

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Proposed 2010 - 2011 Columbus County Operating Budget Workshop**

Thursday, May 27, 2010

6:00 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 conducting a **Workshop** for the **Proposed 2010 - 2011 Columbus County Operating Budget**. This meeting was taped by Mike Stephens, County Attorney, and transcribed by June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Edwin Russ **Chairman**  
 Giles E. Byrd, **Vice Chairman**  
 Amon E. McKenzie  
 James E. Prevatte  
 Ricky Bullard  
 Ronald Gore

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

William S. Clark, **County Manager**  
 Mike Stephens, **County Attorney**  
 Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Director**

**APPOINTEE ABSENT:**

June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**

**COMMISSIONER ABSENT:**

Lynwood Norris

**WORKSHOP CALLED to ORDER:**

At 6:00 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the Proposed 2010 - 2011 Columbus County Operating Budget Workshop to order.

**READING of WORKSHOP PROCEDURES:**

Chairman P. Edwin Russ stated the following:

1. First, the workshop meeting is to inform the Board and permit discussion - no final action is taken; **and**
2. Second, the procedures are less formal than at a regular meeting, but such meetings are part of the decision-making process, deliberations are going on, and therefore, they constitute "official meetings".

Chairman Russ stated that questions and comments would be taken one (1) at the time from each Commissioner until all questions and comments have been addressed, or as many as time would allow.

**NOTE: Due to a malfunction of the tape recorder, no specific details of the discussions can be provided.**

**AREAS ADDRESSED for DISCUSSION:**

1. **Water Rate Fees:** All water districts - whether to increase or remain the same for the base rate and the additional gallons used rate.
2. **Special Allocations:** - what to leave in the budget and what to remove from the budget.
3. **COLA and 401K:** whether to give to employees, and if so, what percentage.
4. **Water Districts:**
  - A. Re-allocation of salaries to all districts;
  - B. Funding needed for capital projects;
  - C. Increase of water fee base rate if the gallons increase;
  - D. Ways to eliminate the special tax in Water Districts II and III;
  - E. River Road Project in Water District V; **and**
  - F. Consideration of running water lines down private roads.

5. **Solid Waste Tipping Fee** - increase fee or not increase fee.
6. **Sheriff's Department:**
  - A. The continuous annual increase in their budget;
  - B. The number of requested vehicles; **and**
  - C. The vehicles utilized by the school resource officers.
7. **Environmental Health Fees:** no increase, need only to recoup the cost of the kits needed for the testing, the employee performing the task is already employed by Columbus County.
8. **Education:** allowing the flexibility for the schools to use funds given in Capital Outlay to be utilized for Current Expenses, and if granted, a check system to make sure funds are not being used for salaries.
9. **Capital Projects:**
  - A. Time clocks - \$14,300;
  - B. Water District II and Water District III interconnection; **and**
  - C. Back up well for Water District III.

## **SCHEDULED BUDGET WORKSHOP:**

After a brief discussion, it was the general consensus of the Board to schedule the next Budget Workshop for June 03, 2010, at 6:00 P.M., to be held in the Commissioners Chambers.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:15 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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**MIKE STEPHENS, County Attorney**

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**P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman**