

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**March 03, 2008****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 their regular scheduled meeting on the first Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

James E. Prevatte **Chairman**
 Bill Memory, **Vice Chairman**
 Amon E. McKenzie
 Sammie Jacobs
 Ricky Bullard
 Ronald Gore

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, **County Manager**
 Steven W. Fowler, **County Attorney**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
 Bobbie Faircloth, **Deputy Finance Officer**

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Lynwood Norris

Agenda Items #1, #2 and #3:**MEETING CALLED to ORDER, INVOCATION and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:**

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman James E. Prevatte called the March 03, 2008 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Meeting 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 Bill Memory.

Agenda Item #4: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to approve the February 18, 2008 Regular Session Board Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5: PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Prevatte stated that two (2) blue comment cards had been received, and the following two (2) private citizens spoke.

1. **Jim Nance:** stated the following:
 - a. I have been told the dog hunters in Columbus County are holding up the enforcement of the Noise Ordinance;
 - b. I am a lover of hunting dogs, and I don't think the hunters are holding up the enforcement of this Ordinance; **and**
 - c. I am requesting that you take under consideration the enforcement of this Noise Ordinance.
2. **Gene McNeil:** stated the following:
 - a. I live in the Riegelwood area of Columbus County;
 - b. I would like to thank the County Commissioners for their recommendation of a License Plate Office being located in the eastern end of Columbus County; **and**
 - c. The citizens in my area of the County have to travel sixty (60) miles to and from Whiteville to get their license plates.

Agenda Item #6: PRESENTATION - UPDATE on ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:

Harry Foley, member of the Columbus County Economic Development Commission, delivered the following update to the Board.

1. I have been serving on the Columbus County Economic Development Commission for over twenty (20) years;
2. At the present time, we have an Industrial Park that is setting empty;
3. We need something to give this Industrial Park a kick start;
4. We have a vacant Shell Building that sets on 12.3 acres of land, with a tax value in excess

- of \$1 million;
5. On the occasions when we thought we had a sale for this building, the prospective buyer back away due to the price of the building;
 6. The suggestion that I have is for the County to purchase the Shell Building from the Committee of 100, with the caveat that the building be utilized for economic development activities only;
 7. I realize that Columbus County does not have this amount of money for the purchase, so I am requesting that this Board send a Resolution to the Legislative and Congressional Delegation asking them for their help in locating the needed funds for this purchase;
 8. If the Shell Building is purchased by the County, it becomes a marketable asset; **and**
 9. I have presented this idea to the Economic Development Commission and they accepted it and suggested that I approach the Board of Commissioners.

MOTION:

After discussion was conducted, Commissioner Memory made a motion to send a letter to the legislative and congressional delegation, Senator Soles and Representative Hill requesting they assist Columbus County in locating the necessary funds for the purchase of the Shell Building for economic development in Columbus County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion passed unanimously.

AMENDED MOTION:

After additional discussion, Commissioner Memory amended his previous motion to include Congressman McIntyre, Congresswoman Dole and Congressman Burr, Commissioner Bullard amended his second. The amended motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #7: PRESENTATION - FY 2006-2007 AUDIT:

Alan Thompson, Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams and Company presented the FY 2006-2007 Audit to the Board. This document was not made available to the Clerk to the Board. Alan Thompson discussed his findings, and the Management Letter is as follows.

February 11, 2008

To The Board of County Commissioners
Columbus County, North Carolina

Dear Commissioners,

In planning and performing our audit of the general purpose financial statements of Columbus County for the year ended June 30, 2007, we considered the internal control structure in order to determine the extent and nature of our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements, and not to provide assurance on the internal control system. However, we noted certain matters we considered important enough for your attention. No opinion is being expressed regarding internal control. Had our procedure been designed to express such an opinion other matters might have been noted.

We noted the following items that should enhance your internal control structure and reporting.

