

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, December 05, 2011

6:30 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, for the purpose of conducting their regularly scheduled meeting on the first Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

Agenda Item #1: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman Giles E. Byrd called the December 05, 2011 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Meeting to order. Chairman Byrd stated the following:

1. I have really appreciated the opportunity to serve as Chairman;
2. I hope my constituents feel that I have recognized each of them fairly and equally throughout the year;
3. It has been a pleasure to serve as your Chairman and I hope that I have done a satisfactory job for each and everyone of you;
4. I look forward to the coming year;
5. We have a non-paid County employee that has worked very hard this past year with no compensation for her diligent efforts;
6. Out of all the events we had, she was only excused on two (2) occasions;
7. I would like to present the following Proclamation of Appreciation to Cathy McMillan;

**PROCLAMATION of APPRECIATION
 and RECOGNITION to**

CATHY MCMILLAN

WHEREAS, during the course of a year, the Columbus County Commissioners are invited to numerous events, festivities, parades, dinners and meetings; **and**

WHEREAS, many parades are held in Columbus County serving as the official opening of numerous events and on holidays; **and**

WHEREAS, the customary procedure for parade participants is to ride in an open setting and toss treats to the onlookers anxiously awaiting to view the parade entries; **and**

WHEREAS, there is a special lady, namely **CATHY MCMILLAN**, that is readily available, and willing to drive the motor vehicle for the County Commissioners' participation in any parade that has been scheduled.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners proudly presents this **Proclamation of Appreciation and Recognition** to **CATHY MCMILLAN** for her gracious willingness and availability to be the driver of the vehicle being utilized for all of our parade activities.

ADOPTED this the 5th day of December, 2011.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **GILESE. BYRD**, Chairman, District III

/s/ **AMON E. MCKENZIE**, Vice Chairman,
 District I

/s/ **JAMES E. PREVATTE, District II**
 /s/ **LYNWOOD NORRIS, District V**
 /s/ **CHARLES T. McDOWELL, District VII**

/s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS, District IV**
 /s/ **RICKY BULLARD, District VI**
ATTESTED BY:
 /s/ **JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board**

8. We were inclined to get you a convertible since you like to drive the truck, and we got you Snoopy here, and two (2) red lollipops, and here is a card with a \$100.00 gift certificate for any place of your choice; **and**
9. The gift certificate was from the seven (7) member Board of Commissioners.

Agenda Item #2: RE-ORGANIZATION OF BOARD - ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN:

Mike Stephens, Columbus County Attorney, presided as Acting Chairman for the election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Stephens stated the following:

1. At this time, we will proceed with the election of officers for the position of Chairman and Vice Chairman for the term of one (1) year;
2. We will proceed with the election in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 153A-39, and also the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners February 04, 2008;
3. Rules of Procedure, Rule #6 states, and part of which I will read, “. . . *the present Chairman shall relinquish the chairmanship of the meeting to the County Attorney who shall preside over the Board only for the election of officers. The Chairman and Vice Chairman shall serve for a one (1) year term. The Board shall select a Chairman and Vice Chairman from among its members who, at the conclusion of the elections of officers, shall then immediately assume those positions for the ensuing year. The Board shall take nominations and vote for or against persons nominated for Chairman and Vice Chairman separately and for each individual office.*”;
4. In order to do that, if we have more than one (1) person nominated for an office, then the election will take the manner of going in reverse order until we get a majority vote; **and**
5. At this time, I will open the floor for the nomination of the position of Chairman

Nominations for Chairman:

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to nominate Commissioner Charles T. McDowell for the position of Chairman, second by Commissioner James E. Prevatte.

Commissioner P. Edwin Russ made a motion to nominate Vice Chairman Amon E. McKenzie for the position of Chairman, second by Chairman Giles E. Byrd.

Mr. Stephens asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Chairman. No reply was received. Mr. Stephens stated the nominations are now closed. We will proceed in reverse order at this time. Those in favor of Commissioner Amon E. McKenzie to be elected for the position of Chairman will vote aye, and those opposed will vote nay.

A roll-call vote was taken with the following results:

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

The motion passes on a four (4) to three (3) vote.

Mr. Stephens stated we have a majority vote at this time. Vice Chairman McKenzie will serve in the position of Chairman for the ensuing year. Nominations are now open for the position of Vice Chairman.

Nominations for Vice Chairman:

Commissioner Russ made a motion to nominate Commissioner Charles T. McDowell to serve as the Vice Chairman for the ensuing year, second by Commissioner Norris.

Mr. Stephens asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Vice Chairman. No reply was received. Mr. Stephens stated the nominations are now closed. All those in favor of Commissioner Charles T. McDowell serving as Vice Chairman will vote aye, and those opposed will vote nay.

The nomination passed on an unanimous vote.

Mr. Stephens stated that Commissioner Charles T. McDowell will now serve in the position of Vice Chairman to the Board for the ensuing one (1) year period. At this time, I would like to congratulate both gentlemen, and I will now turn the meeting over to Chairman Amon E. McKenzie.

The newly elected Chairman Amon E. McKenzie stated the following:

1. Thank you gentlemen for this opportunity to serve as your Chair;
2. Thank you to the citizens of Columbus County for the opportunity to continue serving as your Commissioner;
3. My intentions are no different than anyone else, and that is to carry this meeting out in an orderly manner and expeditiously as possible, with respect for my fellow Board members, to the County, and all those in attendance; **and**
4. Thank everyone for your attendance at this meeting.

NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN PRESIDES

Agenda Item #3: SURETY BONDS - EXAMINATION AND APPROVAL:

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the following Surety Bonds, second by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

NAME	TITLE	BOND AMT.	EXPIR. DATE
Bobbie Faircloth	Finance Officer	\$50,000	Indefinite
Christopher Lee Batten	Sheriff	\$25,000	12-02-2014
Richard Jerome Gore	Tax Administrator	\$25,000	Indefinite
Douglas E. Ward	Deputy Tax Administrator	\$25,000	Indefinite
Natonya Hassell	Public Housing Director	\$25,000	Indefinite
Linwood Cartrette	Coroner	\$15,000	12-06-2012
William H. Hannah, Sr.	Assistant Coroner	\$15,000	12-06-2012
Kandance Whitehead	Register of Deeds	\$10,000	12-04-2012

Agenda Items #4 and #5: INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The invocation was delivered by Commissioner James E. Prevatte. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Ricky Bullard.

Agenda Item #6: PRESENTATION - PLAQUE TO OUTGOING CHAIRMAN GILES E. BYRD:

Chairman McKenzie presented the following Plaque of Appreciation to the outgoing Chairman Giles E. Byrd.

PRESENTED TO:

GILES E. BYRD

* * * * *

*THIS THE 5th DAY OF DECEMBER 2011
in GRATEFUL APPRECIATION of YOUR DEVOTED LEADERSHIP
as CHAIRMAN to the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS*

12-06-2010 - 12-05-2011

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COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Agenda Item #7: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Russ made a motion to approve the November 21, 2011 Land Use Plan Workshop Minutes, as recorded, second by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the November 21, 2011 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes, with two (2) stated corrections, second by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #8: PUBLIC INPUT:

No public input was received, either orally or written.

Agenda Item #9: SOLID WASTE - APPROVAL of LOW BID, NOTICE of AWARD, NOTICE to PROCEED and CONTRACT for LANDFILL GAS PROJECT:

Marilyn Meares, Grant Administrator, and Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the low bid, from the following Bid Tabulation, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed and Contract to Manufacture and Construct Greenhouses for the Methane Heated Greenhouse Phase of the Columbus County Landfill Gas Project. This item was tabled at the November 21, 2011 Board Meeting.

