

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 7:15 P.M., May 20, 1996, for the purpose of holding a public hearing and at 7:30 P.M. for a regularly scheduled Board Meeting, it being the third 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

PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED INSTALLMENT PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Chairman Britt called the public hearing to order at 7:15 P.M.

Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, advised the public in attendance that the purpose of the public hearing is to receive citizen's input on a proposed Installment Purchase Agreement between the County and a North Carolina nonprofit corporation and related documents under which the County would obtain financing pursuant to Section 160A-20 of the General Statutes of North Carolina of the acquisition, construction and equipping of a project consisting of (a) new facilities for offices and support services of the County's Register of Deeds and Agricultural Services Agencies and renovations to existing

Courthouse, and (b) parking facilities, streets, drainage facilities and other site improvements, including landscaping, related to such facilities and improvements.

Chairman Britt requested anyone in attendance who wished to speak to state their name.

There were no comments.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to close the public hearing at 7:20 P.M.

BOARD MEETING (REGULARLY SCHEDULED)

Chairman Spruell R. Britt called the meeting to order and Commissioner C.W. Williams gave the invocation.

BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and passed unanimously to approve the Minutes of the May 6, 1996, Board Meeting as recorded.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

Tax Releases:

Thomas P. & Barbara Freed: F-1-17, 60% of house destroyed by fire on 12-21-94. Amount \$242.42, valuation \$31,080, year 1995, account #12-08700.

Lacy Charles Mincey: Mobile home sold in August, 1994 and moved to Mullins, S.C. Amount \$32.14, valuation \$4,120, year 1995, account #10-12271.

Willie P. Moore: S-1-38 (1 acre tract) double listed and combined with the 17.80 acre tract of Genora Moore on map S-1-36. Amount \$318.02, valuation \$41,950, years 1986-95, account #04-11940.

Painwebber Preferred Field Fund: Late List clerical error. Amount \$ 3.63, year 1995, account #04-12418.

William & Viola Prince: I-14-26, house vacant. Amount \$60.00, year 1995, account #06-30420.

Israel Ward: H-3-3, double-listed to #13-41920, David Ward Heirs on H-3-28. Amount \$1,118.03, valuation \$150,480, years 1986-1995, account #13-42120.

Refunds:

Ordered: that a tax refund be issued to Gary Eugene Cooke, 205 Church Street, Abbeville, SC 29620, in the amount of \$50.00, for year 1995. Property located on map L-1-9 is not located in the North Whiteville Fire District. Valuation \$1,200, account #05-01460.

Budget Amendments:

Increase 10-335-0000 Miscellaneous Revenue (Settlement for wrecked vehicle)	\$1,221.00
Expend 10-510-1700 Maintenance & Repair to Vehicles	1,221.00
Accept 10-348-0103 Criminal Justice Partnership Grant	41,352.00
Expend as follows:	
10-516-0200 Salaries	3,917.00
10-516-0500 FICA	300.00
10-516-0600 Hospital Insurance	366.00
10-516-1100 Telephone	400.00
10-516-1101 Postage	300.00
10-516-1400 Travel	854.00
10-516-3200 Office Supplies	4,965.00
10-516-4500 Contract	26,750.00
10-516-7400 Capital Outlay	5,000.00
Decrease 10-660-9999 Contingency - (County portion of grant)	(1,500.00)
Accept 10-348-1403 Migrant Health State Funds	19,500.00
Expend as follows:	
10-576-1400 Travel	1,000.00
10-576-4500 Contracted Services	18,500.00
Accept 10-348-0601 State Funds - Childhood Lead Poisoning	686.00
Expend 10-590-5701 Childhood Lead Poisoning	686.00
Increase 10-335-0000 Miscellaneous Revenue	1,210.00
Expend 10-605-74 Capital Outlay	1,210.00
Increase 20-397-0000 Contribution-Hospital	253,875.00
Decrease 20-397-1000 Contribution - General Fund	(253,875.00)

WILDLIFE - SPOTLIGHTING DEER REGULATIONS TO REMAIN AS IS

A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to leave the regulations regarding spotlighting as they exist in the General Statutes for Columbus County. Further, the Administrator was directed to contact the Wildlife Commission, N. C. Highway Patrol and the Columbus County Sheriff's Department to make a concerted effort to enforce the existing law and punishment of those persons who are caught in the illegal activity of spotlighting deer in Columbus County.

SCHOOLS - WEST COLUMBUS REQUEST FOR AUDITORIUM

Approximately forty (40) students, parents and teachers from West Columbus High School were present to express support for an auditorium. Events such as plays and graduation are staged in the gymnasium, which has no permanent seating, no air conditioning and terrible acoustics. Students requested the Board to consider funding for an auditorium for West Columbus High School. A petition of 1,324 names was presented.

Chairman Britt acknowledged the need for the auditorium and stated that the students, parents and faculty have the Board's support. The Chairman further stated the Board of Commissioners provides local funding for the county school board, but cannot designate how the board spends the money.

RESOLUTION - PRIVATE FINANCING OF PUBLIC FACILITIES

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

RESOLUTION

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Columbus County, North Carolina, at their regular meeting on the 20th day of May, 1996, at Whiteville, Columbus County, North Carolina, unanimously adopted the following Resolution.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, it has been determined that Columbus County is grossly inadequate in providing functional court facilities; and

WHEREAS, it has also been determined that the construction of new facilities would afford needed space in the existing Courthouse, as well as the Courthouse Annex; and

WHEREAS, Columbus County would be more service oriented by the construction of a new Register of Deeds Office and an Agricultural Agency Building to serve all aspects of the farming community in Columbus County; and

WHEREAS, Columbus County's intentions are to place the financing for the construction of the facilities and renovations with a private lending institution as provided by the North Carolina General Statute 160A-20; and

WHEREAS, Columbus County will finance an amount not to exceed two million five hundred thousand and 00/100 (\$2,500,000.00) dollars for the project; and

WHEREAS, Columbus County would be able to reimburse itself for portions of the project through federal reimbursements; and

WHEREAS, the proposed contract is necessary or expedient because (State facts supporting a conclusion that the undertaking is necessary and/or expedient for the contracting unit); and

WHEREAS, the proposed contract is preferable to a bond issue for the same purpose because (State facts supporting a conclusion that the proposed contract or agreement, under the circumstances, is preferable to a general obligation or revenue bond issue for the same purpose. Specifically, (i) show that the cost of the proposed undertaking exceeds the amount that can be prudently raised from currently available appropriations, unappropriated fund balances, and non-voted bonds that could be issued by the contracting unit in the current fiscal year pursuant to Article V, Section 4, of the North Carolina Constitution (the "two-thirds limitation"); (ii) cite reasons and justifications for choosing the contract method of financing rather than a non-voted general obligation bond issue, a voted general obligation bond issue, or a revenue bond issue).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners endorse this project and its method of financing.

ADOPTED this the 20th day of May, 1996.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Spruell R. Britt, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - BILLBOARDS IN COLUMBUS COUNTY

Robert Adams, a concerned citizen, addressed the Board in regards to billboards on primary thoroughfares in Columbus County and requested the Board to restrict billboards on the new construction that is scheduled for the County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to instruct Dempsey B. Herring, Administrator, to contact the North Carolina Department of Transportation and find out what the policy will be with the new road construction in the County, in particular the four-lane segment of U.S. 74 from the County line at Boardman to its connection point at Chadbourn in regards to billboard and other types of advertising signs.

CAPE FEAR RIVER PROGRAM - REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Camilla M. Herlevich, Executive Director for the Cape Fear River Program, addressed the Board requesting funding in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the Cape Fear River Program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to take Ms. Herlevich's request under advisement.

FIRE - PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR YAM CITY FIRE SERVICE DISTRICT EXTENSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, Seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to schedule a public hearing for a tax service district for the extension of the Yam City Fire District for 7:00 P.M., June 27, 1996, with location to be announced.

FIRE - PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP FIRE SERVICE DISTRICT EXTENSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to schedule a public hearing for a tax service district for the extension of the Williams Township Fire District for 7:00 P.M., June 25, 1996, with location to be announced.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES - APPROVAL OF APPOINTING A STUDY COMMITTEE

Deuce Niven and Butch Meares, representing medical services throughout Columbus County, addressed the Board in regards to the 1996-97 proposed appropriation of \$200,000 toward daytime Emergency Medical Services for Columbus County and a tentative plan to allocate equal amounts among nine (9) volunteer rescue departments. Mr. Meares requested that the Board appoint a study committee to develop a five-year plan for improving Emergency Medical Services in Columbus County.

The Board reached a general consensus for the Administrator to conduct a meeting with the rescue departments to form a study committee to be appointed with representation from each rescue department, a Commissioner and Administrator and present to the Board for consideration of approval.

SHERIFF - 1995 ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED

Jimmy Ferguson, Sheriff, presented the Board with a copy of the Columbus County Sheriff's Department 1995 Annual Report.

LIBRARY - TABLED REQUEST FOR DEBORAH MARRS TO BECOME PERMANENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to table the request from the Library Board of Directors that Deborah Marrs' probation period end and she be classified as the Library Director on a permanent basis.

ORDINANCE (CAPITAL PROJECT) - AIRPORT LAND ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION RUNWAY EXTENSION.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and passed unanimously to approve the following Capital Project Ordinance for the Columbus County Airport Land Acquisition and Construction Runway Extension.

COLUMBUS COUNTY AIRPORT

CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus, North Carolina, that pursuant to Section 159-13.2 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following Capital Project Ordinance is **HEREBY ADOPTED**:

SECTION 1. The project authorized is the Columbus County Airport Land Acquisition and Construction Runway Extension (Project Number 9.9933960).

SECTION 2. The project director is hereby directed to proceed with the construction of the project within the terms of the various grant and loan agreements executed with the Federal and State governments in accordance with the limitations set forth in Section 143 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, and within the funds appropriated herein.

SECTION 3. The following revenues are anticipated to be available to the County to complete the project:

N.C. Dept. Of Transportation (State Aid to Airports) (Account Number 60-348-9600)	\$941,822
County Appropriation (Account Number 60-397-1500).	\$150,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$1,091,822

SECTION 4. The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

State Aid for Airport Land Acquisition and Construction Runway Extension	\$ 941,822
County Appropriation - Airport Project 9.9933960 (Expenditure Account Number 60-650-7300)	\$150,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$1,091,822

SECTION 5. The Finance Officer is directed to report quarterly on the financial status of the project. She shall also keep the Governing Body informed at each regular meeting of any unusual occurrence.

SECTION 6. Copies of the Capital Project Ordinance shall be made available to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out the project.

ADOPTED this 20th day of May, 1996.

LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS - GREG PARKER ADDRESSED THE BOARD

Greg Parker, a concerned citizen, addressed the Board in regards to hog operations in Columbus County and presented the Board with recommendations from concerned citizens in resolving hog issues in North Carolina. Mr. Parker also requested representation from the Board to attend a meeting to be held in Raleigh in regards to intensive livestock operations legislation on May 21, 1996.

Commissioner Sammie Jacobs and Administrator Dempsey B. Herring agreed to attend the meeting in Raleigh, NC.

LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS - MS. ELIZABETH JACOBS N. C. FOLK HERITAGE AWARD

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and passed unanimously to direct Administration to write a "letter of congratulations" to Ms. Elizabeth Jacobs on being the recipient of the prestigious North Carolina Folk Heritage Award.

BUILDINGS (COURTHOUSE) - BID AWARD FOR WIRING COURTHOUSE

Dempsey B. Herring, Administrator, presented the Board with the following informal bids that were received on May 15 1996, in connection with installing a new 1000 amp service, power wiring and miscellaneous disconnects in connection with new Heating and Cooling equipment furnished under Pridgen Brothers Mechanical Contractor for the Columbus County Courthouse as follows:

Richardson Electrical Contractor	\$42,458.00
Ashley Electrical, Incorporated	34,835.00
S & P Electrical & Plumbing Contractors, Inc.	28,875.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and passed unanimously to award the bid to the lowest bidder, S & P Electrical & Plumbing Contractors, Inc., in the amount of TWENTY EIGHT THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE DOLLARS (\$28,875.00).

1996-97 BUDGET (PROPOSED) - ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNING BODY

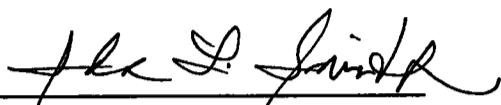
Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, presented the Board with the 1996-97 Columbus County Proposed Budget for their acceptance and consideration for a grand total of FORTY-NINE MILLION, SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-TWO THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THREE DOLLARS (\$49,742,253.00). The Administrator gave the Board an overview of the 1996-97 Proposed Operating Budget. The 1996-97 Proposed Budget is on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board for public inspection.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to accept the 1996-97 Proposed Budget for consideration


and schedule a Budget Work Session for May 23, 1996 at 7:00 P.M. at the Columbus County Administration Conference Room.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 P.M.



Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

APPROVED:


Spruell R. Britt, Chairman