1. The Board should make adequate time for the Finance Officer/Deputy Finance Officer to perform random checks of the internal control system in the various departments. This would act as a deterrent since no one knows when their office would be checked. It would also enhance reporting and communication between the county's departments that handle cash.
2. Although the Tax Department is eventually getting over 99% of all taxes for any given year, the tax collection for the current year is below the state average. The current year's collection percentage increased from 94.16% last fiscal year to 94.39%. The collection rate for non-motor vehicles is in line with the state average.
3. The increasing size (growth) of the water districts and the finances related to them need careful attention going forward. The debt repayment and the operational effectiveness of the internal control in regards to the water districts will need constant attention until the growth

- stabilizes. Their ability to cash flow is crucial for long-term financial stability of the districts.
4. The county's General Fund fund balance declined by \$203,533 during the current year. The County should review all budget items to avoid a further reduction during the current fiscal year.
 5. The county should update its fixed asset list during the year as assets are added rather than wait until year end.
 6. All county departments that handle cash should be monitored at least once a year as part of the county's Finance Department's role.
 7. It is recommended that payroll (941's) be reconciled to the General Ledger at least on a quarterly basis, if not monthly. There has been a problem with reconciling at year end for the last couple of years. Balance sheet items relating to payroll need to be closely monitored to ensure accuracy.
 8. It is recommended that Water receivables be reconciled to the General Ledger monthly.
 9. All back accounts should be reconciled monthly to the General Ledger. Also, any old reconciling items should be cleaned out.
 10. Interest income should be allocated. The County should also consider looking for higher interest rates that what is currently being earned.
 11. All department accounts should be monitored to ensure they stay within the constraints of the approved budget.
 12. During the year, the County Manager accepted furniture as a gift from a furniture company that the County bought other furniture from. This is a violation of North Carolina General Statute 138A-32. The County's current Personnel Policy does not have a statement concerning the acceptance of gifts, and should be modified accordingly to reflect this General Statute.

Our firm is available to meet with you at any time to discuss any item in the Audit Report. Our firm continues to be impressed with the quality of work performed by the Administrative staff of the County.

This report is intended for the information of management and the Governing Board. However, this is also a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.

/s/ **Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams and Company, P.A.**

Mr. Thompson stated the following:

1. When the ending balance we arrive at, and the ending balance on the County's books, has such a large difference, there is a problem that needs to be identified;
2. Proper Utilization of the existing software, knowing the capabilities of the existing software, adequate training of staff, and timely and accurate input of data are the key factors in maintaining the accurate accounting that is needed; **and**
3. There is an existing problem that needs to be identified.

MOTION:

After lengthy discussion, Commissioner Memory made a motion to accept the FY 2006-2007 Audit, with the recommendations, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bullard stated the following:

1. Why is the Board not receiving a monthly Financial Statement;
2. This would greatly aid the Board in making good sound financial decisions about Columbus County; **and**
3. This Board needs a monthly Financial Statement that will provide us with an overall picture

of all the departments as soon as possible.

MOTION:

Commissioner Bullard made a motion that the Board would begin receiving a monthly Financial Statement which shows an overall financial picture of all the County departments as soon as possible, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #8: INTERLOCAL SEWER AGREEMENT - DISCUSSION:

Al Leonard, Consultant for the Towns of Fair Bluff, Cerro Gordo and Boardman, presented the following discussion on the Interlocal Sewer Agreement.

1. We held a Workshop on February 27, 2008 on this Agreement which was very productive;
2. It appears that everyone involved in this Agreement is comfortable with the language now;
3. We do need a tentative approval from this Board so we can begin the process; **and**
4. It is my understanding there were three (3) areas in the existing Agreement that needed adjustments as follows:
 - a. On Page 16, a threshold of \$5,000 for repairs, per year, needs to be added;
 - b. Section 7A, the terms of the contract should state thirteen (13) years for all parties involved, excepting Fairmont which will be forty (40) years; **and**
 - c. The County Attorney and myself need to check with the Local Government Commission for any required approval.

MOTION:

After additional discussion was conducted, Commissioner Memory made a motion to send the amended Interlocal Sewer Agreement to all the said Boards and municipalities for their review and final approval, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #9: CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM - APPROVAL of the 2008-2009 GRANT APPLICATION and CONTRACT for TREATMENT:

Katherine Horne, Chair of the Columbus County Criminal Justice Partnership Advisory Board, requested approval of the 2008-2009 Application for Continuation of Implementation Funding, and the Contract for Professional Services Between Columbus County and its Criminal Justice Partnership Board and Rouse Counseling and Consulting Services (RCCS). Ms. Horne stated the following:

1. This is our annual grant, and the amount is eighty-six thousand, five hundred seventy-three and 00/100 (\$86,573.00) dollars;
2. This grant amount is more than the previous year; **and**
3. The Contract is identical to the previous year's contract excepting where money amounts are located and they have increased slightly.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the 2008-2009 Application for Continuation of Implementation Funding, and the Contract for Professional Services Between Columbus County and its Criminal Justice Partnership Board and Rouse Counseling and Consulting Services (RCCS), seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of this document will be kept on file in the Clerk to the Board's Office for review.

Agenda Item #11: BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE - UPDATE:

Kandance Whitehead, Chairperson of the Bicentennial Committee, delivered the following update to the Board on the Bicentennial Committee.

1. **The Mission Statement for the Bicentennial Committee, Incorporated is as follows:**
The Columbus County Bicentennial Committee, Incorporated, is a charitable organization whose purpose is to celebrate and educate the citizens of Columbus County for their 200 years of existence.
 - To reflect on our history and heritage, and pay respect to the people who came before us, especially our senior citizens;
 - To showcase our county by focusing attention on our people, our schools, our

businesses and organizations;

- To plan events that will appeal to a variety of interests and ages;
- To bring the citizens of our county together through these events, enhancing existing relationships and building new ones; **and**
- To create a permanent, visible memorial or commemoration of the bicentennial that will serve as a legacy to future generations.

2. **Amphitheater:**

The name of the amphitheater is Nesmith Bicentennial Amphitheater. The Nesmith Bicentennial Amphitheater Committee has been formed. It is comprised of representatives from Southeastern Community College, Columbus County Schools, Whiteville City Schools and the Columbus County Bicentennial Committee, Incorporated. The NBA Committee has a budget of \$1 million. The architect, the theater expert, and the landscaper have already been picked for this project. The plan is for the Amphitheater to be located near the pond on the SCC campus and for it to be the major permanent Bicentennial Memorial.

4. **Resolution to Adopt Logo:**

Attached you will find a resolution to adopt the logo that the News Reporter has graciously provided for the public to use. Columbus County Bicentennial Committee, Incorporated would like to use this logo. We are asking that the Columbus County Commissioners pass a resolution to adopt this logo as the official logo for Columbus County Bicentennial Committee, Incorporated.

5. **Celebration:**

Our day of celebration will be November 22, 2008. This date was chosen because November 21, 1808 was the date that the bill was introduced into the Legislature. It was read three (3) times and passed, which was on December 14, 1808.

6. **Festivities:**

We have many festivities in mind for this event. First, we will begin with a parade. The parade route will be starting at Sunshine Cleaners, going down Main Street and ending at the Courthouse. The route will basically be the same as the Fair Parade. It will start at 10:00 A.M. Second, we will be gathering at the Columbus County Fairgrounds for the festivities. The entertainment will consist of musicians, school bands, choirs, tribal dancers, spinners, weavers, and many more. There will be an impersonator that is going to be portraying Christopher Columbus. We hope that we can have him attend all parades within the County as well as other county functions. He will also be attending county and city schools to educate our young people.

Vice Chairman Memory made a motion to approve and adopt the following Resolution to Adopt Official Logo for Bicentennial Committee, Incorporated, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION to ADOPT OFFICIAL LOGO for
BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, INCORPORATED**

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Bicentennial Committee, Incorporated, met on January 09, 2008; **and**

WHEREAS, there was discussion of an Agenda item to adopt the logo created by the News Reporter, Incorporated; **and**

WHEREAS, the logo reads, “**COLUMBUS BICENTENNIAL Celebrating 200 years 1808 - 2008**”.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, upon approval of the entire membership of the Columbus County Bicentennial Committee, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners adopts this logo as the official logo for the Columbus County Bicentennial Committee, Incorporated.

APPROVED and **ADOPTED** this the 3rd day of March, 2008.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ **JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

Agenda Item #11: AIRPORT - RESOLUTION of SUPPORT for PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS to S.R. 1181, AIRPORT ROAD:

Phil Edwards, Columbus County Airport Manager, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution of Support for Improvements to Airport Road.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT for IMPROVEMENTS to AIRPORT ROAD

WHEREAS, the staff at Columbus County Airport has been corresponding with the North Carolina Department of Transportation relative to improvements and enhancements to State Road 1181, Airport Road; **and**

WHEREAS, these improvements would provide a pleasant, welcoming and safer appearance to those who utilize our Airport; **and**

WHEREAS, the increased utilization of the Columbus County Airport would provide an avenue for the needed economic growth; **and**

WHEREAS, the following proposed improvements and enhancements would be an enormous aesthetic improvement to the Columbus County Airport:

- Grading of the roadway;
- Re-surfacing of the Roadway;
- Clearing additional right-of-way;
- Re-grading roadway shoulders and ditch slopes to increase the usable shoulder and clear zone, while providing ditch slopes that are flat enough to be maintained by a lawn mower; **and**
- Landscaping to include centipede grassing, the addition of ornamental street trees along the corridor and visual buffering along the NCDOT maintenance fence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners fully support the proposed improvements and enhancements to Columbus County Airport, and feel very fortunate to have this done.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 3rd day of March, 2008.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution of Support for Improvements to Airport Road, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #12: SOLID WASTE - APPROVAL of SPRING LITTER SWEEP PROCLAMATION:

Leroy Sellers, Solid Waste Director, requested Board approval and adoption of the Litter Sweep Spring 2008 by the County of Columbus, a Proclamation.

**LITTER SWEEP SPRING 2008
by the COUNTY OF COLUMBUS
A PROCLAMATION**

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

WHEREAS, the Spring 2008“*LITTER SWEEP*” roadside cleanup will take place **April 19 through May 03, 2008**, and we encourage local governments and communities, civic and professional groups, businesses churches, schools, families and individual citizens to participate in the Columbus County cleanup by sponsoring and organizing local roadside cleanups; **and**

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the 2008 spring cleanup will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the North Carolina Adopt-A-Highway Program and its 6,000 volunteer groups that donate their labor and time year round to keep our roadsides clean; **and**

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

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim **April 19 through May 03, 2008**, as “*SPRING LITTER SWEEP*” time in Columbus County, and encourage citizens to take an active role in making their communities cleaner.

APPROVED and **ADOPTED** this 3rd day of March, 2008.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ **JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**

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

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve and adopt the Litter Sweep Spring 2008 by the County of Columbus, A Proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #13: PURCHASING - APPROVAL of SECONDARY ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY AGREEMENT with DEPARTMENT of TRANSPORTATION:

Stuart Carroll, Purchasing Director, requested Board approval of the Secondary Road Right of Way Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the Government Complex Road.

Vice Chairman Memory made a motion to approve the Secondary Road Right of Way Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the Government Complex Road, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion passed unanimously A copy of this document will be marked as Exhibit “A” and kept on file in Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 2, for review.

Agenda Item #14: TAX - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Richard Gore, Columbus County Tax Administrator, delivered the following Departmental Update to the Board.

1. **Land Records:**

Real Estate Transaction History						Parcel County History					
Year	#	Year	#	Year	#	Year	#	Year	#	Year	#
1998	1556	2002	2280	2006	2838	1998	36315	2002	39704	2006	41364
1999	1650	2003	2530	2007	2868	1999	36990	2003	40137	2007	---
2000	1878	2004	2460	2008	--	2000	37719	2004	40689	2008	42039
2001	2204	2005	2640			2001	38502	2005	41370		

2. **Property Tax Collections:**

Collections through February 28, 2007	-	\$20,104,844.10	87.90%
Collections through February 29, 2008		\$22,439,064.27	89.93%

Agenda Item #15: CDBG - SINGLE FAMILY REHABILITATION GRANT 2007 - AWARD of SERVICE-LEAD BASED PAINT:

William S. Clark, County Manager, requested Board approval to award the lead-based paint services for the SFR Grant 2007 to EI, based on the following proposal.

**EVALUATION of CDBG PROPOSAL
LEAD-BASED PAINT SERVICES**

Project: Columbus County SRF Program

Firm	Technical Approach/ Understanding of Problem	Experience of Proposed Personnel	Community Development Experience	Familiarity with Locality	Bid Summary	Total Points	Ranking
Points	20	20	20	20	20	100	
Carolina Environmental	15	20	20	20	19	94	3
EI	19	20	20	19	20	98	1
Matrix	19	20	20	18	20	97	2
Ray Consulting	19	20	20	18	20	97	2

Based upon the evaluation criteria on the reverse page (**not made available**), the firm of EI is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable fee.

Signed: /s/ **JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**
COLUMBUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Date: March 03, 2008

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to approve the award of the lead-based paint services for the SFR Grant 2007 to EI, with no monetary amount stated, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #16: RESOLUTION - RESOLUTION in SUPPORT of CONTINUATION OF JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL FUNDING:

Greg Worthington, Chairman of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution in Support of Continuation of Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Funding. Mr. Worthington stated the following:

1. Last year we received \$204,983.00 for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council funding;
2. Congress has took \$23,000,000.00 out of the budget for this program;
3. This program has been very beneficial to our youth in Columbus County and across the State; **and**
4. I need your approval of this Resolution in an effort to prevent this from happening.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUATION OF
JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL FUNDING**

WHEREAS, Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) funding has been removed from the continuation budget and is now subject to continuation review; **and**

WHEREAS, the non-recurring status of JCPC funding and subsequent continuation review will delay the annual appropriation and may result in the loss of qualified professionals to provide diversion and dispositional alternatives at the local level; **and**

WHEREAS, since 1977, the State of North Carolina and county governments have been partners in providing effective and necessary community based juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention services; **and**

WHEREAS, the JCPC funded programs of Columbus County leverage monies in local support to augment funds provided by the state to provide these important services; **and**

WHEREAS, the JCPC funded programs of Columbus County are supported by the efforts of many volunteers annually; **and**

WHEREAS, the Columbus County JCPC diligently carries out its charge of assessing community needs, planning for those needs to be met, recommending programs for funding to meet the needs and evaluating the performance of those programs; **and**

WHEREAS, the loss of JCPC program services in Columbus County will result in Juveniles who have been diverted from further court involvement to community based programming, those youth who have been placed on court supervision through the District Court or are transitioning back into the community from youth development centers on Post Release Supervision being without necessary intervention and prevention services such as, (restitution and community service, interpersonal skills, Teen Court, parenting education, home/school based counseling services and court psychological programs;; **and**

WHEREAS, a lack of sanction programs and dispositional alternatives in Columbus County will result in a potential cost of more than \$95,000 per juvenile confined to the Youth Development Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners strongly endorses full reinstatement of funding for Juvenile Crime Prevention Council programs to the continuation budget and the allocation of additional funds to support legislative mandates to protect the community and provide a juvenile justice continuum at the local level.

APPROVED and **ADOPTED** this is the 3rd day of March, 2008.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**

ATTESTED BY:

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

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the Resolution in Support of Continuation of Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Funding, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #17: RESOLUTION - RESOLUTION of BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of COLUMBUS COUNTY, BUSINESS/INDUSTRIAL PARK DEVELOPMENT:

William S. Clark, County Manager, and Jim Hinkle, Interim Economic Development Director, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution of Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, Business/Industrial Park Development.

**RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF COLUMBUS COUNTY
BUSINESS/INDUSTRIAL PARK DEVELOPMENT**

Pursuant to notice duly given, a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") of Columbus County (the "County") was held on March 3, 2008. there were a sufficient number present to constitute a quorum. As an item of business the Board adopts the following resolution.

WHEREAS, the County has economically distressed areas that are in need of more capital investments and job creation to resolve lingering economic problems;

WHEREAS, having qualified, attractively developed business/industrial sites, that are fully served by all infrastructure systems, is essential to recruiting new business/industrial facilities;

WHEREAS, the Board desires that staff and retained external experts pursue opportunities for the acquisition and development of such business/industrial sites, to include opportunities for the acquisition and development of such sites in conjunction with counties contiguous to the County; and

WHEREAS, by this resolution the Board directs staff, with assistance from external experts, to identify, and subject to further Board approvals, to pursue such opportunities as to business/industrial sites.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that County staff, and external experts which might be retained, are directed to expeditiously identify qualified sites for business/industrial parks, and subject to further Board considerations and approvals to pursue the acquisition and development of such sites.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that opportunities for the acquisition and development of business/industrial parks in conjunction with counties contiguous to the County are to be identified, and subject to further Board considerations and approvals, staff and external experts are to pursue such joint development efforts.

This resolution passed by a vote of seven (7) for, and zero (0) against.

This the 3rd day of March, 2008

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By:/s/ **JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**

ATTESTED BY:

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

Vice Chairman Memory made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution of Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, Business/Industrial Park Development, for eastern Columbus County and Western Brunswick County, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #18: RESOLUTION - RESOLUTION CALLING a SPECIAL REFERENDUM on the ISSUE of LEVYING an ADDITIONAL SALES TAX:

Chairman Prevatte requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution Calling a Special Referendum on the Issue of Levying an Additional Sales Tax.

