

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**Tuesday, September 7, 2004****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, for their regular scheduled meeting on the first Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Bill Memory, **Chairman**
 David L. Dutton, Jr., **Vice Chairman**
 Kipling Godwin
 Sammie Jacobs
 Amon E. McKenzie
 Lynwood Norris
 C.E. "Gene" Wilson

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Billy Joe Farmer, **County Administrator**
 James E. Hill, Jr., **County Attorney**
 Darren L. Currie, **Assistant County Administrator**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
 Roxanne Coleman, **Finance Officer**

Agenda Items #1 and #2: MEETING CALLED to ORDER and INVOCATION:

At 7:30 P.M., Chairman Memory called the meeting to order and the invocation was delivered by Commissioner Kipling Godwin. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Agenda Item #3: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the August 16, 2004 Regular Session Board Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #4: BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA, TROOP 512 - WACCCAMAW RIVER PRESENTATION:

Mr. Mark Bannerman, Scout Leader for Troop 512, Boy Scouts, stated the following regarding the condition of the Waccamaw River:

1. Boy Scout Troop 512 undertook a trip of one hundred twenty-nine (129) miles in the Waccamaw River, so entitled "River to Sea";
2. The troops in the Boy Scouts are good stewards of the outdoors and so live by that code;
3. We found the condition of the Waccamaw River to be in such a state that it should be called the river of shame; **and**
4. Two (2) of our troops, Anthony Wayne and Jamie White will make a presentation to you regarding the condition we found at Waccamaw River.

Anthony Wayne: stated the following:

1. In order to achieve a Fifty (50) Mile Award, we must do a certain amount of conservation work;
2. We started the trip on Waccamaw River and didn't make but one-half (½) mile and that was accomplished with two hundred fifty (250) man hours of clearing debris out of the river;
3. The worst area we found was between the dam at Lake Waccamaw and Crusoe; **and**
4. The Waccamaw River is pure nature and is in bad need of being cleaned out.

Jamie White: stated the following:

1. Waccamaw River is nature, in itself, and is a great asset to Columbus County;
2. It is almost impossible to go downstream without having to clear debris out of your way and physically carrying your canoe, boat, etc., over the fallen trees; **and**
3. This river needs to be cleaned out for the use of Columbus County citizens and others.

Vice Chairman Dutton stated that Congressman Mike McIntyre's Office had been contacted which in turn contacted the Army Corps of Engineers about the condition of Waccamaw River. Representatives from the State and the Army Corps of Engineers have been and performed a tour.

They informed us that dredging the Waccamaw River was not possible due to the upsetting of the natural species located in the bottom of the river. Suggestions were made to dig sediment ponds in lieu of dredging.

Commissioner Godwin stated he was a member of the Cape Fear Rural Conservation and Development and they have been working on accomplishing the task of cleaning out Waccamaw River. The avenues that are being discussed are:

1. Do grant writing to acquire the necessary financing;
2. Do dredging in place where permitted;
3. Trailways;
4. River keeper; **and**
5. Beaver Management.

We have received approval for this work and the work will be started in the next six to eight (6-8) months.

Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator, stated that he, the lead engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers and two (2) other people from the Corps of Engineers are working on acquiring federal monies to accomplish this task. An two hundred eighty (280) page study was done in 2000 by East Carolina University regarding Waccamaw River. We are all presently trying to acquire federal, state and local monies for the Waccamaw River to be cleaned out.

PROCLAMATION - PROCLAMATION of APPRECIATION to THE HONORABLE LONNIE LYNWOOD NORRIS:

Chairman Memory stated that at this time, he would like to present the following Proclamation to his fellow Board Member, The Honorable Lynwood Norris.

**PROCLAMATION of APPRECIATION to
THE HONORABLE LONNIE LYNWOOD NORRIS**

WHEREAS, Columbus County has been fortunate during the course of time to be blessed with many leaders of different types, calibers and abilities ; **and**

WHEREAS, Columbus County was chartered in the year of 1808 and has experienced a wide variety of leaders on different levels of expertise, determination and valor; **and**

WHEREAS, in some instances, a citizen reaches a decision to become a leader and public servant to the citizenry of a designated area for the purpose of rendering the utmost quality benefits and advancement possible to acquire within the realm of their abilities and power of authority; **and**

WHEREAS, Columbus County was fortunate to experience the birth of a citizen on October 8, 1934, namely *The Honorable Lonnie Lynwood Norris* who reached the decision to become a public servant along his life's journey; **and**

WHEREAS, *The Honorable Lonnie Lynwood Norris* has served as a leader and public servant to the citizens of Columbus County and surrounding areas as follows:

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Columbus County Commissioner | December 1, 1980 until Present (Continuous) |
| 2. | Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority | November 1, 1984 until Present (Continuous) |
| 3. | Cape Fear Council of Governments | 1980 until Present (Continuous) |
| | (Served as Chair for fifteen (15) of those years) | |
| 4. | Cape Fear Workforce Consortium (Represents Columbus County - regional federal jobs initiative) | |
| 5. | Cape Fear Regional Growth Team Partnership (elected officials who lobby for transportation, water quality and Tourism); | |
| 6. | On August 12, 2000, during the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' Annual Conference, at the President's Banquet, received recognition from President Stanley for twenty (20) years of uninterrupted service as a County Commissioner; and | |

WHEREAS, it has been the decision of the above referenced citizen, and elected official, to search and participate in the advancement of economic development, and the retention of jobs in Columbus County; **and**

WHEREAS, during the course of *Mr. Norris*' tenure, he tenderly reached the decision to render in-home patient care for an elderly parent who was totally bedridden until her sweet departure, and in addition, rendered the same type of care to a sibling during this same period of time, and is continuing to deliver this much-needed care; **and**

WHEREAS, while fulfilling the role of public servant to the citizens of Columbus County, and surrounding areas, *Mr. Norris* has experienced medical problems of his own and underwent some life-threatening situations, which he has bravely and heroically overcome; **and**

WHEREAS, it is evidenced by the above listed information, *The Honorable Lonnie Lynwood Norris* has served the citizens of Columbus County, and surrounding areas, an extended length of time, and is still serving with dedication, which is accompanied by determination and perseverance to deliver the greatest benefits possible within the realm of his power of authority; **and**

WHEREAS, in addition to his professional and political career, the named citizen has served his family in a dedicated and honorable manner, along with rendering help, when needed, to the citizens in his community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners graciously and proudly present this *Proclamation of Appreciation* to our fellow County Commissioner, *The Honorable Lonnie Lynwood Norris* for his many years of public service to the citizens of Columbus County, and surrounding areas, and wish to commend him for his diligence, dedication and never-ending desire to deliver the greatest benefits to the people he so proudly serves.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, we, fellow County Commissioners, wish to extend a warm thank-you to *The Honorable Lonnie Lynwood Norris* for his charisma, long-enduring patience and his well-rounded ability to work harmoniously with the Board on any given situation of any magnitude, at any given time.

ADOPTED this the 7th day of September, 2004

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ **BILL MEMORY, Chairman**

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

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve and adopt the Proclamation of Appreciation to The Honorable Lonnie Lynwood Norris, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #5: PROCLAMATION - LITERACY MONTH PROCLAMATION:

Barbara Barbour, Columbus County Literacy Council, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Proclamation.

LITERACY MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, illiteracy is a serious world-wide problem; **and**

WHEREAS, citizens of our own county suffer this handicap which prevents their full participation in our civic, social and economic life; **and**

WHEREAS, we desire that all citizens of this area have the basic education necessary for a productive and satisfying life; **and**

WHEREAS, the *Columbus County Literacy Council*, a voluntary group, is engaged in the

training of tutors to teach adults on an Each One Teach One basis to read and write; **and**

WHEREAS, the *Columbus County Literacy Council*, as an affiliate of ProLiteracy America, is engaged in teaching the under-educated of our area; **and**

WHEREAS, Laubach Literacy International and Literacy Volunteers of America, Incorporated merged together to form the ProLiteracy Worldwide, which immediately launched the development of a strategic plan that would articulate the goals for the organization and provide a guide for allocation of resources; **and**

WHEREAS, many of these public-spirited citizens support the self help teaching programs; **and**

WHEREAS, it is desirable to encourage all citizens to involve themselves in this important effort as tutors or learners, leaders or donors, and it is desired to commend the *Columbus County Literacy Council* for voluntary efforts.

WHEREAS, the *Columbus County Literacy Council* is proudly celebrating this year as being the Twenty-Fifty (25th) Anniversary of their existence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, does hereby proclaim that September be designated as "*Literacy Month*" in Columbus County, and proudly extends warm congratulations to the *Columbus County Literacy Council* for their contributions and dedication to the citizens of Columbus County for the past twenty-five (25) years.

ADOPTED this 7th day of September 2004.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ **BILL MEMORY, Chairman**

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

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve and adopt the Literacy Month Proclamation, seconded by Vice Chairman Dutton. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #6: WHITEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS - "WHITEVILLE CITY SCHOOL PURCHASE of ACTIVITY BUS" RESOLUTION:

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, based on the request received by Danny D. McPherson, Ed.D, Superintendent of Whiteville City Schools, is requesting Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution.

WHITEVILLE CITY SCHOOL PURCHASE OF ACTIVITY BUS RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Whiteville City Schools can no longer use fifteen-passenger vans to transport students; **and**

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina and Department of Public Instruction has collaborated with DaimlerChrysler Services and entered into an agreement allowing local education agencies (LEAs) such as Whiteville City Schools to purchase activity buses through a lease-purchase agreement and third-party financing; **and**

WHEREAS, DaimlerChrysler Services offered total payments that were less than the purchase price of the bus (i.e. a negative interest rate); **and**

WHEREAS, this offer with DaimlerChrysler Services, due to a mutual agreement with Thomas Built Buses, will allow this lesser amount to be sufficient to satisfy payment in full for the bus; **and**

WHEREAS, the Thomas bus is on state contract ONLY for purchases made through this third-party

financing agreement with DaimlerChrysler Services; **and**

WHEREAS, the Whiteville City Schools Board of Education (at its December 11, 2003 regular meeting) approved purchase of a seventy-two passenger 2004 Freightliner at a total price of sixty-four thousand one hundred and forty-nine dollars (\$64,149); **and**

WHEREAS, the Whiteville City Schools Board of Education has approved the first payment of forty-six thousand one hundred and thirty-three dollars (\$46,133) from its 2004-05 capital allocations from the Columbus County Commissioners; **and**

WHEREAS, the Whiteville City Schools Board of Education will make its second and final payment of eighteen thousand and sixteen dollars (\$18,016) during school year 2005-06 from its FY 2005-06 capital outlay allocations from the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners approve these capital expenditures for Whiteville City School as cited above.

ADOPTED this the 7th day of September, 2004.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **BILL MEMORY, Chairman**

ATTESTED BY:

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

Vice Chairman Dutton made a motion to approve and adopt the "Whiteville City School Purchase of Activity Bus" Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #7: COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS - INFRASTRUCTURE:

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, based on the request received by Thomas A. Nance, Superintendent of Columbus County Schools, is requesting the Board's consideration for a commitment on funding for the replacement of classrooms and auditorium for Williams Township School.

Commissioner Godwin stated that everyone involved were exploring possibilities and there were citizens in the audience who would like to speak on this matter. The following private citizen spoke.

David McPherson: stated the following:

1. I would like to recap the following activities that have occurred from the concerned citizens in the community regarding this matter, which are:
 - A. We have been at a Board Meeting and informed you of how the citizens in the community feel about this matter;
 - B. We have presented the Board with multiple petitions;
 - C. We have held work sessions with the Board of Commissioners on three (3) occasions; **and**
 - D. We have met with local legislators.
2. We have been promised partial funding by our local legislators;
3. It is a shame if we can't provide children of our day the same facilities as we had;
4. In order to acquire the necessary funding, the name needs to be changes to "Williams Township Cultural Arts Building";
5. I believe it is a sorry situation when the emphasis is being placed on incarceration in lieu of education;
6. Funding is available; **and**
7. We desperately need the get these students out of the trailers and into classrooms.

Chairman Memory stated the number one priority for the Board was to get the school students out of the trailers and the number two priority is the Detention Center.

Commissioner Godwin asked if there was enough time to get the package together for the Local Government Commission's December Meeting. Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, replied stating the Local Government Commission would need the information by November 9, 2004 to be presented at the December 7, 2004 Meeting and the job had not been bid yet and that was needed as part of the package.

Commissioner Godwin requested the following information so entitled "Notes Taken By Commissioner Kipling Godwin, Meeting at Local Government Commission, Raleigh, North Carolina, Thursday, August 26, 2004, 11:00 A.M." be entered into record.

**Notes Taken by Commissioner Kipling Godwin
Meeting at Local Government Commission
Raleigh, North Carolina
Thursday, August 26, 2004
11:00 AM**

In Attendance

Columbus County: Chairman Bill Memory, Vice Chairman David Dutton, Commissioners Kip Godwin, Sammie Jacobs, Amon McKenzie, Gene Wilson; Sheriff Chris Batten, Sanford Hardee, [unknown] Inghram; County Administrator Billy Joe Farmer, Darren Currie; Finance Officer Roxanne Coleman, Gayle Godwin, Gail Edwards

Local Government Commission Staff: Biff McGilvray, Senior Financial Analyst, Debt Management Section; Dianne Kelly, Financial Analyst, Debt Management Section; Tracy [unknown]

The meeting began with Chairman Bill Memory giving an overview of the capital project needs for Columbus County. He mentioned (1) overcrowded jail, (2) school destroyed by fire; (3) other infrastructure needs related to aging facilities (i.e., Courthouse, Columbus County Schools and Whiteville City Schools). Billy Joe Farmer estimated the total overall cost to be around \$15 million.

Biff McGilvray suggested that General Obligations bonds are probably not an option because of the jail component. Jails do not usually get good support in a public bond referendum. He gave two (2) other options: Certificates of Participation (COPS) and installment loan from a private lender.

Certificates of Participation (COPS)

COPS are an installment purchase contract financed by the public issue of certificates purchased by the investing public (like bonds). The following apply:

- They are issued for a 20-year term.
- They are expensive to issue because they require the involvement of bond counsel, underwriters and underwriters counsel as well as the rating agency and our rating counsel.
- The average cost would be \$9-\$10 per \$1,000 plus \$12/\$1,000 insurance.
- \$15 million COPS would cost around \$330,000 to finance.
- COPS does require collateral which, in this case, is the improvements or new construction.

Installment Loan from Private Lender (bank)

An installment loan is simply borrowing money from a bank or private lender. The following apply:

- Units of local government like counties can borrow up to \$10 million per calendar year and still be "bank qualified."
- "Bank qualified" means that the interest on loan to a government entity is tax exempt to the bank. The bank will offer a lower interest rate since the interest is tax free to them.
- A bank loan is less expensive to finance. \$15 million would cost around \$15,000.
- The term of the loan would be about the same as with COPS - 15-20 years. Most banks offer a 15-year term. However, Bank of America offers a 20-year note and any RFP should include a request for 20 year terms (if desired).
- Collateral is required (which would be the new buildings).
- Under the guidelines, Columbus County could borrow up to \$10 million between now and December 31, 2004 and come back for additional \$10 million (if needed) after January 1, 2005.
- When contacting banks, we should be sure to ask for their government financing unit - they will know the special rules related to government financing.
- This type government financing will not allow for a "deficiency judgment," meaning the asset is the only collateral the bank can take.
- A bank will generally not obligate to an interest rate longer than 45 days.

LGC Requirements

Biff McGilvray outlined what is required of Columbus County to pursue either option:

- We must be "ready to proceed" with project(s): have bids, design work, permits, regulatory approval (i.e., Division of Facility Services), and plans to start project immediately.
- We must have actual bids in hand. We can get bids and specify that they will not be awarded until after approval is given by LGC
- Legal work must be completed. If Columbus County is borrowing money for the school, the county must own the school until the debt is paid (collateral). The school could be leased back to the School Board.
- LGC needs to know the bank, term and interest rate. We arrange for the loan with a delayed closing (can set date based on timeline below).
- We must provide details about our repayment plan (i.e., increased taxes, other revenue streams).
- LGC provides an applicant packet to be completed and returned. It outlines all the requirements in detail.
- LGC application will require disclosure of total projects costs as well as other funds available (i.e., insurance proceeds, federal funds, etc.).
- Board of Commissioners must pass a "Resolution of Findings."
- Public hearing on financing must be held (can be at the same meeting where resolution is adopted). Hearing requires 10 days public notice and an "Affidavit of Publication."

Timeline

- Columbus County's annual audit report is due to LGC on September 30, 2004. It is important that we get it done and submitted to LGC on time this year.
- LGC meets on the first Tuesday of every month.
- Items for the agenda are required to be submitted to staff about 20 days prior to LGC meeting.
- LGC meets on Tuesday, December 7; Columbus County's application due to LGC staff by November 9.
- North Carolina General Statute requires a 12-day appeals process after LGC gives approval, therefore the closing date for the loan could be December 19 or after (but not later than December 31, 2004)
- Since we need more than \$10 million, we will need to file a second application with the LGC in early 2005 for the additional project(s).

Commissioner Godwin asked if the schematics that had been done could be used as the design drawing to enable the bid process to begin. Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, replied stating no. In addition, Mr. Farmer stated that on an average, the architectural fees for design usually were seven to ten (7% - 10%) percent of the project costs which would equate to an amount in the range of three hundred thousand to four hundred thousand (\$300,00 - \$400,000) dollars. This would have to come from the General Fund which is presently on the border line of being too low.

After additional discussion was conducted among the Board and the Williams Township Committee members, Commissioner Wilson made a motion to table this matter until a meeting could be held with the Columbus County Board of Education, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #8: CHAF PROGRAM (2000): Tammy H. Jones, The Adams Company, Incorporated, requested Board approval of the recommendations for the disposal of two (2) checks for Ronald Hall, Unit 00-275 and Forester Gaddy, Unit 00-196 which are as follows:

August 31, 2004

Mr. Billy J. Farmer
County of Columbus
111 Washington Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

Subject: 2000 Columbus County CHAF
Ronald Hall, Unit 02-275

Dear Billy:

Mr. Ronald Hall received rehab assistance through the County's 2000 CHAF Program. As

you are aware earlier this year his home burned and he received payment from his insurance company. This check dated March 1, 2004 is made payable to Mr. Hall, Columbus County and ACS. At this time Mr. Hall needs the county to endorse this check and send it to ACS Lender Services. In turn ACS will then send a check to the county for the remaining balance. The approximate payoff for ACS is \$22,000.00. This means the county would be receiving approximately \$3,000.00. It is our recommendation that the County allow Mr. Hall to use the remaining \$3,000.00 toward a down payment for a new home. This check would be made payable to Mr. Hall and the mobile home dealer of his choice. The County would ask that Mr. Hall sign a new Deed of Trust and Promissory Note and give the County a second lien on the new home. This scenario will be placing the County back in the same position as before.

Please review with Jim Hill and have the County Commissioners to address this at your ext regular board meeting. The mortgage company is in need of this matter being settled immediately. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
/s/ M. Floyd Adams, P.E.
C.D. Director
MFA/thj

August 31, 2004

Mr. Billy J. Farmer
County of Columbus
111 Washington Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

Subject: 2000 Columbus County CHAF
Forester Gaddy, Unit 02-196

Dear Billy:

Mr. Forester Gaddy received replacement assistance through the County's 2000 CHAF Program. As you are aware earlier this year his home burned and he received payment from his insurance company. This check dated June 29, 2004 is made payable to Mr. Gaddy, Columbus County and Vanderbilt Mortgage. At this time Mr. Gaddy needs the county to endorse this check and send it to Vanderbilt Mortgage. In turn Vanderbilt will then send a check to the county for the remaining balance. The approximate payoff for Vanderbilt is \$51,000.00. This means the county mobile home dealer of his choice. The County would ask that Mr. Gaddy sign a new Deed of Trust and Promissory Note and give the County a second lien on the new home. This scenario will be placing the County back in the same position as before.

Please review with Jim Hill and have the County Commissioners to address this at your ext regular board meeting. The mortgage company is in need of this matter being settled immediately. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
/s/ M. Floyd Adams, P.E.
C.D. Director
MFA/thj

Vice Chairman Dutton made a motion to approve the recommendations for the disposal of two (2) checks for Ronald Hall, Unit3e3 00-275 and Forester Gaddy, Unit 00-196, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #9: AGING - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL POSITION and APPOINTMENT of CHARLES PATTON to HOME and COMMUNITY CARE BLOCK GRANT COMMITTEE:

Ed Worley, Aging Director, requested approval of the following:

1. An additional position of a Case Manger, In-Home Service, which is Medicaid funded with no cost to the County, at the entry salary of twenty thousand, seven hundred and 00/100 (\$20,700.00) dollars; **and**
2. The appointment of Charles Patton, Transportation Director, to the Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee which will be in District IV and to serve as a Service Provider.

Vice Chairman Dutton made a motion to approve the addition position of Case Manager, In-Home Service as described above and the appointment of Charles Patton to the Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #10: SHERIFF - ESTABLISHMENT of PUBLIC HEARING DATE for LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT for 2004-2005:

Sheriff Christopher Batten is requesting the Board to establish the date of September 20, 2004, at 7:15 P.M. for a public hearing to be held for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant for 2004-2005.

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to approve the date of September 20, 2004, at 7:15 P.M. for the public hearing for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant for 2004-2005, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #11: PURCHASING - STANDARDIZATION of COUNTY BUSINESS CARDS and LETTERHEAD:

Stuart Carroll, Purchasing Director, requested Board approval to standardize business letterhead and business card design for all County departments.

After discussion was conducted relative to the savings the County would realize, Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the standardization of business letterhead and business card design for all County departments, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #12: PURCHASING - ADAPTIVE REUSE of the "HILL" BUILDING - APPROVAL of REVISED BASE BID:

Stuart Carroll, Purchasing Director, requested Board approval of the following revised base bid for the adoptive reuse of the "Hill" Building.

August 16, 2004

Mr. Billy Joe Farmer
County Administrator
Columbus County
111 Washington Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

Re: Adaptive Reuse of Hill Grocery Store
For Columbus County Office
Whiteville, NC
EDA Project # 2003413.00

Mr. Farmer,

As per direction of the County Commissioners we have negotiated with Graka Builders, Incorporated, and resulted in the following and recommend awarding the revised base bid:

Original Base Bid:	\$918,000.00
Negotiations:	\$(50,877.00)
Revised Base Bid:	\$867,123.00

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,
/s/ Lee D. Dixon, AIA
Executive Vice President
EDApa

LDD/mds

August 16, 2004
Adaptive Reuse of Hill Grocery Store
For Columbus County Offices
Whiteville, NC

EDA Project No. 2003413.00

Addendum No. 2

The following addendum supersedes all previous information and does hereby become part of the contract documents.

The following negotiations have been accepted buy the Owner and are hereby part of the contract.

Delete Landscape Allowance	\$(7,000.00)
Delete Interior Signage Allowance	\$(5,000.00)
Delete Exterior Signage	\$(3,337.00)
Owner to Provide Fire Extinguishers	\$(1,650.00)
Owner to Provide Toilet Accessories	\$(1,185.00)
Use MC cable in lieu of Rigus Conduit	\$(3,400.00)
Delete Fire Alarm System	\$(15,280.00)
Add Duct Detectors to Mech. Contract	\$ 980.00
Delete Tele/Data Conduit Above Ceiling to MTP	\$(5,250.00)
Alternate Lighting Package	\$(3,270.00)
Delete Disconnect Rack 03/E-5, Mount to Unit	
Coordinate w/Mechanical Contractor	\$(2,200.00)
Provide General Duty Connectors in lieu of	
Heady Duty Connectors	\$(400.00)
Tegular Edge to Square	\$(1,185.00)
Aluminum Storefront (Drawings w/o a PE Seal)	\$(3,700.00)

End of Addendum NO. 2

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, stated the standard contract was in house and so entitled "AIA Document A101 - 1997, Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor where the basis of payment is a stipulated sum, and I am requesting this contract be approved also which will lead to a Notice to Proceed. A copy of these documents will be on file in the Office of the Purchasing Director for review.

After discussion was conducted relative to the items that had been deleted and the revised bid price, Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the revised base bid in the amount of eight hundred sixty-seven thousand, one hundred twenty-three, and 00/10 (\$867,123.00) dollars for the Adaptive Reuse of the "Hill" Building and the AIA Document A101 -1997, Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor where the basis of payment is a stipulated sum. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #13: PURCHASING - APPROVAL of LOW BID for SIX (6) POLICE INTERCEPTOR VEHICLES:

Stuart Carroll, Purchasing Director, requested Board approval of the lowest bid in the amount of one hundred twenty-seven thousand, seven hundred ninety-four, and 00/100 (\$127,794.00) dollars for the purchase of six (6) police interceptor vehicles as follows.

BID OPENING for POLICE VEHICLES

August 20, 2004
2:00 P.M.

	BIDDER	BID AMOUNT	BID CHECK/BID BOND
1.	Fair Bluff Motors, Inc.	\$144,830.00	X
2.	Lumberton Ford Lincoln Mercury	\$145,000.00	X
3.	Hamp Avant Quality Ford	\$128,329.50	X

4. Vic Baily Ford \$127,794.00 X

Discussion was conducted relative to the low bidder being out of county and out of state and it was stated that by law, you must award to the low bidder regardless of location.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the low bid of one hundred twenty-seven thousand, seven hundred ninety-four, and 00/100 (\$127,794.00) dollars for the purchase of six (6) police interceptor vehicles by Vic Baily Ford, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #14: CDBG MICROENTERPRISE GRANT #04-R-1281 - ADOPTION of the FOLLOWING ITEMS:

Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator, requested Board approval of the following six (6) agreements for the CDBG Microenterprise Grant # 04-R-1281:

1. North Carolina Division of Community Assistance, Community Development Block Grant program **Funding Approval** (2 originals);
2. North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance, Community Development Block Grant Program, **Grant Agreement Entrepreneurial Assistant (EA)** (2 originals);
3. **Section 3 Plan For Employment Opportunities For Businesses and Lower Income Persons**, County of Columbus, 2004 CDBG Program (1 original);
4. **Equal Employment and Procurement Plan**, County of Columbus, 2004 CDBG Program (1 Original);
5. Community Development Block Grant Program, **Citizen Participation Plan**, County of Columbus (1 original); **and**
6. **Designation of Applicant's Agent Resolution** (accompanied by three (3) Signatory Forms and Certification cards) (1 original).

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to approve the above listed six (6) agreements for the CDBG MicroEnterprise Grant # 04-R-1281, seconded by Vice Chairman Dutton. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #15: CDBG # 02-C-0947 SCATTERED SITE HOUSING GRANT:

Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator, requested Board approval of Agreements for Housing Rehabilitation, County of Columbus for the following:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | Mary L. Powell | \$48,854.00; |
| 2. | Vernon/Geneva Long | \$54,275.00; and |
| 3. | JC/Esther Chestnut | \$32,510.00. |

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the Agreements for Housing Rehabilitation, County of Columbus, as listed above, seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #16: AGING - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Ed Worley, Aging Director, delivered his Departmental Update to the Board as follows:

1. We service one thousand (1,000) clients per day;
2. This department generates five million (\$5,000,000) dollars in the County Budget yearly;
3. We have received grants in the amount of eight hundred thousand and 00/100 (\$800,000.00) dollars through the Whiteville Center;
4. We generate a large amount of revenue for Columbus County;
5. We have received additional CAP slots equating to eight hundred thousand and 00/100 (\$800,000.00) dollars;
6. We are very proud of our senior citizens;
7. I have a wonderful staff to work with;
8. We receive a tremendous amount of help through the Cape Fear Council of Governments; **and**
9. I wish to thank the Board of Commissioners for all of their support they render to the Department of Aging.

ADD-ON:

CDBG GRANT - ESTABLISHMENT of PUBLIC HEARING DATE:

Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator, requested the Board to establish a Public Hearing date for September 20, 2004, at 7:00 P.M., for the purpose of announcing the intentions of Columbus County applying for another Concentrated Needs CDBG Grant in the amount of seven hundred thousand and 00/100 (\$700,000.00) dollars.

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to establish a Public Hearing date for September 20, 2004, at 7:00 P.M., for the purpose of announcing the intentions of Columbus County applying for another Concentrated Needs CDBG Grant in the amount of seven hundred thousand and 00/100 (\$700,000.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #17: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Budget Amendments:

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the following Budget Amendments, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	10-620-6300	Fire Ant Grant	\$2,500.00
Revenue	10-399-0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$2,500.00
Expenditure	10-620-6500	Smart Start Grant - Playground	\$967.00
Revenue	10-399-0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$967.00
Expenditure	10-599-7400	Capital Outlay	\$1,100.00
	10-599-1600	MR Equipment	(\$255.00)
Revenue	10-360-0000	Animal Control Fees	\$845.00
Expenditure	10-700-9706	RGP Discretionary Funds	(\$25,450.00)
Revenue	10-348-3200	RGP Discretionary Funds	(\$25,450.00)
Expenditure	10-613-7548	NCDOT Capital	\$10,000.00
Revenue	10-336-0000	CCT Fund Account	\$10,000.00

B. Tax Releases and Refunds:

Commissioner Norris made a motion to table the Tax Releases and Refunds until the September 20, 2004 Meeting in order to allow the Solid Waste Department adequate time to check these out, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #18: PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A. Public:

Chairman Memory opened the floor for public comments. The following person spoke.

Lofton Cox: I have two (2) issues that I wish to address the Board with, and they are as follows:

- C&D Landfill on Dothan Road or Old Dothan Road:** on July 12, 2004, a Public Hearing was conducted at Guideway Elementary School regarding the location of a C&D Landfill on Dothan Road, Road #1102, or Old Dothan Road, Road #1100. The vote of the attending people was one hundred (100%) percent against the proposed C&D Landfill at both proposed locations. At the August 2, 2004 Columbus County Board of Commissioners' Meeting, we were told this was a dead issue. The citizens located in these two (2) areas conducted a

meeting last Thursday, and it was made known that action is occurring from the two (2) companies that are proposing the said C&D Landfill in support of the same. I am requesting that a motion be made by the Board to approve or abandon this proposal. We have not seen any action taken by the Board so far.

2. **Agenda Item #7:** it has been requested of the Board to support the construction of classrooms and an auditorium for Williams Township School. I am definitely not against the classrooms being built, but I do not support the construction of an auditorium. The school in my area burned and we had to accept what they were willing to give us and that was a multi-purpose building to be utilized as a gymnasium, auditorium, etc. with no bathrooms, dressing rooms or air conditioning. We have requested the Columbus County Board of Education to install bathrooms, dressing rooms and air conditioning to this multi-purpose building for the benefit of the children. As of this date, we have not received any response regarding our request. There are other schools within Columbus County that do not have an auditorium and it is the opinion of a large majority of the citizens that if you provide an auditorium for Williams Township School, then you should the same for all the schools.

Chairman Memory stated that within the Capital Outlay that was requested the Columbus County Board of Education for the next fiscal year, Guideway Elementary School was listed for bathrooms, dressing rooms and air conditioning.

MOTION:

Commissioner McKenzie made the following motion relative to the construction of a C&D Landfill on Dothan Road or Old Dothan Road: Based on the results of the Public Hearing conducted on July 12, 2004, at Guideway Elementary School, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners will not entertain any ideas for the construction of a C&D Landfill on Dothan Road, Road #1102, or Old Dothan Road, Road #1100. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

B Board of Commissioners:

1. **Commissioner McKenzie:** I have two (2) items and they are as follows:
 - A. **Deadline for water tap-on fee:** I would like to request the deadline for the reduced fee of one hundred and 00/100 (\$100.00) dollars for the tap-on fee which is presently September 30, 2004 be extended until January 2, 2005. I would to make the following motion:

MOTION: the deadline for the reduced fee of one hundred and 00/100 (\$100.00) dollars for the tap-on fee which is presently September 30, 2004 be extended until January 2, 2005. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

- B. **County-wide water:** It is of my opinion the idea of a county-wide water system is beneficial and would help distribute the costs for this water over the county and not be such a burden for Water Districts II and III residents. I would like to make the following motion:

MOTION: approve the referendum for county-wide water and this referendum to be placed on the ballot for the November election. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Godwin.

James E. Hill, Jr., Columbus County Attorney, stated the November election time line could not be met at this time. If this issue is voted on, a special election would have to be held.

Vice Chairman Dutton stated his district does not want water and made the following substitute motion:

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: To allow Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts II and III to work out their problems and not to do the referendum for county-wide water. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Norris.

COMMISSIONER ELECT JAMES E. PREVATTE: I would like to state the following on this matter:

- A. I have attended many of the meetings where this topic has been discussed;
- B. I fully believe a county-wide system can be operated more efficiently and economically than several individual water systems; **and**
- C. I fully support the vote for county-wide water be place on the referendum in November or whenever it is feasible to do so.

A straw vote was taken on the substitute motion made by Vice Chairman Dutton with the following results:

AYES: Chairman Memory, Vice Chairman Dutton, Commissioners Jacobs, Norris, Wilson and Godwin; **and**
NAYS: Commissioners McKenzie and Godwin.

The substitute motion passed on a five (5) to two (2) vote which killed the original motion made by Commissioner McKenzie.

- 2 **Commissioner Jacobs:** I would like to state the following:
 - A. I came on the Board twelve (12) years ago and Commissioner Norris was most helpful to me in my task of becoming an effective County Commissioner and what was expected of me. I would like to honor Commissioner Norris for his willingness to lend a helping hand and his ongoing dedication.
 - B. I would like to welcome Commissioner Elect James E. Prevatte to the Board of County Commissioners and I am looking forward to working with him.

3 **Chairman Memory:** I voted to pay back the debt created by Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts II and III when the Board reached the decision to forward these funds from the Columbus County General Fund Account. At that time, the decision was made to leave a credit balance for these amounts on the Columbus County yearly audit. I would like for a note, or Reimbursement Resolution, to be prepared for the payback for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts II and III, and any other funds which have been expended from the Columbus County General Fund Account which will allow for future commitment to the then sitting Columbus County Board of Commissioners. I am requesting this note, or Reimbursement Resolution, be prepared and ready to approve and adopt at the September 20, 2004 Meeting.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE WITH N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(3) and (4):

Agenda Item #19: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(3) and (4):

At 9:34 P.M., Vice Chairman Dutton made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(3) and (4), seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

No official action was taken.

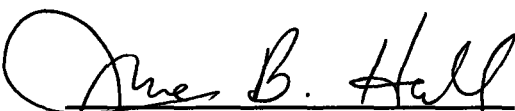
ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and RESUME REGULAR SESSION:

At 10:07 P.M., Commissioner Wilson made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #20: ADJOURNMENT:

At 10:09 P.M., Commissioner Godwin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

APPROVED:


JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board


BILL MEMORY, Chairman