**Landfill Gas Project Phase I
Bids for Collection System and Flare System**

Bidder Name:	Jaderloon	Jaderloon Negotiated	Johnson & Co.
Address:	Greenville, NC	Greenville, NC	Advance, NC
Phone:	919-755-4298	919-755-4298	336.998.5621
Contact:	Jeff McClure	Jeff McClure	Henry Johnson
Bid Signed	Yes	NA	No
Bid Bond Included	No	NA	No
Engineering Included	Yes	Yes	No
Two Greenhouses of approx 3000 sq. each	\$49,751.72	See #20 below	
Headhouse (16' x 32")	\$21,294.80	\$5,000	
Methane Fueled Boiler and Installed Heating System	\$59,892.00	\$53,857.46	
Ventilation System Installed	\$14,257.00	\$9,173.00	
Electrical System Installed and Activated	\$27,913.00	\$16,395.00 (Some costly overhead lighting removed)	
Install Automated Irrigation System - 2 Greenhouses	\$7,200.00	\$3,648.00	\$7,342.84

Install Greenhouse Bench System - 2 Greenhouses	\$17,500.00	\$7,343.00 (One Bay)	
Shade Cloth - 2 Greenhouses	\$2,780.00	\$1,656.00	
Cool Pad - Installed 2 Greenhouses	\$4,896.00	\$4,607.00	
TOTAL BID AMOUNT:	\$205,484.52		\$7,342.84

One Two Bay Greenhouse 96' x 44'		\$40,713.00
TOTAL NEGOTIATED AMOUNT:		\$142,392.46

Total w/o heating or benches.

Total w/o heating, benches or head house.

For line 31 need to add \$5,000 for moving Co. Bld.

Total using moved bld w/ benches in one greenhouse

Ms. Meares stated the following:

1. We were here two (2) weeks ago and we had a contract with the Jaderloon Company to build the greenhouses out at the landfill to use the landfill gas;
2. There was a question as to whether we could have gotten the greenhouses for less money than what we were expecting to pay;
3. At that time, we re-advertised, and had two (2) interested parties;
4. As we moved along, and through the negotiations with them, they backed out, one by one;
5. The main one was somebody who was partnering with Williamson who was suggested that we connect with, and we did connect with them, and the person he sent us to was up in Canada, his name was DeClu;
6. We got very close with them, and their proposal was worse than Jaderloon;
7. We are actually back with the original information; **and**
8. We are asking that the Board approve the contract with Jaderloon.

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the low bid, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed and Contract to Manufacture and Construct Greenhouses for the Methane Heated Greenhouse Phase of the Columbus County Landfill Gas Project, at the cost of one hundred forty-two thousand, three hundred ninety-two and 46/100 (\$142,392.46) dollars, second by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed. The Notice of Award and the Notice to Proceed was not presented to the Board. A copy of the Contract to Manufacture and Construct Greenhouses will be marked as Exhibit "A", and kept on file in Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 4, in the Clerk to the Board's Office, for review.

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

In the absence of Charles Patton, Public Transportation Director, William S. Clark, County Manager, requested the Board to establish January 03, 2012, at 6:30 P.M., as the date and time for a public hearing on North Carolina Department of Transportation funding.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to establish January 03, 2012, at 6:30 P.M., as the date and time for a public hearing on North Carolina Department of Transportation funding, second by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #11: PLANNING - ESTABLISHMENT of DATE and TIME for PUBLIC HEARING:

Robert Lewis, Planning Director, requested the Board to establish January 03, 2012, at 6:00 P.M., as the date and time for a public hearing on the Columbus County Land Use Plan.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to establish January 03, 2012, at 6:00 P.M., as the date and time for a public hearing on the Columbus County Land Use Plan, second by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #12: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - ESTABLISHMENT of DATE and TIME for PUBLIC HEARING:

Gary Lanier, Economic Development Director, requested the Board establish a date and time for a public hearing to consider an Economic Development Incentive Grant for Nice Blends Corporation.

MOTION to SUSPEND RULES of PROCEDURE:

For the purpose of scheduling four (4) public hearings on January 03, 2012 at fifteen (15) minute intervals, Commissioner Byrd made a motion to suspend the Rules of Procedure, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to establish January 03, 2012, at 6:15 P.M., as the date and time for a Public Hearing to consider an Economic Development Incentive Grant for Nice Blends Corporation, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #13: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - ESTABLISHMENT of DATE and TIME for PUBLIC HEARING:

Gary Lanier, Economic Development Director, requested the Board establish a date and time for a public hearing to consider an Economic Development Incentive Grant for PTCC Industrial LLC.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to establish January 03, 2012, at 6:45 P.M., as the date and time to a public hearing to consider an Economic Development Incentive Grant for Nice Blends Corporation, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - RESOLUTION of SUPPORT for GRANT APPLICATION to NORTH CAROLINA RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER:

Gary Lanier, Economic Development Director, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution of Support for Grant Application to North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center.

**RESOLUTION of SUPPORT for
GRANT APPLICATION to NORTH CAROLINA
RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

WHEREAS, Columbus County is experiencing a current unemployment rate of 12.4%, and is in need of all available opportunities to provide employment to our citizens; **and**

WHEREAS, Whiteville Fabrics has entered into a lease/purchase agreement for the former Flowline building located at 164 Industrial Drive, Whiteville, NC 28472, to expand their business; **and**

WHEREAS, the building has been vacant for a number of years and is in disrepair; **and**

WHEREAS, needed renovations have been identified; **and**

WHEREAS, Whiteville Fabrics has committed to create a minimum of fifteen (15) jobs within eighteen (18) months of the grant award; **and**

WHEREAS, Whiteville Fabrics has committed to retain the newly created jobs for a minimum of six (6) months; **and**

WHEREAS, as a display of our support, we will commit to provide three percent (3%) of the grant request as in-kind services in the form of grant administration through the Economic Development Commission office; **and**

WHEREAS, Columbus County will commit to an incentive grant which will fulfill the five percent (5%) cash match requirement.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, support the Building Reuse and Restoration Grant application to North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center for Whiteville Fabrics.

APPROVED and **ADOPTED** this 5th day of December, 2011.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ **AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman**

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

Commissioner Bullard questioned the five (5%) percent match requirement from the County on the grant. Mr. Lanier replied stating this is a new rule that The Rural Center has and what we would propose to do is, once we know what all of the costs are, we would apply, come before the Board and ask for a Public Hearing, and approval of an Economic Development Incentive Grant, based on their investment.

Commissioner Bullard asked if Mr. Lanier was asking for the five (5%) percent match tonight? Mr. Lanier replied stating no, not tonight, but it would be something we would follow up with, but we need to get a Resolution of Support to start the ball rolling on the process.

Commissioner Prevatte asked if the five (5%) percent match would be the tax incentive. Mr. Lanier replied stating that is how we would offset that five (5%) percent.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the Resolution of Support for Grant Application to North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, second by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #15: SOIL AND WATER - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Edward Davis, Soil and Water Conservation Director, delivered the following Departmental Update.

1. The 2010-2011 Columbus SWCD Annual Report has been provided to you in your Board Packet;
2. I would like to introduce three (3) of our supervisors, namely, Donna Register, with the National Resource Conservation Service, Federal Agency in our office, James Sarvis, Chairperson of the Columbus Soil and Water Conservation District, and Bobby Stanley, who is the Secretary/Treasurer of the district;
3. I have distributed the Columbus Soil and Water Conservation District Report from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, containing the following information:

Money Received from County:

Salaries and Benefits: (3 County Employees)	\$137,972
Supplies and Materials:	<u>\$ 7,362</u>
Total County Dollars Used:	\$145,334

Reimbursements:

State Technical Assistance:	\$26,875
State Grant:	\$ 3,960
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program:	\$ 1,002
Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation Grant:	<u>\$ 2,000</u>
Total Reimbursement to Columbus County: (Subtracted)	\$33,837

Total Cost to Columbus County:	\$145,334 - \$33,837	=	\$111,497
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Benefits Received Back into Columbus County

Cost Share Funds Allocated to Cost Share Plans

Environmental Quality Incentives Program	(EQIP)	\$164,272
Conservation Reserve Program	(CRP)	\$210,879
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	(CREP)	\$243,736

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program	(WHIP)	\$ 21,130
Conservation Security Program	(CSP)	\$175,960
NC Agricultural Cost Share Program	(NCACSP)	\$ 53,706
Total Cost Share Funded to Plans:		\$869,683

Support Funds (State and Federal)

Salaries of Non-County Employees (2 full time and 2 part time)	\$146,320
Computer Support (4.5 @ \$3,125 each)	\$ 14,063
Office Supplies	\$ 4,000
Vehicles for Non-County Employees (3.5 @ \$400/month)	\$ 16,800
Total State and Federal Support:	\$181,183

BENEFITS to COLUMBUS COUNTY: \$869,683 + \$181,183 = \$1,050,866

\$1,050,866 / \$111,497 = \$9.43 Returned to County for Every Dollar Spent

No-Till Drill Rental

No-till Drill Rented 8 Times Totaling Revenue of: **\$ 2,345**

COLUMBUS COUNTY VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT (VAD) PROGRAM:

Started Taking Applications February 01, 2010

18 Applications received and Approved

2,704.53 Acres of Crop Land Enrolled

3,252.64 Acres of Wood Land Enrolled

5,957.17 Total Acres Enrolled

BEAVER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (BMAP) REPORT
from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

COUNT FUNDS INVESTED:

BMAP	\$ 4,000
USDA:	\$50,000
Total Cost to Columbus County:	\$54,000

ESTIMATED SAVINGS to COUNTY:

Agricultural/Timber Land:	\$ 13,810
Roads and Bridges:	\$316,200
Other Lands Saved from Flooding:	\$ 30,000
Total Benefits During this Period to Columbus County:	\$360,010

\$360,010 / \$54,000 = \$6.67 Benefit to County for Every Dollar Spent

Number of Landowner Agreements:	8
Number of Agreements with DOT:	39
Number of Beavers Caught:	137
Number of Dams Destroyed with Explosives:	28
Number of Dams Removed Manually:	35

Agenda Item #16: LEGAL and PROFESSIONAL - APPROVAL and ADOPTION of RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING UPSET BID PROCESS:

Michael H. Stephens, County Attorney, is requesting Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution Authorizing Upset Bid Process.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING UPSET BID PROCESS

WHEREAS, the County of Columbus owns certain property indicated on Attachment A located in Chadbourn Township, Columbus County, State of North Carolina; **and**

WHEREAS, the County of Columbus has by this resolution declared the aforementioned

property to be surplus to its needs; **and**

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 160A-269 permits the County to sell property by upset bid, after receipt of an offer for the property; **and**

WHEREAS, Columbus County has received an offer to purchase the property described above, in the amount of \$500.00, submitted by Dwayne and Denise Godfrey of Chadbourn, North Carolina.

THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COLUMBUS COUNTY RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board of County Commissioners authorizes sale of the property described above through the bid procedure of North Carolina General Statute § 160A-269.
2. The Clerk to the Board shall cause a notice of the proposed sale to be published. The notice shall describe the property and the amount of the offer, and shall state the terms under which the offer may be upset.
3. Any person may submit an upset bid to the Clerk to the Board within 10 days after the notice of sale is published. Once a qualifying higher bid has been received, that bid will become the new offer.
4. If a qualifying higher bid is received, the Clerk to the Board shall cause a new notice of upset bid to be published, and shall continue to do so until a 10-day period has passed without any qualifying upset bid having been received. At that time, the amount of the final high bid shall be reported to the Board of Commissioners.
5. A qualifying higher bid is one that raises the existing offer by not less than ten percent (10%) of the first \$1,000.00 of that offer and five percent (5%) of the remainder of that offer.
6. A qualifying higher bid must also be accompanied by a deposit in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid; the deposit may be in cash, cashier's check, or certified check. The County will return the deposit subject to upset if a qualifying higher bid is received. The County will return the deposit of the final high bidder at closing.
7. The terms of the final sale are that:
 - a. The Board of Commissioners must approve the final high offer before the sale is closed, which it will do within 30 days after the final upset bid period has passed, and
 - b. The buyer must pay with cash, cashier's check, or certified check.
8. The County reserves the right to withdraw the property from sale at any time before the final high bid is accepted and the right to reject at any time all bids.
9. The appropriate County officials are authorized to execute the instruments necessary to convey the property.

ADOPTED this December 5, 2011.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

Mr. Stephens stated the following:

1. This is a piece of property, and it is a one (1) acre tract, just north of Chadbourn;
2. It was subject to a tax foreclosure, which we foreclosed on that piece of property and also a CHAF piece of property;
3. The CHAF piece of property is set for a public auction on December 28, 2011;
4. This is an individual, Mr. Dwayne and Denise Godfrey, their land borders this piece of property is my understanding;
5. This is a wooded area;
6. Ms. Godfrey came in and made an offer of \$500.00 to purchase the one (1) acre tract; **and**
7. This is to be advertised, and if it is upset, it will come back to the Board, and if it does not come back to the Board, you will make a determination within thirty (30) days after that period of time, after the upset bid process, to say you are going to accept or you will not accept it.

Discussion was conducted relative to the following:

1. The tract being landlocked
2. Does the land face a public roadway;

- 3. The amount of money for the one (1) acre tract; **and**
- 4. The absence of additional information that is needed to make determination.

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to table this matter until additional information is provided to the Board, second by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #17: FINANCE - RESOLUTION and AGREEMENT for DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS with BB&T:

Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Officer, requested Board approval and adoption of the Resolution and Agreement for Deposit Account with BB&T.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the Resolution and Agreement for Deposit Account with BB&T, second by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed. This document will be marked as Exhibit “B”, and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 4, in the Clerk to the Board’s Office, for review.

Agenda Item #18: ADMINISTRATION - RESOLUTION SUPPORTING the JOINT REQUEST for PROPOSAL (RFP) for SOLID WASTE SERVICES:

William S. Clark, County Manager, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, Whiteville, North Carolina, Supporting the Joint Request for Proposals (RFP) for Solid Waste Services.

**RESOLUTION of the COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
WHITEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
SUPPORTING the JOINT REQUEST for PROPOSALS (RFP)
for SOLID WASTE SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Political Subdivisions of Columbus County, to include but not necessarily limited to Columbus County and the Towns of Chadbourn, Fair Bluff, Lake Waccamaw, Tabor City, and Whiteville have the mutual interest for providing solid waste services to its citizenry; **and**

WHEREAS, the Staff of these political subdivisions have engaged in collaborative efforts with an expressed interest of developing a joint service framework for solid waste services that provides mutually satisfactory benefits and strives to bring value to the citizens of Columbus County; **and**

WHEREAS, these political subdivisions will be served by publishing a Request for Proposal for Solid Waste Services; **and**

WHEREAS, an obligation for services shall not be incurred by the simple participation in the RFP process, by any participating political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, City of Whiteville has executed a one (1) year contract extension to assist with the possibility of synchronizing contract terms with participating political subdivisions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners that:

Section 1. Affirms the interest of the County of Columbus to participate in a joint RFP; **and**

Section 2. That William S. Clark, County Manager, and his successor so titled, is hereby authorized to assist in the preparation of a RFP and its subsequent evaluation of responding service providers.

DULY ADOPTED this 5th day of December, 2011 at Whiteville, North Carolina.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

(SEAL)

AMON E. MCKENZIE, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

Commissioner Bullard made a **motion** to approve the Resolution of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, Whiteville, North Carolina, Supporting the Joint Request for Proposals (RFP) for Solid Waste Services, second by Commissioner Prevatte.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Commissioner Russ made a **substitute motion** to allow a representative from Waste Management to come, in open session, and talk to the Board about their contract. I just think this is good business. They already have the contract and they are doing a good job. You don't know what they can do until they come back and present to the Board

Discussion:

Vice Chairman McDowell: Can we open that up to anyone that wishes to make a bid other than Waste Management?

Commissioner Russ: They already have the contract now, and I think it would only be fair to allow them to come before us . . .

Vice Chairman McDowell: I understand. I don't mind them coming first, but I want everyone that is interested to have the opportunity to come, that is what I am saying.

Commissioner Byrd: We are not planning to make a decision that night, are we?

Vice Chairman McDowell: I understand that.

Commissioner Byrd: We can schedule other presentations.

Chairman McKenzie: So you want Waste Management to present first, and then others that are interested to come and present.

Commissioner Bullard: I don't think we need to show any favoritism. I think they all need to come and stand flat footed in front of us and present the best package for the citizens of Columbus County. That is what it is all about, the best price for the best service.

Chairman McKenzie: Our only golden objective is to save as much money for the County as we possibly can.

Vice Chairman McDowell: It will not cost anything to have other companies to come and present.

Commissioner Byrd made a **second** on the **substitute motion**.

Commissioner Prevatte: Gentlemen, the document that we were going to vote on is a Resolution that we, one year ago, asked Mr. Clark to work with the municipalities and see about bringing everybody together to bid out the contracts for Solid Waste disposal. We asked him to do that. The other municipalities, from what he said last time, have approved it. Now, we are going to turn around from what we asked him to do a year ago, and . . .

Commissioner Byrd: But, first and foremost, I feel like we should represent the County, and then bring in the municipalities with us if it is a better deal. But I don't think we need to be tied to them, we have not been tied to them at this time. In my opinion, let's move forward and hear what they have to say, and then we can go back and bring everybody in and see what we can get.

Commissioner Prevatte: We are not going to vote on anything except the Resolution to work with the municipalities to see if we can get a better price. We don't have to accept the price once they put it out there.

Commissioner Bullard: Mr. Clark, what do you recommend?

William S. Clark: Yes sir, I recommend the Resolution, to pass the Resolution.

Commissioner Prevatte: If you give an unfair advantage to Waste Management, that is not treating Waste Industries or the company that Fair Bluff deals with out of South Carolina, or some of the other ones that may be available, an opportunity. Let everybody be on a level playing field.

Commissioner Russ: Another thing about Waste Management, they employ a lot of people here in the County.

Commissioner Byrd: We are not going to make a decision that night.

Commissioner Russ: We are not going to make a decision that night. Let's listen and hear what they got to say.

Vice Chairman McDowell: I just think if we offer an opportunity for Waste Management to come and speak to us, we need to offer the opportunity to everyone at a different time, or at the same time, it doesn't matter to me.

Commissioner Byrd: No problem about that. I don't think anybody's intentions was to lock it out just for one (1) presentation.

Vice Chairman McDowell: I think, in the wording, it needs to state that. Some way it needs to state that we are open for anyone to come and present their prices to us, their ideas to us in no particular order. We are opening it up to everyone, County wide, County and municipalities.

Commissioner Prevatte: We still need the Resolution.

Commissioner Bullard: We still need the Resolution.

Vice Chairman McDowell: That's right. We do need the Resolution.

Commissioner Bullard: And then decide to do what is best.

Commissioner McDowell: Yeah. The Resolution does not affect them coming here at all.

Chairman McKenzie: I have a **Substitute Motion** and a second for a representative to come to speak with us from Waste Management and tell us about the benefits they can provide to us.

Vice Chairman McDowell: Mr. Chairman, I think it was amended to allow anyone to come, is that not correct Commissioner Russ?

Chairman McKenzie: Was the motion also amended?

June B. Hall, Clerk to Board: Mr. Chairman, it was a Substitute Motion, it needs to be voted on first.

Chairman McKenzie: This is a Substitute Motion, and needs to be voted on first. The Substitute Motion is to allow a representative to come from Waste Management to talk with us about their services

Commissioner Byrd: In open session, or anyone else.

Vice Chairman McDowell: No sir. No sir. No sir. Or anyone else.

Commissioner Prevatte: It is for anyone.

Chairman McKenzie: Then we are back to where we

Commissioner Byrd: No. No. I think the motion's intent was to hear Waste Management first. Then, it is open for anyone else to come before we make a decision. I think that is the intent of the motion.

Chairman McKenzie: What is the Substitute Motion again?

June B. Hall: To allow a representative from Waste Management to come and present to the Board what they have to offer with waste collection.

Chairman McKenzie: That is what I heard. That is the motion and the second. Is that the way the motion is suppose to be?

Vice Chairman McDowell: No.

Commissioner Norris: Why don't you withdraw your motion, and start all over again.

Commissioner Byrd: Commissioner Russ, just include that Waste Management would come first.

Commissioner Russ: Waste Management will come first, and then any other trash collection company that would like to come afterwards, they are welcome to come too, in open session, not Closed Session.

Chairman McKenzie: Your motion is to hear what Waste Management has to say.

Commissioner Russ: Since we are using them now, I feel like they should

Commissioner Prevatte: No.

Vice Chairman McDowell: No, it can't be that way, Mr. Chairman. It can't be worded that way.

Commissioner Prevatte: Why aren't you saying all? **(Multiple coughs simultaneously)**

Chairman McKenzie: What the motion is - okay. A representative from Waste Management to come and present to us what services they can provide to us, and at a later date and a later time, any other interested company to come and present their package also, in open session. Alright?

Vice Chairman McDowell: No. No.

Chairman McKenzie: On the Substitute Motion, I have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye.

Commissioner Bullard: I have a question. So, you are going to advertise to invite all trash companies to come and give us a presentation at the same time that Waste Management does?

Chairman McKenzie: I don't know about that, you will have to look at this motion here.

Commissioner Bullard: Well, I am asking

Chairman McKenzie: The motion was as I . . . Re-read the motion, there.

June B. Hall: To allow a representative from Waste Management to come to the Board and present what they can offer with their services first, and then invite any other company that is interested to come and present what they can offer.

Commissioner Prevatte: They are not going to tell you a price.

Vice Chairman McDowell: No, I don't think so.

Commissioner Prevatte: They are not going to tell you a price.

Chairman McKenzie: So, you hear that motion. All in favor say aye. All opposed say nay.

A roll-call vote was taken on the **Substitute Motion** with the following results:

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

NAYS: Commissioners Prevatte and Bullard.

The **Substitute Motion** passes on a five (5) to two (2) vote.

Commissioner Prevatte: Are we voting down the Resolution?

Vice Chairman McDowell: No. No, we are not.

Commissioner Prevatte: Then the Resolution is separate.

Chairman McKenzie: There was a Substitute Motion made in lieu of the Resolution. The Substitute Motion was to hear a representative from Waste Management.

Commissioner Prevatte: That is two (2) different issues.

Vice Chairman McDowell: Mr. Chairman, that is two (2) different issues.

Chairman McKenzie: Alright.

Commissioner Prevatte: The Resolution just says that the

Chairman McKenzie: The Substitute Motion was made to it. Now make me understand, Mr. Attorney, is that correct? What do we have here?

Mike Stephens, County Attorney: No, the Resolution is a separate issue.

Vice Chairman McDowell: That is right, That is right.

Chairman McKenzie: Alright. So, we have a Resolution.

Commissioner Bullard: Motion to approve, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Prevatte: I think we already have a motion and a second.

June B. Hall: We did.

Vice Chairman McDowell: Yes, we did.

Chairman McKenzie: We have a motion and a second to approve, and I was wondering why there were two (2) of the motions, the Substitute Motion and the Original Motion.

Vice Chairman McDowell: Mr. Chairman, could I get clarity, if I may? All we are stating is that we are approving a request that we made to the municipalities to bid with all the municipalities and the County together. Is that correct?

William S. Clark: Going to bid as one (1) group.

Vice Chairman McDowell: Yes.

Chairman McKenzie: Alright,

Commissioner Byrd: Mr. Chairman, let me say something before you move on there. I think the volume of trash that Columbus County has and the things that we have within the County itself, yes, we need to do this collectively, but I think we need to be worried about what Columbus County and our citizens are going to get first and foremost, because I am sure they can offer a better deal for the County than they can for some of the municipalities. Some of the municipalities do not have trash pickup, some do not have limb pickup. They have different contracts. That was my point. We need to get the County involved first, and then bring in everybody. We don't want to get involved with the higher costs in certain municipalities, to affect the rural areas of the County, because they do have their own municipal regulations and set their own fees. I think we need to look after Columbus County first, and then get the best bid we can get, the best price we can get, and then include the towns. I am sure they will give the County a better rate than they will inside the city limits.

Commissioner Bullard: I agree. I think, you know if consolidating the County with the cities and towns on trash pickup will lower the prices, then let it be known to them that that is what we are looking for, if it will lower the prices by consolidating the towns and cities with the County. If it doesn't lower the prices, then that is something that we need to find out from them, do we need keep them separated.

Commissioner Byrd: That is what my point was, I felt like we need to see what we could do to start with, and then bring them in with this Resolution right here, and then you come back collectively. This is my opinion, now.

Commissioner Prevatte: We have already, many times, my fellow Commissioner that sits in the center seat now, told me, remember that the municipalities are Columbus County citizens too.

Vice Chairman McDowell: That's right. That's right.

Commissioner Prevatte: And they are paying that too, the solid waste disposal fee. There is no harm in giving them . . . , and you don't have to go with it.

Vice Chairman McDowell: No.

Commissioner Prevatte: It can work that way. I have a motion on the floor. I think I made that motion, and I am going to call for the question

June B. Hall: Excuse me. That motion was made by Commissioner Bullard.

Commissioner Prevatte: Did I second the motion?

June B. Hall: Yes, you did. Mr. Chairman, I need clarification. We have passed a Substitute Motion for what?

Chairman McKenzie: We passed a Substitute Motion, and that is what I was thinking.

June B. Hall: A Substitute Motion can't pass without an original motion.

Commissioner Bullard: It was a totally different motion.

Commissioner Prevatte: It was not a Substitute Motion..

Chairman McKenzie: It was actually something implanted. Is that what we are saying?

June B. Hall: Was it an add-on?

Commissioner Prevatte: It was an add-on motion.

Chairman McKenzie: Yeah. We voted on that also.

June B. Hall: It was titled as a Substitute Motion. Are we going to handle it as an add-on?

Commissioner Prevatte: We are going to have to, because it was not dealing with the same issue.

Commissioner Norris: Two (2) different items.

Commissioner Prevatte: It was two (2) different votes.

Chairman McKenzie: Okay, alright, let's get this motion.

Commissioner Bullard: And so, going back to that motion that Commissioner Russ made, can he jump ahead of me when I had a motion made, and he made a totally different motion?

Chairman McKenzie: We have already, that's already . . .

Commissioner Bullard: That is not proper.

Mike Stephens: If it is a totally different motion, the first motion for the Resolution should have been voted on first.

Commissioner Bullard: That is what I am getting at.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a **Substitute Motion** to table the Resolution until we hear from Waste Management, first, let's hear what they have to say.

Commissioner Prevatte: How can they do a presentation unless they know what they are going to be talking about all of the various ones that will participate?

Chairman McKenzie: From what I understand here, we made a motion to listen to Waste Management, and then have anyone else that wanted to come, to also come and make their presentation. I think that covers the whole package. It actually will do what that Resolution wanted us to do.

Commissioner Byrd: If not, Mr. Chairman, we table this Resolution until

Chairman McKenzie: We have a motion to table the Resolution, do I hear a second?

Vice Chairman McDowell: If we ask them to make a presentation, certainly they are going to want to know whether or not we are dealing with County only, or County and municipalities before they can make a presentation. I think we need to deal with the Resolution.

Commissioner Bullard: Mr. Chairman, I made the motion and we have a second. I call for the question.

Chairman McKenzie: The motion has been made, the question has been called for. Are we in order, Mr. Attorney?

Mike Stephens: At this point, you are.

June B. Hall: Excuse me. Is there a second to the Substitute Motion last made?

Vice Chairman McDowell: There was not.

Chairman McKenzie: I have a Substitute Motion. The other motion has been made already.

Commissioner Byrd: I made a Substitute Motion to table the Resolution.

June B. Hall: The Substitute Motion has to be voted on before the other motion.

Chairman McKenzie: Commissioner Byrd has made a Substitute Motion to table the Resolution.

Commissioner Bullard: That is not a Substitute Motion.

Commissioner Byrd: You were making a motion to pass the Resolution.

Commissioner Bullard: To table it should have been made before I made a motion to vote on it, am I right Mr. Attorney?

June B. Hall: No, he made a Substitute Motion.

Mike Stephens: In my opinion, you are making a motion to table this Resolution.

Commissioner Byrd: He made a motion to pass the Resolution, I made a Substitute Motion to table the Resolution.

Commissioner Prevatte: Why not just vote against it instead of tabling it?

Chairman McKenzie: Can we do that? We have a motion to table the Resolution.

June B. Hall: You have a Substitute Motion to table the Resolution.

Chairman McKenzie: Do I have a second?

Commissioner Russ: I second the Substitute Motion to table the Resolution.

Chairman McKenzie: I have a motion and a second to table the Resolution. All of those in favor, say aye, and those opposed say nay.

ROLL-CALL VOTE:

A roll-call vote was taken on the **Substitute Motion**, with the following results:

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

NAYS: Vice Chairman McDowell, Commissioners Prevatte and Bullard.

The Substitute Motion passes on a four (4) to three (3) vote.

William S. Clark: I need clarification. What do you want me to do next?

Commissioner Prevatte: You can't do anything now.

Chairman McKenzie: What you have to do now is to get Waste Management to come and make a presentation to us, and then after that, anyone else that wants to come and make a presentation, then we will do that.

Vice Chairman McDowell: I have a question.

William S. Clark: When are we going to do this? Do you want them separate or together?

Chairman McKenzie: I venture to say that we would not want all of these presentations on the same night.

Commissioner Prevatte: Why not?

Chairman McKenzie: When is the contract up?

William S. Clark: December, 2012.

Chairman McKenzie: We got a little time, so we can spread them out. Let's do one (1) a month.

Additional lengthy discussion was conducted relative to the following:

1. The length of time it would take for all interested companies to make their presentations;
2. The number of interested companies that could be involved;
3. The previous work done on this in the past year;
4. The guidance to be given to Mr. Clark in dealing with the municipalities;
5. The presentation being only for services without any given prices;
6. If the services presented are not satisfactory, you may want to go back and work with the municipalities;
7. Waste Management's presentation being at the first meeting in January, 2012, and then as many meetings as it will take to accommodate the other interested companies;
8. Even if a presentation is not made does not mean they cannot bid;
9. The possibility of this evolving from the visit to each Commissioner by Waste Management;
10. Looking for the best price for the best service, and hear from all the trash companies that may be interested;
11. Jeopardizing the opportunity to lay it out on the ballfield and be totally fair with it;
12. The existing company that is in place may can offer the best deal; **and**
13. The bottom line is to save the taxpayer's money, based on the service we receive.

Agenda Item #19: ADMINISTRATION - BOARD APPROVAL of EARLY PAYROLL DATE FOR DECEMBER:

William S. Clark, County Manager, requested Board approval of an early payroll date for December.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve an early payroll date of December 20, 2011, second by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #20: ADMINISTRATION - AWARD of CHRISTMAS BONUS and ESTABLISHMENT of AMOUNT:

William S. Clark, County Manager, requested Board approval of the award of the Christmas bonus and the established amount.

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the award of the Christmas bonus for the County employees, and the bonus amount will be fifty and 00/100 (\$50.00) dollars, second by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #21: NOTICE and RESOLUTION - CANCELLATION of DECEMBER 19, 2011 BOARD MEETING, UNLESS NEEDED:

William S. Clark, County Manager, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Notice and Resolution to Cancel Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina.

**NOTICE and RESOLUTION to CANCEL MEETING of the
BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
of COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

_____The **Board of County Commissioners** of Columbus County, North Carolina, unanimously approved on the 5th day of December, 2011, to adopt the following **Resolution**.

W I T N E S S E T H :

WHEREAS, the **Board of County Commissioners** of Columbus County, North Carolina, has presently scheduled meetings at 6:30 P.M. on the first Monday and at 6:30 P.M. on the third Monday of each month; **and**

WHEREAS, the **Board of County Commissioners** of Columbus County, North Carolina, is desirous of cancelling the meeting scheduled for the third Monday in December, only.

BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF COLUMBUS COUNTY, North Carolina, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153A-40, to cancel the regular meeting of the said Board scheduled for December 19, 2011, be, and the same is hereby canceled, and the next regularly scheduled meeting of the said Board shall be in the Columbus County Commissioners' Chambers, Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, on Monday, January 03, 2012.

BE IT, FURTHER, RESOLVED by the **Board of County Commissioners** that a copy of this **Resolution** and **Notice** shall be placed on the Courthouse Bulletin Board, as well as forwarded to all of the news media who has requested notice.

ADOPTED this the 5th day of December, 2011.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **AMON E. McKENZIE**

Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

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

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the Notice and Resolution to Cancel Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #22: RESOLUTION - APPROVAL and ADOPTION of SIGNATORY RESOLUTION by the COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS:

June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Signatory Resolution by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

SIGNATORY RESOLUTION

by the

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, in the execution of business matters and other pertinent transactions pertaining to the operations of local government affairs, it is necessary, and legally required, to have on board a Chairman and Vice Chairman to serve on behalf and in the best interest of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners and the citizens of Columbus County; **and**

WHEREAS, at the first regular scheduled meeting in the month of December, annually, a Chairman and Vice Chairman is voted on and elected from the now seven (7) member Columbus County Board of Commissioners; **and**

WHEREAS, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the said Columbus County Board of Commissioners, or their designee, have due authority to sign, execute and administer any and all documents on behalf, and in the best interest, of Columbus County.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by popular vote of the seven (7) member Columbus County Board of Commissioners, on the 5th day of December, 2011, Commissioner Amon E. McKenzie has been duly elected to serve as Chairman and Commissioner Charles T. McDowell has been duly elected to serve as Vice Chairman for the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, or their designee, to sign, execute and administer any and all documents necessary in the normal

operation of business and related affairs for the Columbus County Board of Commissioners and the citizens of Columbus County. The aforementioned will serve in these capacities until the first regular scheduled meeting in December, 2012.

ADOPTED this the 5th day of December, 2011.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ **AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman**

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

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve and adopt the Signatory Resolution by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, second by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #23: APPOINTMENTS / RE-APPOINTMENTS / REPLACEMENTS:

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

COMMITTEE	ZONE/ EB	PERSON(S)	EXPIR. DATE	BOARD ACTION
Animal Control Advisory Council	III	Paula Lewis	12-05-2011	HOLD
Equalization and Review Board	IV	Gene Wilson (Deceased)	Indefinite	HOLD
	IV	C.L. "Buddy" Tate, Jr. (Deceased)	Indefinite	HOLD

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

At 7:30 P.M., Commissioner Byrd 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 Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #24: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

November 21, 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 #25: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - REPORT on POTENTIAL of ALTERING METER READING:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested Board consideration of the information on the meter reading.

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

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

At 7:35 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte 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 Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #26: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Items, second by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

A. Budget Amendment:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	10-5192-512100	BCCP Salaries & Wages	3,825
Revenue	10-3510-430050	BCCP State Funds	3,825

B. Tax Refunds and Releases:

**TAX REFUNDS (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):
December 05, 2011**

Refunds Name: Williams, John A. & Lonnie Amount: \$757.95
 Value: \$93,000.00 Year 011 Account # 2-06724 Bill # 69164 Total \$1,185.75
 Refund value of dwelling for county(757.95) and Whiteville City also(409.20). Double listed Act.# 01-02274
 Coastal Habitat Conservancy. Refund Whiteville Rescue(18.60)
 310 N Franklin Street Whiteville NC 28472

Refunds Name: Ward, Tammy Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year 011 Account # 6-04255 Bill # 67593 Total \$37.16
 Release portion of user fee. Mobile home sold.
 610 Shug Norris Rd. Tabor City, NC 28463

Refunds Name: Stewart, Mark Wesley Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year 7-10 Account # 13-38310 Bill # 999999 Total \$470.00
 Refund user fees. No can at this location since 2004. Vacant.
 118 Kinlaw Drive Chadbourn NC

Refunds Name: Denise K, Whitehouse Amount: \$0.00
 Value: -0- Year: 2010 Account #: 3-02039 Bill #: Total: \$100.00
 Refund - Clerical Error (Applied to wrong account)
 Make check payable to Columbus County and Denise Whitehouse to be applied to 2011 taxes.

**TAX RELEASES (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):
December 05, 2011**

Release the Refunds in the name of Stewart, Mark Wesley Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 07-10 Account # 13-38310 Bill # 99999 Total \$470.00
 Refund user fees. No can at this location since 2004. Vacant.

Release the Refunds in the name of Ward, Tammy Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 6-04255 Bill # 7593 Total \$37.16
 Release portion of user fee. Mobile home sold.

Release the Refunds in the name of Williams, John A. & Lonnie Amount: \$757.95
 Value: \$93,000.00 Year: 2011 Account # 2-06724 Bill # 9164 Total \$1,185.75
 Refund value of dwelling for county(757.95) and Whiteville City also(409.20). Double listed Act.# 01-02274
 Coastal Habitat Conservancy. Refund Whiteville Rescue(18.60)

Release the User Fee in the name of Andrews, Barry Lee & Teresa Lewis Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 11-03028 Bill # 3514 Total \$223.00
 Release user fee. No can at storage bldg.

Release the User Fee in the name of Freeman, Henry Wells Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 11-09660 Bill # 6973 Total \$223.00
 Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.

Release the User Fee in the name of Jones, Draidmond Amount: \$0.00

Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 1-01315 Bill # 5599 Total \$148.64
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant. Can picked up 2011

Release the User Fee in the name of Red Hill Properties, LLC Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 2-00321 Bill # 7109 Total \$185.80
Release portion of user fee. No can at this location. Sending Nov. or Dec.

Release the User Fee in the name of Stewart, Mark Wesley Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 13-38310 Bill # 3298 Total \$136.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.

Release the User Fee in the name of Tyson, David James Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 9-31220 Bill # 5934 Total \$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.

Agenda Item #27: COMMENTS:

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

A. Department Heads:

1. **Lewis Hatcher, Sheriff's Department:** stated the following:
 - a. From the Sheriff, and everybody at the office, we would like to wish everyone a very safe and Merry Christmas;
 - b. If you get items at Christmas, and you get a flat-screen TV, don't put the boxes outside because you are telling everyone what you just got, which could be an invitation for someone to spotlight and visit you;
 - c. If you decide to indulge in alcoholic beverages during the holidays, do it respectfully, and don't drink and drive; **and**
 - d. Exercise a little caution.
2. **Kip McClary, Solid Waste Director:** if you wish to dispose of cardboard, they can be crushed flat, brought to the recycling centers and we will take them free of charge.
3. **JoAnn Stephens, Interim Social Services Director:** stated the following:
 - a. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas;
 - b. Thank everyone that joined us in our Christmas Luncheon; **and**
 - c. We enjoyed the fellowship.

B. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Vice Chairman McDowell:** stated the following:
 - a. All of us would like to say to each and every one of you to have a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year;
 - b. I would like to say Mr. Byrd, I think you did a fine job this past year and I certainly appreciate it; **and**
 - c. Congratulations to Chairman McKenzie.
2. **Commissioner Bullard:** stated the following:
 - a. I would like to congratulate Commissioner Byrd for the fine job he did as Chairman and I was very impressed;
 - b. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year;
 - c. One other issue I would like to address, and I have all respect for the reason that Commissioner Prevatte made this motion, but I have had a lot of phone calls about the flex time at the Department of Aging;
 - d. I think it is better to give them flex time than to take it away;
 - e. It is an incentive to the employee and it does not cost the County any expenses, these ladies have contacted me stating they use this flex time for doctors' appointments, and things of business that really helps them to go about their daily routine;
 - f. It adds an extra day of traveling to and from work;
 - g. I would like to congratulate Chairman McKenzie, and I will work with him any way that I can, and Vice Chairman McDowell, I am glad to see you in

- g. this position, I think we have a good Vice Chairman; **and**
At this time, I would like to offer a motion to add the flex time back to the Department of Aging.

MOTION:

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to add the flex time back to the Department of Aging, second by Commissioner Russ.

A roll-call vote was taken with the following results:

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

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

3. **Commissioner Russ:** stated the following:
 - a. Congratulations to Commissioner Byrd on the fine job you did this past year, and Chairman McKenzie will do a fine job for us this coming year; **and**
 - b. I wish everybody a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.
4. **Commissioner Norris:** stated the following:
 - a. I would like to congratulate Commissioner Byrd, you did a fantastic job this year; **and**
 - b. I would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
5. **Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:
 - a. I visited four (4) towns this past weekend at the Christmas Parades, and we have one (1) more parade next weekend;
 - b. I will concur with what you have said; **and**
 - c. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Robert Eugene Adams: I will postpone my comments on Item #18 until Waste Management comes and I hear their proposal. I like what the Chairman says about the reason you are doing like you are doing on the bidding process. The bottom line is that is a multi-million dollar business. We need to get a local landfill instead of hauling the trash out of the County.

- C. **County Manager (William S. Clark):** stated the following:
1. I would like to thank Commissioner Byrd for the job he did last year as Chairman;
 2. I would like to congratulate Chairman McKenzie and Vice Chairman McDowell for serving in those positions;
 3. One (1) thing that I called you about today, we had it budgeted, and I told you that I would bring back to the Board, and that is the request that we have, to send Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, to school to prepare to take her CPA examination;
 4. She has agreed to sign a Tuition Reimbursement Agreement, and has agreed to work for the County five (5) years in return for this assistance;
 5. If she should leave for any reason earlier than that five (5) years, she would make a pro-rated payment back to the County; **and**
 6. The total cost is about two thousand, six hundred and 00/100 (\$2,600.00) dollars.

Bobbie stated the review process will cost two thousand, six hundred and 00/100 (\$2,600.00) dollars, and the CPA exam will cost around one thousand, one hundred and 00/100 (\$1,100.00) dollars to one thousand, two hundred and 00/100 (\$1,200.00) dollars, and I budgeted the cost for four thousand and 00/100 (\$4,000.00) dollars for this.

Commissioner Byrd asked is this for any reason if she would leave on her own or be terminated, the County would be reimbursed. Mr. Clark replied stating yes.

MOTION:

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the payment of Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, to attend CPA school at the approximate cost of four thousand and 00/100 (\$4,000.00) dollars, which has been budgeted, second by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

COMMENT by CHAIRMAN McKENZIE:

1. If anybody thinks sitting in this seat is an easy task, it is not;
 2. My fellow colleagues will keep me straight;
 3. I am looking forward to this year;
 4. I will do my best; **and**
 5. To everyone in the County, I would like to say Merry Christmas, a prosperous New Year to all.
- D. **County Attorney (Mike Stephens):** stated I have two (2) items that I need to bring to your attention, as follows:
1. The first item is that I have received a Settlement Agreement with twenty-eight (28) State Attorney Generals which includes the State of North Carolina;
 2. There is a fund now of \$62.5 million in a pot, whereas, the twenty-eight (28) State Attorney Generals sued, in general, Bank of America for some subordinate conduct which involved, or could be involved, inside trading, not accurately representing their clients, inside dealing, and that type thing, which we had a bond with them for a period of time;
 3. In the proposed settlement, Columbus County's portion would be \$2,042.25;
 4. I have until January 03, 2012 to notify these people we will release any claims against them for that settlement;
 5. We do not have to release claim, and we can bring a law suit against Bank of America on our own if we wanted to or join other entities and bring a lawsuit;
 6. It is my advice that we do sign this release;
 7. We know we got \$2,042.25 coming;
 8. If we proceed on our own, we might not get anything or we might get more; **and**
 9. The cost of litigation would be substantial.

MOTION:

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the attorney's recommendation on the Settlement Agreement, second by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

10. The second item is Columbus County v. N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Veterinary Division 11 DAG 12432;
11. As you know, the Department of Agriculture issued a civil penalty against the County for our Animal Shelter operations some time back;
12. They fined us in the amount of one thousand and 00/100 (\$1,000.00) dollars;
13. I have been in contact with Barry H. Bloch who is the Assistant Attorney General who is assigned to handle this case involving the County;
14. I have passed out a letter to me from him;
15. In my response, I noted the County had hired a part-time Administrative Assistant to help out with the veterinary records at the Animal Shelter, they were pleased with that;
16. They have set out three (3) criteria in this letter I showed you, as follows:
 - A. They would provide training to this part-time person in veterinary care records management, they would provide a syllabus and resources for this, we might need to train that person;
 - B. Enter a formal service agreement with a licensed veterinarian to provide animal care for the shelter; **and**
 - C. The County approve an operating line item budget in the amount of seven hundred, fifty and 00/100 (\$750.00) dollars specifically for veterinary care for the animals at the shelter. We are required by law to do that anyway;
17. If we do these three (3) things, which we have already hired a part-time person, we have not entered into a formal agreement, then you would have to approve an operating budget line item of seven hundred, fifty and 00/100 (\$750.000) dollars, they will reduce our civil penalty to two hundred, fifty and 00/100 (\$250.00) dollars; **and**
18. I am requesting direction as to where to proceed from here.

540

MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to enter into a formal service agreement with a licensed veterinarian, and to approve an operating budget line item in the amount of seven hundred, fifty and 00/100 (\$750.000 dollars, for the Columbus County Animal Shelter, second by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #28: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE:

DELETED

Agenda Item #29: ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:53 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E. MCKENZIE, Chairman

COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, December 05, 2011
7:30 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

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 7:30 P.M., Chairman McKenzie called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #24: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

November 21, 2011 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the November 21, 2011 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #25: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - REPORT on POTENTIAL of ALTERING METER READING:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, delivered the following information on the potential of altering the present meter reading.

Mr. McClary stated the following:

1. Previously, we had a citizen that came in with a concern regarding the meter reading and billing process, whereas we charge for a 2,000 gallons minimum, a fee of \$25.00 per month;
2. That fee is in place whether a customer uses water or not;
3. We have researched this situation, and have compared our billing procedures with neighboring counties and municipalities within Columbus County;
4. We find that we are following industry standards;
5. We have also talked with our computer programming people, which is Logics, and they tell

- us also that we are following industry standards;
6. We proceeded with getting quotes on the potential of changing to some other increment method of maybe charging to the nearest one hundred gallons, or even a lesser amount;
 7. The estimated total costs, at this point in time, would be in excess of \$10,000.00 to make that change;
 8. Others who we have discussed this with, which also include the manufacturer and the supplier of the electronic hand-held reading devices which we use to read these meters, questioned the necessity for doing so as well, and even have a comment here - After researching your question, there is no way to re-program the reading resolution to change the digits that come out of the meters with our equipment;
 9. They do not recommend initially trying to change those initial hand-helds to read to some lower increment;
 10. We then proceeded in getting a quote on new equipment, we now have two (2) of these hand-held readers, and it would cost \$6,304.69 per reader, if we try to change to something else with the program that we are using;
 11. Along with the \$10,400.00, you would have another \$12,608.00 just in equipment to make this change; **and**
 12. It is therefore my recommendation that we continue with the billing procedure and the reading procedure that we have in place and do not make any alterations at this time.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to keep the meter reading system that we have at the present, second by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:35 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E McKENZIE Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, December 05, 2011
7:30 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

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 7:30 P.M., Chairman McKenzie called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #24: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

November 21, 2011 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the November 21, 2011 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #25: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - REPORT on POTENTIAL of ALTERING METER READING:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, delivered the following information on the potential of altering the present meter reading.

Mr. McClary stated the following:

1. Previously, we had a citizen that came in with a concern regarding the meter reading and billing process, whereas we charge for a 2,000 gallons minimum, a fee of \$25.00 per month;
2. That fee is in place whether a customer uses water or not;
3. We have researched this situation, and have compared our billing procedures with neighboring counties and municipalities within Columbus County;
4. We find that we are following industry standards;
5. We have also talked with our computer programming people, which is Logics, and they tell

- us also that we are following industry standards;
6. We proceeded with getting quotes on the potential of changing to some other increment method of maybe charging to the nearest one hundred gallons, or even a lesser amount;
 7. The estimated total costs, at this point in time, would be in excess of \$10,000.00 to make that change;
 8. Others who we have discussed this with, which also include the manufacturer and the supplier of the electronic hand-held reading devices which we use to read these meters, questioned the necessity for doing so as well, and even have a comment here - After researching your question, there is no way to re-program the reading resolution to change the digits that come out of the meters with our equipment;
 9. They do not recommend initially trying to change those initial hand-helds to read to some lower increment;
 10. We then proceeded in getting a quote on new equipment, we now have two (2) of these hand-held readers, and it would cost \$6,304.69 per reader, if we try to change to something else with the program that we are using;
 11. Along with the \$10,400.00, you would have another \$12,608.00 just in equipment to make this change; **and**
 12. It is therefore my recommendation that we continue with the billing procedure and the reading procedure that we have in place and do not make any alterations at this time.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to keep the meter reading system that we have at the present, second by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:35 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E McKENZIE Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, December 05, 2011
7:30 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

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 7:30 P.M., Chairman McKenzie called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #24: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

November 21, 2011 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the November 21, 2011 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #25: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - REPORT on POTENTIAL of ALTERING METER READING:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, delivered the following information on the potential of altering the present meter reading.

Mr. McClary stated the following:

1. Previously, we had a citizen that came in with a concern regarding the meter reading and billing process, whereas we charge for a 2,000 gallons minimum, a fee of \$25.00 per month;
2. That fee is in place whether a customer uses water or not;
3. We have researched this situation, and have compared our billing procedures with neighboring counties and municipalities within Columbus County;
4. We find that we are following industry standards;

5. We have also talked with our computer programming people, which is Logics, and they tell us also that we are following industry standards;
6. We proceeded with getting quotes on the potential of changing to some other increment method of maybe charging to the nearest one hundred gallons, or even a lesser amount;
7. The estimated total costs, at this point in time, would be in excess of \$10,000.00 to make that change;
8. Others who we have discussed this with, which also include the manufacturer and the supplier of the electronic hand-held reading devices which we use to read these meters, questioned the necessity for doing so as well, and even have a comment here - After researching your question, there is no way to re-program the reading resolution to change the digits that come out of the meters with our equipment;
9. They do not recommend initially trying to change those initial hand-helds to read to some lower increment;
10. We then proceeded in getting a quote on new equipment, we now have two (2) of these hand-held readers, and it would cost \$6,304.69 per reader, if we try to change to something else with the program that we are using;
11. Along with the \$10,400.00, you would have another \$12,608.00 just in equipment to make this change; **and**
12. It is therefore my recommendation that we continue with the billing procedure and the reading procedure that we have in place and do not make any alterations at this time.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to keep the meter reading system that we have at the present, second by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:35 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E MCKENZIE Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, December 05, 2011
7:30 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

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 7:30 P.M., Chairman McKenzie called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #24: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

November 21, 2011 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the November 21, 2011 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #25: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - REPORT on POTENTIAL of ALTERING METER READING:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, delivered the following information on the potential of altering the present meter reading.

Mr. McClary stated the following:

1. Previously, we had a citizen that came in with a concern regarding the meter reading and billing process, whereas we charge for a 2,000 gallons minimum, a fee of \$25.00 per month;
2. That fee is in place whether a customer uses water or not;
3. We have researched this situation, and have compared our billing procedures with neighboring counties and municipalities within Columbus County;
4. We find that we are following industry standards;

5. We have also talked with our computer programming people, which is Logics, and they tell us also that we are following industry standards;
6. We proceeded with getting quotes on the potential of changing to some other increment method of maybe charging to the nearest one hundred gallons, or even a lesser amount;
7. The estimated total costs, at this point in time, would be in excess of \$10,000.00 to make that change;
8. Others who we have discussed this with, which also include the manufacturer and the supplier of the electronic hand-held reading devices which we use to read these meters, questioned the necessity for doing so as well, and even have a comment here - After researching your question, there is no way to re-program the reading resolution to change the digits that come out of the meters with our equipment;
9. They do not recommend initially trying to change those initial hand-helds to read to some lower increment;
10. We then proceeded in getting a quote on new equipment, we now have two (2) of these hand-held readers, and it would cost \$6,304.69 per reader, if we try to change to something else with the program that we are using;
11. Along with the \$10,400.00, you would have another \$12,608.00 just in equipment to make this change; **and**
12. It is therefore my recommendation that we continue with the billing procedure and the reading procedure that we have in place and do not make any alterations at this time.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to keep the meter reading system that we have at the present, second by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:35 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E MCKENZIE Chairman

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

Monday, December 05, 2011

7:30 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

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 7:30 P.M., Chairman McKenzie called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #24: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

November 21, 2011 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the November 21, 2011 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #25: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - REPORT on POTENTIAL of ALTERING METER READING:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, delivered the following information on the potential of altering the present meter reading.

Mr. McClary stated the following:

1. Previously, we had a citizen that came in with a concern regarding the meter reading and billing process, whereas we charge for a 2,000 gallons minimum, a fee of \$25.00 per month;
2. That fee is in place whether a customer uses water or not;
3. We have researched this situation, and have compared our billing procedures with neighboring counties and municipalities within Columbus County;
4. We find that we are following industry standards;
5. We have also talked with our computer programming people, which is Logics, and they tell

- us also that we are following industry standards;
6. We proceeded with getting quotes on the potential of changing to some other increment method of maybe charging to the nearest one hundred gallons, or even a lesser amount;
 7. The estimated total costs, at this point in time, would be in excess of \$10,000.00 to make that change;
 8. Others who we have discussed this with, which also include the manufacturer and the supplier of the electronic hand-held reading devices which we use to read these meters, questioned the necessity for doing so as well, and even have a comment here - After researching your question, there is no way to re-program the reading resolution to change the digits that come out of the meters with our equipment;
 9. They do not recommend initially trying to change those initial hand-helds to read to some lower increment;
 10. We then proceeded in getting a quote on new equipment, we now have two (2) of these hand-held readers, and it would cost \$6,304.69 per reader, if we try to change to something else with the program that we are using;
 11. Along with the \$10,400.00, you would have another \$12,608.00 just in equipment to make this change; **and**
 12. It is therefore my recommendation that we continue with the billing procedure and the reading procedure that we have in place and do not make any alterations at this time.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to keep the meter reading system that we have at the present, second by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:35 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E McKENZIE Chairman