**RESOLUTION BY THE COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REQUESTING THE COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
HOLD A SPECIAL ADVISORY REFERENDUM
FOR THE LEVY OF A LOCAL SALES TAX
IN COLUMBUS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the 2007 State Appropriations Act (H1473) amended Chapter 105 of the North Carolina General Statutes (§§105-601 through 604 and 105-535 through 538) which provides counties with the authority to levy a local sales and use tax at a rate of one-quarter percent (0.25%); **and**

WHEREAS, the above-referenced statute amendments further provide that prior to the adoption by the County Commissioners of a resolution that would levy a local sales tax, there must first be conducted a special advisory referendum whereby the County voters would have the opportunity to vote for or against the levy of the above referenced local tax by the County Commissioners; furthermore, the County Commissioners could not levy a local sales tax unless a majority of those citizens voting in the special advisory referendum vote for the levy of the tax; **and**

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners voted on February 18, 2008,

at 6:30 P.M., a motion was duly made and seconded, and passed unanimously by the Board members to request that the Columbus County Board of Elections conduct a special advisory referendum in Columbus County on Tuesday, November 04, 2008 on the question of whether to levy a local sales tax in Columbus County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners that the Columbus County Board of Elections is hereby requested to conduct an advisory referendum between 6:30 A.M. and 7:30 P.M., on Tuesday, November 4, 2008, for all of Columbus County on the following ballot question:

ONE-QUARTER CENT (1/4¢) COUNTY SALES AND USE TAX

[] **FOR** [] **AGAINST**

Local sales and use tax at the rate of one-quarter percent (0.25%) in addition to all other State and local sales and use taxes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners further request that at such time the special election voting data is tabulated and certified, the Board of Elections forward said advisory referendum results to the Board of Commissioners in order that the Commissioners can further deliberate and proceed as allowed in the above referenced amendments to Chapter 105 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

ADOPTED this the 3rd day of March, 2008.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
By: /s/ **JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**

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

Chairman Prevatte stated the following:

1. We placed this on the November, 2007 Ballot, and it did not pass;
2. We are going to use a different approach this time by educating the public of the advantages of this quarter-cent sales tax;
3. We are allowed to educate the public about this tax, but we can not advocate for this tax; **and**
4. The Commissioners will appoint people to educate the public at our next scheduled meeting.

Vice Chairman Memory made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution Calling a Special Referendum on the Issue of Levying an Additional Sales Tax, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion passed unanimously.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into a COMBINATION MEETING of COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING

At 8:15 P.M., Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into a Combination Meeting of the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of COMBINATION MEETING COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

February 18, 2008 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Combination Board Meeting (**5 Sets**)

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 1 for each Water District respectively.

ADJOURN COMBINATION MEETING COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING and resume REGULAR SESSION

At 8:17 P.M., Commissioner Gore made a motion to adjourn the Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board, and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 20: APPOINTMENTS - COMMITTEE/BOARDS:

June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, requested the following appointments/re-appointments be made to the following boards/committees.

COMMITTEE	ZONE/ EB	PERSON(S)	EXPIR. DATE	BOARD ACTION
Southeastern Economic Development Commission	EB	Robert H. White Jim Hinkle Motion: McKenzie Second: Memory	04-01-2008 04-01-2008	HOLD Re-Appoint
Housing Advisory Committee	IV	Marshall Shepherd (Deceased)	06-30-2007	HOLD
S.E. Regional Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities & Substance Abuse Authority	EB	Dr. Ray Thigpen (Resigned)	11-30-2009	HOLD

Agenda Item #21: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Budget Amendments:

Commissioner Gore made a motion to approve the following Budget Amendments, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion passed unanimously.

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	46-7115-820025	Debt Service Interest	(314,000)
	46-7115-599100	Contingency	(536,568)
	46-7115-519030	Contract 1 - T.A. Loving	\$472,387
	46-7115-519035	Contract II - McClam & Associates	441,901
	46-7115-519040	Contract III - Caldwell Tanks	1,280
Revenue	46-3716-432300	Local Option Sales and Use Tax	65,000
Expenditure	10-5112-512100	Salaries & Wages	35,000
Revenue	10-3510-430026	State Grant - General Health	35,000
Expenditure	10-5190-512100	Salaries & wages	3,675
Revenue	10-3510-430029	State Grant	3,675
Expenditure	10-5181-512100	Salaries & Wages	400
Revenue	10-3510-430028	State Grant	400
Expenditure	10-5180-512100	Salaries & Wages	(474)
Revenue	10-3510-430044	State Grant	(474)
Expenditure	10-5120-512100	Salaries & Wages	17,964
Revenue	10-3510-430027	State Grant	17,964

