Concentrated Needs Grant (03-C-1089) - budget revisions.

Commissioner Memory made a motion to establish February 8, 2005, at 7:10 P.M., in the

Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, Commissioners' Chambers, as the date and time for the Public Hearing for the 2005 Scattered Site Housing Application, and February 8, 2005, at 7:20 P.M., in the same location stated earlier, as the date and time for the Public Hearing for the 2003 Concentrated Needs Grant (03-C-1089). This motion was seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #15: ADMINISTRATION - APPROVAL of INTERLOCAL SEWER AGREEMENT LEASE:**

Billy Joe Farmer, County Manager, requested Board approval of the following Interlocal Sewer Agreement Lease of lift stations.

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS**

**LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY**

THIS LEASE, made and entered into this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2004, by and between the TOWN OF BOARDMAN, NORTH CAROLINA, a North Carolina body politic (hereinafter referred to as the "Landlord"); and COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT II, a North Carolina body politic, hereinafter referred to as the "Tenant").

**WITNESSETH:**

That the Town of Boardman has sought and received grant funding from the N.C. Division of Community Assistance and the N.C. Rural Center for the purpose of constructing a sanitary sewer system in portions of the Columbus County Water and Sewer District II; **and**

That various sanitary sewer pump stations which are important and necessary for the functioning of the entire system will be paid for by grant funds secured by the Town of Boardman and owned by the Town of Boardman; **and**

That for and in consideration of the rental hereinafter reserved and the covenants and agreements herein contained, Landlord has agreed to lease and does hereby demise and lease unto Tenant, and Tenant has agreed to take and lease and does hereby lease from Landlord, the premises known as the "Cerro Gordo Master Pump Station Improvements and Lands", and the "River Master Pump Station Improvements and Lands" more particularly described by metes and bounds in a legal description attached to this Lease Agreement in Attachments "A" and "B".

**1. TERM OF LEASE**

The term of this Lease shall be for a period of forty (40) years, commencing at 12:00 Noon on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2004, and ending at 12:00 Noon on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2040, both dates inclusive.

**2. RENTAL**

The total amount of rental shall be a total of \$4,800 per annum (\$2,400 per annum for the Cerro Gordo Master Pump Station Improvements and Lands, and \$2,400 per annum for the River Master Pump Station Improvements and Lands). Rental shall be paid in full on each December 6 during the term of this Lease; or by monthly installments of \$400 to be paid on or before the 5<sup>th</sup> day of each month. The method of payment shall be determined by Tenant with rental mailed to the Town of Boardman, P.O. Box 87, Evergreen, N.C. 28438. Should Tenant elect a monthly payment option, a \$10 per day late payment penalty shall be added to the monthly rental amount on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the month and each day thereafter.

**3. UTILITIES**

The Tenant shall pay all charges for gas, electricity, water, light, heat, power, telephone or other communication services used, rendered, or supplied upon or in connection with the leased property, and shall indemnify the Landlord against all liability or damages on such account.

**4. ALTERATION**

The Tenant may, at its sole cost and expense, from time to time during the term of this Lease, make such alterations, additions or changes as it finds necessary or desirable and convenient for its purposes, only after prior written approval of the Landlord. If written permission or disapproval is not granted after 60 days from its request, then the alteration shall be deemed and considered to be approved just as if written approval had been expressly given by Landlord. Nothing in this section shall prevent Tenant from making those additions or changes that are immediate and

necessary under those conditions that are considered to be dire or of an emergency situation.

**5. ASSIGNMENT AND SUBLETTING**

Tenant or its successors shall not have the right to assign or sublet the leased premises in whole or in part. The leased premises shall only be utilized for the purpose of activities associated with the operation of the Columbus County Water and Sewer District II and related activities.

**6. INSURANCE**

Tenant agrees that it will at all times during the term hereof, at its own expense, maintain and keep in force liability insurance in the amount of \$500,000 against claims for bodily injury, death or property damage occurring in or on or about the demised premises and will also provide at its sole cost and expense, such fire and extended coverage and vandalism and malicious mischief insurance covering the contents of the demised premises as the Tenant deems advisable. The Landlord shall keep the premises and the improvements thereon, to wit, all of the property deemed to be real property under the terms of this Lease, insured to the extent of the full replacement cost thereof against loss of damage by fire, with extended coverage. Tenant will reimburse the Landlord for cost of insurance upon presentation of an invoice.

**7. DAMAGE AND DESTRUCTION**

If the leased premises be damaged or destroyed in whole or in part at any time during the term of this Lease by fire or other casualty, Landlord will within thirty (30) days of the destruction or damage to the property notify the Tenant in writing whether it elects to restore the property or to terminate the Lease. If the landlord elects not to restore the demised premises, then this lease shall thereupon terminate and become null and void. However, should the Landlord elect to restore the premises to the condition existing before the damage or destruction, then in that event rent shall be abated while the repair or restoration takes place.

**8. REPAIRS**

Tenant shall keep the premises in proper repair at all times during the term of this Lease. Proper repair shall be defined as in a manner found acceptable by any employee of the State of North Carolina or the United States of America who has inspection and enforcement authority with respect to the operations of the Columbus County Water and Sewer District II.

**9. QUIET ENJOYMENT**

Tenant, upon paying the rent, and subject to all of the terms and covenants of this Lease, on Tenant's part to be kept, observed, and performed, shall quietly have and enjoy the leased premises during the term of this Lease without hindrance or molestation by any person. Landlord, for himself, his heirs, successors and assigns, agrees that Tenant, its successors, and assigns, shall have continuous, peaceful, uninterrupted and exclusive possession and quiet enjoyment of the entire premises during the term of this Lease. The Landlord covenants that at the time of the execution of this Lease, Landlord is in legal possession of the demised premises, and has full right to lease the same for the term aforesaid, and will put Tenant in actual possession of the premises hereinbefore provided.

**10. NOTICES**

Notices may be sent by the Landlord to the Tenant by delivering the same in person to the Tenant or mailed to the Tenant at the following address:

Columbus County Water and Sewer District II  
c/o Columbus County Administration  
111 Washington Street  
Whiteville, N.C. 28472

**11. MISCELLANEOUS**

This agreement shall be binding upon the parties, their heirs, assigns, personal representatives and successors in interest. This agreement shall be executed in duplicate originals, one (1) for each party.

**12. OPTION RENEW**

This Lease may be extended for an additional ten (10) year term at the option of the Tenant upon the Tenant giving the Landlord notice of its desire to extend at least sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of the initial term. The Lease shall be upon such terms and conditions as the parties may agree upon at that time. If the parties are unable to agree to an annual rental amount, the lease shall terminate.

13. GIFT

Landlord does hereby make a gift, without remuneration, to Tenant of all improvements constructed on the lands described in the Attachment hereto. Said gift shall vest with Tenant one (1) day after approval for operation by the appropriate regulatory agency of the State of North Carolina having approval of the sewer system, or said gift shall vest with Tenant one (1) day after acceptance from the installing contractor—whichever occurs latter. The intent of this gift is for the Tenant or its heirs, assigns, or successors to have full ownership and possession of all wastewater pump station improvements that have been or will be constructed on lands owned by the Town of Boardman.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals, the day and year first written above.

LANDLORD  
TOWN OF BOARDMAN  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

TENANT  
Columbus County Water and Sewer  
District II  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman

Chairman Jacobs requested that Billy Joe Farmer, County Manager, explain the details of this Sewer Lease Agreement. Mr. Farmer stated the following:

1. The Board has previously approved an Interlocal Sewer Agreement for the Towns of Cerro Gordo, Fair Bluff and Boardman;
2. This agreement allows for sewage to be pumped to the Town of Fairmont;
3. This will be done through a grant and the lines are to be constructed;
4. Columbus County has agreed to operate the collection system;
5. This Lease Agreement came up when questions arose from the Town of Boardman;
6. This document leases the lift stations from the Towns of Cerro Gordo and Boardman to Columbus County as part of the operational agreement;
7. We put this cost in with the normal operation budget, which we done, and that takes that concern out for everybody;
8. They pay us for the amount of sewage that we transfer to Fairmont and then we pay Fairmont; **and**
9. This is just a business arrangement.

Vice Chairman Godwin asked if James E. Hill, Columbus County Attorney, had reviewed this Lease Agreement. Mr. Hill replied stating no he had not.

Commissioner Memory stated we're not in the sewer business in Columbus County. We're not running sewer lines for people to hook up to along the way. He asked Billy Joe Farmer, County Manager, if this Sewer Agreement Lease would cost Columbus County any money to do. Mr. Farmer replied stating no it would not, and we figured we had to revise the budget on this, based on the cost per one thousand (1,000) gallons of sewage going to Fairmont, based on the cost we're going to charge the customers of the town, taking into account all the budgetary staff like electricity, etc. We even escrowed in money, for the money involved in replacement parts because the lift stations will have that and a lot of people are not familiar with that. At no point will this agreement be a drain on anyone from the County.

Discussion was conducted regarding the size line that would be used and how many miles would the line run. Billy Joe Farmer, County Manager, stated the size of the line had not been determined as of yet, and the distance of the line would be approximately fourteen (14) miles.

Vice Chairman Godwin stated the following relative to the sewer line and agreement:

1. At the meetings that have been held regarding this matter, we discovered the Town of Fairmont has applied for and received a grant to cover all the cost involved;
2. The grant includes money to allow for hookup to the citizens' houses;

3. The towns involved have hardly no staff; **and**
4. The towns wanted to get out of the sewer business.

For information purposes, Commissioner Memory stated the Town of Fairmont has built one of the largest wastewater treatment plants in the State on the banks of the Lumber River and needed customers to help fill the capacity.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the Interlocal Sewer Agreement Lease, contingent on James E. Hill, Jr.'s, Columbus County Attorney, approval, seconded by Vice Chairman Godwin. The motion so carried. The Attachments "A" and "B" were not supplied to the Clerk to the Board and should be kept on file in the Administration Office for review.

**Agenda Item #17: COMMITTEE and/or BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, requested the following appointments to Boards/Committees be made.

**A. E-911 Oversight Committee:**

Commissioner Memory, District IV, appointed Alton Edwards, 100 Church Road, Reigelwood, North Carolina 28456, Telephone: (910) 655-3274, for a four (4) year term, with term expiring in December, 2008.

**B. Nursing/Adult Care Home Joint Community Advisory Committee:**

Commissioner Dutton made a motion to appoint Wanda Thompson, 11225 Lebanon Church Road, Tabor City, North Carolina 28463, Telephone: (910) 653-2074, for a one (1) year term, with term expiring 01/18/2006, as an addition to this committee, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

**C. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:**

Vice Chairman Godwin, District VI, appointed Wendell Duncan, 6989 Joe Brown Highway South, Chadbourn, North Carolina 28431, Telephone: (910) 653-6584 (H), (910) 653-3618 (W), for a two (2) year term, with term expiring December, 2006.

Commissioner Dutton, District VII, appointed Melissa Jones, 137 Madison Hughes Lane, Nakina, North Carolina 28455, Telephone: (910) 642-6231, for a two (2) year term, with term expiring December, 2006.

**D. Columbus County Planning Board:**

Chairman Jacobs, District III, reappointed Pamela Young Sutherland for a three (3) year term, with term expiring September 30, 2007.

**Agenda Item #18: CONSENT AGENDA ITEM:**

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

Budget Amendments:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	10-700-9705	RGP (Rural General Public)	\$20,000
Revenue	10-399-0000	Fund Balanced Appropriated	\$20,000
Expenditure	10-610-6070	Crisis Intervention	\$24,238
Revenue	10-348-1621	Crisis Intervention	\$24,238
Expenditure	54-510-7400	Capital Outlay	\$7,000
Revenue	54-399-0000	Funds Appropriated	\$7,000



<b>Expenditure</b>	10-510-3600	Uniforms	\$15,991
<b>Revenue</b>	10-349-0600	USOJP (for Bulletproof Vest)	\$15,991
<b>Expenditure</b>	54-510-7400	Capital Outlay (Fence - \$4,550, Motorcycle - \$14,500)	\$19,050
<b>Revenue</b>	54-399-0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$19,050

**RECOGNITION of JACQUELINE ROSEBORO:**

Chairman Jacobs stated he would like to thank Ms. Jacqueline Roseboro, Director of the Columbus County Cooperative Extension, on the behalf of himself and the entire Board of Columbus County Commissioners, for the lovely meeting and dinner she invited us to earlier this evening. We would like to commend you for the fine job you are doing.

**Agenda Item #19: COMMENTS:**

Chairman Jacobs opened the floor for any comments that anyone would like to make. The following people spoke.

**A. Public:**

1. **Joe Buffkin:** Where is the justification for the water tax that has been imposed on the citizens in Water Districts?

Commissioner Memory replied to Mr. Buffkin by stating the following:

1. The citizens voted on Water District II in 1997, and the ballot passed;
2. On the ballot, it stated and allowed for a tax levy to be imposed, if needed, to pay the debt;
3. The Board was faced with a large debt service that had to be paid and due to the fact that not enough people were utilizing the water, we imposed a mandatory water hookup which failed;
4. We took General Fund dollars to pay the said debt that was owed which has to be reimbursed;
5. At that time, the Board had no choice but to impose a tax levy to enable us to keep our bond rating in good standing to afford us an avenue to provide the necessary mandated services that is required by the State and Federal Government to the citizens of Columbus County.

Mr. Buffkin stated that without the tobacco allotment, the land the citizens own will not even pay the property tax.

Commissioner Dutton stated the Board should have stayed with the mandatory water hookup in lieu of imposing a tax levy and eventually it would have worked itself out.

Commissioner McKenzie stated that if seventy-five (75%) percent of the people would hookup to the water and use it, then this tax will be removed.

Vice Chairman Godwin stated the decision to impose a tax levy on the citizens was not an easy decision to make. It was discussed and pondered on at great length, but the Board had no choice but to choose this route to enable us to keep our bond rating in good standing in order to provide all the other necessary services to our citizens.

2. **Ronald A. Herring:** I have the same problem as stated by Joe Buffkin. It was told to me by Commissioner Norris I did not have to pay this tax and the Board would be looking into this situation and then I was told by Richard Gore, Columbus County Tax Administrator, I still had an outstanding balance on our tax bill. I do not want my name in the paper stating I have delinquent taxes.

Commissioner Norris stated when this matter was discussed with Mr. Buffkin, he thought that he was not in Water District II.

3. **Arthur Campbell:** What kind of formula was used in the revaluation of property in

Columbus County? I have six (6) different properties. Three (3) of the properties are located in the same field and have different property values and this I do not understand.

Chairman Jacobs requested Richard Gore, Columbus County Tax Administrator, to address this question. Mr. Gore stated the following:

- A. Legally, every county in the State of North Carolina has to do a property revaluation every eight (8) years and some counties elect to do the revaluation on a more frequent basis.
- B. The update on the revaluation is based on the market sales value which we have to keep up with;
- C. We retained a consultant and performed an in-house revaluation which saved Columbus County one hundred eighty and 00/100 (\$180,000.00) dollars;
- D. The consultant helped establish the rates to use which are based on many factors;
- E. The State of North Carolina has a Schedule of Values for farm land which was utilized;
- F. The land value is based on its use and the value can be increased or decreased;
- G. We have received approximately one thousand two hundred (1,200) appeals out of **forty-six thousand** parcels of land in Columbus County, in which we have scheduled times for these to be heard before the Equalization and Review Board;
- I. The deadline for these appeals was today at 5:00 P.M. but if you should have an appeal, you can come in through April and let us know and we will be glad to check into the matter.

Discussion was conducted relative to extending the deadline until January 21, 2005 or the possibility of extending the deadline until January 31, 2005.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Memory made a motion to extend the deadline for filing appeals to January 21, 2005, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

- 4. **James R. Turbeville:** My question has been answered previously.
- 5. **Howard Lofton Cox, Jr.:** stated the following:
  - A. I am very disappointed in you County Commissioners and the way you conduct business;
  - B. Let it be known that I am not against having good water in my district;
  - C. I read in the January 6, 2005 issue of The News Reporter that you plan to extend a 3.2 mile water line from Miller Road to Guideway School to supply good and potable water due to a crisis they are experiencing;
  - D. This important type of action should not be taking place at 10:30 P.M. at night after the largest percentage of the public has left the meeting;
  - E. I would like to know if Water District 5 has been activated;
  - F. I am being told that Water District 5 is contingent on the new State prison being built; **and**
  - G. I would like to say that matters of this significance should involve the public and not be handled at late hours in the night after the public has left the meeting.

**B. Board of Commissioners:**

**Commissioner Godwin:** stated the following:

- 1. I am handing out information from the Legislative Goals Conference I attended in High Point. It was a very informational meeting and this information is very good for everyone to review.
- 2. I have been in touch with Beverlee Nance and Dr. Matlock relative to the date for the Workshop we are planning. When a final date has been established, I will notify the Clerk and she can inform all concerned.

**OTHER:**

**ANNOUNCEMENT by RONNIE HAYES:**

Ronnie Hayes, Emergency Services Director, stated he would like to inform the Board there would be an investigation to possible fraudulent claims that were made to FEMA from the tornado

spin off last September. As of last week, four hundred twenty (420) applicants from Columbus County had applied for FEMA funds and that four million (\$4,000,000) dollars had been given to Columbus County. I have discovered the investigators that FEMA contracts with to investigate these applications are paid on a percentage basis. I would like for you to know these funds came directly from FEMA and the County of Columbus was not involved in any way in acquiring these funds.

**RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (3):**

At 9:25 P.M., Commissioner Dutton made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (3), seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

No official action was taken.

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

At 9:35 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Dutton. The motion so carried.

**Agenda Item #20: ADJOURNMENT:**

At 9:37 P.M., Commissioner Dutton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman**