

The Honorable Board of Columbus County Commissioners met in their said office at 111 Washington Street, Whiteville NC, at 7:30 P.M., April 26, 1993, it being the fourth Monday as adopted by Resolution on March 15, 1993.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Samuel G. Koonce, Chairman
 Mike Richardson, Vice Chairman
 A. Dial Gray, III
 Sammie Jacobs
 Lynwood Norris
 C. W. Williams
 Ed Worley

James E. Hill, Jr. Attorney
 Roy L. Lowe, Administrator
 Ida L. Smith, Clerk

Chairman Koonce called the meeting to order and the Reverend Bennie Pledger gave the invocation.

BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 5, 1993, Board meeting, as recorded.

PUBLIC HEARING - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and passed unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting and enter into a public hearing.

Chairman Koonce then turned the meeting over to Tony Patnode, E.I.T., with Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates, P.A.

Mr. Patnode stated that the purpose of the public hearing is for soliciting public participation in the proposed filing of a Community Revitalization Grant under the 1993 Community Development Block Grant Program for Columbus County.

Chairman Koonce then announced that all those interested persons wishing to contend for or protest against the Community Revitalization Grant to be recognized by raising their hand and stating their name.

There were no comments.

The Board concurred to schedule the second public hearing for a Community Development Block Grant Program on May 17, 1993 at 7:30 P.M.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Richardson and passed unanimously to close the public hearing.

FIRE & RESCUE – BUCKHEAD ESTABLISH PUBLIC HEARING FOR SERVICE TAX DISTRICT

Walter "Tommy" Freeman, Buckhead Volunteer Fire Department Chairman, requested the Board to establish a date for a public hearing for consideration of a Service Tax District in the Buckhead Volunteer Fire Department District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to schedule a public hearing for Tuesday, June 1, 1993, at 7:30 P.M. at the Buckhead Volunteer Fire Department building for soliciting citizens' input on the proposed Service Tax District. Further, proper notification is to be mailed to all residents of the district and advertised in the local newspaper.

CHILD DAY CARE – REQUEST FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM STATE

Fax Rector, representing Columbus County Child Day Care Centers, requested the Board to send letters to Governor James Hunt, Secretary Robin Britt and the legislative delegation, representing the people in Columbus County, requesting their support to keep Fiscal Year 1993-94 for subsidized child day care funds at the same level as Fiscal Year 1992-93.

A motion was made by Commissioner Worley, seconded by Commissioner Gray and passed unanimously to write letters of support to Governor James Hunt, Secretary Robin Britt, the General Assembly, representing the people of Columbus County, and all other 82 counties that a reduction in funding is proposed, in the State of North Carolina, requesting their support.

ORDINANCE (BUDGET) – RESCIND SECTION VII: APPROPRIATIONS

A motion was made by Commissioner Worley, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed to rescind Section VII:

Appropriations: of the 1992-93 Columbus County Operating Budget as follows:

The amount of the General Fund proposed for the Fiscal Year 1992-93 is hereby appropriated to the County Administrator for the operation of the Columbus County Government and its departments and agencies for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1992 and ending June 30, 1993. In administering the program authorized under this ordinance, the Board of County Commissioners is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations within a fund between objects of expenditures within a department. If department heads find it necessary to transfer appropriations within a fund between objects of expenditures within a Department, a budget amendment must be made and approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

Revision of the 1992-93 Columbus County Operating Budget is as follows:

SECTION VII. APPROPRIATIONS: The amount of the General Fund proposed for the Fiscal Year 1992-93 is hereby appropriated to the County Administrator for the operation of the Columbus County Government and its departments and agencies for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1992 and ending June 30, 1993. In administering the program authorized under this ordinance, the County Administrator is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations within a fund between objects of expenditures within a department. If department heads find it necessary to transfer appropriations within a fund between objects of expenditures within a Department, a budget amendment must be made and approved by the County Administrator.

AYES: Commissioners Norris, Gray, Koonce, Williams, Jacobs and Worley

NOES: Commissioner Richardson

The motion passed on a 6-1 vote.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS - VARIOUS

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Gray and passed unanimously to approve the following budget amendments:

Special Appropriations:

Accept 10-335-0000 Mis. Rev.-Handicapped Trans.	\$2,500
Expend 10-690-9502 Sheltered Workshop Trans.	\$2,500

Aging/Senior Center:

Accept 12-335-0100 USDA Cong. Funds	\$1,394
Accept 12-335-0200 USDA HD Funds	\$ 479

To be expended:

Increase 12-607-74 Capital Outlay	\$1,170
Increase 12-614-74 Capital Outlay	\$1,873
Decrease 12-614-11 Telephone	(\$ 40)
Increase 12-610-11 Telephone	\$ 40
Decrease 12-616-14 Travel	(\$1,170)

SHERIFF - COUNTY JAIL EXPANSION STUDY REPORT

Mr. William Eskew, representing James DeLaune, Jr. & Associates, Incorporated, Engineers, presented the Board with a detailed analysis of the existing facilities of the Sheriff's Department and the County Jail and recommendations for consideration.

Conclusions and recommendations are as follows:

A. EXISTING FACILITY

The existing jail facility will require extensive renovation to bring the facility into current jail standards and life safety compliance. The existing facility is sound structurally and functions adequately for the existing inmate load. A new HVAC system, security system and smoke evacuation system will need to be installed.

B. RENOVATE EXISTING FACILITY

A renovated jail facility, ie, mechanical, security, jail standards and life safety, will support an inmate capacity of 30. This represents a 53% decrease in allowable bed space. Additionally, space must be provided for recreation space and inmate services. The cost associated with this work is estimate at +/- \$650,100. If the renovated facility is incorporated with an addition for 120

to 170 inmates, additional cost will be recognized in the renovation of existing infrastructure.

C. *SITE CONSIDERATIONS*

Providing an addition to a renovated existing facility will require a temporary relocation of existing sheriff offices presently located to the rear of the facility. Budget considerations must include relocation of existing offices.

At the completion of an addition to a renovated existing facility, the possibilities for future expansion will be limited to the area presently occupied by the Social Services building.

D. *RECOMMENDATION*

Renovations to the Columbus County jail effectively reduce the existing bed count by 53%. Consideration might be made to convert the existing facility to a juvenile.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to accept the report as presented by Mr. William Eskew.

TAX RELEASES & REFUNDS

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Richardson and passed unanimously to approve the tax releases and refunds as recommended by the Tax Administrator.

Edgar A. & Elizabeth Duncan; J-5-128 in present use value. Amount \$96.56, valuation \$13,600, year 1992, account # 01-21730.

Edgar Alan & Ann Duncan; L-12-58A, no road frontage. All woods. Amount \$187.68, valuation \$27,200, years 1991 and 1992, account # 03-05050.

Walter James Blosser; no real estate records for this account. Amount \$2,618.87, valuation \$346,200, years 1983 through 1992, account # 07-00560.

Aberm Gus Hall; 1981 Oldsmobile and 1984 Mercury listed in Bladen County where he resides. Amount \$55.71, valuation \$7,280, year 1991 and 1992, account # 17-16504.

James Kesler and Stephen Kash, MD; business Audit. Discovery corrected. Amount \$522.83, valuation \$50,304, years 1987 through 1992, account # 01-49383.

James Gause; E-3-10 double-listed to Canal Industries on E-3-2 and James A. & Dorothy Gause E-5-15A. Amount \$106.73, valuation \$14,050, years 1988 through 1992, account # 12-08940.

Margaret Hilburn Nobles; 1978 Ford was already listed on regular list to Luther Mitchell Nobles on # 13-30320. All taxes paid. Refund requested for taxes paid through error on account # 17-28037. Amount \$31.98, valuation \$1,500, year 1988, account # 17-28037.

Isaac C. Pridgen; double-listing. 1986 Chrysler and 1986 Ford already listed and taxes paid on account # 17-30155, same name. Amount \$66.64, valuation \$8,780, year 1992, account # 12-37958.

Mitchell Pittman Heirs; per Town records land does not exist. Amount \$22.41, valuation \$2,920, years 1983 through 1992, account # 13-32720.

Revco, DS INC. #4570; personal property uncollectible. Discharged by Bankruptcy Court, Chapter 11. Amount \$19.84, year 1988, account # 01-75793.

Lawer Rouse; all land consumed. Wrong transfer. Amount \$66.75, valuation \$8,700, years 1988 through 1992, account # 13-34960.

J. E .B. Smith & Jimmie Smith; billed incorrectly with land that does not exist. Amount \$126.96, valuation \$18,400, years 1991 and 1992, account # 07-15260.

J. B. Stocks; does not own. All land consumed. Amount \$113.33, valuation \$15,500, years 1983 through 1992, account # 07-16900.

Francis Thompson; 1983 Cadillac double-listed to Francis Thompson on # 01-93640. Amount \$27.09, valuation \$3,570, year 1992, account # 17-37392.

Adele Todd (Heirs); wrong transfer. Lot does not exist. Amount \$190.80, valuation \$24,000, years 1983 through 1992, account # 06-39600.

Wayne Tyler; 1976 Pontiac junked prior to 1-1-88. Amount \$109.41, valuation \$940, year 1988, account # 17-38293.

W. A. Ward; unidentified property. Does not own. Amount \$278.25, valuation \$35,000, years 1983 through 1992, account # 06-41340.

Alfred Earl & Joyce Long; L-9-7, one building only. Also property not in Old Dock Fire District. Amount \$36.81, year 1992, account # 03-13420.

Elsie Thompson Heirs; unidentified property. Land all consumed. Amount \$ 251.62, valuation \$33,200, years 1983 through 1992, account # 07-18000.

United States of America; USA/FHA, owner of G-5-24 and G-5-26 (formerly Kenneth Britt) since 5/15/90. Tax exempt for 1992. Amount \$603.04, valuation \$75,400, year 1992, account # 13-41043.

United States of America, FHA, owner of D-4-4A since 1991 (formerly Nina Benton). Tax exempt for 1992. Amount \$505.60, valuation \$64,000, year 1992, account # 16-16467.

George Wayne Benton; 1988 G.M.C. truck, sold November, 1991. Amount \$44.41, valuation \$5,850, year 1992, account # 17-02110.

R. T. Brunton (Heirs); deferred taxes on G-11-7, billed incorrectly. Amount \$182.32, Years 1989 through 1992, account # 09-01720.

Liston Douglas & Dorothy Spivey; WH-2-136C, in present use value; not transferred. Amount \$973.84, valuation \$131,600, years 1989 through 1992, account # 01-87920.

Pheatress Strickland Thigpen; C-5-83, not in land use value for 1989. Amount \$78.00, valuation \$10,000, account #10-16820.

Edward Dewey Ray; K-9-72 (Deferred taxes) billed on \$20,700. valuation instead of \$8,700. Amount \$344.21, valuation \$36.000, years 1989 through 1991, account # 03-18235.

Ordered: that a refund check be issued to Wanda Brown Elins, Route 2, Box 162, Clarkton, NC 28433, in the amount of \$16.39 for years 1991 and 1992. Not in the Whiteville Rescue District.

Ordered: that a refund check be issued to Billy Ray and Beverly Greene, Route 4, Box 314F, Whiteville, NC 28472, in the amount of \$155.23, for year 1991. Double-wide mobile home listed as real and personal property. Taxes paid.

Ordered: that a refund check be issued to Margaret Hilburn Nobles, Route 3, Box 24E, Chadbourn, NC 28431, in the amount of \$100.00, for year 1988. 1978 Ford double-listed and taxes paid on #13-30320, Luther Mitchell Nobles.

SHERIFF - INMATES WORKING ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECTS DELETED FROM AGENDA UNTIL NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Board concurred to delete Item #12 on the Agenda, inmates working on local government projects until the next Board meeting.

SOLID WASTE - DUMPSTER SITES PROPERTY TO BE NEGOTIATED BY ADMINISTRATOR

Commissioner Worley reported that since the dumpsters have been removed from the North Whiteville area, he has personally tried to locate a site that would serve the North Whiteville area, to no avail.

A motion was made by Commissioner Worley, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and passed unanimously to direct Roy L. Lowe, County Administrator, to involve Tom Hughes, representing ARS, with negotiations to acquire property for dumpster sites in the North Whiteville area.

SOLID WASTE - CITIZEN COMPLAINT ON DUMPSTER SITES ON SR 1759

Percy Pickett, reported to the Board that the dumpster site on State Road 1759 (Flynn Cemetery Road) is being misused and requested that the dumpsters be moved from that location although the dumpsters are not located on his property.

Chairman Koonce stated that the request will be taken into consideration.

BUDGET AMENDMENT - NON-DEPARTMENTAL CONTINGENCY - ROAD SIGN MAINTENANCE

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to approve the following budget amendment for the maintenance of County road signs:

Appropriate 10-660-9999 Non-Dept. Contingency	(\$1,200.00)
Expend 10-690-9806 Road Sign Maintenance	\$1,200.00

RESOLUTION - MANDATED SERVICES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPPOSITION

A motion was made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Gray and passed unanimously to join with Union County in opposing mandated programs being imposed on county governments as follows:

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Columbus County is a political subdivision of North Carolina which is dedicated to the principals of accountability and good government:

WHEREAS, in recent years there has been an alarming increase in the number of state and federally mandated services and regulatory programs imposed on county governments;

WHEREAS, these mandates have come without respective funding to administer and support these required services and programs;

WHEREAS, fulfilling these programs has had a detrimental impact on the financial resources of local governments;

WHEREAS, these mandates effectively levy a state imposed property tax within counties;

WHEREAS, the unfunded portion of mandated cost often exceed a county's entire annual property tax levy revenue;

WHEREAS, House Bill 233 and 234 have been introduced in the North Carolina House of Representatives in order to bar state mandated services and programs without the provisions of full funding to pay for the implementation;

WHEREAS, H. R. 140, H. R. 1295, and H. R. 886 have been introduced into the United States Congress which would give local governments relief from unfunded and omnivorous federal mandates;

WHEREAS, Gaston County, N. C. is currently attempting to procure fiscal relief from unfunded state mandates.

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

1. That the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County seeks fiscal relief from both the state and federal governments for mandated programs which are not currently fully funded by either entity;

2. That the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County supports Gaston County in its attempts to obtain fiscal relief from the omnivorous burdens of inadequately funded mandate programs and further encourage each they deem appropriate including, but not limited to.

a. The use of the Budget Separation Act, a copy of which is attached to the Resolution;

b. Hold public hearings within the county to obtain citizen input and support for the Board's actions relating to unfunded mandated programs;

c. Communicate, in writing, as individuals and as a Board with state and federal elected officials in support of legislation designed to prohibit the non-funding of existing and future mandated programs and services;

d. Communicate, in writing, as individuals and as a Board to N. C. Representative Billy Joye in support of his bills designed to ease the money crunch and regulations the state puts on local governments;

e. Withhold payments to the state for unfunded mandated programs as Gaston County has done; and/or

f. Initiate legal action as individuals or as a board to obtain injunction relief from the unfunded mandated programs and services.

3. The Columbus County Board of Commissioners hereby enlists the support of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and its comparable body in South Carolina to become full partners in this effort and requests that these Associations' Board of Directors address this matter at their next meeting.

4. That this resolution be delivered to the Chair of each county in North Carolina and South Carolina for consideration and written endorsement by each Board of County Commissioners and that all counties be asked to join with other counties in taking

unified, proactive measures to correct the injustices of these unfunded mandated programs and services.

5. That each Board of County Commissioners request their respective legislators, both state and federal to support this effort and to vote in the negative on any and all mandated programs that are not to be fully funded by their respective bodies.

6. That the Columbus County Board of Commissioners further encourages the passage of House Bill 233 and 234 in North Carolina Legislature and H. R. 140 and H. R. 886 in the United States Congress.

Adopted this 26th day of April, 1993.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF

ATTEST:

COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk /s/ Samuel G. Koonce, Chairman

DRUG FORFEITURE

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to authorize the proper county official to execute the proper documents that would protect the banks, state, and county against a loss should the checks (that are lost) reappear that was disbursed by the N. C. Department of Revenue Drug Funds.

APPOINTMENTS - 911 SURCHARGE COMMITTEE

Chairman Koonce appointed the following Commissioners to serve on the 911 Surcharge Committee:

Mike Richardson, Chairman

Ed Worley

Sammie Jacobs

APPOINTMENTS - HOSPITAL BOARD APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman Koonce appointed the following Commissioners to serve on the Columbus County Hospital Appointment Committee:

Lynwood Norris, Chairman

A. Dial Gray, III

C. W. Williams

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:10 P.M.

J. D. Smith
Clerk to the Board

APPROVED:
S. B. Koon
Chairman