

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**June 19, 2006****5:30 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 and for their regularly scheduled meeting on the third Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Jimmy Varner, **Interim County Manager**
 Steven W. Fowler, **County Attorney**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**

APPOINTEES ABSENT:

Roxanne Coleman, **Finance Officer**

5:30 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING - Columbus County Proposed Operating Budget 2006 - 2007: to receive oral and written comment from anyone on the proposed budget.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED:

At 5:30 P.M., Chairman Godwin called the Public Hearing to order, and stated the purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive comments, oral or written, from anyone who wishes to make comments. Chairman Godwin requested that Steve Fowler, Columbus County Attorney, inform everyone as to the order of this Public Hearing. Mr. Fowler stated the contents of the Policy on Comments at Public Hearings which was adopted by the Columbus County Commissioners on February 02, 2004.

Chairman Godwin stated that the Board would call for a Special Meeting to be held on June 30, 2006, at 8:30 A.M., for the consideration of adoption of the Proposed 2006 - 2007 Columbus County Operating Budget.

COMMENTS:

Chairman Godwin opened the floor for comments and the following people spoke:

1. **Ronald Gene Gore (private citizen and candidate for County Commissioner):** stated the following:
 - A. I am here tonight as a private citizen and as a candidate for Columbus County Commissioner to speak to you;
 - B. I realize this Board has the daunting tasks of utilizing a few dollars and stretching them to the greatest extent possible;
 - C. I am here tonight to request this Board to make their decision to be not favorable of a tax increase. Our citizens are taxed to death now, and some of our senior citizens are being faced with choices of buying their food and medicine, or paying high property tax;
 - D. Please consider the needs of our school systems, because the children of today are our leaders of tomorrow;
 - E. Place on the back burner the idea of raising taxes;
 - F. I have worked with the school system for many years, and due to the large increase in fuel costs, we are going to need additional money for fuel; **and**
 - G. Consider pay increases for the employees, and be equitable with everyone, and not just a handful of chosen employees.
2. **Stephen M. Smith (Alliance of Private Home-Care Providers of Columbus County):** stated the following:
 - A. I thank you for what you do for Columbus County;
 - B. I am going to offer you a way to lighten your burden;
 - C. I am recommending the outsourcing of your home-care services to private enterprises;

- D. I am speaking on my behalf and on the behalf of Terrie C. Gore, due to the shortage of the time allowed, and this is not enough time to make a good presentation, and I am requesting more time before the Finance Committee;
- E. It is my opinion that Columbus County would be better off if they would relinquish the home-care business;
- F. Columbus County is only one (1) of a very few remaining in North Carolina that continues to be a direct provider of home-care services;
- G. The Columbus County Department of Aging (DOA) is the lead agency for the CAP (Community Alternatives Program), which can be an appropriate role going forward;
- H. By being the lead agency and a direct provider, it puts DOA in a conflict of interest by self-referring, which they seem to consistently do, referring only to their own home-care agency, and rarely to any of the twenty (20) privately-owned agencies in Columbus County;
- I. By being a direct provider of home-care services, it also creates a liability for Columbus County;
- J. A statewide study showed that the actual costs of providing CAP and PCS (Personal Care Services) to be in excess of \$15.00 an hour. The current approved reimbursement rate is \$14.40. Columbus County DOA only billed Medicaid \$13.68. Columbus County taxpayers appear to be subsidizing these Medicaid programs.;
- K. It is perceived that DOA is using this subsidized lower rate to steer clients to their agency by offering them inappropriate inducements to use their agency;
- L. The DOA has confirmed they are charging \$13.68, which is a 5% discount, and, prior to July 1, 2005, they charged only \$12.96, which was an 8.7% discount;
- M. The State Home Care Association addresses the issue of a Medicaid provider charging a discounted rate - if it results in clients receiving a higher volume of service from that provider as a result of that discount. This is the case in the DOA Program;
- N. Our interviews also confirmed that you have approximately 230 nurses sides working at the DOA, with some unspecified number of them getting vacation, sick and holiday pay;
- O. Columbus County Government is using county tax dollars to compete with the private sector. Columbus County is served by 20 other home care agencies, all whom are equally licensed. Across the State and nation, the provision of home care is a function of the private sector.;
- P. These private sector providers have invested their personal resources and are at risk. For the County to compete with them is unfair and what equates to a hidden, targeted tax.;
- Q. Columbus county DOA should plan an orderly transition of their clients, and workers, to these 20 private home-care providers, and continue to be the CAP lead agency, if they choose to , using a fair rotating system of referrals;
- R. Given the current ease of entry into these programs, a sale of this agency is not practical. Certificate of Need does not apply here. Caregivers and clients change agencies routinely among private agencies where inducements are not offered to them not to.;
- S. Columbus County Home Health Agency, of the Columbus County Health Department, should be divested in an organized sale, considering the highest bidder and qualifications;
- T. Very few county Health Departments continue to provide Medicare-Certified Home Health services, as it has also become a function of the private sector, for the same reasons cited above;
- U. The risks associated with operating a Medicare-Certified Home Health Program are even greater for the County;
- V. There are many highly qualified private providers already serving Columbus County, and many more that would be willing to do so by a sale.
(NOTE: The presenter or anyone associated with him would not be a bidder.);
- W. Given the current merger and acquisitions market for Medicare-Certified Home Health Agencies in North Carolina, the sale of the Home Health Agency could generate literally millions of dollars that could go back into the General Fund of the County, or into a special Health Care Trust Fund, earmarked for special projects designated by the County;
- X. Earlier this year, I cited the example of Davidson County Home Health selling to a publicly-traded company. This county agency had about \$600,000 in annual revenue and sold for \$2.7 million. Your County Home Health Agency has revenues of approximately \$4 million annually, as I understand it. Using this formula, Columbus

- County could generate approximately \$18 million; **and**
- Y. Even if this number was discounted by 50% to \$9 million, the investment income alone to the County could be in excess of three-quarters million dollars annually.
3. **Mike L. Stansky (private citizen):** stated the following:
- A. I am here tonight to request this Board to give a balanced budget without raising taxes;
 - B. Please look at the long-term effects of everything you are doing;
 - C. In my handout to you, I have made some comparisons to other counties close to Columbus County, and, as you can see, Columbus County is not growing in any of the areas; **and**
 - D. Please treat the County budget as if it was your own.
4. **Robert Adams (private citizen):** submitted written comment which was read by Chairman Godwin as follows - Columbus County's Home-Health Care is the only thing keeping Mr. Smith's cost in check, and it is my suggestion that the County never sell.
5. **Commissioner Memory:** stated the following:
- A. This Board has worked well together in preparing this budget;
 - B. The staff has worked hard;
 - C. It appears that the Commissioners have done too good of a job in not raising taxes over the previous years;
 - D. We have under budgeted for Medicaid over the last few years, and, now, it is catching up with us;
 - E. Without the high cost of Medicaid, we could help our schools, etc., much more, which we would very much like to do.
6. **Jim Varner, Interim County Manager:** stated that in the comparison provided by Mike Stansky, that for every \$3 million that Columbus County has, Brunswick county has \$30 million.
7. **Commissioner McKenzie:** stated the following:
- A. This Board is always faced with what people want, what people need, and how to alleviate the heavy burden of Medicaid cost;
 - B. I am asking for the citizens' support in getting the heavy burden of Medicaid off the back of the County by banning together and contacting your representatives; **and**
 - C. The citizens need to support their leadership in their difficult tasks of providing the services they need and rightfully deserve.
8. **Commissioner Jacobs:** stated the following:
- A. I have been on this Board longer than anyone else presently here, other than Commissioner Norris;
 - B. One (1) important lesson I have learned is that you can't balance a budget on campaign promises;
 - C. We have to provide certain services to our citizens;
 - D. We also have to have revenues to provide the expected services;
 - E. Even though we may not want to, we may have to raise taxes to meet the governmental needs we are charged with, and expected to fulfill;
 - F. We are doing the best we possibly can with what we have to work with; **and**
 - G. The County employees work hard and they deserve a salary increase.
9. **Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:
- A. The Medicaid Relief Bill has passed in the State House of Representatives;
 - B. I have closely watched the proceedings at the Budget Workshops;
 - C. I have reviewed this proposed Budget for two (2) full days;
 - D. This proposed Budget started with a \$2.8 Million shortfall;
 - E. By adding twenty (20) new positions and additional funds on other line items, the shortfall has escalated to \$3.5 million;
 - F. I am asking my fellow Commissioners to reconsider their stand on this Budget;
 - G. I am suggesting that we hold the level of spending to this year's budgeted amount, except for the fuel and jail cost;
 - H. If this proposed budget is funded at the \$3.5 million increase, the citizens of Columbus County can expect a six (\$.06) cents to twelve (\$.12) cents tax increase;
 - I. We need to hold the spending down better until the economy picks up; **and**

- J. We can't wait to see what Medicaid will do, if anything, or what the lottery can do.
10. **Commissioner Norris:** stated the following:
- A. The County Commissioners are charged with running county government in an efficient way;
 - B. We have kept the taxes down for a long time; **and**
 - C. The County Commissioners have to make tough decisions sometimes for the greater benefit of their citizens.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED:

At 6:25 P.M., there being no further comments on the Proposed 2006-2007 Columbus County Operating Budget, Chairman Godwin closed the Public Hearing.

REGULAR SESSION:

6:30 P.M.

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

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman Godwin called the Regular Session to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Amon E. McKenzie. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, which was led by Vice Chairman David L. Dutton, Jr.

THANKS to JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL:

Chairman Godwin stated he wanted to thank the Columbus County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council for their hard work, dedication and the hors d'oeuvres they furnished for the County Commissioners on this date. The members were recognized by the members standing. Chairman Godwin asked if Chairperson Melinda Lane would like to say anything. Ms. Lane stated the following:

1. We appreciate the opportunity you afforded us to furnish the refreshments;
2. I would like to remind the Board of Commissioners what we are trying to do;
3. We are trying to help troubled teens and juveniles in getting their behavior back in check before they ever get into the court system, which sometimes they never get out of;
4. We work with the State, and the State provides our funding;
5. We try to help families and juveniles to help prevent problems from ever happening; **and**
6. We are trying to get members back on our Board so we can function as a full Board and be more effective.

Chairman Godwin thanked Ms. Lane for all of her hard work and efforts in making this an effective Board and what she was doing to help the juveniles in Columbus County.

Agenda Item #3: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the following Board Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

1. May 25, 2006 Subdivision Regulations Ordinance Public Forum Minutes;
2. May 30, 2006 Subdivision Regulations Ordinance Public Forum Minutes;
3. May 31, 2006 Special Called Meeting Minutes;
4. June 01, 2006 Subdivision Regulations Ordinance Public Forum Minutes;
5. June 05, 2006 Regular Session Minutes;
6. June 05, 2006 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes; **and**
7. June 06, 2006 Subdivision Regulations Ordinance Public Forum Minutes.

Agenda Item #4: TABOR CITY CHAMBER of COMMERCE - PERMISSION for FIREWORKS CELEBRATION:

Cynthia S. Nelson, Executive Vice President, requested the following:

1. Permission to possess, transport, receive, deliver, and display fireworks at South Columbus High School on Monday, July 03, 2006, for the 19th Annual Columbus County Fourth of July

- Fireworks Celebration; **and**
2. The waiver of the fee for the permit from the Columbus County Fire Marshal's Office be waived.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the above listed, two (2) requests from Cynthia S. Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #5: PLANNING - CALL for PUBLIC HEARING on the COLUMBUS COUNTY SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS ORDINANCE (CASE NO.: TO-04-06):

Stevie Cox, Columbus County Planning Director, requested the Board to establish July 17, 2006, at 6:00 P.M., as the date for a Public Hearing on the Columbus County Subdivision Regulations Ordinance.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the establishment of July 17, 2006, at 6:00 P.M., as the date for the Public Hearing on the Columbus County Subdivision Regulations Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #6: M.I.S. (MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM) - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Alan James, Columbus County M.I.S. Director, delivered the following Departmental Update to the Board.

1. The M.I.S. Department is responsible for maintaining the technology in Columbus County Government which includes the following:
 - A. Ordering and installation of new equipment and software;
 - B. Relocation of existing equipment;
 - C. Troubleshooting and repair of hardware, software and network problems;
 - D. Setup and maintain security features such as firewalls, AntiVirus and AntiSpyware;
 - E. Administration of E-mail service for the County;
 - F. Host and manage multiple county and municipal websites;
 - G. Maintain and update the County GIS Website, data download center, and on-line Tax Sales Reports;
 - H. Maintain and update GIS data related to addressing and emergency services;
 - I. Conduct GPS surveys of roads and structures to keep the addressing database current;
 - J. Assist County management and other department with specialized maps, database creation and analysis, and GPS data collection;
 - K. Continued research to stay informed with new technology and procedures.
2. Accomplishments for the last year:
 - A. Setup Internet and computer network at Columbus County Airport;
 - B. Hire new IT Technician;
 - C. Incorporate the GIS Department into MIS;
 - D. Large addition of content and updates to the County website;
 - E. Setup computer training facilities in 6 Department of Aging Senior Centers - total of 40 computers with network and internet access;
 - F. Convert libraries to faster, cheaper internet service;
 - G. Convert Board of Elections from State internet system to Sprint DSL;
 - H. Relocation of County E-mail service to faster, more stable server in MIS;
 - I. Submit County aerial photography to Google Earth Website - thanks to Commissioner Memory for the idea;
 - J. Began process of reviewing, updating, and identifying inconsistencies in the County addressing database. Need to talk about later in more detail.;**and**
 - K. Initiated a program to allow students from all County high schools and SCC, to work as interns in the MIS Department. Thanks to Commissioner Prevatte for support and contacts with the school systems.

Agenda Item #7: GOVERNING BODY - APPROVAL of RECEIPT and ALLOCATION of RAMPS and RAILS from COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS:

Chairman Godwin stated that Superintendent Dan Strickland had informed Columbus County

Government that the mobile classrooms at Williams Township School were being moved off campus, beginning June 19, 2006, and the Columbus Department of Aging and Whiteville City Schools have asked for the handicap ramps and rails. The Board of Commissioners needs to approve the receipt and allocation of these ramps and rails from Columbus County Schools.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the receipt and allocation of the handicap ramps and rails from the Columbus County Board of Education, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte and Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #8: VOTING DELEGATE for the NACo 2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

June B. Hall, Clerk to Board, requested the Board to designate a voting delegate for the NACo 2006 Annual Conference.

Commissioner Memory made a motion to designate Chairman Kipling Godwin as the voting delegate for the NACo 2006 Annual Conference, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #9: RESOLUTION - 2006 CLEAN WATER BOND RESOLUTION:

Chairman Godwin stated that Billy Ray Hall, President of North Carolina Rural Economic Development, Incorporated, had requested the Columbus County Board of Commissioners to approve and adopt the following 2006 Clean Water Bond Resolution.

2006 CLEAN WATER BOND RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, North Carolina's continued prosperity depends on protecting the State's water resources for current use and future generations; **and**

WHEREAS, North Carolina is expected to grow by 3.5 million people to exceed 12 million by the year 2030, placing pressures on the State's water resources and local water providers; **and**

WHEREAS, North Carolina's businesses, traditional and emerging industries, all depend on reliable supplies of clean water, reasonable utility costs and an attractive natural environment; **and**

WHEREAS, the 1998 Clean Water Bonds delivered significant benefits to North Carolina communities and citizens, support 1,103 projects in 97 counties, which:

- helped create or retain 42,000 jobs
- corrected major regulatory violations in 97 communities
- addressed failing septic systems and contaminated wells in 59 counties
- resulted in 50 communities receiving sewer service for the first time
- encouraged regional efficiencies, sound planning and conservation practices; **and**

WHEREAS, North Carolina's public water, sewer and storm water utilities will require investments totaling \$16.63 billion to keep pace with necessary improvements and population growth over the next 25 years, including \$6.85 billion in investments within the next five years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners urges the North Carolina General Assembly to enact a \$1 billion bond bill in the 2006 Session to fund construction and repair of urgently needed water, sewer and storm water facilities.

ADOPTED this the 19th day of June, 2006.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ **KIPLING GODWIN, Chairman**

ATTESTED BY:

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

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to approve and adopt the 2006 Clean Water Bond Resolution, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #10: RESOLUTION - NOTICE and RESOLUTION to CANCEL MEETING of the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA:

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve and adopt the following Notice and Resolution to Cancel Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina.

**NOTICE and RESOLUTION to CANCEL MEETING 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 19th day of June, 2006, 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 6:30 P.M. on the first Monday and at 6:30 P.M. on the third Monday of each month; **and**

WHEREAS, the **Board of County Commissioners** of Columbus County, North Carolina, is desirous of cancelling the meeting scheduled for the first Monday in July, 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 cancel the regular meeting of the said Board scheduled for July 03, 2006, be, and the same is hereby canceled, 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 Monday, July 17, 2006.

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 19th day of June, 2006.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ **KIPLING GODWIN, Chairman**

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

Agenda Item #11: COMMITTEE/BOARD APPOINTMENTS SET to EXPIRE in June, 2006:

1. Economic Development Commission Board of Directors:

Commissioner McKenzie reappointed Troy Willard Goss, Sr., for a three (3) year term, with term expiring on June 30, 2009.

Commissioner Prevatte appointed Harry Foley, 2534 Bella Coola Road, Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina 28450, Telephone: (910) 646-4368, for a three (3) years term, to replace William Mark Stanaland, with term expiring June 30, 2009.

2. Housing Advisory Committee:

Commissioner Prevatte reappointed Michael Clemmons for a two (2) year term, with term expiring June 30, 2008.

Agenda Item #12: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

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

A. Budget Amendments:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	10-425-0200	Salaries	12,684
	10-425-0500	FICA	946
	10-425-0600	Insurance-Employee Benefits	3414
	10-425-0700	Retirement	530
Revenue	10-399-0000	Fund Balance	17,574
Expenditure	50-410-0601	Retirees Health Ins.	1,000
	50-410-4110	Salaries	(9,031)
	50-410-4130	Legal	(200)
	50-410-4160	Indirect Cost	(8,161)
	50-410-4170	Accting & Auditing	(1,925)
	50-410-4190	Sundry	5,000
	50-410-4400	Maintenance & Repairs	3,000
	50-410-4510	Insurance	500
	50-410-4540	Employees Benefits	(10,259)
	50-410-4590	Admin Port	800
Revenue	50-300-8026	Annual Cont Earned	19,276
Expenditure	10-700-9707	MH Transportation Fares-RGP	1,486
	10-690-9502	Mental Health	(1,486)
	10-700-9707	MH Transportation Fares-RGP	1,518
Revenue	10-399-0	Fund Balance Appropriated	1,518
Expenditure	32-690-7400	Capital Outlay	4,339
	33-680-7400	Capital Outlay	4,339
	34-670-7400	Capital Outlay	4,339
Revenue	32-335-0	Miscellaneous Revenue	4,339
	33-335-0	Miscellaneous Revenue	4,339
	34-335-0	Miscellaneous Revenue	4,339
Expenditure	10-700-9705	Rural General Public Transp	37,996
	10-700-9715	Supplement to RGP Program	(37,996)
Expenditure	10-516-1400	Travel	800.00
	10-516-3200	Operating Expense	1,078
	10-516-4500	Contractual	79,403
Revenue	10-348-103	NC Dept Corr-Crim Justice Grant	6,178
	10-399-0	Fund Balance Appropriated	75,103
Expenditure	10-700-9705	Rural Gen Public-DOT Grant	51,021
Revenue	10-399-0	Fund Balance Appropriated	51,021
Expenditure	10-611-1300	Medicaid Drafts	1,065,000
Revenue	10-399-0	Fund Balance Appropriated	1,065,000

Expenditure	10-690-9501	Fire/Rescue Appropriations	6,160
	10-690-9801	DOM Nursing Home Travel	800
Revenue	10-399-0	Fund Balance Appropriated	6,960
Expenditure	10-900-2000	Transfer to Debt Service Fund	1,080
	10-680-9210	To Debt Service-SCHS Sales Tax	(41,237)
Revenue	10-399-0	Fund Balance Appropriated	(40,157)
	20-397-200	Contribution SCH Sales Tax	100
	20-397-1000	Contribution General Fund	(100)
Expenditure	10-900-1200	Transfer to Aging	121,342
Revenue	10-399-0	Fund Balance Appropriated	121,342
Expenditure	37-700-9200	Remit to District	10,500
Revenue	37-310-0	Special District Tax - Evergreen Fire Dept	10,500
Expenditure	38-700-9200	Remit to District	1,000
Revenue	38-310-0	Special District Tax - St James Fire District	1,000
Expenditure	39-700-9200	Remit to District	10,000
Revenue	39-310-0	Special District Tax-North Whiteville Fire	10,000
Expenditure	40-700-9200	Remit to District	23,000
Revenue	40-310-0	Special District Tax-Nakina Fire District	23,000
Expenditure	41-700-9200	Remit to District	8,000
Revenue	41-310-0	Special District Tax - Old Dock Fire	8,000
Expenditure	42-700-9200	Remit to District	8,000
Revenue	42-310-0	Special District Tax-Hallsboro Fire District	8,000
Expenditure	43-700-9200	Remit to District	7,900
Revenue	43-310-0	Special District Tax-Roseland Fire District	7,900
Expenditure	44-700-9200	Remit to District	35,000
Revenue	44-310-0	Special District Tax-Yam City Fire District	35,000
Expenditure	45-700-9200	Remit to District	40,000
Revenue	45-310-0	Special District Tax-Acme Delco Fire	40,000
Expenditure	46-700-9200	Remit to District	23,000
Revenue	46-310-0	Special District Tax-Klondyke Fire District	23,000
Expenditure	47-700-9200	Remit to District	4,000
Revenue	47-310-0	Special District Tax-Coles Service District	4000
Expenditure	48-700-9200	Remit to District	9,000
Revenue	48-310-0	Special District Tax-Cerro Gordo Fire	9,000
Expenditure	51-700-9200	Remit to District	8,400
Revenue	51-310-0	Special District Tax-White Marsh/Welches Creek	8,400
Expenditure	52-700-9200	Remit to District	20,000
Revenue	52-310-0	Special District Tax-Whiteville Rescue	20,000

Expenditure	56-700-9200	Remit to District	34,000
Revenue	56-310-0	Special District Tax-Brunswick Fire District	34,000
Expenditure	59-700-9200	Remit to District	1,000
Revenue	59-310-0	Special District Tax-Buckhead Fire District	1,000
Expenditure	73-700-6000	Acme Delco Rescue	7,750
	73-700-6100	Buckhead Rescue	7,750
	73-700-6200	Cerro Gordo Rescue	7,750
	73-700-6300	Chadbourn Rescue	7,750
	73-700-6400	Fair Bluff Rescue	7,750
	73-700-6500	Lake Waccamaw Rescue	7,750
	73-700-6600	Nakina Rescue	7,750
	73-700-6700	Tabor City Rescue	7,750
Revenue	73-310-0	County Rescue Tax	62,000

B. Tax Refunds and Releases:

**TAX REFUND (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):
June 19, 2006**

Refunds Name: Cherry, John W. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year 005 Account # 11-01146 Bill # 93750 Total \$177.00
 Refund user fee on vacant house with no trash can.
 PO Box 319 Hallsboro NC 28442

**TAX RELEASES (as submitted to the Governing Body from the Tax Office):
June 19, 2006**

Release the Property Value in the name of Branyon, Otis Amount: \$146.73
 Value: \$20,100.00 Year: 2005 Account # 09-00149 Bill # 0408 Total \$162.81
 Release the value of a double wide, the Williams fire (12.06) and the Columbus Rescue (4.02). The home is unlivable at this time. Has not been set up yet.

Release the Property Value in the name of Freema, Gregory Amount: \$257.69
 Value: \$35,300.00 Year: 2005 Account # 13-13711 Bill # 9865 Total \$498.23
 Release the value of a house, the Klondyke fire (24.71), the Columbus Rescue (7.06) and W2 (31.77). The house burned in 1999.

Release the Property Value in the name of Royal, Elizabeth Amount: \$12.57
 Value: \$1,612.00 Year: 2004 Account # 09-25140 Bill # 2775 Total \$13.85
 Release the deferred tax, the Williams fire (.96) and the Columbus Rescue (.32). The land was transferred to a family member.

Release the Property Value in the name of Royal, Elizabeth Amount: \$12.57
 Value: \$1,612.00 Year: 2002 Account # 09-25140 Bill # 2777 Total \$12.57
 Release the deferred tax. Property transferred to a family member.

Release the Property Value in the name of Royal, Elizabeth Amount: \$24.06
 Value: \$3,296.00 Year: 2005 Account # 09-25140 Bill # 2773 Total \$26.68
 Release deferred tax, the Williams fire (1.97) and the Columbus Rescue (.65). Property was transferred to a family member.

Release the Property Value in the name of Royals, Elizabeth Amount: \$12.57
 Value: \$1,612.00 Year: 2003 Account # 09-25140 Bill # 2776 Total \$12.57
 Release the deferred tax. Property was transferred to a family member.

Release the Property Value in the name of Smith, Alice Amount: \$356.97
 Value: \$48,900.00 Year: 2005 Account # 01-02573 Bill # 1811 Total \$430.32
 Release the property value, the Whiteville Rescue (9.78) and W3 district (63.57). The property is double listed in the name of Jerry Smith.

Release the Property Value in the name of Webb, Darie Amount: \$77.00
 Value: \$10,550.00 Year: 2005 Account # 15-00248 Bill # 8988 Total \$268.77
 Release the value of a mobile home, the Acme Delco fire (12.66) and Columbus Rescue (2.11). The home is listed in Bladen County.

Release the Property Value in the name of Wilkins, Amanda Amount: \$8.47
 Value: \$1,160.00 Year: 2005 Account # 03-02940 Bill # 9666 Total \$9.63
 Release the value of a jet ski, the Old Dock fire (.93) and the Columbus Rescue (.23). The jet ski has been sold.

Release the Property Value in the name of Wilkins, Amanda Amount: \$10.10
 Value: \$1,295.00 Year: 2004 Account # 03-02940 Bill # 5481 Total \$12.54
 Release the value of a jet ski, the Old Dock fire (1.04) and the Columbus Rescue (.26). The jet ski has been sold.

Release the Property Value in the name of Willis, Sondra Amount: \$119.42
 Value: \$15,310.00 Year: 2004 Account # 02-07928 Bill # 6441 Total \$221.73
 Release the value of a mobile home and the Whiteville Rescue. The home is double listed in the name of Jerry McNeil.

Release the Property Value in the name of Willis, Sondra Amount: \$161.66
 Value: \$23,260.00 Year: 1998 Account # 02-07928 Bill # 5619 Total \$226.31
 Release the value of a mobile home and the Whiteville Rescue fee. The home is double listed in the name of Jerry McNeil.

Release the Property Value in the name of Willis, Sondra Amount: \$148.52
 Value: \$21,370.00 Year: 1999 Account # 02-07928 Bill # 8242 Total \$228.07
 Release the value of a mobile home and the Whiteville Rescue fee. The home is double listed in the name of Jerry McNeil.

Release the Property Value in the name of Willis, Sondra Amount: \$143.06
 Value: \$19,870.00 Year: 2000 Account # 02-07928 Bill # 0053 Total \$226.73
 Release the value of a mobile home and the Whiteville Rescue. The home is double listed in the name of Jerry McNeil.

Release the Property Value in the name of Willis, Sondra Amount: \$148.28
 Value: \$19,010.00 Year: 2001 Account # 02-07928 Bill # 1124 Total \$242.29
 Release the value of a mobile home and the Whiteville Rescue. The home is double listed in the name of Jerry McNeil.

Release the Property Value in the name of Willis, Sondra Amount: \$136.81
 Value: \$17,540.00 Year: 2002 Account # 02-07928 Bill # 9336 Total \$241.35
 Release the value of a mobile home and the Whiteville Rescue. The home is double listed in the name of Jerry McNeil.

Release the Property Value in the name of Willis, Sondra Amount: \$104.54
 Value: \$14,320.00 Year: 2005 Account # 02-07928 Bill # 0634 Total \$216.16
 Release the value of a mobile home the Brunswick Fire (10.02) and the Whiteville Rescue (2.86). The home is double listed in the name of Jerry McNeil.

Release the Property Value in the name of Willis, Sondra Amount: \$127.53
 Value: \$16,350.00 Year: 2003 Account # 02-07928 Bill # 0134 Total \$230.88
 Release the value of a mobile home and the Whiteville Rescue. The home is double listed in the name of Jerry McNeil.

Release the User Fee in the name of Bass, Richard Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2005 Account # 01-03431 Bill # 8467 Total \$177.00
 Release user fee on house that burned in 2000.

Release the User Fee in the name of Bowen, Susan Amount: \$0.00

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Value: \$0.00 Year: 2005 Account # 03-01811 Bill # 0221 Total \$177.00
Release user fee on vacant land.

Release the User Fee in the name of Brown, Gennie Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2005 Account # 15-05283 Bill # 0935 Total \$177.00
Release one of three user fees. Only has two mobile homes.

Release the User Fee in the name of Burney, J.H. Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2005 Account # 15-07720 Bill # 2003 Total \$354.00
Release user fees. House and barber shop are vacant.

Release the User Fee in the name of Friel, Dollie Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2005 Account # 09-01415 Bill # 0 Total \$177.00
Release user fee. There is no trash can here.

Release the User Fee in the name of Friel, Dollie Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2005 Account # 06-12964 Bill # 7 Total \$177.00
Release user fee that is double listed in the same name with a different account number.

Release the User Fee in the name of Gause, James Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2005 Account # 13-14861 Bill # 35 Total \$177.00
Release user fee on a house that is vacant and does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Gause, James Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2004 Account # 13-14861 Bill # 6671 Total \$177.00
Release user fee. House vacant and does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Hardin, Wayland Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2005 Account # 12-10920 Bill # 675 Total \$177.00
Release user fee on a service station that has been out of business for six years.

Release the User Fee in the name of Hardin, Wayland Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2004 Account # 12-10920 Bill # 9768 Total \$177.00
Release user fee. Service station has been out of business for six years.

Release the User Fee in the name of Powell, Anna S. Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2005 Account # 14-12020 Bill # 7028 Total \$177.00
Release user fee on a house that is vacant and does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Thomas, C. Franky Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2005 Account # 15-03345 Bill # 5609 Total \$177.00
Release user fee. There is no trash can here.

Release the User Fee in the name of Todd, William D. Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2005 Account # 13-40381 Bill # 6315 Total \$73.75
Release a portion of the user fee. Trash can burned in July of 06.

Release the User Fee in the name of Worley, Johnny Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2005 Account # 06-02508 Bill # 1024 Total \$177.00
Release the user fee that was added to a boat in error.

OTHER:

ANIMAL CONTROL - CLARIFICATION on EUTHANASIA METHODS:

Dr. John A. Stih, Veterinarian, stated he would like to provide clarification on euthanasia at the Columbus County Animal Control Shelter. Here are the results of the discovery of facts:

1. There is nothing wrong with the euthanasia procedures being utilized at the Columbus County Animal Shelter;
2. The procedures being used are well within the State Guidelines; **and**
3. These procedures are also within the Public Health Guidelines.
4. There are four (4) important points to remember about euthanasia, and they are as follows:

- A. Looking at how the animals are being put to sleep is not the important issue. We need to look at the beginning of the problem, and that is being a responsible pet owner and breeder.;
 - B. The State has passed a law affecting the guidelines of euthanasia in the County. They recommend the counties go by AV&A's 2001 Panel on euthanasia recommendations. Columbus County is following those guidelines.;
 - C. If the State does pass more stringent guidelines in the future, then we will have to initiate that. Until the North Carolina Department of Agriculture writes more guidelines, then everything the County is doing is okay.; **and**
 - D. The method of euthanasia has to be a balance of what is humane to the animal, what is humane to the people that administer it, and cost effective for the citizens who have to pay for it, and, right now, euthanasia by gas accomplishes all of those three (3) things.
5. There are animal activists that have brought a lot of attention to this issue, but the one they have not brought is another form of euthanasia that is a balance of those three (3) things, and until they do, what the County is doing is okay.

Chairman Godwin thanked Dr. Stih for this information and recommended the Animal Control Advisory Board meet at least once every quarter and address whatever issue needs to be addressed at that time.

Jim Varner, Interim County Manager, requested Dr. Stih to address the issue of how to put animals down and how certain people want the animals to be put down, and what do they mean by this. Dr. Stih replied to this by stating the following:

- 1. There are several different methods which are humane;
- 2. Different situations will call for different methods;
- 3. You want a minimum of pain and stress to the animal because you have to look at the environment in which they are put to sleep, which means the method employed by clinics could be vastly different than the method employed at an animal shelter which has a vast number of animals;
- 4. With different situations, different methods can be called for, which doesn't mean one method is more humane than another

Jim Varner, Interim County Manager requested that Dr. Stih address the matter of animal rights and animal care. Dr. Stih replied by stating the following:

- 1. Animal rights is one (1) issue and animal welfare is another issue;
- 2. There is a big difference between animal rights and animal welfare;
- 3. There are a lot of animal activists who are not happy with the way things are done, and they want to change it, but they have more than an animal rights agenda, and hide behind humane or ethical, and make it appear as animal welfare;
- 4. The fact that animals have to be put to sleep is a sad situation, but it is a necessary one in every county, and in every state;
- 5. This problem needs to be addressed at the beginning, and not at the end;
- 6. Making an issue out of euthanasia is a good way to tug at the public heart strings, because it is an emotional issue, but in this case, it is diverting attention;
- 7. Things that concern animal welfare are addressed by the County on a regular basis, and we have many laws and statutes about that, but, animal rights is another issue, and that is one we need to be careful of;
- 8. Bill #2098 has passed unanimously in the House of Representatives, and this bill is a fine example of a group of animal activists;
- 9. This bill has its merits, but it is also extreme, and could ultimately hurt the animals and their owners; **and**
- 10. The citizens need to contact their representative to vote no on this bill in the Senate.

MOTION:

After in-depth discussion was conducted relative to the contents of Bill #2098, Vice Chairman made a motion to send a letter to our Legislative Delegation stating our displeasure with the way this bill was handled in the House of Representatives, and suggest this bill be handled differently in the Senate. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Prevatte and unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #13: COMMENTS:

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

B. Department Heads:

Marva Scott, Social Services Director: I would like to know if the two (2) budget amendments that were denied at the last meeting, if they were included in the budget amendments for this meeting, and if so, were they approved at this meeting. Commissioner Memory stated to Ms. Scott that these two (2) budget amendments were not denied, but were returned requesting additional information to be provided, and after the additional information was received, these budget amendments had been approved by the Finance Committee.

Jim Varner, Interim County Manager, submitted these two (2) budget amendments to Chairman Godwin for Board approval.

MOTION:

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the following two (2) budget amendments submitted by Ms. Marva Scott, seconded by Vice Chairman Dutton. The motion unanimously carried.

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	10-610-6015	Medicaid Transportation	35,000
	10-610-0300	Temp. & Part-time Services	(15,000)
	10-610-1100	Telephone	(10,000)
	10-610-4500	Contracted Services	(10,000)
	10-610-1600	Maint. & Repair (Equipment)	15,000
	10-610-2100	Rent - Equipment	(15,000)
	10-611-2000	Adult Day Care	3,000
Revenue	10-348-1700	State Aid to DSS	3,000
Expenditure	10-610-0200	Salaries & Wages	(124,000)
	10-610-0201	Longevity	4,000
	10-610-0500	FICA	90,000
	10-610-0601	Retirees Health Benefits	20,000
	10-610-1600	Maint. & Repair (Equipment)	10,000
	10-610-5400	Insurance & Prof. Liab. - Property	(35,000)
	10-611-1800	Foster Care - State	35,000
	10-610-6030	Work Related Expenses	(6,000)
	10-610-6025	Jobs Transportation	6,000
	10-610-1101	Postage	(1,000)
	10-6710-1700	Maint. & Repair (Vehicles)	1,000

C. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Commissioner McKenzie:** I would like to know the status of the mosquito situation. Leroy Sellers, Maintenance Director, replied stating the following:

- A. We now have four (4) sprayers;
- B. We do need calls from the public for these mosquito sprays;

- C. We do a land count before we spray; **and**
 - D. It is very important to remember that we do not eradicate, we only control.
2. **Commissioner Memory:** stated that he had finally went on this hot air balloon ride that he paid for during the Strawberry Festival, and for those of you that have not been on one, you should go. Columbus County is very pretty from the sky and the experience is breath taking.
- D. **Interim County Manger:** Gail Edwards' father-in-law has passed away.

ESTABLISHMENT of SPECIAL CALLED MEETING:

Chairman Godwin stated the Board needed to set a Special Called Meeting for Friday, June 30, 2006, at 8:30 A.M., for the purpose of the consideration of adoption of the Proposed 2006 - 2007 Columbus County Operating Budget and other matters related to the close of the fiscal year.

MOTION:

Commissioner Memory made a motion to set a Special Called Meeting for Friday, June 30, 2006, at 8:30 A.M., in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, Commissioners' Chambers, for the purpose of the consideration of adoption of the Proposed 2006 - 2007 Columbus County Operating Budget, and other matters related to the close of the fiscal year. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Jacobs, and unanimously carried.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (6) PERSONNEL:

Agenda item #14: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (6) PERSONNEL:

At 7:29 P.M., Vice Chairman Dutton made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter in Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (6) Personnel, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously carried.

No official action was taken.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:

At 8:45 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #15: ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:47 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously carried.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

KIPLING GODWIN, Chairman