Expenditure	10-5197-512100	Salaries & Wages	(1,609)
Revenue	10-3510-430049	State Grant	(1,609)
Expenditure	10-5161-519000	Professional Services	48,000
Revenue	10-3510-430031	State Grant	48,000
Expenditure	10-5161-512100	Salaries	14,121
Revenue	10-3510-430031	State Grant	14,121
Expenditure	10-5192-512100	Salaries & Wages	(3,734)
Revenue	10-3510-430050	State Grant	(3,734)
Expenditure	10-5170-526007	Misc Supplies & Services - Client Services	6,610
Revenue	10-3510-430055	State Grant	6,610
Expenditure	10-5161-512100	Salaries & Wages	3,788
Revenue	10-3510-430031	State Grant	3,788

B. February 18, 2008 Tax Refunds and Releases:

Commissioner Gore made a motion to approve the following Tax Refunds and Releases, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion passed unanimously.

**TAX REFUND (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):
March 03, 2008**

Refunds Name: Jenkins, O. C. Amount: \$152.93
 Value: \$18,764.00 Year 007 Account # 16-09280 Bill # 58659 Total \$192.33
 Refund the property value, the Cerro Gordo Fire (18.76), the Columbus Rescue Fee (3.75) and the Water 2 (16.89). The farm equipment is double listed in the name of J.C. Jenkins Jr.
 297 Bill Jenkins Rd. Cerro Gordo NC 28430

**TAX RELEASES (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):
March 03, 2008**

Release the Property Value in the name of Enzor, Dwayne L. Amount: \$29.90
 Value: \$3,300.00 Year: 2007 Account # 16-00406 Bill # 8884 Total \$36.83
 Release a portion of the property value, a portion of the Cole Service Fee (3.30) a portion of the Columbus Rescue (.66) and a portion of the W2 (2.97). Billed with incorrect acres.

Release the Property Value in the name of Mitchell, Willie G. Amount: \$160.68
 Value: \$20,600.00 Year: 2003 Account # 14-10485 Bill # 3454 Total \$341.80
 Release the value of a double wide and the Columbus Rescue fee. The home burned in 2002.

Release the Property Value in the name of Mitchell, Willie G. Amount: \$160.68
 Value: \$20,600.00 Year: 2004 Account # 14-10485 Bill # 705 Total \$341.80
 Release the property value and the Columbus Rescue. The home burned in 2002.

Release the Property Value in the name of Mitchell, Willie G. Amount: \$193.45
 Value: \$26,500.00 Year: 2005 Account # 14-10485 Bill # 3716 Total \$396.95
 Release the property value, the Welches Creek Fire (21.20) and the Columbus Rescue (5.30). The home burned in 2002.

Release the Property Value in the name of Mitchell, Willie G. Amount: \$202.73
 Value: \$26,500.00 Year: 2006 Account # 14-10485 Bill # 4952 Total \$422.23
 Release the property value, the Welches Creek Fire (21.20) and Columbus Rescue (5.30). The home burned in 2002.

Release the Property Value in the name of Mitchell, Willie G. Amount: \$215.98
 Value: \$26,500.00 Year: 2007 Account # 14-10485 Bill # 5314 Total \$435.48
 Release the property value, the Welches Creek Fire (21.20) and the Columbus Rescue (5.30). The home

burned in 2002.

Release the Property Value in the name of Spaulding, Gertrude (Heirs) Amount \$68.46
 Value: \$8,400.00 Year 2007 Account #: 14-15440 Bill#: 74942 Total: \$76.86

Release the property value, the Welches Creek Fire (6.72) and the Columbus Rescue (1.68). This property does not exist.

Release the User Fee in the name of Caines, Edgar Jr. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 13-06343 Bill # 3259 Total \$386.00

Release all user fees. Customer using a commercial hauler.

Release the User Fee in the name of Federa Nat. Mort. Assoc. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 09-01349 Bill # 9681 Total \$193.00

Release the user fee. House is vacant and does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Hayes, Linda Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 10-02536 Bill # 5520 Total \$193.00

Release the user fee. House is vacant and does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Inman, William Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 12-12920 Bill # 7907 Total \$193.00

Release user fee. House is vacant and does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Iron Hill Penticoastal Ch. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2001 Account # 18-00142 Bill # 3794 Total \$330.00

Release two of three user fees. Only one trash can here.

Release the User Fee in the name of Iron Hill Penticoastal Ch. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2002 Account # 18-00142 Bill # 327 Total \$354.00

Release two of three user fees. There is only one trash can here.

Release the User Fee in the name of Iron Hill Penticoastal Ch. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2000 Account # 18-00142 Bill # 1323 Total \$250.00

Release two of three user fees. There only one trash can here.

Release the User Fee in the name of Mise, Ernest Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 09-03222 Bill # 5147 Total \$193.00

Release the user fee on a activity building that is vacant. There is no trash can here.

Release the User Fee in the name of Page, Paul F. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 13-31727 Bill # 7123 Total \$166.94

Release the user fee on a old parts store that is vacant. There is no trash can here.

Release the User Fee in the name of Page, Paul F. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 13-31727 Bill # 7508 Total \$193.00

Release the user fee on a old parts store that is vacant. There is no trash can here

Release the User Fee in the name of Page, Paul F. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 13-02926 Bill # 7506 Total \$193.00

Release the user fee on a mobile home that is used for storage. There is no trash can here.

Release the User Fee in the name of Ward, Billy J. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 03-00122 Bill # 9753 Total \$193.00

Release the user fee that is double listed in the name of Robert Watts.

Release the User Fee in the name of Ward, Billy J. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 03-00122 Bill # 9173 Total \$193.00

Release the user fee that is double listed in the name of Robert Watts.

Agenda Item #22: COMMENTS:

Chairman Prevatte opened the floor for comments. The following spoke.

A. Department Heads:

Leroy Sellers: stated the following:

1. In April, we will be holding our Spring Litter Sweep;
2. On April 19, 2008, at 9:00 A.M., we will have a get together at the North Whiteville Convenience Center; **and**
3. I encourage everyone to come out and participate.

B. Board of Commissioners:

Commissioner McKenzie: I have been told that seventy-three (73%) percent of the employees at the new State prison, which is approximately three hundred (300), are citizens of Columbus County.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (6) PERSONNEL and (3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE:

At 8:23 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (6) Personnel and (3) Attorney-Client Privilege, with a five (5) minute recess, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #23: CLOSED SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (6) PERSONNEL and (3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE:

No official action was taken.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:

At 9:12 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #24: RECESS MEETING:

At 9:17 P.M., Commissioner Gore made a motion to recess this meeting until Thursday morning, March 6, 2008, at 8:00 A.M., for the purpose of awarding the contract for the Columbus County Sanitary Sewer Project to serve Nakina and Guideway Schools, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 03, 2008
8.15 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, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III IV and V Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

James E. Prevatte, **Chairman**
Bill Memory, **Vice Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie
Sammie Jacobs
Ricky Bullard
Ronald Gore

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, **County Manager**
Steven W. Fowler, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Deputy Finance Officer**

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Lynwood Norris

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:15 P.M., Chairman Prevatte called the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V **Combination** Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item 19: **COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V COMBINATION BOARD MEETING - APPROVAL of BOARD MINUTES:**

February 18, 2008 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V **Combination** Board Meeting

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to approve the February 18, 2008 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V **Combination** Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:17 P.M., Commissioner Gore made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
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COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

James E. Prevatte, **Chairman**
Bill Memory, **Vice Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie
Sammie Jacobs
Ricky Bullard
Ronald Gore

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, **County Manager**
Steven W. Fowler, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Deputy Finance Officer**

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Lynwood Norris

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:15 P.M., Chairman Prevatte called the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V **Combination** Board Meeting to order.

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February 18, 2008 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V **Combination** Board Meeting

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to approve the February 18, 2008 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V **Combination** Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:17 P.M., Commissioner Gore made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
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COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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Bill Memory, **Vice Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie
Sammie Jacobs
Ricky Bullard
Ronald Gore

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, **County Manager**
Steven W. Fowler, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Deputy Finance Officer**

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Lynwood Norris

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

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ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:17 P.M., Commissioner Gore made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

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ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:17 P.M., Commissioner Gore made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman

COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
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COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Lynwood Norris

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

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Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to approve the February 18, 2008 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V **Combination** Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:17 P.M., Commissioner Gore made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman