

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., June 3, 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

Lynwood Norris

C.W. Williams

James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney

Dempsey B. Herring
Administrator

Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

ABSENT:

Sammie Jacobs

Chairman Britt called the meeting to order and Ed Worley, Aging Director, gave the invocation.

BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to approve the May 20, and May 23, 1996 Board Minutes, as recorded.

TAX RELEASES & REFUNDS

A motion was motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and passed unanimously to approve the tax releases and refunds as follows:

William Eugene Anderson: HB-3-149, 1985 (14 x 70) mobile home repossessed prior to 1-1-95. Amount \$110.40, valuation \$6,000, year 1995, account #11-00360.

Steven Curtis Core: Camper located in campground. User fees double-billed. Amount \$60.00, year 1995, account #11-06743.

James Winston Cox: I-14-25, house vacant. Amount \$60.00, year 1995, account #07-02740.

Flynn Trucking Company, Cort.: Utility trailers (1979 Frtl & 1981 John) double-listed to George Curtis Flynn, Jr., on #15-14040. Amount \$35.44, valuation \$4,130, year 1992, account #17-11394.

Velma J. Gore: J-13-6D, house burned in 1993. Amount \$198.06, valuation \$17,700, year 1995, account #06-14759.

Anthony Wayne Martin: Personal property (boat & motor) sold November, 1993. Amount \$72.32, valuation \$9,272, year 1995, account #01-59300.

Lacy Charles Mincey: Mobile home was sold in August, 1994. Amount \$60.00, valuation \$4,120, year 1995, account #10-12271.

Debbie Faye Nobles: Building located on G-8-1A not a dwelling but a storage building. Amount \$60.00, year 1995, account #09-22093.

Ray Noble: 1990 Travel Trailer (camper) priced as a 1991 year model through error. Amount \$22.93, valuation \$1,430, year 1995, account #08-13844.

Andrew Pridgen: Mobile home (1989 - 14 x 70) sold in 1994 to Marty & Elizabeth Lewis; mobile home double-listed on #01-53059. Amount \$141.76, valuation \$9,530, year 1995, account #01-73250.

Waccamaw Lumber Corporation: M-16-48, deferred property billed through error with \$13,700 valuation instead of \$10,800. Amount \$85.55, valuation \$11,600, year

1995, year 1995 for 92, 93, 94, account #07-18440,

William Thurman Ward: 3 vehicles (1977 Chevrolet 1971 Chevrolet and 1986 Dodge Truck) double-listed to William T. Ward on #03-28200. Amount \$88.17, valuation \$9,320, year 1987, account #17-39605.

Ordered: That a tax refund be issued to G.E. Turbeville, Route 1, Box 90, Chadbourn, NC, 28431, in the amount of \$57.12, for years 1994 and 1995. Storage bins sold in 1994 and double-listed to J.B. McPherson on F-7-59. Valuation \$6,800, account #13-41343.

Ordered: That a tax refund be issued to Mrs Louise Powell, 1563 Sam Potts Highway, Hallsboro, NC 28442, in the amount of \$163,80, for year 1994. M-5-21 billed through error with wrong house. Rebilled to C.Y. Powell, III on L-5-15. Valuation \$19,500, account #11-20880.

INSURANCE (MEDICAL) - REQUEST FROM DR. WEBSTER TO INCLUDE CHIROPRACTIC CARE

Dr. John A. Webster, Chiropractic Physician, addressed the Board in regards to the County changing health insurance carriers from Blue-Cross Blue-Shield to Healthsource which does not cover chiropractic care and requested the Board to consider including chiropractic care to the Healthsource Policy. Dr. Webster reviewed services provided by chiropractic care.

Chairman Britt advised Dr. Webster that his request will be taken into consideration. Also, Chairman Britt instructed Dempsey Herring, Administrator, to conduct a survey to determine the interest in Chiropractic Care for County Employees.

AGING (CONGREGATE NUTRITION BIDS) - DELETED FROM AGENDA

Ed Worley, Aging Director, advised the Board that three (3) bids were not received for Congregate Nutrition and requested the Board to delete the item from the Agenda.

The Board concurred with Mr. Worley's request.

PERSONNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE - APPROVAL TO FORMULATE A PLAN

Dempsey B. Herring, Administrator, addressed the Board in regards to the

formulation of a Personnel Advisory Committee. Mr. Herring advised the Board of the proposed specific duties of the Personnel Advisory Committee.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to permit the Administrator to formulate a Personnel Advisory Committee plan and present to the Board for consideration of adoption.

RESOLUTION - SOCIAL PROGRAM MANDATES

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

SOCIAL PROGRAM MANDATES

RESOLUTION - 1996

WHEREAS, Columbus County is a political subdivision of North Carolina which is dedicated to the principles of accountability and responsible government; and

WHEREAS, the increase of unfunded mandates has placed a severe financial burden on Columbus County and its taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, since fiscal year 1991-92, Columbus County has experienced over one hundred fifty (150%) percent increase in the local share of Medicaid funding and in the 1996-97 Budget Year, Columbus County is mandated to appropriate from local tax dollars three million one hundred thirty-four thousand seven hundred six (\$3,134,706.00) dollars for Medicaid. This results in a five hundred sixty-seven thousand and 00/100 (\$567,000.00) dollars increase over Fiscal Year 1995-1996, which equates to approximately eighteen (\$.18) cents of the seventy-eight (\$.78) cents per hundred Ad Valorem Tax rate; and

WHEREAS, as when combined with required AFDC payments and required Administration cost, Columbus County appropriations reach the forty (40%) percent range of the County's Tax Rate; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is one of a very few states in the United States which requires counties to match five (5%) percent of Medicaid cost, as well as a five (5%) percent AFDC match. Further, North Carolina is the only state which requires counties to

match up to fifty (50%) percent in Administrative cost in social programs. The costs are placed on local tax payers and creates severe hardship on rural counties experiencing low growth in tax base and where a large portion of the population is poor and elderly.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners implore the State of North Carolina to assume responsibility and financial liability for all social programs. The excessive fiscal strain placed on Columbus County by unfunded mandates limits and restricts the County's ability to provide basic services to the citizens of the County, as well as the need for funding infrastructure, capital needs and the public schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor of North Carolina, the Lieutenant Governor, the president Pro Tempore of the North Carolina Senate, the Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, to all members of the Columbus County Legislative Delegations, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and the Chairperson or Manager of all the counties in North Carolina.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ SPRUELL R. BRITT, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

IDA L. SMITH, Clerk to Board

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED - 1996-97 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to schedule a public hearing for the 1996-97 Proposed Operating Budget for 7:30 P.M., Monday, June 17, 1996.

APPOINTMENT - BOARD OF HEALTH

A motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to appoint Earl Fowler to serve on the Board of Health to replace Graham Rooks, with term expiring December 31, 1998.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED - SECONDARY ROADS CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to schedule a Public Hearing for the proposed Secondary Roads Construction Program, Fiscal Year 1996-97 for 7:00 P.M., Monday, June 17, 1996 at the Columbus County Courthouse, Superior Courtroom.

MENTAL HEALTH - APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS THROUGH NCDOT

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to support the Transportation Board in an effort to obtain continuation of Administrative Funds available through the North Carolina Department of Transportation for Coordinated Human Service Transportation Programs.

CONTRACT - SOCIAL SERVICES FOOD STAMPS DISTRIBUTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to approve a Contract for the food stamp distribution in the amount of forty-four cents (\$0.44) per envelope with Cost Containment, Incorporated and the Columbus County Department of Social Services. The term of the contract shall be for one (1) year with options for the County to continue for two (2) consecutive one year periods, each with all terms of the contract including quality of service, to remain constant for the duration of the Contract. A copy of the Contract is on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board.

SOCIAL SERVICES - ACCREDITATION PROCESS

Larry Moore, Social Services Director, informed the Board that the Department of Social Services is in the accreditation process and requested a County Commissioner to assist with the process.

Also, Mr. Moore advised the Board that Mike Richardson's appointment to the Social Services Board will expire June 30, 1996.

The Chairman advised Mr. Moore that the Commissioner(s) serving on the Board of Social Services will be the appropriate person(s) to help with the accreditation

process.

FIRE & RESCUE - RADIO APPROVALS FOR CERRO GORDO AND FAIR BLUFF

Dempsey B. Herring, Administrator, reported that requests for radios for new equipment have been received from the Cerro Gordo and Fair Bluff Volunteer Fire Departments. The bids are as follows:

Piedmont Communications	(VHF)	\$724.50
Communication Specialists	(VHF)	\$650.00
Communication Specialists (Alternate)	(VHF)	\$495.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to award the bid to Communication Specialists in the amount of \$495.00 each for radios for Cerro Gordo and Fair Bluff Volunteer Fire Departments with purchase to be coordinated through the Fire Marshal's Office. Also, appropriate funds in the amount of \$990.00 from Non-Departmental - Contingency (10-660-9999) to be expended in Special Appropriations (10-690-9501) Fire & Rescue Department Radios.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - STATEWIDE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

John Soles, Rural Water and Wastewater Program Coordinator for The Rural Center, addressed the Board in regards to a proposed state-wide effort by The Rural Center to map out and inventory all existing water and sewer systems in rural counties. The Lower Cape Fear Water & Sewer Authority and the Cape Fear Council of Governments are also involved with the study. All three (3) organizations are working to put together a funding plan to finance the project for the southeastern North Carolina Counties. Mr. Soles reported that Columbus County's share of the project will be \$9,752.00. Mr. Kurt Taubee, reported that the Lower Cape Fear Water & Sewer will commit to provide \$1,595.00 toward Columbus County's cost share portion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to instruct Dempsey B. Herring, Administrator to do a feasibility

study on the proposal and present to the Board for consideration.

BUDGET (1996-97 PROPOSED) - DEPARTMENTS REQUESTING ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Library: Deborah Marrs, Director, requested 1 ½ additional positions for the Main Library as she deleted 3 ½ positions in Fiscal Year 1995-96 and used the funds on books. The additional cost in salaries will be approximately \$16,000.00.

Sheriff: Jimmy Ferguson requested the following additional employees. One (1) full time nurse for the Detention Center, one (1) cook, and five (5) additional officers. The five (5) additional officers can be obtained through a federal grant for three (3) years with the state providing 75% funding and the county providing 25%. The grant includes salary and fringe benefits only. The County will have to provide cars, weapons, radios and uniforms.

Tax: Bill Brooks, Administrator, requested a clerical person to assist with Geographic Information System (GIS) at a total cost (including fringe benefits) \$18,336.00.

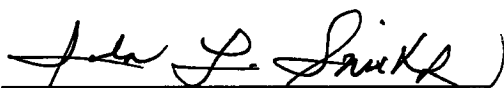
Mental Health: Tommy Holmes, Director, requested the Board to fund the Mental Health Department \$120,000 as they have in the past; in the proposed budget the amount of funding has been reduced by \$20,000.

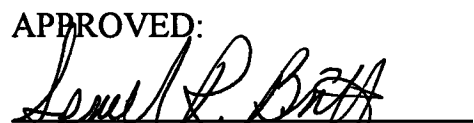
CONTRACT APPROVAL - PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to approve the Contract for the Pipeline Construction contingent upon the approval of James E Hill, Jr., County Attorney.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 A.M.


Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

APPROVED:

Spruell R. Britt, Chairman