

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING
Monday, March 28, 2005
6:30 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, for the purpose of holding a Public Hearing relative to the Request for Financing for Construction of Columbus County Jail and Classrooms for Williams Township School.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Sammie Jacobs, **Chairman**
 Kipling Godwin, **Vice Chairman**
 Amon E. McKenzie
 James E. Prevatte
 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**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

Roxanne Coleman, **Finance Officer**

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED:

Chairman Jacobs stated this Public Hearing has been duly advertised and the purpose is to notify citizens of the request for financing and to receive oral or written comments relative to the request for financing.

At 6:30 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

REQUEST for FINANCING for CONSTRUCTION of COLUMBUS COUNTY JAIL and CLASSROOMS for WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL PRESENTATION:

Billy Joe Farmer, Columbus County Manager presented the following information relative to the Request for Financing for Construction of Columbus County Jail and Classrooms for Williams Township School:

1. This Public hearing suffices one (1) of the requirements of the Local Government Commission;
2. The Local Government Commission will permit us to send a Draft copy of the Board Minutes for this Public Hearing;
3. We will be allowed to send a Draft copy of the required Resolution to the Local Government Commission which will be approved and adopted at the April 4, 2005 Board Meeting;
4. All of the above stated documents are among the requirements of the Local Government Commission as part of the application we are submitting for the ten million (\$10) million debt.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No private citizens were in attendance at this Public Hearing to deliver any oral comments. No written comments were received relative to this matter.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Discussion was conducted among the Board members relative to this financing resulting in the following analysis of the pros and cons of this financing:

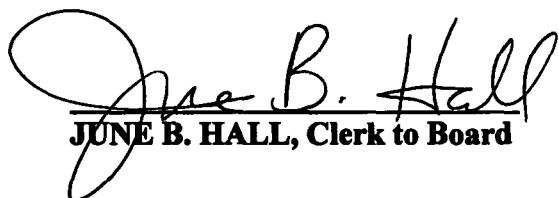
- Pros:
1. Will allow Columbus County to meet the necessary requirements as mandated by the State for the Columbus County Jail to eliminate the overcrowded conditions;
 2. Will allow Columbus County the ability to provide the necessary classrooms for the students at Williams Township School as mandated by the State; **and**

- 3. Allow Columbus County to take advantage of the low interest rate that is available.

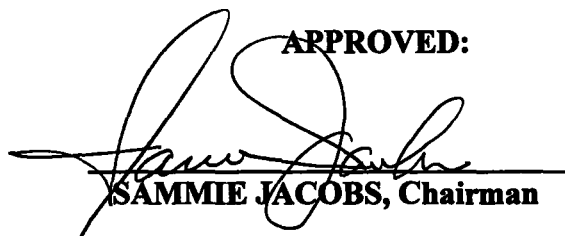
- Cons:
- 1. Columbus County's economy is not good at this time; **and**
 - 2. State requirements that are mandated must be met even though the economy is not good.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED:

At 6:47 P.M., there being no further comments, Commissioner Memory made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion so carried.



JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

APPROVED:


SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman