

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**June 30, 2008 (Resumed from June 16, 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, to resume the June 16, 2008 Regular Session Board Meeting.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

James E. Prevatte **Chairman**
 Bill Memory, **Vice Chairman**
 Amon E. McKenzie
 Sammie Jacobs
 Lynwood Norris
 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**

Agenda Item #1: RESUMED MEETING CALLED to ORDER:

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman James E. Prevatte called the June 30, 2008 Regular Session Board Meeting to order, which was resumed from June 16, 2008.

ADJUSTMENT of JUNE 16, 2008 AGENDA:

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to add the items listed for this June 30, 2008 Resumed Regular Session Board Meeting to the June 16, 2008 Regular Session Board Meeting Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #2: GOVERNING BODY - VOTING DELEGATE for the 2008 NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

Chairman Prevatte requested the appointment of a voting delegate for the 2008 NACo Annual Conference, to be held July 11 - 15, 2008, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to appoint Commissioner Sammie Jacobs as the Voting Delegate for the 2008 NACo Annual Conference, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #3: BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Vice Chairman Memory made a motion to approve the following Budget Amendments, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	28-4341-569900	Acme Delco Fire District	6,691
Revenue	28-3434-411012	Acme Delco Fire District	6,691
Expenditure	28-4348-569900	Bolton Fire District	3,897
Revenue	28-3434-310095	Bolton Fire District	3,897
Expenditure	28-4349-569900	Buckhead Fire District	1,464
Revenue	28-3434-310090	Buckhead Fire District	1,464
Expenditure	28-4347-569900	Brunswick Fire District	1,345
Revenue	28-3434-411104	Brunswick Fire District	1,345
Expenditure	28-4344-569900	Cerro Gordo Fire District	1,971
Revenue	28-3434-411018	Cerro Gordo Fire District	1,971

Expenditure	28-4343-569900	Coles Service Fire District	423
Revenue	28-3434-411017	Coles Service Fire District	423
Expenditure	28-4338-569900	Hallsboro Fire District	2,010
Revenue	28-3434-411109	Hallsboro Fire District	2,010
Expenditure	28-4342-569900	Klondyke Fire District	9,767
Revenue	28-3434-411013	Klondyke Fire District	9,767
Expenditure	28-4335-569900	Nakina Fire District	14,231
Revenue	28-3434-411107	Nakina Fire District	14,231
Expenditure	28-4335-569900	North Whiteville Fire District	1,578
Revenue	28-3434-411016	North Whiteville Fire District	1,578
Expenditure	28-4337-569900	Old Dock Fire District	713
Revenue	28-3434-411108	Old Dock Fire District	713
Expenditure	28-4339-569900	Roseland Fire District	5,381
Revenue	28-3434-411110	Roseland Fire District	5,381
Expenditure	28-4334-569900	St. James Fire District	859
Revenue	28-3434-411015	St. James Fire District	859
Expenditure	26-4370-569900	Whiteville Rescue	14,460
Revenue	26-3434-411104	Whiteville Rescue	14,460
Expenditure	28-4345-569900	Williams Township Fire District	899
Revenue	28-3434-411019	Williams Township Fire District	899
Expenditure	28-4340-569900	Yam City Fire District	7,377
Revenue	28-3434-411011	Yam City Fire District	7,377
Expenditures	38-4990-549967	C-1 Clearance	1,173
	38-4990-549969	C-2 Relocation	2,550
Revenue	38-3499-489085	CDBG Grant 06-C-1507	3,723
Expenditure	39-4371-519055	Construction	364,023
	39-4371-599100	Contingency	30,488
Revenue	39-3717-438390	Grand Strand Water and Sewer	394,511
Expenditure	65-7110-527000	Water Purchase for Resale	42,311
	65-7110-525105	Gas	3,988
	65-7110-532101	Postage	402
	65-7110-537000	Advertising	95
Revenue	65-3718-451000	Water Sales	46,796
Expenditure	51-4531-519000	Professional Services	2,323
Revenue	51-3453-432001	Fuel Farm Grant	2,323

Agenda Item #4: BUDGET - ADOPTION of the PROPOSED 2008 -2009 COLUMBUS COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET:

William S. Clark, County Manager, requested Board approval and adoption of the Proposed 2008 - 2009 Columbus County Operating Budget. Mr. Clark presented the following Budget Message and Budget Ordinance.

B U D G E T M E S S A G E

TO: Mr. James Prevatte, Chairman
Columbus County Board of Commissioners

FROM: William S. Clark
Columbus County Manager

DATE: June 30, 2008

IN RE: Columbus County Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget Message

Overview

The Proposed Budget for fiscal year 2008-2009 is presented in accordance with the North Carolina Budget and Fiscal Control Act, North Carolina General Statute 153A-82. North Carolina law states that a balanced budget must be publicly presented by June 1 and a balanced budget adopted by June 30. I am pleased to present a budget that is balanced without a proposed tax increase.

The Medicaid swap was an important factor in balancing our budget. The county's net Medicaid appropriation was reduced by approximately \$1 million dollars. An additional \$20 million dollars in assessed value in real property was also a factor in eliminating the need for a property tax increase. By bidding our employee health care insurance, premiums were reduced by \$428,000.00.

Special district taxes for Water Districts II and III are again proposed. However, reductions of 2 cents for Water Districts II and III are recommended. Unfortunately, double digit increases in fuel surcharges for Solid Waste's Waste Management contracts has necessitated an increase of \$7.00 in trash can user fees to \$200.00 for county residents and \$113.00 for municipal residents.

Below you will find a general overview of some of the highlights of this proposed budget:

2008-2009 General Fund	2007-2008 General Fund	Decreased Dollars	%
\$53,975,572	\$55,245,278	\$1,269,706	2%
2008-2009 Total Budget	2007-2008 Total Budget	Decreased Dollars	%
\$75,307,823	\$76,292,061	\$984,238	2%

Expense & Capital Increases

Additional Fuel Costs (General Fund)	\$100,000
Additional Fuel Surcharges-WM contract	\$500,000
Social Services-New Telephone System and Computer Upgrade	\$105,342
Sheriff's Office - Lease for 6 new vehicles	\$49,200
Finance/Personnel-Payroll Softwear	\$34,500
Redistricting	\$40,000
Recreation-Chadbourn Parks & Rec Subsidy	\$14,150
Building Inspections - Lease on 1 vehicle	\$5,000
Fourth of July Celebration - Tabor City	\$1,000
Livingston Creek Match	\$37,200
Liberty Day - 5 th Grade Program	\$1,000
Contingency	<u>\$179,621</u>
Total	\$1,067,013

Employee COLA Adjustments, 401K, and Insurance Premiums

Cost of living adjustments (COLA) of 2.5% have been budgeted along with a 401-K contribution of 1% across the board. Health care insurance was again bid this year, and effective July 1, Blue Cross/Blue Shield will become the county's health care insurance provider. Insurance premiums will decrease by 12 %, for a total savings of \$428,000. Hospital deductibles, physician and prescription co-pays will remain the same.

Personnel Increases

One (1) new position for Elections, three (3) Detention Officer positions, and one (1) RN position for the Health Department are proposed in this budget.

Enterprise Funds

Solid Waste – Solid Waste fees are proposed as follows:

	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>
Regular Tipping Fees	55.45/ton*	50.50/ton
LCID Tipping Fees	38.96/ton*	37.46/ton
Trashcan User Fees:	A) County Resident	\$200.00/year (Increase of \$7.00)
	B) Municipal Resident	\$113.00/year (Increase of \$7.00)

Tipping fee increases are necessary to offset a proposed CPI increase by Waste Management effective January 1, 2009. *Also included in the tipping fees increase is a \$2.93 per ton solid waste disposal tax. \$2.00 of this tax was mandated by the Solid Waste Management Act of 2007, for cleanup of old landfills sites and to strengthen environmental standards for new landfills. The additional \$.93 fee is for administrative fees charged by the county's garbage recipient in Sampson County. An additional \$500,000 in fuel surcharges has also been budgeted due to the continual escalation of diesel fuel prices.

Water District I – No rate change. Water District I's revenues are sufficient to pay its expenditures. The minimum charge for the first 2,000 gallons is \$21 and \$4.00 per thousand gallons for all usage over the first 2,000 gallons will remain the same as the previous year.

Water District II – No rate change. A decrease in the special district tax from 9 cents to 7 cents (projected at \$244,000) is proposed to help pay the projected debt service of approximately \$405,081 for fiscal year 2008-2009. A flat rate fee of \$25.00 per month and \$4.00 per thousand gallons for all usage over the first 2,000 gallons is again recommended for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Water District III – No rate change. A decrease in the special district tax rate of 13 cents to 11 cents (approximately \$216,886) is proposed to continue to help pay the projected debt service of \$321,456. A flat rate of \$25.00 per month and \$4.00 per thousand gallons for all usage over the first 2,000 gallons is again calculated for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Water District IV – No rate change. Rates in Water District IV are again proposed at the current rate of a \$24 minimum fee, and \$4.00 per thousand for all usage over the first 2,000 gallons.

Water District V – No rate change. Rates in Water District V are again proposed at the current \$21 minimum fee and \$4.00 per thousand for usage over the first 2000 gallons.

Additional Sources of Revenue

Ad-valorem Property Tax Collections – Tax collections are calculated based on a collection rate of 96%, based on the current rate of 81.5 cents per 100.

Transfers from Other Departments to the General Fund – Total transfers to the General Fund from other departments are as follows:

1)	\$200,000 - Health Department
2)	\$ 10,923 – WD I
3)	\$ 99,808 – WD II
4)	\$ 86,382 – WD III
5)	\$ 1,097 – WD IV
6)	\$ 545 – WD V
	\$398,755

The transferred amount of \$398,755 is the equivalent of approximately one and one-quarter cents of property tax that is not required in this fiscal year budget.

Education

Total allocations for city, county schools, and Southeastern Community College are funded with a three (3%) percent increase over the funding levels of fiscal year 2007-2008.

Conclusion

Staff has worked hard to give you a proposed balanced budget for fiscal year 2008-2009 without a tax increase. I would like to thank Deputy Finance Officer Bobbie Faircloth and our department managers for their efforts in the development of this budget.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ **William S. Clark**
Columbus County Manager

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE
FISCAL YEAR 2008 - 2009**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina.

Section 1: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the General Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Governing Body	230,169
Administration	269,094
Personnel	140,143
Purchasing & Safety	156,961
Finance	420,939
Tax Administration	979,591
County Attorney	228,874
Teen Court 13th District	68,824
Court Facilities	176,151
Judges Chambers	4,380
District Court	12,050
Elections	319,024
Register of Deeds	451,134
Non - Departmental	1,410,726
Management Information Systems	308,920
Professional Services	70,000
Central Garage	13,000
Public Buildings - DSS	60,280
Public Buildings - Administration	28,375
Public Buildings - Senior Center	26,740
Public Buildings - Miller	313,542
Public Buildings - All Other	411,310
Public Buildings - Farm Services	163,739
Public Buildings - POTW	43,010
Sheriff	4,179,471
NC CJPP	86,573
Law Enforcement Center	3,600,284
EMS Medical Director	21,500
Emergency Management services	1,062,246
Fire Marshal	165,498
School Electrical Inspector	5,881
Coroner/Medical Examiner	53,938
Animal Control	193,451
Airport	700,339
Planning Department	60,407
Inspection Department	258,058
Economic Development	392,452
Cooperative Extension	492,057
Soil Conservation	198,675
Health	7,151,937
Social Services	7,410,858
Public Assistance	8,318,692
Veterans Services	105,727
Educations	9,383,187

Library	1,212,802
Recreation	496,986
Special Appropriations	1,221,834
Inter Fund Transfers	716,122
Contingency	<u>179,621</u>

Total Appropriations: **53,975,572**

Section 2: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the General Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Ad Valorem Taxes	25,517,117
Court Facilities Revenues	125,000
Sales Tax Revenues	8,165,792
Privilege License Revenue	2,500
NC AOC Civil License Revenue	5,000
Hold Harmless Reimbursement Revenues	18,790
Tax Administration Revenues	10,000
County Attorney Revenues	85,290
NC JCPC Revenues	68,824
Elections Revenues	1,100
Register of Deeds Revenues	418,100
Sheriff Revenues	614,791
NC CCJP Revenues	86,573
Jail Revenues	40,000
Emergency Management Revenues	18,884
Fire Marshal Revenues	11,000
School Electrical Inspector	5,920
Animal Control Revenues	23,325
Airport Revenues	557,692
Planning Department Revenues	1,500
Inspection Department Revenues	210,000
Cooperative Extension Revenues	9,408
Soil Conservation Revenues	27,550
Health Department Revenues	7,151,937
Social Services Revenues	8,495,985
Veteran Service Revenues	2,000
Education Revenues	262,000
Library Revenues	206,000
Recreation Revenues	41,367
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,312,355
Transfers From Other Funds	179,772
Home Health Fund Balance Appropriated	<u>200,000</u>

Total Estimated Revenues **53,975,572**

Section 3: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Aging Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Aging	<u>4,653,255</u>
Total Appropriations:	4,653,255

Section 4: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Aging Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Aging Revenues	<u>4,653,255</u>
Total Estimated Revenues:	4,653,255

Section 5: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Travel & Tourism Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Travel & Tourism	<u>80,000</u>
Total Appropriations:	80,000

Section 6: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Travel & Tourism Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Occupancy Tax	<u>80,000</u>
Total Estimated Revenues:	80,000

Section 7: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Tax Revaluation Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Tax Revaluation	<u>40,000</u>
Total Appropriations:	40,000

Section 8: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Tax revaluation Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Transferred From General Fund	<u>40,000</u>
Total Estimated Revenues:	40,000

Section 9: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Ambulance & Rescue Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Ambulance & Rescue	<u>612,023</u>
Total Appropriations:	612,023

Section 10: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Ambulance & rescue Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Ambulance & Rescue	<u>612,023</u>
Total Estimated Revenues:	612,023

Section 11: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Fire Districts Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Evergreen Fire District	32,498
St James Fire District	16,878
North Whiteville Fire District	69,150
Nakina Fire District	86,495
Old Dock Fire District	43,165
Hallsboro Fire District	55,438
Roseland Fire District	53,124
Yam City Fire District	104,696
Acme Delco Fire District	208,985
Klondyke Fire District	95,967
Coles Service Fire District	50,264
Cerro Gordo Fire District	71,449
Williams Township Fire District	73,949
White Marsh-Welch Fire District	43,474
Brunswick Fire District	113,726
Bolton Fire District	37,374
Buckhead Fire District	<u>11,713</u>
Total Appropriations:	1,168,345

Section 12: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Fire Districts Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Special Fire Tax	<u>1,168,345</u>
Total Estimated Revenues:	1,168,345

Section 13: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Debt Service Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Debt Service	<u>2,432,974</u>
Total Appropriations:	2,432,974

Section 14: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Debt Service Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Sales Tax	730,000
Lottery Funds	233,434
Contribution Hospital	983,061
Transferred From General Fund	<u>486,479</u>
Total Estimated Revenues:	2,432,974

Section 15: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the E - 911 Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Emergency Telephone System	503,638
Wireless - 911	<u>97,262</u>
Total Appropriations:	600,900

Section 16: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the E - 911 Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Surcharge - 911	503,676
Wireless - 911	<u>97,224</u>
Total Estimated Revenues:	600,900

Section 17: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the HUD Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

HUD	<u>1,740,003</u>
Total Appropriations:	1,740,003

Section 18: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the HUD Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

HUD Revenues	<u>1,740,003</u>
Total Estimated Revenues:	1,740,003

Section 19: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Water District I Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Water District I	<u>374,728</u>
Total Appropriations:	374,728

Section 20: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Water District I Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Revenues From Operations	<u>374,728</u>
Total Estimated Revenues:	374,728

Section 21: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Water District II Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Water District II	<u>737,630</u>
Total Appropriations:	737,630

Section 22: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Water District II Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Water District Tax	244,000
Revenues From Operations	<u>493,630</u>
Total Estimated Revenues:	737,630

Section 23: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Water District III Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Water District III	<u>600,590</u>
Total Appropriations:	600,590

Section 24: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Water District III Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Water District Tax	216,886
Revenues From Operations	<u>383,704</u>
Total Estimated Revenues:	600,590

Section 25: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Water District IV Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Water District IV	<u>40,262</u>
Total Appropriations:	40,262

Section 26: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Water District IV Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Revenues From Operations	<u>40,262</u>
Total Estimated Revenues:	40,262

Section 27: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Water District V Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Water District V	<u>394,549</u>
Total Appropriations:	394,549

Section 28: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Water District V Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Revenues From Operations	<u>394,549</u>
Total Estimated Revenues:	394,549

Section 29: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Water District ACME Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

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Water District - ACME	<u>69,062</u>
Total Appropriations:	69,062

Section 30: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Water District ACME Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Revenues From Operations	<u>69,062</u>
Total Estimated Revenues:	69,062

Section 31: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Transportation Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Transportation	<u>511,615</u>
Total Appropriations:	511,615

Section 32: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Transportation Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Revenues From Operations	<u>511,615</u>
Total Estimated Revenues:	511,615

Section 33: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Solid Waste Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Solid Waste	<u>7,276,315</u>
Total Appropriations:	7,276,315

Section 34: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Solid Waste Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Landfill User Fees	4,328,621
Tipping Fees	2,331,888
Tire Disposal	50,000
Miscellaneous	<u>565,806</u>
Total Estimated Revenues:	7,276,315

Section 35: There is hereby levied a tax rate of eighty one and one half cents (\$0.815) per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation of property listed as of January 2, 2008 for the purpose of raising revenue included in "Ad Valorem Taxes" in the General Fund in section 2 of this ordinance.

Section 36: The Budget Officer is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations as contained herein under the following conditions.

- A. He/she may transfer amounts between line items expenditures within a department without report being required. These changes should not result in increases in recurring obligations such as salaries.
- B. He/she may transfer amounts between departments without a report being required.
- C. He/she may not transfer any amounts between funds, except as approved by the Board of Commissioners in the Budget Ordinance as amended.

Section 37: The Finance Officer may make cash advances between funds for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days without reporting to the Board of Commissioners. Any advances that extend beyond ninety (90) days must be approved by the Board. All advances that will be outstanding at the end of any fiscal year must be approved by the Board.

Section 38: Copies of this Budget Ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and to the Finance Officer to be on file by them for their direction in the disbursement of funds.

ADOPTED this 30th day of June, 2008.

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

(SEAL)

ATTESTED BY:

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

The following comments were made relative to the Proposed 2008-2009 Columbus County Operating Budget.

1. **Commissioner Gore:** asked the following question:
Mr. Clark, where did we find the money for the three (3) positions for Detention Officers?

Bobbie Faircloth replied stating the Sheriff's Department cut some of their expenditures, as follows: they cut uniform clothing in the jail, they cut special Juvenile Detention Center, uniform and clothing, they came up with an additional \$45,000 in revenue for the inmate housing they didn't originally account for, an additional \$1,400 in revenue for canteen. They already had \$15,000 budgeted in their salary line item, and all the fringe benefits to go with that, so they used part of that money too. The end cost to Columbus County will be an **additional \$7,000.00.**

2. **Commissioner Bullard:** stated the following:
 - A. Mr. Gore has already asked the question I had relative to the Sheriff's Department;
 - B. This is a tough year to be adding any new positions to the work force, because all the new positions we add this year will be an extra expense next year; **and**
 - C. Do we still need an extra position in the Elections Department?

Mr. Clark replied stating that he had met with Carla Strickland again and he feels that we do.

3. **Commissioner Jacobs:** Was the Sheriff in on the negotiations, and is he happy with the results?

Mr. Clark replied stating the Sheriff was in on the negotiations, and he is okay with the results.

4. **Vice Chairman Memory:** stated the following:
 - A. Is the \$2,550 for the American Legion Ball Program in the budget?

Mr. Clark replied stating yes.

5. **Commissioner McKenzie:** stated the following:
 - B. I don't agree with the additional position at Elections. A part-time position would be the best for that department.

- A. The three (3%) percent increase for education is at what amount, and how will it be distributed?

Mr. Clark replied stating that this amount is two hundred thirty thousand, and 00/100 (\$230,000.00) dollars, and that was done on a percentage, across the board, on what they received last year, and the amount of increase is located on Page 102 of the Budget as follows: Columbus County Schools = \$141,991, Whiteville City Schools = \$53,036, and Southeastern Community College = \$35,489.

- B. What was the end cost to the County for the increase in the Sheriff's Department?

Bobbie Faircloth replied stating the cost was seven thousand and 00/100 (\$7,000.00) dollars.

- C. Was the Literacy Council funded in the budget?

Mr. Clark replied stating the Literacy Council was funded at one thousand, two hundred and 00/100 (\$1,200.00) dollars, the same as last year.

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Memory made a motion, for discussion, to approve the Proposed 2008 - 2009 Columbus County Operating Budget, as presented by William S. Clark, Columbus County Manager, seconded by Commissioner Norris.

Discussion:

1. **Commissioner Gore:** Mr. Clark, did you get something from the architect, or the engineers of our jail, that gave you a plan of how many people it should take to staff the jail.

Mr. Clark replied stating that Gail talked to the architect, and what Sheriff Batten is telling me is that the requirements now are they are required to visit the inmates every thirty (30) minutes, and, in order for us to comply with that State regulation, that we have to comply with, that is what his justification for the increase in manpower is.

Commissioner Gore stated that Sheriff Batten had already exceeded the number of employees needed to man the jail, as recommended in the original plans.

2. **Chairman Prevatte:** stated the following:
 - A. Some of the reservations that I have are what has already been spoken;
 - B. At a time when our economy, not just locally, but nationally, we're looking at a recession, I am not in favor of raising the number of employees;
 - C. However, if a department will assume the responsibility with the continuation of that position in years to come so that it does not fall back on the County, then I don't have a problem with that position;
 - D. I don't want to be looking at a shift in money to accommodate the employment of employees, and then at the end of the year, we're faced with a shortfall in the budget because someone has taken out of one line item to accommodate another;
 - E. I do support the Cost-of-Living raise for our employees and the 401-K; **and**
 - F. I do appreciate all the work that you and Bobbie have done on this budget.
3. **Commissioner McKenzie:** stated the following:
 - A. I do want to thank the staff for all the hard work they have done to prepare this budget;
 - B. It has been one of the easiest budgets I have ever worked with; **and**
 - C. I would like to thank all of my colleagues for working with me.
4. **Vice Chairman Memory:** I would like for it to be placed on the next Agenda, for discussion, for the Board to modify the Quarter-Cent (1/4 ¢) Cent Sales Tax on the November 04, 2008 Voting Ballot that one-half (1/2) be designated to the school system in Columbus County.

MOTION (contd.):

A roll-call vote was taken on the motion made by Vice Chairman Memory and seconded by Commissioner Norris, with the following results:

AYES: Vice Chairman Memory, Commissioners McKenzie, Norris Jacobs and Gore; **and**

NAYS: Chairman Prevatte and Commissioner Bullard.

The motion passes on a five (5) to two (2) vote.

Agenda Item 5: SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION - APPROVAL and ADOPTION of RESOLUTION for LIVINGSTON CREEK STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT:

Edward Davis, Soil and Water Conservation Director, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution for the Livingston Creek Stream Restoration Project.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners desires to sponsor a Livingston Creek

Stream Restoration Project of debris removal better flow and natural flushing of the Creek. This project will be conducted in an environmentally sound manner which will have minimal or no deleterious impact on the Creek fauna and will allow faster movement of floodwater from the floodplain.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Commissioners requests of the State of North Carolina to provide financial assistance to Columbus County for the Livingston Creek Stream Restoration Project in the amount of \$121,226 or 66.7 percent of the project construction cost, whichever is the lesser amount;

The Board of Commissioners assumes full obligation for payment of the balance of project costs;

The Board of Commissioners will obtain all necessary State and Federal permits;

The Board of Commissioners will comply with all applicable laws governing the award of contracts and the expenditure of public funds by local governments;

The Board of Commissioners will supervise construction of the project to assure compliance with permit conditions and to assure safe and proper construction according to approved plans and specifications;

The Board of Commissioners will obtain suitable disposal areas as needed and all other easement or rights-of-way that may be necessary for the construction and operation of the project;

The Board of Commissioners will assure that use of the Creek is open for use by the public on an equal basis, but this does not imply equal use of private property bordering the Creek;

The Board of Commissioners will hold the State harmless from any damages that may result from the construction, operation and maintenance of the project;

The Board of Commissioners accepts responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the completed project.

ADOPTED by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners this day of June 30, 2008.

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

ATTESTED BY:

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

Vice Chairman Memory made a motion to approve the Resolution for the Livingston Creek Stream Restoration Project, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #6: ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:03 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