

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP #3**

Monday, June 20, 2011

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 conducting a Budget Workshop.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Giles E. Byrd **Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie, **Vice Chairman**
James E. Prevatte
P. Edwin Russ
Lynwood Norris
Ricky Bullard
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, **County Manager**
Mike Stephens, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

BUDGET WORKSHOP CALLED to ORDER:

At 5:30 P.M., Chairman Giles E. Byrd called the June 20, 2011 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Budget Workshop Number 3 to order.

INTRODUCTION:

Chairman Byrd stated there were some items that needed final discussion and decisions before the Proposed 2011 - 2012 Columbus County Operating Budget was adopted.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Prevatte: The four (4) items that need to be finalized, according to the notes that I made are as follows:

1. **Wellness Program;**
2. **Raises for employees;**
3. **Three (3) special raises recommended by William S. Clark; and**
4. **The EMS truck.**

Commissioner Bullard: I have the same four (4) items listed as Commissioner Prevatte.

Vice Chairman McKenzie: I would like to commend our staff and management for the budget that was put together. This is four (4) years in a row where we did not have to raise taxes.

Wellness Program:

Commissioner Prevatte: Mr. Clark, you stated there may be another way to approach the Wellness Program, could you explain that?

William S. Clark: stated the following:

- We had \$46,000 budgeted for a Wellness Program for our employees;
- This will be a mandatory program, with a coaching team;
- There will be baseline screenings done on all employees;
- Based on their health risk factors, they would receive coaching sessions throughout the year;
- The total cost of our employee health plan is approximately \$3.5 million;
- I felt like, and our staff felt that we need to try to be proactive and improve the health status of our employees;
- We tried to do the voluntary thing in the past, and we felt like something that everybody would have to participate in would be effective;
- That price is a budgeted price, and I think we can get it done a little bit cheaper than that;
- I did say that we would bring this back to the Board before we approved it, I would bring it back to you before we implemented anything.

Commissioner Prevatte: Would this just be for new hires?

William S. Clark: No sir. It would be for all employees.

Commissioner Prevatte: How is this different from what our insurance company has?

William S. Clark: The insurance company does have a wellness site for our coverage, but it is voluntary. This would be a program where all of our employees would have to participate.

Commissioner Prevatte: Let's say that if someone was overweight, they would get some coaching and they would be required to talk to the coach or whatever.

William S. Clark: The coaching would be done by probably a team. It would be a registered nurse and maybe a registered dietician.

Chairman Byrd: At the last meeting, we talked about taking this material and bring it back and pro-rate insurance cost. Is this where we are headed with this also, for an example, if someone is more of a health risk than others?

William S. Clark: This is different. I think what you are referring to is basing our insurance premiums with what the amount the employees have to pay based on their health status, and we have not really got to that point yet. It is something we could look at in the future. I think if you do that, you will still have to have a baseline screening, because you will have to know who smokes and who does not, and who takes care of themselves. At some point in time, for any program that you wanted to do in the future, if you wanted to raise the co-pay, I think we talked about a 80/20 compared to a 70/30 plan. Right now, we got a 80/20 plan. If you went to a 70/30 plan, based on health status, you are going to have to know. Someone will have to do a baseline study to determine what the status of our employees is.

Commissioner Prevatte: The State did not do that. We just got our information that said if you smoke or if your body mass is over 40, then you will automatically go to the 70/30.

Commissioner McDowell: It is mandatory, and it's about \$90.00 per employee, per year, and I did read that article, and it is a good article, and I have reconsidered. After reading that article, and finding out it is mandatory, and that is less than \$100 per employee, I will probably be in favor.

Kimberly Smith: I would like to add that our insurance now, and I understand that United Healthcare would also have this, has a wellness visit to the doctor. That is where one visit a year, you can designate as your wellness visit, and you don't have to pay a co-pay. With women, their annual pap smear, or whatever, would go to that. We would not have to pay any co-pay. A man has the same thing, they can go and designate that as their wellness visit, and they would not have to pay a co-pay. I don't want you to get mixed up with a wellness program and a wellness visit that is covered under our health insurance. These are two different things.

Commissioner Bullard: I don't have a problem with that. I am not totally sold on the Wellness Program.

Commissioner Russ: All of us need to exercise. I have lost a lot of weight but it was not my intention. I had lost weight before my accident. You have to make up your mind that you want to lose weight, and this is something that we need to do as a Board, or if the County needs to do, that will help in the future to lower our insurance rates, then I think it is something we need to look into doing. It is more difficult for some people to lose weight than others. This is something we may need to look into in the future.

Commissioner Bullard: If the Wellness Program is adopted, and it is mandatory, and you have the screenings for each employee, and they go through their coaching sessions, are they required to participate in the coaching sessions?

William S. Clark: Yes sir.

Commissioner Bullard: What if they go through the coaching sessions, and yet they do not do what is recommended for them to do, they don't lose any weight, they don't quit smoking, so what is the repercussions?

William S. Clark: If you don't do anything, what is going to happen? There are risks involved. There are no guarantees, there are no silver bullets out there. In my opinion, this is a step in the right direction, maybe it is a baby step, but it is a step.

Vice Chairman McKenzie: We are going to establish standards. Will there be standards involved here?

William S. Clark: Yes sir.

Commissioner Prevatte: I think it is worth giving it a shot for one (1) year and see.

Commissioner McDowell: For less than \$100 per employee, I agree.

Commissioner Prevatte: Try it one (1) year, and see the results, and we don't have to do it the next year.

The general consensus of the Board was to try the Wellness Program for one (1) year only, on a trial basis, and at that time, review the results, and determine if the County should continue with the Wellness Program.

EMS Truck:

Commissioner Prevatte: Jeremy Jernigan has answered some of the questions. I had concerns about a vehicle, a 3.4 ton, extended cab, 4-wheel drive, that is going to be used to pull a disaster trailer.

Jeremy Jernigan: No, that was in the paper again this week. That is not what it is intended for. It will be used for that. It will be used as a daily-use vehicle, and if we have fire investigations that require rapid responses, if we need to move resources from point A to point B, and if we need to move that trailer, it will be used for whatever we need to do.

Chairman Byrd: How are you moving it now?

Jeremy Jernigan: We haven't been moving it. It has been one of those things we have been working and trying to get it fixed, and get it in service. We have a 3/4 ton truck now, that we have moved it around the parking lot to work on, but the problem I have is that is the one vehicle I have got to move it with, and if that truck is out of town at a training conference, or if it is out of service, then I have got to go around and find another vehicle to move it. We are already trying to replace one of our vehicles in our service, and we decided we would go ahead and try to replace it with a vehicle that would be equal to the vehicle right now so it would give us a backup.

Commissioner Prevatte: Jeremy, couldn't you not take that 3/4 ton, 4-wheel drive out of town for a conference, and use a fleet vehicle?

Jeremy Jernigan: We try not to take that vehicle as often as possible, as a matter of fact, we do try to utilize a vehicle out of service, or a fleet vehicle if we are going out of town. What we wind up having to do is to pull the gear out of that truck, put it on another vehicle, and everything. It is kind of an inconvenience. We could continue to do that though. Like I said, since we were trying to replace a vehicle this year, we ask for a backup vehicle.

Commissioner Prevatte: I would like to see you use a vehicle that doesn't use so much gas.

Jeremy Jernigan: I would love to find a vehicle that would do that and still meet the needs that we have.

Chairman Byrd: At most sites, do you need your command building as well as the Sheriff's Department?

Jeremy Jernigan: The Sheriff's Department is actually, right now what they have got is, actually it is a larger trailer that you need a tractor to move it. Is that what you have got?

Chairman Byrd: You did have a Winnebago in service. Do you still have it?

Lewis Hatcher: We are still using the Winnebago as of right now. We are in the process of getting some work done to the other unit that we bought. But we are still in the process of using the Winnabago. It is just so small that we can't get everybody in it when we take it to a scene, or whatever. This trailer, the one that we bought, we would actually have to have someone to move for us. We would move it to the scene and actually cut loose from it and set it up.

Jeremy Jernigan: That would be ideal for some of the major events, as far as the tractor moving it. It has got a whole bunch of slide outs on it. But for day-to-day stuff, we had a fire in Delco this weekend at the Wright Chemical Plant. It would have been great to get a whole lot of command people there and set it up, and operate it. We were short staffed over the weekend so we didn't do that. We made do with what we had and operated out of vehicles. Ours, any pickup truck 3/4 ton or above can hook up to it and haul it on site, but what the Sheriff's Department has, you would need a tractor actually to move it.

Vice Chairman McKenzie: The vehicle that you have, you just have one of those, and no backup at all.

Jeremy Jernigan: We have to go to another department and try to get somebody to come and move the trailer. That is not the sole purpose of this vehicle is to haul a trailer. It is going be used for day-to-day use if we need to transport foam, we will do that, from location to location. Basically, anything we need to do. If we need to go out and pick up people during a snowstorm, we can do that and pick up employees for the hospital.

Chairman Byrd: In the past, there have been plenty of volunteers throughout the County in all different areas. I don't think there has been a problem with that. Is that a four-door truck or just an extended cab?

Jeremy Jernigan: We can get either one, we can get a crew cab or an extended cab. What we wanted to get is what we can best purchase with the funds that are allocated.

Commissioner Russ: Do you think you could get by with a regular 4-wheel drive, pickup truck, 1/2 ton, instead of going to 3/4 ton?

Jeremy Jernigan: We would need to step back and work harder to try and find a backup to move these vehicles. We thought about using a vehicle from another agency within the County, but I can tell you, if I call my staff at 3:00 A.M., and tell them I need them onsite, they will move a lot faster than if I was to call another agency. My staff knows when I call, I have a real purpose.

Chairman Byrd: From listening to the other members, I really don't think we have a problem with the truck, per say, but we do have a problem with the truck of that magnitude just being used daily and for regular activities. Trying to sell that to the residents of the County is difficult.

Jeremy Jernigan: I would like to get a vehicle that would get 30 miles to the gallon of gas, and look good to the public in the eye for a day-to-day use, but I also have to plan on what is going to happen and what could possibly happen. That is what I ask for.

Commissioner McKenzie: The other vehicle, what kind of vehicle is that one?

Jeremy Jernigan: It is a 2007, Ford, crew-cab, 3/4 ton, 4-wheel drive. It was purchased on a grant.

Vice Chairman McKenzie: What size engine?

Jeremy Jernigan: It is a diesel.

Commissioner Russ: It is a power stroke, diesel. Are there any other grants available to help you?

Jeremy Jernigan: We have looked for grants. That was our intent, to look for grants to purchase this vehicle and not come to the board. We had intended to try to use some of our 911 funds since those could be allocated, but we used all of those for our radio system.

Chairman Byrd: Have you looked at any of the State surplus?

Jeremy Jernigan: We have looked at several State surplus vehicles. I haven't looked in the last month or so since we did the budget. I am not sure what is in there now. I will be happy to take a look at that, and I would be happy to look at an used vehicle, if we could find one that would meet our needs, and if it was in good shape.

