

COLUMBUS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

The Honorable Board of Columbus County Commissioners met in their said office at 111 Washington Street, Whiteville, NC, at 8:00 A.M., April 1, 1996, it being the first Monday.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Spruell Randolph Britt, Chairman

C.E. "Gene" Wilson, Vice Chairman

David L. Dutton, Jr.

A. Dial Gray, III

Sammie Jacobs

Lynwood Norris

C. W. Williams

James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney

*Dempsey B. Herring
County Administrator*

Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

Chairman Spruell R. Britt called the meeting to order and Commissioner C.E. "Gene" Wilson gave the invocation.

BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and passed unanimously to approve the Minutes of the March 18, 1996, Board Meeting as recorded.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to approve the following consent agenda items.

Tax Releases:

Alice Faye P. Butler: J-6C-41, not in Brunswick Fire District. Amount \$80.36, years 1992-95, account #01-11020.

Tony Lynn Fields: Does not own farm equipment. Amount \$47.80, valuation \$5,570, year 1995, account #12-08040.

Clinton Grainger: Several homes disposed of prior to 1-1-94. (See refund

for year 1995). Amount \$307.21, valuation \$59,730, years 1994-95, account #01-34385.

Jeffrey T. Greene: Discovered vehicle (1972 Dodge Truck) double-listed to Eugene T. & Margaret Green #16-06101. Amount \$11.39, valuation \$1,500, year 1992, account #17-16149.

Oglather Lennon: F-2-47, 1 house vacant. Amount \$60.00, year 1995, account #12-15760.

James Martin & Vera Mae Long: Vehicle (1988 Chevrolet) double-listed on regular list, also on DMV #1996-01-02760. Amount \$18.17, valuation \$2,330, year 1995, account #01-54040.

Roger O. Jr., & Marie Lyn Richardson: 1972 mobile home sold to Dean Long in 1994. Amount \$8.58, valuation \$1,000, year 1995, account #13-34463.

Jeffrey Lynn & Susan Stanley: 1988 licensed camper double-billed on regular list, also DMV account #1995-06-01865. Amount \$53.98, valuation \$6,350, year 1995, account #03-23777.

Ralph M. Stanley: 1973 mobile home sold and listed to Kenneth & Rita Faulk on #07-04480. Amount \$9.19, valuation \$1,070, year 1995, account #07-16400.

Culbreth F. & Eunice Williamson: C-3-2, house destroyed by fire in 1994. Amount \$200.40, valuation \$18,000, year 1995, account #12-30180.

Eunice Williamson: New building (Fantasy private Club) located on G-5-137B, graded incorrectly. Amount \$418.20, valuation \$49,200, year 1995, account #13-44723.

Russell Keith Worley: L-1-24, not in the North Whiteville Fire District. Amount \$55.00, year 1995, account #05-07963.

Charles Robert Inman: K-4A100, property sold by auction sale with clear title. Amount \$34.32, valuation \$4,400, year 1995, account #01-45740.

Town of Cerro Gordo:

Green's Drainage: Person property, not in Town of Cerro Gordo. Amount \$44.00, valuation \$22,000, year 1995, account #16-06724.

Refunds:

Ordered: That a tax refund be issued to Lauder Bridgers, 11595 Red Hill Road, Clarkton, NC 28433, in the amount of \$55.00, for year 1995. Property located on L-1-20 is not in the North Whiteville Fire District. Account #05-06620.

Ordered: That a tax refund be issued to Mary Small, 1027 Birch Creek Drive, Wilmington, NC 28403, in the amount of \$30.00, for year 1994. HB-1-66, house not liveable since 1993. Account #11-24620.

Ordered: That a tax refund be issued to Jeffrey Lynn & Susan Stanley, Route 4, Box 404, Whiteville, NC 28472, in the amount of \$102.88 for year 1993 and 1994. Licensed camper double-billed on regular list also on account #1995-06-01865. Valuation \$13,130, account #03-23777.

Ordered: That a tax refund be issued to Clinton Grainger, in the amount of \$307.21, for year 1995. Several mobile homes disposed of prior to 1-1-94. Valuation \$34,990, account #01-34385.

Budget Amendment:

<i>Accept 12-336-0401 Donations-Fair Bluff Senior Center</i>	<i>\$300.00</i>
<i>Expend 12-618-5700 Miscellaneous</i>	<i>\$300.00</i>

RESOLUTION - FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS EAST COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Columbus County, North Carolina, at their regular meeting on the 1st day of April 1996, at Whiteville, Columbus County, North Carolina, unanimously adopted the following Resolution of Recognition.

W I T N E S S E T H :

WHEREAS, the 42nd North Carolina Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference was held in Greensboro, North Carolina on March 21 - 24, 1996; and

WHEREAS, the East Columbus High School Chapter participated in the Conference and received the following awards:

Membership Achievement Award;

100% Class Participation Awards in Financial Management II, Principles of Business, and Computerized Accounting I;

The Largest Chapter - Southeast Region I;

The Largest Local Chapter in North Carolina;

Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit;
American Enterprise Project - 1st Place;
Community Service Project - 3rd Place;
Partnership with Business - 3rd Place;
Annual Business Report - 3rd Place;
Job Description Manual - Rudolph Spaulding - 1st Place;
James L. White Scholarship - Rudolph Spaulding;
Job Interview Finalist - Rudolph Spaulding;
FBLA Creed Finalist - Ennette Kemp; and
Helen Ragan Chapter of the Year Award.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners takes this opportunity to express special recognition to the Future Business Leaders in the East Columbus High School Chapter and commend them on their exceptional scholastic achievements.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Spruell R. Britt, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

ORDINANCE - LIVESTOCK TABLED

James E. Hill, Jr., County Attorney, presented the Board with an Ordinance draft for livestock regulations to be considered by the Board of Health and stated that this is almost a copy of the livestock regulations that Robeson County Board of Health adopted. Mr. Hill requested the Board to allow him more time to refine the rules and compare with regulations that are being written by the Institute of Government.

An overflow crowd of pork producers and residents from Farmers Union and the St. James areas concerned about swine operations attended the meeting.

Chairman Britt gave those persons in attendance for and/or against the swine operations in Columbus County two to three minutes to speak.

The following persons spoke in favor of large-scale swine operations:

*Corbett Fields
 Chris Ward
 Ronald Pridgen
 Henry Hart
 Will Scott
 Clark Wright, Attorney, representing the large-scale swine producers.*

The following persons spoke against large-scale swine operations.

*Reverend Ronald Campbell
 Dr. Oscar Blanks
 Haynes Graham
 Commissioner Sammie Jacobs
 W. C. Groves
 Annie Mae Spaulding*

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and passed to table the Livestock Regulation Ordinance until the May 20, 1996 Board Meeting to allow Attorney James E. Hill, Jr. to refine the rules and compare them with regulations being drafted in other counties and the Institute of Government which will be presented to the Board of Health for their consideration prior to the May 20th Board Meeting.

AYES: Commissioners Norris, Gray, Britt, Williams and Wilson

NOES: Commissioners Dutton and Jacobs

The motion passed on a 5-2 vote.

SHERIFF - INMATE MEDICAL COPAYMENT APPROVAL

Sheriff Jimmy Ferguson requested the Board to approve an act to authorize local governments operating local confinement facilities to charge fees for nonemergency medical care provided to prisoners that was passed by the 1995 session of the General Assembly (House Bill 1018).

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to allow the Sheriff to enforce House Bill 1018 that was ratified by the General Assembly in the 1995 Session.

SHERIFF - FACILITY MEDICAL PLAN APPROVAL

Sheriff Jimmy Ferguson requested the Board to approve the Columbus County Detention Center, under his direction, to develop and maintain a written medical plan that complies with "North Carolina Minimum Jail Standards" as well as pertinent local, state and/or federal requirements. The medical plan will be reviewed and updated annually and/or as needed by the Detention Administrator and the Sheriff. The Sheriff will ensure that the plan is reviewed and approved by the Health Director and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners before implementation, and that the plan addresses medical, mental health/retardation, and substance abuse services for inmates.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and passed unanimously to approve the Facility Medical Plan as presented by Sheriff Jimmy Ferguson. A copy of the Facility Medical Plan is on file in the office of

the Clerk to the Board and the Columbus County Sheriff's Department.

PROCLAMATION - NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to adopt the following Proclamation.

NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK

1996 PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, April 21-27, 1996, is the National County Government Week and North Carolina's 100 county governments are proud of their key role in the governmental partnership as the local provider and facilitator of important services for the community; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's counties face the challenge of using limited resources efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of the public through such programs as health care, child and elder care, environmental protection, deed registration, social services, job training, public education funding, emergency medical services, drug and alcohol abuse treatment, law enforcement, water and sewer services and library services; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's counties have initiated numerous model projects, including: the on-going redesign and automation of human services functions, development of pre-school programs for children at-risk, and a wide range of award-winning productivity programs which save current or future tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, many North Carolina counties seek a stronger partnership with their citizens in defining community problems and solutions through such efforts as strategic planning and local focus groups, such as those advocated by the National Association of Counties through a five-year program, Community Countdown 2000; and

WHEREAS, leadership in county government today requires a commitment to long hours and continued learning in a variety of topic areas, and a strong sense of purpose to assure that necessary services are provided without undue burden on the taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 21 through April 27, 1996, as "National County Government Week in Columbus County" and urge all citizens to be more involved in and aware of issues facing our counties by volunteering for county programs, voting in elections and attending public meetings.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS*/s/ SPRUELL R. BRITT, Chairman***ATTESTED BY:***/s/ IDA L. SMITH, Clerk to Board***ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - CDBG (HAWORTH) NATURAL GAS ASSESSMENT
POLICY APPROVED**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and passed unanimously to adopt the Natural Gas Assessment Policy as follows:

COLUMBUS COUNTY**HAWORTH, INC. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT****NATURAL GAS ASSESSMENT POLICY**

Columbus County is required, as a condition of a Community Development Grant for Economic Development, to provide natural gas service to Haworth, Inc. located in Chadbourn, North Carolina, to adopt an assessment policy regarding any future users of natural gas lines funded through the Grant. The line is designed to meet the immediate needs of Haworth, Inc. and to provide for any future development the opportunity for service. The assessment policy delineated herein is designed to give Columbus County a mechanism to equitably provide natural gas service to future users of the lines constructed through the CDBG-ED grant.

- 1. Future users connecting to the natural gas line through the CDBG-ED Grant shall be required to pay an assessment of \$500 per connection to Columbus County. This fee shall be paid in full prior to the connection to the natural gas line and will be reviewed from time to time as appropriate.*
- 2. The assessment fee required in Section 1 shall not be imposed on any business that is owned by low to moderate income individuals, or any residence that is owned and occupied by low to moderate income individuals.*
- 3. Columbus County reserves the right to reduce the assessment fee charged to any users based upon the economic impact on the County's overall economy.*
- 4. All revenue generated by this assessment policy prior to completion of the project shall be used to reduce the amount of the CDBG-ED grant. For all revenue generated by the assessment policy thereafter for a period of five (5) years, 1/2 will be returned to the Commerce Finance Center and 1/2 shall be used to finance future capital improvements to the natural gas line.*

ADOPTED, this the 1st day of April, 1996.

*/s/ Spruell R. Britt, Chairman
Columbus County Board of
Commissioners*

*/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board
Columbus County Board of
Commissioners*

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT CDBG FOR
HAWORTH PROJECT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to adopt a Resolution of support for the submission of a Community Development Block Grant for Haworth, as follows.

**RESOLUTION OF THE
COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SUPPORT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF A
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
FOR HAWORTH, INC.**

WHEREAS, the business known as Haworth, Inc. proposes to undertake \$3,860,000.00 upgrade of its present facility in Chadbourn, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Haworth, Inc. proposes to retain its existing work force and create at least 52 additional job opportunities within two (2) years; and

WHEREAS, Columbus County shall act as the agency to submit an application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Commerce Finance Center for a Community Development Block Grant. The County will in turn utilize the grant to provide 1300 LF of 8" water main and a water booster pump station to provide increased fire protection and install a gas line extension of approximately 3.5 miles to serve the existing Haworth, Inc. facility in Chadbourn, North Carolina.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County hereby supports the submission of a CDBG application on behalf of Haworth, Inc.

ADOPTED, this the 1st day of April, 1996.

*/s/ Spruell R. Britt, Chairman
Columbus County Board
of Commissioners*

*/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board
Columbus County Board
of Commissioners*

(SEAL)

RESOLUTION - SUPPORT OF INTERSTATE 74 THROUGH COLUMBUS COUNTY

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to table the Resolution of support for Interstate 74 through Columbus County until prior actions taken by the Board on this issue can be examined to see if the Resolution is in agreement with the proceedings. The Resolution will be considered at the April 15, 1996 Board Meeting.

ADMINISTRATION - OUTSTANDING CLERK OF THE YEAR AWARD
PRESENTED TO IDA L. SMITH

Chairman Britt recognized Ida L. Smith, Clerk to the Board, as the recipient of the following plaque from the North Carolina Association of County Clerks that was presented to her at the 19th Annual Clerks' Conference on March 30, 1996.

PRESENTED TO

IDA L. SMITH

CLERK TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COLUMBUS COUNTY

HOWARD HOLLY OUTSTANDING CLERK OF THE YEAR

1996

**IN RECOGNITION OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUPERIOR TO ACCEPTED STANDARDS
 AND DISTINGUISHED CONTINUING CONTRIBUTIONS
 TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT IN NORTH CAROLINA
 N.C. ASSOCIATION OF
 COUNTY CLERKS
 MARCH 30, 1996**

CLOSED SESSION

At 10:15 A.M., A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to enter into closed session in accordance with G.S. 143-318.11, for an Attorney/Client Privilege.

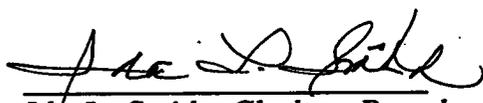
RESUMED REGULAR SESSION

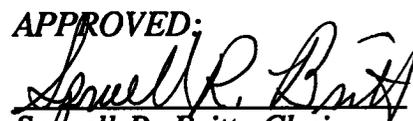
At 10:30 A.M., a motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to adjourn closed session and resume regular session.

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Immediately, thereafter, a motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.


 Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

APPROVED:

 Spuell R. Britt, Chairman