Commissioner McDowell: We have survived ice storms and hurricanes, and if it is a matter of the public needing assistance, and us debating over the tonnage of a truck, my preference is to go with the truck and not have a family be stranded or someone be in distress and us not be able to get to them. We have to trust our manager to use their equipment wisely.

Commissioner Bullard: I have been against the truck. I know if it is used improperly, the comments you will receive from taxpayers, but I understand Mr. Jernigan's concerns. Sitting here tonight, I do have all the confidence in the world in Mr. Jernigan, so I will support his recommendation. He knows our concerns here tonight about driving at the appropriate time. Those types of trucks need to be driven.

Commissioner Russ: I will agree with Mr. Jernigan also because he knows his department.

Commissioner Norris: I support his recommendation.

Commissioner Prevatte: I support him getting another truck. I do not support him getting another 3/4 ton, 4-wheel drive, because the idea of a backup truck does not sell to me because I think you can do some better planning so the vehicles are not out of town when you need them, and the vehicle you have is relatively new, but I am not opposed to them having another pickup.

The consensus of the Board is six (6) to one (1).

Raises for Employees:

Chairman Byrd: Ms. Bobbie, I have a question, the other night when we discussed giving the employees the recommended raises, would you please state the cost of the recommended raises and the number of employees that fall into each recommended category.

Bobbie Faircloth: The recommended \$500 for employees making \$25,000 or less, and the 2% for those making over \$25,000 is calculated as follows:

168 Employees @ \$500	=	\$84,000
421 Employees \$ 2% of Salary	=	\$239,878.51
TOTAL COST:	=	\$323,878.51

TOTAL COST with SPECIAL RAISES: = \$332,878.51 (\$9,000)

We have 505 budgeted positions plus the three (3) positions that have been recommended for special raises. We have a total of 530 positions.

Chairman Byrd: The 3 positions you are talking about, if they get the special raise, will they get the raise we are discussing?

Bobbie Faircloth: They will not get this.

Chairman Byrd: Will you divide the total cost of these raises by the 505 employees, and tell me the amount?

Bobbie Faircloth: The amount is \$641.34.

Chairman Byrd: I feel like we should treat every employee the same. The same raise no matter if they are at the top of the ladder or if they are at the bottom of the ladder. Every year that I have been

on the Board and we have discussed raises, I am totally against percentages. My position is if we feel like we can give a raise, give everyone \$641.34. That would move everyone up a pay grade, too, would it Ms. Bobbie?

Virginia Taylor: We don't have pay grades, we have ranges.

Chairman Byrd: The intent last year was to move everybody one range. It goes back to the people that need the raise the most do not get it. We can keep it fair and equal to every employee in the County. That is my recommendation.

Vice Chairman McKenzie: I have reservations about that. I think what a person's ranking is, if they obtain degrees, it should be based according to the degrees they acquire. This will give the incentive to employees to better themselves.

Chairman Byrd: The cost of living is the same for everybody.

Vice Chairman McKenzie: My thinking is that the employees that would not get the \$500 with the percentage, will now get at least \$500.

Commissioner Prevatte: I think our employees deserve a lot more than \$500, but the question that comes to my mind is how long will we continue to be able to give them raises when we are looking at building a courthouse and when is the point going to come when we are going to have to raise taxes in order to keep up with this type of thing. It is my understanding, Mr. Clark told us that if we built the courthouse that we would not have to raise taxes, because we are bringing in enough revenue that it would be offset. If you keep chipping at that amount, and the Medicaid relief that we got is not going to be there anymore. I agree with Chairman Byrd that we need to help the lower scale employees as much as we can, because I kept hearing in the past from DSS and the Sheriff's Department, that we are losing employees due to our pay scale.

Commissioner Norris: I support our employees. They are the ones that make us look good. They work hard and do a good job. Somewhere in the minutes, I well remember but I don't know where it is at, talking about the class being moved up, it talks about if we send anybody off to school and they passed, and come back to the County, we automatically give them a raise. I will support whatever the Manager recommends.

Commissioner Russ: I have not been here, but I have been talking to Chairman Byrd.

Chairman Byrd: The break even point, Mr. Clark would be around \$33,000 or \$34,000. The vast number of our employees are in the \$34,000 to \$35,000 down versus there over. Also, please don't forget the longevity pay. The longevity pay comes back in and pays them for the number of years they have been here based on the salary they make. If you give the 2% raise across the board to the higher paid wages, not only do they get a higher paid wage increase now, the longevity pay comes along and they get a check once a year then. That is something you have to look at with the lower paid employees. The lower paid employees are the employees we are losing and they are going to other counties. When we just sit here and vote to make the spread greater and greater, then they don't have any good reasons to stay with us here in Columbus County. The high dollar man, if he gets a better opportunity, he is going to go anyways. What we need to do is to keep our workforce in order, and be fair to everybody.

Vice Chairman McKenzie: Didn't the Manager put in a salary study?

Chairman Byrd: Yes, and we took it out because we need to be at a place where we can do something about it.

Vice Chairman McKenzie: Each time you keep talking, it seems as though we are going right back to that thing that we probably need one.

Chairman Byrd: We do need one, but we need to be in a position where we can do something about it. Right now, our sales tax is down. We have a limited amount of money to work with and we are doing what we can.

Commissioner Bullard: The employees of the County are very important. The employees of any business is the backbone of growth and stability. I had Ms. Bobbie to pull a proposed budget of the fiscal year on ad valorem taxes for 2008, 2009 and 2010. The billed amount is not really showing any growth in bringing in new tax money. We are spending several hundred thousand dollars more each year and this shows me that we are not bringing in no more profit this year.

William S. Clark: Our General Fund has increased dramatically over the last 3 years. We got \$28 million in the General Fund but some of that is restricted. We have had 3 very strong financial years in the past 3 years, and our County finances have improved dramatically. My thinking, as your manager, I don't like to spend money that we don't have to, but I think, based on the financial performance that we have had in the last 3 years, based on the performance of our management team, a lot of that goes back to them and the way they manage their budgets, and most of that has been in savings. A lot of that financial performance has been through savings. I think they have done a wonderful job. Frankly, as their manager and your manager, I think all of our employees deserve it.

Chairman Byrd: We do have a good reserve balance, but we are looking at spending a lot of money also with the Courthouse and . . .

William S. Clark: You could pay cash for the Courthouse.

Commissioner Bullard: I am going by what information Bobbie gave me. I think it is fact. If is based on what tax money that is being billed to the taxpayers here in the County. I was also going to say too, that we are getting ready to build a courthouse, and it is hard to give everything that you need. I don't know of any business or company that can give their employees everything that they need to continue the growth in times that you need, but they give you things to work for towards next year. I was actually thinking of the \$500 like we did last year, but I can support the \$641.34, but I do know that we are still not out of recession here in Columbus County. We are in a county that money is still tight. Our schools are in bad shape. I think we have a lot of needs that we have not met yet.

Commissioner Russ: I sorta want to go along with what Mr. Clark is recommending. I don't know what we will be able to do next year, and the reason I am saying that, I think our budget this year is proposing less money than was budgeted last year. Who knows what we will face next year. I think we can afford to give our employees the raises that you have recommended. We need to take care of our lower paid employees.

Commissioner McDowell: I have thought this long and hard. We thank our employees verbally every opportunity that we get. If that is the case, it is time to step up. Mr. Clark gave us a balanced budget, so I would be in favor of giving the raises as he sees fit, and put our money where our mouth is.

General Consensus: 4 in favor of the \$500 and the 2% 3 in favor of the \$641.34

Chairman Byrd: I would like to say that we are going to get down to adopting this budget in a few minutes it looks like. When we come down to adopt the budget, everybody has had input in it, and we have done it fairly and openly here, and I would like to see this Board adopt this budget unanimously. Obviously, right here I don't agree with this but the majority is ruling, so I will support it. I hate to see a budget adopted with a split vote when we have all had the chance here tonight and in other meetings to lay out our wishes and pros and cons. Just keep that in mind as we mover on through and get to that point.

Special Raises (3):

Vice Chairman McKenzie: When the manager brings us something, sometimes I have to call him and ask questions. The recommendations that he has made and the reasoning behind seems to be very valid. This is a fair and honorable request. It is budgeted, it is there, and we have an opportunity to do that. I will recommend that we do that.

Commissioner McDowell: I listened to Commissioner Norris earlier make a statement that years ago this County Board of Commissioners made the statement that if you go back to school and you become better educated or better skilled to do your position, that we will reward you. My understanding is that these three positions, that is pretty much what we are doing. We are rewarding them for the efforts that they have put forth to get better at their job. If they improve their job abilities, I would like to think they will save us money in the long run, but we have got to keep them first. I have also heard, in the short time that I have been here, people complain about people leaving Columbus County to go to other counties because of their pay. If that is the case, this gives us the opportunity to hopefully secure those three positions and have three employees a little more satisfied with their positions. I will be in favor of it.

Commissioner Bullard: Maybe, I am a little bit confused. I know a couple of years ago when we hired one employee, I thought we hired him with the understanding that we would hire him and give him a set amount of time to get the credentials and certifications that he needed, and he had to have in order to retain this position. At that time, that is the discussion that I heard, and I did not hear anything that when he got these certifications, that then he would deserve more money.

Chairman Byrd: I also remember that there was something put in there that we have had some that we sent to school and as soon as they got their degrees they left, and we had give them time off and we had paid for it. There was something included in there that they had to work for the county x number of months or years, or whatever, to repay the cost of sending them. You know about the one incident that brought the discussion.

William S. Clark: That is a good policy to have. I think if we send someone back to school, they should make a commitment to the County, and if they don't keep their commitment, then they should pay the County back. I think that is a great policy.

Chairman Byrd: Is it in the Personnel Manual?

William S. Clark: Not now, but we talked about that it needed to be put back in there. We need to amend the Personnel Manual, and if we pass this budget, then we will have a reason to do it, but I

guess we should do it anyway because it is a good policy.

Chairman Byrd: Put that on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Russ: I am supporting the three special raises.

Commissioner Norris: I will support the three special raises.

Commissioner Prevatte: I remember what Commissioner Bullard said about the hire. I remember that we gave a period of one year for certification and there was no discussion at that time about increasing the salary once the certification was brought up to level. It was a requirement that they had to have that in order to keep the job. But I do think that Mr. Soles deserves the additional amount because the supervisor should make more than their workers. I do not support the other two raises.

Chairman Byrd: These three employees will not get the percentage raise if they get this special raise, and there is not a lot of difference, so I am going to support the special raise.

General Consensus: Five (5) for and two (2) against.

Update by William S. Clark:

The utilities at the Industrial Park, we have found out that there was an agreement in place, and that agreement has expired, so it is up to this Board whether you want to continue to make those utilities' payments for the Committee of 100 at \$2,500 per year

Commissioner McDowell: If it is for security purposes, and it is budgeted, then I will support it.

Commissioner Bullard: Can't we put this item on hold? I would like to find our more about this.

BUDGET WORKSHOP NUMBER 3 ADJOURNED:

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman Byrd stated the Budget Workshop was adjourned.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**Monday, June 20, 2011****6:37 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 their regularly scheduled meeting on the third Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Giles E. Byrd **Chairman**
 Amon E. McKenzie, **Vice Chairman**
 James E. Prevatte
 P. Edwin Russ
 Lynwood Norris
 Ricky Bullard
 Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, **County Manager**
 Mike Stephens, **County Attorney**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
 Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

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

At 6:37 P.M., Chairman Giles E. Byrd called the June 20, 2011 Columbus County Board of Commissioner Regular Session Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Ricky Bullard. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Charles T. McDowell.

Agenda Item #4: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the following minutes, as recorded, second by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

- A. June 02, 2011 Proposed 2011-2012 Columbus County Operating Budget Workshop; **and**
- B. June 06, 2011 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes.

Agenda Item #5: PUBLIC INPUT:

Chairman Byrd opened the floor for public input. The following spoke.

1. **Terry Mann, 203 Elm Street, Whiteville, NC 28472:** stated the following:
 - A. I come here tonight and being Mayor of Whiteville, I realize the budget process and I realize I come here at the eleventh hour;
 - B. The reason I am here is I have volunteered to be chairman of the Discover Columbus First Campaign that the Whiteville Chamber is heading up;
 - C. We came here several months ago soliciting some funds, and at that time, we said we would like to have \$10,000 to do a marketing research campaign.
 - D. I assume that was discussed at some of the workshops, and due to cutting special appropriations, we were turned down;
 - E. I am here just to let you know that we are disappointed that we were not funded at any monetary amount;
 - F. I just want you to know, even though this is being headed up by Whiteville Chamber of Commerce, this is not a Whiteville project;
 - G. I was president of the Chamber about 5 years ago and the economy was beginning to slow down, and the economic committee met several times to try and think of what we could do to make this county improve;
 - H. We got Mr. Lanier and the Economic Development Commission, and they are working on industry as hard as they can, and I don't want to slight them in any way;
 - I. We looked at it and felt like there were other ways we could bring people into the County;
 - J. With our proximity to the coast, we felt like bringing some retirees into Columbus County was a great opportunity for us to try to work on;
 - K. We struggled along, the year I was president we had some newcomer lunches where we brought some people, 10 or 15 couples that had moved to the County, and just

talked to them and try to get them to network and spread the word among themselves to friends that they had;

- L. That was a slow process, and then about 2 years ago, we started off with this Discover Columbus First Campaign;
 - M. This past year, we had over 60 participants that gave money and believe it or not, only 27 of those 60 are businesses from Whiteville;
 - N. It stretches across the County, we got 5 municipalities including Whiteville that have given us money, we got businesses from Chadbourn, Fair Bluff, Tabor City, Lake Waccamaw, a business from Wilmington, and several organizations that have county-wide connections, the hospital, the Tourism Department, Columbus County Schools, the Arts Council and Southeastern Community College that have participated;
 - O. I hope in the future, that you would really consider this campaign;
 - P. This is an important part of what some business people and individuals are trying to do in the County and I really think it is well worth looking at; **and**
 - Q. Now, that you are probably not going to give as a group, we have one Commissioner who gives through his business, and I would appreciate it greatly if each one of you would come and participate on an individual basis.
2. **Teresa McPherson, Post Office Box 44, Evergreen , North Carolina 28438:** stated the following:
- A. My daughter and I are here pleading for your help to get our pet, Smokey, back;
 - B. We went to the Animal Shelter on the 6th of this month looking for him and also looking at other animals they could offer if we could not find him there;
 - C. I was not aware that there was a 72 hour period that the owner could get him back with no problem;
 - D. I talked to one of the employees, Robin, and she remembers Smokey being there a few weeks prior to our visit;
 - E. She got in contact with a lady in Wisconsin and the lady in Wisconsin sent a fax or e-mailed a picture of a dog that we had described to her;
 - F. We could determine the dog in the picture and Smokey were all in the same;
 - G. From that point on, we had so much trouble trying to get the right answers;
 - H. The women from Wisconsin actually gave me the phone number to the vet in Burgaw where our pet was being held at that moment;
 - I. He was not adopted out or fostered out, or anything;
 - J. I stayed in close contact with the Animal Shelter that whole week, and the past two weeks have been a wholly nightmare;
 - K. I have lost wages with this, and went to Burgaw the 10th of this month to get him, I had the necessary money in my pocket to pay the vet bill that they said would probably be at least \$300.00;
 - L. We have had this pet since he was weaned, and he has never known any other family;
 - M. I have talked with another lady who is a volunteer out there, and she told me twice she would get in touch with me and she never did;
 - N. I contacted the woman in Wisconsin, she denied being who she was and I have been unable to get her to return my calls.
 - O. This Monday will make 2 weeks, and we know now where he was, we have the address where he was being held at a woman's house named Rosie Kirby in Burgaw;
 - P. The dog was found 10.1 miles from my house and I feel like someone stole my dog;
 - Q. I don't blame the Animal Shelter for doing their job, they only do what they normally do;
 - R. When that rescue group found out I wanted my dog back, and I had been looking for him, I don't understand why they did not return my dog;
 - S. I have filed a report with the Burgaw Police Station, and with the Columbus County Law Enforcement;
 - T. I have stayed in close contact with the vet in Burgaw and was told there was a client-patient confidentiality, and a lawyer and have been told there is no such thing as a client-patient confidentiality with a vet;
 - U. All I want is to get my baby back;
 - V. I am begging you to help me get my dog back; **and**
 - W. They have renamed him Marley.

Chairman Byrd asked Rossie Hayes, Animal Control Officer, if there was anything he could do to help resolve this. Mr. Hayes replied stating that Columbus County is clear. We kept the dog

from the 16th to the 25th, we only keep animals for 72 hours. It is out of our hands because we adopted the animal out by procedure. The rescue group carried him to Burgaw to a vet to get health care. Once they leave the Animal Shelter, they have already been adopted, and then the matter is out of our hands.

Chairman Byrd asked Mike Stephens, County Attorney, what advise would he give Ms. McPherson in this matter. Mr. Stephens replied stating she needs to seek the advise of a lawyer as to the proper avenues she could take.

Agenda Item #6: RESOLUTION and PRESENTATION - RESOLUTION of APPRECIATION and RECOGNITION to EAST COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL GATORS:

Commissioner McDowell requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution of Appreciation and Recognition to East Columbus High School Gators for the North Carolina 1A State Championship.

***RESOLUTION of APPRECIATION and RECOGNITION to
EAST COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL GATORS***

WHEREAS, through many generations of time, Columbus County has been blessed with talented athletes who choose to greatly excel in one of America's favorite sports, namely baseball; **and**

WHEREAS, these talented athletes devote endless hours of training, discipline, dedication, and sacrifices of the condition of their physical bodies to accomplish their goals; **and**

WHEREAS, Columbus County is blessed to have numerous parents and/or relatives who are willing to allow their young adults to participate in the game of baseball; **and**

WHEREAS, within Columbus County, there exists East Columbus High School with a baseball team so entitled the **GATORS** who are the North Carolina 1A State Champions; **and**

WHEREAS, this accomplishment is something to be very proud of and will be memorable to you through the entirety of your life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, would like to recognize the following players and coaches for their achievement of winning this championship:

Demetri Anders, Houston Barnes, David Bridgers, Skylar Bowen, Derrick Bracey, Ben Connor, Ty Freeman, Ben Jenkins, Forrest Malpass, Tyler Moore, Hunter Smith, Taylor Stevens, Forrest Wayne and Nick Wilkinson

COACHES: Head Coach: Karl Bracey, Ryan Sellers and Dean Sasser

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to each player and coach who gave of their time and abilities to accomplish this victory.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 20th day of June, 2011.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ GILES E. BYRD, Chairman, D-III

/s/ AMON E. McKENZIE, Vice Chairman, D-I

/s/ JAMES E. PREVATTE, D-II

/s/ P. EDWIN RUSS, D-IV

/s/ L. LYNWOOD NORRIS, D-V

/s/ RICKY BULLARD, D-VI

/s/ CHARLES T. McDOWELL, D-VII

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution of Appreciation and Recognition to East Columbus High School Gators, second by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Chairman Byrd requested the attending ball players and coaches to approach the front of the chambers. The framed document was orally read in its entirety, and presented to the East Columbus

Gators. The Gators received a standing ovation.

Agenda Item #7: RESOLUTION and PRESENTATION - RESOLUTION of APPRECIATION and RECOGNITION to SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE RAMS:

Commissioner Prevatte requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution of Appreciation and Recognition to Southeastern Community College Rams for the Southeast District/Region 10 DII Baseball Tournament Championship.

RESOLUTION of APPRECIATION and RECOGNITION to SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE RAMS

WHEREAS, within Columbus County, you will find a vast array of athletes that range from a very young age to adulthood, who possess abilities in a wide variety of sports; **and**

WHEREAS, these talented athletes devote endless hours of training, discipline, dedication, and sacrifices of the condition of their physical bodies to accomplish their goals; **and**

WHEREAS, Columbus County is blessed to have numerous athletes who are willing to participate in the game of baseball; **and**

WHEREAS, Columbus County is very fortunate to have a community college that is very beneficial to its citizenry and to many others, and continues to grow rapidly; **and**

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Community College **RAMS**, for the first time in its history, won the Southeast District/Region 10 DII Baseball Tournament in Moorehead City, North Carolina on May 13-16, 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, would like to recognize the following players and coaches for their achievement of winning this championship:

Tyler Underwood, Richard Campolong, Nick Spell, Garrett McInnis, Rodman Young, Joe Wellbrock, Dakota Oxendine and Ryan Culbreth, Josh Whitesell, Ronald Thompson, Nick Malter, Michael Prouty, Chase Rhodes, Mutsafa Hamed, Tyler Drew, Kyle Hufham and Randall Rabon, D.L. Mclamb, Jordon Hunt, Chris Huie, Jordan Quinn, Alan Enzor, Jon Sweeney, Bob Hiatt, Corey Wallace, Randy Daniels and Justin Britt

Coaches: Scott Johnson and Scott Gore

Not Pictured: Coaches Daniel Rabon and Gary Rabon

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to each player and coach who gave of their time and abilities to accomplish this victory.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 20th day of June, 2011.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ GILES E. BYRD, Chairman, D-III

/s/ AMON E. MCKENZIE, Vice Chairman, D-I

/s/ JAMES E. PREVATTE, D-II

/s/ P. EDWIN RUSS, D-IV

/s/ L. LYNWOOD NORRIS, D-V

/s/ RICKY BULLARD, D-VI

/s/ CHARLES T. McDOWELL, D-VII

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution of Appreciation and Recognition to Southeastern Community College Rams, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

Chairman Byrd requested the attending ball players and coaches to approach the front of the chambers. The framed document was orally read in its entirety, and presented to the Southeastern Community College Rams. The Rams received a standing ovation.

Agenda Item #8: PRESENTATION - ANIMAL CONTROL ISSUES:

Lisa Hartman, former Columbus County Animal Control Investigator, presented the

following information on the Policies and Procedures for Animal Control.

1. I presented the following letter to Mr. Clark bearing the date of April 20, 2009:

5200 McGill Road
Anderson, SC 29626
April 20, 2009

Mr. Bill Clark
Columbus County Manager
111 Washington Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

Dear Mr. Clark,

I would like to thank you once again for the opportunity to address the issues we talked about in January. Below are the recommendations that were presented to you at that meeting, and in red (**bold**), following each one I have follow-up questions and comments.

Many of these recommendations are simple and could be implemented immediately, without investment of time or money. Others would require some time and planning. None of them will be expensive, and I am sure that budgeting is a concern for areas of local government.

My recommendations are as follows:

- Activity cards or other paperwork forms for documenting contacts and daily activities of all Animal Control officers. Telephone logs should be maintained for all incoming and outgoing Animal Control telephone activities. These should be organized and maintained for later reference, available to officers at any time, and available for court evidence. **What system has been put into place for documenting contacts and daily activities?**
- Digital camera and computer access should be available at all times for all Animal Control officers, rather than locked up in the office of Mr. Rossi Hayes. As in the previous item, these should be organized and available for court appearances and evidence gathering. Perhaps law enforcement offices within the county would be able to make computer access available, as well. **Recently, an Animal Control officer was called to check on some cows, and was asked to take pictures, but no camera was available. The leads me to believe that nothing has changed on that issue.**
- Training and education of Animal Control officers are a must. I recommend courses offered by NC State University. On May 2, 2009, for example, there is a free course entitled "Introduction to Animal Cruelty Law" for law enforcement and animal control officers being held in Raleigh. On March 3-5, 2009, there follows an "Equine Investigators Short Course". The fee for this is \$200 per officer if postmarked prior to February 3, 2009. I have personally attended these courses, and feel they are well worthwhile. Another training that is soon available is the Level 1 Academy from the National Animal Control Association. This is held in Raleigh, NC on March 30 - April 3, 2009. For more information, visit www.nacanet.org or call 913-768-1319 extension 6. I would like to know that at least one officer from the division will be representing Columbus County, as I have requested year after year. **I understand that one officer attended a short course with Brunswick County Animal Control. What, if any, benefit has this brought to the department?**
- The Animal Control Advisory Board must be reactivated, with members replaced as necessary, to work with the County Commissioners, County Manager, and Animal Control for the betterment of the services to the county. This board was approved and had some activity in 2002. A good example of how to structure this board may be found in the Bladen County Animal Control Ordinance. I am quoting the document that is attached:
"The Animal Control Board shall be composed of seven members, to be appointed by Board of Commissioners. At least one member shall be a person with knowledge and experience in dog behavior and/or handling. One member shall be ex-officio the veterinarian on contract to Animal Control division. One member shall have an interest in promoting the goals of a broadly-based and representative organization interested in the care and protection of animals. And the other members shall represent the public at large".
An Advisory Board has met since that last recommendation was made. It is my understanding that previous members were still a part of it, a few new members were

seated, but no representatives of the animal welfare groups nor a new vet got included. My January resource list included contact information on two vets who were willing to become involved. Will this board continue to meet, and make a difference in policies and procedures of the Animal Control Department?

- Animal Control Ordinance is woefully out of date for Columbus County. It needs extensive revision, as the existing ordinance was passed by the Columbus County Commissioners on January 22, 1991. I recommend that the above mentioned Animal Control Advisory Board be involved in the study and rewriting of a new Animal Control Ordinance. **I hope that the Advisory Board will begin this endeavor actively very soon! The need for change is overdue!**
- The Columbus County website should be updated as the above ordinance is restructured, and more information, including responsible animal care and humane treatment should be on that site. You may see examples of such website development at: <http://www.nhcgov.com/AgnAndDpt/HLTH/AC/Pages/AnimalControlsHome.aspx> (New Hanover County) and <http://animalservices.brunsko.net/> (Brunswick County). I have spoken to Allen James, who works for Columbus County Government, and he told me he would be glad to update and improve the Animal Control portion of the website if the information were made available to him. **I am concerned that the website doesn't offer information to the public other than showing adoptable animals.**
- Appropriate and up-to-date fees and fines should be adopted and communicated to the public. Those moneys should be retained within Animal Control to improve and support the work of the department.
- Animal Control should actively enforce all existing and improving portions of the Animal Control Ordinance, without delay, documenting every step of the investigation, from start to finish.
- Require spaying/neutering for animal adoptions.

I would like to believe that things can be changed in a dramatic way to make Columbus County a part of the modern world, in business practices as well as humane standard for the betterment of your department, animals, and community.

Sincerely,
/s/ LISA HARTMAN

Ms. Hartman stated the following:

1. In the previous case that was presented to you, an Animal Control Advisory Board might be something that needs to be resurrected;
2. There is one and I don't know what has been accomplished by it;
3. Some of the things listed in there are very simple;
4. My biggest problem is how documentation is being kept or not kept;
5. I obtained a disk from Brunswick County to document day-to-day activity, and that disk was made and changed over into Columbus County letter heading;
6. This needs to be put into place so that the documentation is something that can be kept up with, and this is based on another issue that has come up involving a horse case that a Master Sergeant from the Sheriff's Department had contacted me on;
7. A little horse was tied behind a truck and pulled down the road, and it made the paper, and there will be animal cruelty charges filed against him ;
8. Rossie Hayes was called to the location and the officer asked him was he going to log him or not, and the officer went ahead and gave him a ticket;
9. I feel like the Animal Control Officer should have been the one to make that report and not the Sheriff's Department;
10. Within the County, there are some other horses that have been surrendered to Animal Control;
11. I have gone before Rossie and Mr. Clark on many occasions trying to rectify situations of animal abuse and neglect, and how it is being handled;
12. The horse situation I was working on before I left Columbus County could not be traced;
13. I will show you some photographs of some horses that are located across the road from Rossie's house;
14. Something needs to be done about these horses and make Columbus County a better county

- for the animals;
15. There is someone in the Animal Control Office that is certified as an Animal Cruelty Officer, and she does have the knowledge, she should be sent out on every horse case, and she has not yet seen the little horse that was dragged;
 16. If she was sent to class, she should not be in the shelter just doing kennel;
 17. If a case comes up, she should be the one who is sent out to investigate;
 18. The computer system of keeping records for these animals is the way to go, and I feel like it could easily be implemented;
 19. There is no answering machine at Animal Control;
 20. An Animal Control Advisory Board would be very helpful;
 21. If there is no higher power to control Animal Control, things will not change; **and**
 22. I am here to ask if those things could be reviewed and is there a possibility if the Animal Control Advisory Board could be put into motion, and the Animal Control Ordinance needs some revisions because the basic policies are not being followed.

Rossie Hayes, Animal Control Office, stated the following:

1. Yes, I did go down there, I got the telephone call;
2. Someone had already called the Sheriff's Department;
3. Then I had to call the veterinarian, and the deputy said I am going to give him a ticket for no driver's license, and do you want to take out charges on him?;
4. I stated for him if he wanted to, to go ahead because I am going to be here about all day, I had to wait for a vet to come from Bolton, then I had to get someone to take the horse, I wasn't going to leave the horse there, and I wasn't going to let the person who dragged the horse keep him, I had to find someone who would take the horse, and adequate transportation to move the horse;
5. I got home at 7:30 P.M. that night, I had one (1) person out that day, and you need to consider there is only four (4) employees in my department; **and**
6. Columbus County is a big county.

William S. Clark, County Manager, asked Mr. Hayes if the Animal Control Advisory Board was meeting on a regular basis. Mr. Hayes replied stating they meet on an as-needed basis.

Chairman Byrd recommended the first step could be that we have the Animal Control Advisory Board start meeting at least every quarter, and we appreciate the information that you have given us.

Agenda Item #9: BUDGET - ADOPTION of the PROPOSED 2011-2012 COLUMBUS COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET:

William S. Clark, County Manager/Budget Officer, requested the adoption of the Proposed 2011 - 2012 Columbus County Operating Budget. Mr. Clark presented the following Budget Ordinance. The Budget Message remained the same as presented at the May 16, 2011 Board Meeting.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE
FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012**

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, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Governing Body	237,751
Administration	280,844
Personnel	207,378
Purchasing & Safety	118,633
Garage	67,000
Finance	314,135
Tax Administration	1,045,205

County Attorney	220,841
Elections	487,504
Register of Deeds	397,512
Non - Departmental	1,291,197
Professional Services	114,000
Management Information Systems	332,425
Court Facilities	219,743
Judges Chambers	4,500
District Court	6,300
Public Buildings - DSS	63,922
Public Buildings - Administration	33,202
Public Buildings - Senior Center	30,780
Public Buildings - Miller	296,713
Public Buildings - All Other	360,781
Public Buildings - Farm Services	174,980
Public Buildings- State Energy Grant	121,025
Public Buildings - POTW	42,007
Sheriff	4,685,346
Governor's Highway Safety Grant	99,995
Law Enforcement Center	3,677,733
EMS Medical Director	16,250
Emergency Management Services	1,286,595
Fire Marshal	161,927
Corner/Medical Examiner	44,768
Animal Control	224,079
Airport	543,892
Planning Department	90,764
Building Inspection Department	253,288
Economic Development	170,153
Cooperative Extension	467,613
Soil Conservation	218,004
Health Department	6,661,672
Social Services	7,529,009
Public Assistance	4,314,536
Veterans Services	110,048
Education	10,311,371
Library	1,281,321
Parks & Rec	402,903
Special Appropriations	893,808

Transfers to Other Funds	405,000
Contingency	197,010
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS:	50,515.463

Section 2: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the General Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

Ad Valorem Taxes	27,528,032
Court Facilities Revenues	120,000
Sales Tax Revenues	5,676,314
Privilege License Revenue	2,000
State Reimbursement Revenues	236,811
Miscellaneous Revenues	708,825
Transferred from Revenues	177,670
Tax Administration Revenues	23,518
County Attorney Revenues	87,000
Elections Revenues	76,010
Register of Deeds Revenues	263,000
Public Building- State Energy Grant	121,025
Sheriff Revenues	725,236
Governor's Highway Safety Grant	84,509
Detention Center Revenues	150,000
Emergency Services Revenues	33,750
Fire Marshal Revenues	10,000
Animal Control Revenues	51,000
Airport Revenues	418,500
Planning Department Revenues	1,500
Building Inspection Department Revenues	180,000
Cooperative Extension Revenues	12,692
Soil Conservation Revenues	35,100
Health Department Revenues	5,311,380
Social Services Revenues	8,028,591
Veterans Services Revenues	2,000
Education Revenues	262,000
Library Revenues	185,000
Recreation Revenues	4,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES:	50,515,463

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, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Aging

Total Appropriations 3,560,790

Section 4: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Aging Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

Aging Revenues

Total Estimated Revenues 3,560,790

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, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Travel & Tourism

Total Appropriations 70,000

Section 6: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Travel & Tourism Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

Occupancy Tax

Total Estimated Revenues 70,000

Section 7: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the DMV 3% Fee Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

DMV 3% Fee

Total Appropriations 45,000

Section 8: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the DMV 3% Fee Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

DMV 3% Fee

Total Estimated Revenues 45,000

Section 9: 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, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Tax Revaluation

Total Appropriations 108,000

Section 10: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Tax Revaluation Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

Transferred From General Fund

Total Estimated Revenues 108,000

Section 11: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Ambulance & Rescue Funds for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

CERRO GORDO RESCUE
 REMITTANCE TO DISTRICT
 ACME DELCO RIEGELWOOD RESCUE
 BUCK HEAD RESCUE
 CHADBOURN RESCUE
 FAIR BLUFF RESCUE
 LAKE WACCAMAW RESCUE
 NAKINA RESCUE
 TABOR CITY RESCUE

Total Appropriations 674,165

Section 12: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Ambulance & Rescue Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012

Ambulance & Rescue Tax

Total Estimated Revenues 674,165

Section 13: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Fire Districts Fund for the operation of county governments and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

EVERGREEN FIRE DISTRICT
 ST JAMES FIRE DISTRICT
 NORTH WHITEVILLE FIRE DISTRICT
 NAKINA FIRE DISTRICT
 OLD DOCK FIRE DISTRICT
 HALLSBORO FIRE DISTRICT
 ROSELAND FIRE DISTRICT
 YAM CITY FIRE DISTRICT
 ACME DELCO FIRE DISTRICT
 KLONDYKE FIRE DISTRICT
 COLES SERVICE FIRE DISTRICT
 CERRO GORDO FIRE DISTRICT
 WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT
 WHITE MARSH-WELCH CREEK FIRE DISTRICT
 BRUNSWICK FIRE DISTRICT
 BOLTON FIRE DISTRICT
 BUCK HEAD FIRE DISTRICT

Total Appropriations 1,197,101

Section 14: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Fire Districts Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

Special Fire Tax

Total Estimated Revenues 1,197,101

Section 15: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Lottery Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Lottery Disbursement

Total Appropriations 356,465

Section 16: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Lottery Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

Lottery Funds

Total Estimated Revenues 356,465

Section 17: 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, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Debt Service

Total Appropriations 1,144,762

Section 18: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Debt Service Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

TRANSFER FROM GENERAL FUND 219,643
 CONTRIBUTION-HOSPITAL 925,119

Total Estimated Revenues 1,144,762

Section 19: 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, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Emergency telephone system		
	Total Appropriations	321,000

Section 20: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the E - 911 Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

NC 911 Board Revenues		
	Total Estimated Revenues	321,000

Section 21: 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, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

HUD		
	Total Appropriations	1,905,684

Section 22: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the HUD Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

HUD Revenues		
	Total Estimated Revenues	1,905,684

Section 23: 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, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Water District I		
	Total Appropriations	500,335

Section 24: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Water District I Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

Revenues From Operations		
	Total Estimated Revenues	500,335

Section 25: 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, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Water District II		
	Total Appropriations	799,120

Section 26: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Water District II Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

Water District Tax		
Revenues From Operations		
	Total Estimated Revenues	799,120

Section 27: 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, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Water District III		
	Total Appropriations	612,423

Section 28: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Water District III Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

Water District Tax		
Revenues From Operations		
Total Estimated Revenues		612,423

Section 29: 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, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Water District IV	353,518	
Total Appropriations		353,518

Section 30: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Water District IV Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

Revenues From Operations	353,518	
Total Estimated Revenues		353,518

Section 31: 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, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Water District V		
Total Appropriations		460,660

Section 32: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Water District V Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

Revenues From Operations		
Total Estimated Revenues		460,660

Section 33: 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, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Transportation		
Total Appropriations		826,956

Section 34: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Transportation Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

Revenues From Operations		
Total Estimated Revenues		826,956

Section 35: 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, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Solid Waste		
Total Appropriations		7,116,972

Section 36: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Solid Waste Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

Landfill User Fees	
Tipping Fees	
Tire Disposal	
Miscellaneous	

Total Estimated Revenues **7,116,972**

Section 37: 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, 2011 for the purpose of raising revenue included in "Ad Valorem Taxes" in the General Fund in section 2 of this ordinance.

Section 38: 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 39: 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 40: Copies of this Budget Ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Board and to the Finance Officer to be kept on file for review. Direction from the Board of Commissioners will be given to the Finance Officer in the disbursement of funds.

Adopted this 20th day of June 2011

/s/ **GILES E. BYRD, Chairman**
COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to approve and adopt the Proposed 2011 - 2012 Columbus County Operating Budget as presented at the May 16, 2011 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting, second by Commissioner Russ.

Commissioner Prevatte made a **substitute motion** to approve and adopt the Proposed 2011 - 2012 Columbus County Operating Budget with the changes that were recommended at the three (3) Budget Workshops.

Commissioner Bullard asked Mr. Clark if he had a list of all the changes that were made. Bobbie Faircloth replied stating the only changes we made to the budget are as follows:

Add: \$25,000 to Parks and Recreation for mini-grants;
Delete: Salary Study; **and**
Delete: \$20,00 Part-time for EMS.

A second was made by Commissioner Bullard.

A roll-call vote was taken on the **substitute motion** with the following results:

AYES: Chairman Byrd, Commissioner Prevatte and Bullard; **and**
NAYS: Vice Chairman McKenzie, Commissioners Norris, Russ and McDowell.

The **substitute motion** fails on a four (4) to three (3) vote.

Commissioner Prevatte requested that Vice Chairman McKenzie restate the original motion. Vice Chairman McKenzie stated, "I make a motion to approve and adopt the Proposed 2011 - 2012 Columbus County Operating Budget as presented by the County Manager at the May 16, 2011 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting".

Chairman Byrd stated we want to define the following:

1. That is not putting the \$25,000 in for Recreation;
2. It is not taking out any of the changes that we have recommended; **and**
3. What has been the purpose of the workshops?

Commissioner Russ asked if we could come back and add the \$25,000 for Recreation at the next meeting? Commissioner Prevatte replied stating not after you pass the budget.

Commissioner McDowell asked if you could amend a budget. Bobbie Faircloth replied stating you could at a later date.

A roll-call vote was taken on the **original motion** with the following results:

AYES: Chairman Byrd, Vice Chairman McKenzie, Commissioners Norris, Russ and McDowell; **and**

NAYS: Commissioners Prevatte and Bullard.

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

Agenda Item #10: PLANNING - ESTABLISHMENT of DATE and TIME for PUBLIC HEARING:

Robert Lewis, Planning Director, requested the Board to establish July 18, 2011 as the date for a public hearing for a map amendment at the Southeast Industrial Park. (A time needs to be established also.)

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to establish July 18, 2011, at 6:00 P.M., as the date and time for a public hearing to be held for a map amendment at the Southeast Industrial Park, second by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #11: MAINTENANCE - BOARD APPROVAL of GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT:

Tony Soles, Maintenance Director, requested Board approval of the following Service Agreement for grounds maintenance with McQueen's Nursery and Landscaping, Incorporated, from the following Bid Tabulation Sheet.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT
BID TABULATION SHEET fro GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

VENDOR	BID BOND 5% of PURCHASE	BID AMOUNT
McQueen's Nursery & Landscaping, Inc.		\$36,000
Glenn's Lawn Care		\$37,300
Mike Hardison's Lawn & Landscape Service		\$44,855
Clean Cut Lawn and Landscape Service		\$99,500
TSSI LLC		\$136,200

SERVICE AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this June 24, 2011, by and between the County of Columbus, a political subdivision of the State of North Carolina, (hereinafter referred to as "County"), and **McQueen's Nursery & Landscaping, Inc.** (hereinafter referred to as "Contractor").

WHEREAS, McQueen's Nursery & Landscaping, Inc. acting as an independent contractor, is an experienced mowing and lawn care service company and shall provide said services in a professional manner in accordance with the standards of all applicable professional organizations for the service company.

WHEREAS, the County wishes to enter into a contractual agreement with **McQueen's Nursery & Landscaping, Inc.** to provide mowing services for the County of Columbus as described as Exhibit A on the attached sheet, following the technical specifications as described in the request for proposal.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual agreements described below, the parties agree as follows:

1. Term of Agreement: The terms of this Agreement shall begin **July 1, 2011 and end on June 30, 2014** with the option to extend the agreement annually thereafter, if agreeable upon both parties under the same terms and conditions.
2. Compensation: As compensation for the services outlined within this Agreement, the County shall pay the Contractor One Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars and Sixty Seven Cents (\$1,166.67) on a monthly basis for services rendered payable within thirty (30) days from receipt of invoice.
3. Insurance: Contractor shall maintain insurance policies at all times with minimum limits as follows:

<u>Coverage</u>	<u>Minimum Limits</u>
Worker's Compensation	(If required) Statutory Limits
General Liability	\$1,000,000 per occurrence

All insurance policies shall be issued by companies authorized to do business under the laws of the State of North Carolina. The Contractor shall furnish Certificates of Insurance to the County, naming the County as an additional insured, prior to the commencement of operations. The certificates shall clearly indicate that the Contractor has obtained insurance of the type, amount, and classification as required for strict compliance with this paragraph and that no material change or cancellation of the insurance shall be effective without thirty (30) days prior written notice to the County. Compliance with the foregoing requirements shall not relieve the Contractor from its liability and obligations under this Contract.

4. Confidentiality: All proprietary data and information, if any, furnished to Contractor by County shall be regarded as confidential, shall remain the sole property of County and shall be held in confidence and safekeeping by Contractor for the sole use of the parties and Contractor under the terms of this Agreement. Contractor agrees that its officers, employees and agents will not disclose to any person, firm or entity other than County or County's designated legal counsel, accountants or practice management consultants any information about County.
5. Status of Parties: Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed as establishing a partnership or joint venture relationship between Contractor and County. Contractor and its employees and representatives are independent contractors, solely responsible for its or their performance under this Agreement and shall have no legal authority to bind County.
6. Assignment and Subcontracting: Neither this Agreement nor any rights or obligations hereunder shall be subcontracted, assigned, or delegated by Contractor without prior written consent of the County.
7. Binding Effect: This Agreement shall be binding upon the parties hereto, their heirs, administrators, executors, successors and assigns.
8. Notices: Any notice or other communication required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given on the date delivered personally or deposited in the United States Postal Service, certified mail, return receipt requested, with adequate postage affixed, addressed as follows:

Columbus County Maintenance
Attn: Tony Soles
111 Washington Street
Whiteville, NC 2872

Contractor: **McQueen's Nursery & Landscaping**
Attn: Robert McQueen
1480 Prison Camp Road
Whiteville, NC 28472

Either party may change its address for notices under this Agreement by giving written notice of such change to the other party in accordance with the terms of this paragraph.

9. Governing Law: This Agreement and the rights and obligations to the parties hereunder shall be construed and governed by the laws of the State of North Carolina and venue for any proceedings arising hereunder shall be in the state court of appropriate jurisdiction located in Columbus County, North Carolina.
10. Modifications: This contract may be amended or modified by mutual written consent of the parties. A modification is not enforceable against the County unless it is signed by the Contracting Officer, County Manager, or other duly authorized official.
11. Entire Agreement: This contract contains the entire agreement between the parties pertaining to the subject matter of this contract. With respect to that subject matter, there are no promises, agreements, conditions, inducements, warranties or understandings, written or oral, expressed or implied, between the parties, other than as set forth or referenced in this contract.
12. Waiver: A waiver of any provision of this Agreement must be in writing, designated as such, and signed by the party against whom enforcement of the waiver is sought. The waiver of a breach of any provision of this Agreement shall not operate or be construed as a waiver of any subsequent or other breach thereof.
13. Termination: This Agreement may be terminated as follows:
Termination by Agreement. This Agreement may be terminated in writing upon the mutual consent of the parties.

Termination by Cancellation. This Agreement may be canceled without cause by either party upon thirty (30) days prior written notice.
14. Annual Appropriations and Funding. This Agreement may be subject to the annual appropriation of funds by the Columbus County Commissioners. Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, in the event that funds are not appropriated for this Agreement, the County shall be entitled to immediately terminate this Agreement, without penalty or liability, except the payment of all contract fees due under this Agreement up to and through the last day of service.
15. Hold Harmless: Contractor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the County, its agents, servants and employees from any and all claims, actions, lawsuits, damages, judgments or liabilities of any kind whatsoever arising out of the operation of the aforesaid program.
16. County Policy: The County opposes discrimination on the basis of race and sex and requires all of its contractors to provide a fair opportunity for minorities and women to participate in their work force and as subcontractors and vendors under County contracts.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement in their official capacities with legal authority to do so.

Attest:
/s/ **JUNE B. HALL**
Clerk to the Board

Columbus County:
/s/ **GILES E. BYRD, Chairman**
C O L U M B U S C O U N T Y B O A R D O F
COMMISSIONERS

Attest:
/s/ **KAREN WARD**

Contractor: McQueen's Nursery & Landscaping, INC
/s/ Robert McQueen
McQueen's Nursery & Landscaping, INC
1480 Prison Camp Road
Whiteville, NC 28472
Phone: 910-642-1898

This instrument has been pre-audited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

/s/ Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Officer

Exhibit A

Scope of Services

Entrance Area (Signage):

All grass and weeds shall be trimmed/weed-eated around all trees, bushes, utility poles, sign posts and other objects around the entire front entrance sign to insure that the property entrance way maintains a neat and attractive appearance during the growing season. The Contractor shall pull weeds inside the planting bed. The front entrance area was clarified at the site visit with bidders. **This particular area shall be maintained on a weekly basis.**

Roadside right-of- ways:

The Contractor will be required to mow all roadside right-of-ways, to include both sides of the ditch, dividers, and median areas throughout the entire Park.

Ditches: The Contractor, at its option, may use a chemical spray in the center area of ditches, provided that the Contractor has the proper license(s) required by the State of North Carolina.

Litter and Debris:

It is the Contractor's responsibility to maintain the areas in a neat and attractive condition. Litter and debris, to include broken and dead tree limbs must be collected and removed prior to mowing. The Contractor shall be responsible for disposal of collected litter and debris. When finished mowing, edging and trimming, the Contractor will sweep or blow away any remaining dirt and grass clippings from curbs, sidewalks, or streets adjoining the areas.

Schedule and Hours of Work:

Services shall be performed **every two weeks** preferably on the same day every other week **except the front entrance area which will be done on a weekly basis.** The Contractor may perform the work, Monday through Saturday between the hours of 7:00AM and 7:00 PM.

Equipment:

The Contractor is responsible for providing, maintaining, and transporting all necessary equipment, tools, supplies, and fuel in connection with the services under this Request for Proposal. In no way, will the county be responsible for damage to contractors' tools or equipment.

Heavy equipment such as riding mowers are not to be used when the soil is wet. The Contractor shall be responsible for repairing any ruts that are created by equipment that is inappropriately used for the soil conditions.

Safety:

The Contractor shall exercise precaution at all times for the protection of persons and property. Safety provisions of all applicable laws and ordinances shall be strictly observed. The Contractor shall take all safety precautions necessary. Safety glasses and ear protection shall be worn by Contractor while providing the services for Columbus County.

Reporting of Damage:

Any damage done by the Contractor or noticed by the Contractor must be reported to the County as soon as possible.

COUNTY OF COLUMBUS**TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES****GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The Contractor is to supply labor, tools and equipment necessary to constitute a crew capable of grass cutting, shrubbery maintenance, chemical spraying and all tasks necessary to maintain the landscaped areas around the facilities and parking lots listed per these specifications, (See Appendix A). **No sub contracting of labor force.**

1.0 General Specifications For All Sites

- 1.1 The Contractor shall follow all applicable OSHA regulations that pertain to the nature of their business.
- 1.2 Equipment storage will only be allowed while work is in progress unless otherwise approved. In no way will the Columbus County be responsible for damage or theft to contractor's tools or equipment.
- 1.3 Any damage done by the contractor or noticed by the contractor must be reported to the County as soon as possible.
- 1.4 The Contractor may apply herbicide and pesticide chemicals, unless otherwise stated to control growth along fence lines to prevent grass, vines and weeds from growing into fence fabric and grounds and landscape infestation; however, these chemicals will be the responsibility of the Contractor, and the Contractor must have all licenses and permits necessary to apply any chemicals used. Care must also be used during application to prevent any unnecessary damage to landscaping around fence perimeters. The use and application method for herbicides and pesticides must be pre-approved by the Bldg & Grounds Maintenance Director.
- 1.5 The contractor shall be on call during inclement weather and storms to assist the County of Columbus as needed with sidewalks, grounds and parking areas as pertain to the nature of their business. These services must be pre-approved by the Bldg & Grounds Maintenance Director.
- 1.6 Failure of the Contractor to meet or perform work to specifications as deemed by Columbus County shall warrant immediate cancellation of the contract(s).
- 1.7 The contract period will be from July 1, 2011 to June 31, 2014.
- 1.8 Columbus County shall be billed at the end of each month. Payment for services rendered will be made within thirty (30) days of submission of a proper invoice.

2.0 Grass Cutting/Shrubbery Maintenance

2.1 General Cleanup

The Contractor shall pick up litter from grounds, parking area and entrances. Sidewalks are to be inspected and swept as needed. This service is to be performed each time mowed.

2.2 Grass

All grass cutting shall be done in a professional manner. All grass areas to be mowed as needed to assure neatness of area all year round. During the growing season the grass will be mowed within every ten (10) working day, unless otherwise specified. Trimming around buildings, trees and shrubbery (weed-eater) each time mowed. Treat any diseased areas. Sweep, blow-off or vacuum sidewalks after mowing to remove all clippings. In case of rain, to be performed as contractors schedule permits.

2.3 Edging

All curbs and sidewalks to be edged as needed and trimmings are to be cleaned up immediately. Roundup will be sprayed in cracks for herbicidal removal of unsightly weeds and grass.

2.4 Shrubbery

The contractor will trim the shrubbery in the landscape areas to maintain the vegetation. Generally the shrubbery will be trimmed twice a year (spring and summer). The contractor will treat any disease or insect damage immediately with chemicals necessary for control.

2.5 Plant Beds

The contractor will keep the plant beds weed free. The contractor will check all beds when mowing and trimming and remove weeds at that time. The contractor will trim the landscape areas as often as necessary to maintain the vegetation.

2.6 Wet Conditions

The contractor will avoid cutting the grass under extremely wet conditions where heavy mowers could rut the soil. In the event that the site is too wet to cut, notify contact person of the site's condition.

“EXHIBIT A” LOCATIONS

1. Miller Building (surrounding parking lots and all fenced areas) - Jefferson Street
2. Columbus County Library - 701 Bypass
3. Columbus County Administration Building and parking lot - Washington Street
4. Register of Deeds and Tax Office - Washington Street
5. Park and Recreation / Intensive Probation Building - Smith Street
6. Probation Office - Smith Street
7. Columbus County Courthouse (and surrounding parking lots)
8. Court Annex - Smith Street
9. District Attorney's Office / Superior Court Judges' Offices - Courthouse Square
10. Vacant Lot (behind D.A.'s Office) - Smith Street
11. Veterans Services - Pinckney Street
12. Families First Building - Chadbourn Highway
13. Columbus County Department of Aging - Chadbourn Highway
14. BOE and HUD Building - Chadbourn Highway
15. Animal Control Facilities (Old and New) - Legion Drive
16. Transportation Building - Legion Drive
17. Cooperative Extension / Farm Services - 45 Government Complex Road
18. Department of Social Services Building - 40 Government Complex Rd
19. Public Utilities Building and Parking Lot -612 North Madison Street

Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to approve the Service Agreement with McQueen's Nursery & Landscaping, Incorporated, with attachments, at the cost of fourteen thousand and 00/100 (\$14,000.00) dollars annually, second by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #12: LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Michael H. Stephens, County Attorney, delivered the following Departmental Update to the Board.

1. On the re-districting, I have received two (2) proposals from law firms to do our re-districting for us;
2. I have talked to the attorneys involved, and they are both out of the Raleigh area and they have expertise in re-districting and election law;
3. Both firms have submitted written proposals for the Board's consideration, I have reviewed them;
4. I will bring my recommendation, along with the proposal, to the next Board meeting for your consideration;
5. We have two (2) CHAF properties that we are proceeding with tax foreclosures at this time,

- one that is up for sale July 5, 2011, at 12:00 Noon, and one we have set a foreclosure date on, and it is going through the legal procedures for foreclosure;
6. I am researching the best course of action to take in Water District IV enforcement pertaining to the eighty-three (83) customers that are not complying with their application;
 7. The Town of Chadbourn and Chadbourn Rural Water Association is in the hopper, it has not been settled, and we are looking at possibly another mediation, that is not in concrete yet either, we are in the discovery process as far as at this time; **and**
 8. We have a CHAF property which I have discussed with you, the Tony McMillan property over in Fair Bluff, the property burned, we have a Deed of Trust on the property for just over \$52,000. The house burned, the occupant owner did not have any insurance on the property, the owner now, Mr. McMillan has gone to, hopefully, Harold Walker in Chadbourn, and has qualified for a conventional housing loan, not going through Federal or State grant money to get another loan. I have been in contact with the North Carolina Re-Development Commission's attorney in loans, and they have finally agreed not to hold Columbus County liable for that \$52,000. They will basically take it upon themselves.. The only condition is that Ms. McMillian pay the County's back taxes which were owed on that lot. I checked today and she has paid the back taxes and she is clear as far as the taxes are concerned. That was one of the stipulations that Raleigh advised that they would not agree to let the County do that unless she paid us the money owed. If she did that, they would agree to, at your will and pleasure, cancel the Deed of Trust and Promissory Note on the property. From my understanding, the value of that little lot is not worth a lot of money. We are never going to recoup that \$52,000, the State is not going to be able to recoup that \$52,000. The taxpayers are out the \$52,000, to be honest. At the Board's discretion, along with the necessary paperwork, cancel that Deed of Trust where this lady can get housing. The lady over at Walkers business did ask me if the Commissioners would okay the County to do the cleanup of the home that was on the property that was burned, and that could possibly run \$2,500, about the value of the lot really. I told her what I thought the Board would do, and she asked me to present to the Board, and now I am asking this Board to okay the cleanup.

After a brief discussion, it was the general consensus of the Board to not okay the cleanup of the house on Tony McMillan's property that burned.

Agenda Item #13: APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS/REPLACEMENTS to COMMITTEES/BOARDS/COUNCILS:

June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, is requesting the appointment/re-appointment and/or replacement of the following members.

COMMITTEE	DISTRICT/ EB	PERSON(S)	EXPIR. DATE	BOARD ACTION
Aging Advisory Council (COG) -Columbus County Members- Motion: Commissioner Norris Second: Commissioner Russ	EB	Lester Drew Amon E. McKenzie	06-30-2011 06-30-2011	Re-Appoint
Department of Aging Advisory Council	I	Atlas Williamson Laddie McKenzie Marguerite Lennon	06-30-2011 06-30-2011 06-30-2011	Re-Appoint Hold Hold
	II	Jessie Vaught	06-30-2011	Hold
	III	Raymond Shaw	06-30-2011	Re-Appoint
	IV	Lois Yoder Dr. Melvin Powell	06-30-2011 06-30-2011	Re-Appoint Re-Appoint
	V	Jack Miller	06-30-2011	Re-Appoint
	VI	Leon Merritt	06-30-2011	Re-Appoint
	VII	Joe Neal	06-30-2011	Re-Appoint

Economic Development Commission Board of Directors Motion: Commissioner Bullard Second: Commissioner Russ	IV	Jim Graham	06-30-2011	Re-Appoint
	V	R.C. Soles, Jr.	06-30-2011	Re-Appoint
	At Large	R. Mitchell Tyler	06-30-2011	Re-Appoint
Housing Advisory Committee	V	Henry Milligan	06-30-2011	Re-Appoint
	VII	Lewis L. Cokley (Deceased)	06-30-2011	Hold
Jury Commission Motion: Vice Chairman McKenzie Second: Commissioner Russ	EB	Gwen Joy (Serving unexpired term of J.B. Evans)	06-30-211	Re-Appoint
Nursing/Adult Care Home Joint Community Advisory Comm Motion: Commissioner Prevatte Second: Commissioner Russ	EB	Robert Adams	07-16-2011	Re-Appoint
Southeastern Community College Board of Trustees	III	Teresa Jacobs Blanks	06-30-2011	Re-Appoint
Social Services Board	EB	Marie Campbell (Replaces Michael A. Lewis)	06-30-2014	Appoint

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

At 7:50 P.M., Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into a **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

June 06, 2011 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**).

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 1 for each water district respectively.

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to the MAY, 2011 MONTHLY WATER BILLS:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following adjustments to the May, 2011 monthly water bills.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 1 for each water district respectively.

Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV - UPDATE on FINANCIAL STATUS:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, delivered the following update on the financial status of Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 1 for Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV.

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

At 8:03 P.M., Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to adjourn the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, second by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #17: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda items, second by Vice Chairman McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

A. Budget Amendments:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditures	10-5176-512100	Achieve Salaries	7,500
Revenue	10-3516-433310	ACHIEVE Grant	7,500
Expenditures	10-4310-535300	M&R Vehicles	3,751
Revenue	10-3431-489000	Miscellaneous Revenue - Sheriff	3,751
Expenditures	10-6110-523210	Books	(2,993)
	10-6110-550000	Capital Outlay	2,993
Expenditures	14-4311-512110	Salaries and Wages	3,186
	14-4311-526001	Departmental Supplies	1,813
	14-4311-529902	Weapons Tasers	15,687
	14-4311-526001	Dept Supplies	15,000
	14-4311-529903	Body Armor (Detention Cell Extraction Suits)	6,000
	11-4310-512200	Salaries and Wages - Overtime	7,000
Revenue	14-3431-436007	Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant	41,686
	11-3431-420000	LLEBG US Department of Justice	7,000
Expenditures	62-7113-525105	Gas	5,000
	62-7113-518302	Retirees Health Ins	341
	62-7113-526001	Departmental Supplies	4,000
	62-7113-532101	Postage	1,000
Revenue	62-3715-451000	Water Sales	10,341
Expenditures	10-4180-549820	Register of Deeds/Archive Fees	4,845
	10-4180-549825	Register of Deeds/Emergency Management Fee	475
	10-4180-549918	Children's Trust Fund	3,785
	10-4180-549919	Conveyance Tax - NCDORF Rev	2,000
Expenditures	10-3418-440055	Register of Deeds Cultural Resource	5,000
	10-3418-440100	Register of Deeds' Fees	3,105
	10-3418-441001	Marriage License	3,000
Expenditures	10-5900-549995	ABC Profit Distribution	7,000
Revenue	10-3839-440020	ABC Profit Distribution	7,000

B. Tax Releases:**TAX RELEASES (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):
June 20, 2011**

Release the Property Value in the name of Anderson, Joyce Long Amount: \$10.16
 Value: \$590.00 Year: 09-10 Account # 3-00063 Bill # 9999 Total \$227.54
 Release value of 1969 mobile home. Junked. Release Old Dock Fire(.99), release Columbus Rescue(.25)

Release the Property Value in the name of Oxendine, Kevin & Vanessa L. Amount: \$16.81
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2010 Account # 1-68523 Bill # 5879 Total \$0.00
 Release 2% discount amount. Paid incorrect amount.

Release the Property Value in the name of Price, Paul Amount: \$413.21
 Value: \$50,700.00 Year: 2010 Account # 9-02314 Bill # 7941 Total \$668.77
 Release property value of double wide mobile home. Burned. Release Roseland Fire(30.42), release Columbus
 Rescue (10.14)

Release the Property Value in the name of Thomas, Randall A. Amount: \$528.88
 Value: \$10,830.00 Year: 05-10 Account # 13-05814 Bill # 5654 Total \$1,783.15
 Release value of mobile home. Repoed in 2004. Release Klondyke Fire(47.18), release Columbus
 Rescue(13.47),release Water District II (63.43)

Release the User Fee in the name of Kinlaw, Jimmy C. Sr. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 09-10 Account # 12-14457 Bill # 99999 Total \$425.00
 Release user fee. Shop Closed 2008 and is vacant.

Release the User Fee in the name of Memory, Robert Thurston Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2010 Account # 1-61200 Bill # 3016 Total \$128.00
 Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.

Release the User Fee in the name of Memory, Robert Thurston Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2010 Account # 1-61180 Bill # 3011 Total \$128.00
 Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.

Agenda Item #18: COMMENTS:

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

B. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Commissioner McDowell:** stated the following:
 - A. I would like to thank everyone for attending the meeting;
 - B. I would like to request that you continue to do the job that you have been doing, and it is evident that you do a good job, and we appreciate it;
 - C. I would like to ask that you bear with us at times;
 - D. I would like to thank Mr. Clark for the budget that he presented;
 - E. I have received a few calls lately concerning litter along the side of the roads;
and
 - F. I have received calls about abandoned structures, and I think we need to go a step further and see if we can clean up the property.
2. **Commissioner Russ:** stated the following:
 - A. I would like to thank everybody for all the prayers, the cards, the telephone calls and everything that Kathy and I have received since we had our accident;
 - B. Every year on the second Tuesday in May, the Department of Aging Advisory Council celebrates the Annual Senior Picnic at the County Fairgrounds, I have been every year since I was elected to the Board, and I think it would be nice that we, as County Commissioners, would go out there and serve the food, it starts at 10:30 A.M. until 1:00 P.M., it is free and has a high turnout; **and**
 - C. This Board met with the two (2) Boards of Education and Southeastern Community College, and I think it would be nice if we set up a meeting with

them again, maybe meet in January, 2012, in a very casual setting.

3. **Chairman Byrd:** stated the following:
 - A. After reading the article in The News Reporter, I contacted a CPA firm to see if they would be willing to do a bid for any fire and rescue department whose budget is \$25,000 or less, \$25,000 or more, they would also bid that out. We could work with one CPA firm that does work for the County or bid it out. I do think these audits are necessary and should be kept up annually as the contract states. The money we have got, we are holding because they don't have their audit done.;
 - B. Mr. Clark, I would like to ask for you to talk to Jeremy Jernigan, Emergency Services Director, or to each fire and rescue department, and see if we can get these audits done timely each year as we budget the money so they can get it. Mr. Clark replied stating that he had already talked to Jeremy about this matter since the last meeting. He can bring you up-to-date on this matter.
Jeremy Jernigan: At the last Fire and Rescue Association Meeting, I spoke with all the departments that were present, and we discussed putting the audits out to bid by the Fire and Rescue Association.;
 - C. I have been contacted about the Vineland Station, they did recognize that we did not have any representation from the Board of Commissioners on their committee, and they want us to be an ex-officio member, they are willing to accept an appointee; **and**
 - D. I would like for this to be on the July 05, 2011 Agenda.
4. **Commissioner Norris:** I would like to thank every one of our employees for the good job they are doing.
5. **Vice Chairman McKenzie:** stated the following:
 - A. I would like to thank Mr. Clark and staff for putting together a good budget and to ask all of our employees to keep up the good work;
 - B. I would like to know the status of the mosquito spraying. Mr. Clark replied stating we could report on this at the next meeting.;
 - C. We are having problems with beaver dams all across the County. Edward Davis replied stating the following:
 - that he has talked to John and he is working as hard as he can to address this problem;
 - you need to let us know where these beavers are located and we will check into this;
 - he can not go on private property unless the landowner wants him to;
 - you got to have a contract with the landowner before he can start the process;
 - he will go out and make an assessment and decide how much it would cost the landowner before he starts;
 - there has been a question about the B-Map Program in the State Budget;**and**
 - I will get some more information from John and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Agenda Item #19: ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:19 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, second by Vice Chairman McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, June 20, 2011
7:50 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 District I Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Giles E. Byrd, **Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie, **Vice Chairman**
James Prevatte
P. Edwin Russ
Lynwood Norris
Ricky Bullard
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, **County Manager**
Mike Stephens, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:50 P.M., Chairman Byrd called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

June 06, 2011 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**).

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the June 06, 2011 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, second by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to the MAY, 2011 MONTHLY WATER BILLS:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following adjustments to the May, 2011 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District I.

DISTRICT I ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2011

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
5/4/2011	600960.00 98	Betty Soles	-8.00	Billing Error

5/4/2011	430372.00 98	Mabel Buffkin	-20.00	Billing Error
5/5/2011	401090.00 98	Jonathan Cox	-13.00	Customer Leak
5/6/2011	201670.00 88	Courtney Barnhill	-40.00	Billing Error
5/9/2011	303015.00 95	Harry McPherson	50.00	Cut On & Cut Off Fee
5/10/2011	301130.00 94	Karen Buffkin	-70.00	Cut Off Penalties
5/10/2011	100566.00 98	David Watts	-277.00	Customer Leak
5/11/2011	204890.00 98	Betty Bellamy	-36.00	Customer Leak
5/16/2011	302560.00 93	Ronald Norris	-171.00	Customer Leak
5/18/2011	200630.00 97	Patrick Milligan	-75.00	Customer Leak
5/19/2011	101120.00 91	Joseph D. Floyd	-41.00	Customer Leak
5/19/2011	600344.00 96	Cecilia Allston	-469.00	Billing Error
5/23/2011	101112.00 98	Meter Vault	-1250.00	Billing Error
5/23/2011	101111.00 98	Pump Station	-1250.00	Billing Error
5/23/2011	204140.0 98	Irene Fipps	-5.00	Posting Error
5/24/2011	403189.00 98	Sepprina Reams	50.00	Meter Tampering
5/24/2011	303015.00 95	Harry McPherson	-5.00	Billing Error
5/31/2011	201040.00 98	Angie Givens	55.00	Returned Check & Fee

Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to approve the adjustments to the May, 2011 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District I, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:03 P.M., Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, June 20, 2011
7:50 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 District II Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Giles E. Byrd, **Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie, **Vice Chairman**
James Prevatte
P. Edwin Russ
Lynwood Norris
Ricky Bullard
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, **County Manager**
Mike Stephens, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:50 P.M., Chairman Byrd called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

June 06, 2011 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**).

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the June 06, 2011 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, second by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to the MAY, 2011 MONTHLY WATER BILLS:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following adjustments to the May, 2011 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District II.

DISTRICT II ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2011

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
5/5/2011	131210.00 98	Charlie Martin	-10.00	Water Quality
5/5/2011	110335.00 97	Patsy Hamilton	-37.00	Billing Error

5/6/2011	121160.00 97	Charlie Martin	25.00	Refund
5/9/2011	141210.00 98	John Lee	-292.00	Customer Leak
5/16/2011	144380.00 96	Life Enhancement Services	-240.00	Billing Error
5/17/2011	131545.00 98	Connie Ellis	25.00	Disconnect Fee
5/17/2011	143760.00 97	Leroy Nicolson	70.00	Posting Error
5/18/2011	133135.00 95	Karen Worley	-18.00	Customer Leak
5/18/2011	144345.00 98	Lorene Mahoney	-36.00	Billing Error
5/19/2011	140820.00 98	Beulah Pait	50.00	Meter Tampering
5/23/2011	120330.00 91	Charles Stewart	-210.00	Billing Error
5/23/2011	143330.00 96	Eleanor Kinlaw	25.00	Reconnect Fee
5/24/2011	133138.00 98	WWKO Radio	-530.00	Write Off - Bad Debt
5/24/2011	132683.00 97	Shane Ward	-65.00	Billing Error
5/24/2011	140282.00 97	Herlar Faircloth	-30.00	Posting Error
5/24/2011	140282.00 96	Kelli Green	25.00	Posting Error
5/27/2011	133520.00 98	Rachel Matthews	-16.00	Meter Read Wrong
5/31/2011	140273.00 97	Barbara Robinson	147.00	Returned Check & Fee
5/31/2011	120474.00 97	Johnny Ray Williams	204.00	Meter Tampering
5/31/2011	101200.00 98	Billy Tompkins	-47.00	Customer Leak

Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to approve the adjustments to the May, 2011 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District II, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:03 P.M., Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, June 20, 2011
7:50 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 District III Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Giles E. Byrd, **Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie, **Vice Chairman**
James Prevatte
P. Edwin Russ
Lynwood Norris
Ricky Bullard
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, **County Manager**
Mike Stephens, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:50 P.M., Chairman Byrd called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

June 06, 2011 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**).

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the June 06, 2011 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, second by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to the MAY, 2011 MONTHLY WATER BILLS:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following adjustments to the May, 2011 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III.

DISTRICT III ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2011

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
5/6/2011	360260.00 90	Samuel Parks	25.00	Disconnect Fee

5/9/2011	350970.00 92	William Martin	-29.00	Customer Leak
5/17/2011	341755.00 93	Marietta Sellers	50.00	Posting Error
5/17/2011	341755.00 91	Teresa Woodside	25.00	Disconnect Fee
5/19/2011	360780.00 98	Michael Collier	-179.00	Billing Error
5/24/2011	351014.00 95	Sarah McLaughlin	25.00	Disconnect Fee
5/31/2011	341330.00 98	Hugh McPherson II	63.00	Returned Check & Fee
5/31/2011	350650.00 98	Chris Dew	109.00	Returned Check & Fee
5/31/2011	350659.00 92	Shirley Arthur	50.00	Meter Tampering

Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to approve the adjustments to the May, 2011 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:03 P.M., Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, June 20, 2011
7:50 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 District IV Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Giles E. Byrd, **Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie, **Vice Chairman**
James Prevatte
P. Edwin Russ
Lynwood Norris
Ricky Bullard
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, **County Manager**
Mike Stephens, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:50 P.M., Chairman Byrd called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

June 06, 2011 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**).

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the June 06, 2011 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, second by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to the MAY, 2011 MONTHLY WATER BILLS:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following adjustments to the May, 2011 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV.

DISTRICT IV ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2011

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
5/2/2011	430012.00 98	Gregory Shaw	-175.00	Penalties Removed

5/4/2011	430040.00 98	Rodney Freeman	-52.00	Billing Error
5/4/2011	430268.00 98	Miami Robinson	-36.00	Billing Error
5/5/2011	430371.00 98	Adam Buffkin	-28.00	Billing Error
5/6/2011	430635.00 98	Acme Delco Middle School	-0.40	Billing Error
5/6/2011	430201.00 98	Acme Delco Elementary School	-0.40	Billing Error
5/9/2011	430450.00 98	Rodney Carroll	-416.00	Customer Leak
5/11/2011	430400.00 98	Glennwood Jackson	-38.00	Customer Leak
5/11/2011	430434.00 98	Roley Wallace	-50.00	Billing Error
5/12/2011	430155.00 98	Kisha Godfrey	-260.00	Service Unavailable
5/16/2011	430084.0098	Levander Buie	-25.00	Billing Error
5/16/2011	430083.00 98	Levander Buie	-25.00	Billing Error
5/24/2011	430615.00 98	William Porter III	-25.00	Billing Error
5/25/2011	430141.00 98	Pandora Brown	-270.00	Service Moved
5/26/2011	430561.00 98	Betty Hagood	-56.00	Credit on Account

Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to approve the adjustments to the May, 2011 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV - UPDATE on FINANCIAL STATUS:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, delivered the following update on the financial status of Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV.

June 20, 2011

Memorandum: to County Commissioners

Reference: Delinquent Accounts in Water District #4

For the Fiscal Year 2010 – 2011 Revenues were budgeted at \$384,887.00. Due to the project starting up late in the year it is anticipated that revenues will come in at around \$241,000.00. The shortfall will have to be made up from the retained earnings. The present monthly average for revenues is about \$25,500.00.

For the Fiscal Year of 2011 – 2012 Revenues are budgeted at \$353,518.00. With the current monthly revenues there will be another estimated shortfall of about \$29,892.00.

Presently there are about 82 customers who signed up for the water but are refusing to pay the minimum bill. These 82 customers owe \$12,437.00 in unpaid water bills not including penalties. With penalties they owe a total of \$25,202.00.

If these 82 customers were paying the minimum bill of \$25.00 each the annual revenues would increase by \$24,600.00 to a projected total of \$349,736.00.

Staff reports to me that prior to applying for funds for this project, there were numerous community meetings in which the people were informed that they would be required to pay a minimum bill. When the customers signed up for water they signed a statement on the application agreeing to pay the minimum bill. Regardless of the statement or the current policy these customers still refuse to pay.

The issue lies with enforcement. We currently have no way to collect on delinquent accounts except turn off the water. These 82 customers have never connected and the accounts are accumulating penalties.

Clearly the Public Utilities Department must take another step to collect the unpaid revenues. Below I have listed some options to consider:

Option 1: Use the Debt Set-Off Program with the State – this will capture the revenues from those who anticipate receiving a State Income Tax Refund.

Option 2: Report Delinquent Accounts to Credit Bureau.

Option 3: Raise the base rate for everyone in the district to make up for the short-fall. This would require raising the minimum bill approximately \$3.50.

Option 4: Add a special district tax like we have in Water District #2 and Water District #3

It is also recommended that the water policy be amended to require all new properties being developed in all districts to connect to County Water where it is available. Presently we have many people still drilling wells where we have water mains available.

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Byrd: I would hope that the Board would not consider Option 3 or Option 4. Option 1 would be the best way for us to go.

Mike Stephens, County Attorney: The Debt Setoff Program will be a very involved process, It is my recommendation that we not vote on that tonight. Allow me to do some further research on this. There might be another option available.

Chairman Byrd: Are you referring to going through the Tax office with assessments or something?

Mike Stephens: By utilizing some availability. We can't make anyone hook up to our water system. We can require them to pay a flat monthly fee, but can not make them hook up to the water, legally.

Commissioner Bullard: Is the contract that they signed enforceable?

Mike Stephens: That is what I am looking at now.

Chairman Byrd: We will ask you to report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Commissioner Prevatte: We should consider what Kip is recommending to require all new properties being developed in all districts to connect to County water where it is available.

Chairman Bullard: I feel like it is a man's privilege if he wants County water or his own well water. I like my well water.

Commissioner Prevatte: I feel that way also, but I believe the taxpayers that are paying their bills should not have to foot the bill for those who committed themselves, and come back with a rate increase or an additional tax on them like we are doing in Districts II and III.

Mike Stephens: By doing an availability fee, it is available to you, it is enhancing your property, it is

increasing your property value. You could go that route.

Chairman Byrd: We look at issues at hand here. We have to think of what we have in Districts II and III. We got people that are on the water system and doing everything that they are suppose to be doing, but yet they are having to pay that special tax, and paying double. If on the water, you should be getting some type of exemption instead of paying the special tax and the water bill.

Commissioner Bullard: I have said that several times in the past and no one would support it.

Commissioner Prevatte: We need to consider those people who do not have access to the water, and they are paying a tax.

Chairman Byrd: If there could be an availability assessment, because the water is going by their house, they have a choice to take it or not take it, but these lines are in the ground, the County is indebted for these lines, and it has to be paid.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:03 P.M., Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, June 20, 2011
7:50 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 District V Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Giles E. Byrd, **Chairman**
 Amon E. McKenzie, **Vice Chairman**
 James Prevatte
 P. Edwin Russ
 Lynwood Norris
 Ricky Bullard
 Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, **County Manager**
 Mike Stephens, **County Attorney**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
 Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:50 P.M., Chairman Byrd called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

June 06, 2011 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**).

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the June 06, 2011 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, second by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to the MAY, 2011 MONTHLY WATER BILLS:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following adjustments to the May, 2011 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District V.

DISTRICT V ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2011

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
5/4/2011	700035.00 98	Harry Buck	-25.00	Billing Error
5/9/2011	800950.00 98	Chadley Grainger	-35.00	Billing Error

5/16/2011	800054.00 98	Ricky Fowler	-27.00	Customer Leak
5/19/2011	800950.00 98	Chadley B. Grainger	-5.00	Billing Error
5/24/2011	709932.00 97	Christopher Phipps	50.00	Meter Tampering

Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to approve the adjustments to the May, 2011 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District V, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:03 P.M., Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman