

**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 7:30 P.M., July 15, 1996, 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

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 Commissioner Wilson gave the invocation.

**BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to approve the following Board Minutes as recorded: June 17, 19, 20, 25, 27, and 28, 1996.

**TAX RELEASES**

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

by the Tax Administrator.

Honoree Bullard: Discovered vehicle (1987 Dodge) did not have on 1-1-92. Amount \$36.74, valuation \$4,840, year 1992, account #17-04930.

Alice Faye Pope Butler: House double-listed to Lisa Faye Butler since 1991 on map J-6C-42 on account #01-11223. Amount \$755.03, valuation \$75,300, years 1993-95, account #01-11020.

Anthony Ray Cummings: Discovered vehicle (1978 Ford) double-listed to Anthony & Ann Cummings on regular list #11-07415. Amount \$109.88, valuation \$1,320, year 1989, account #17-08212.

Ordered: That a refund check be issued to Parnell McLelland, 408 East First Avenue, Chadbourn, NC 28431, in the amount of \$217.60, for year 1995 only. Amount \$217.60, valuation \$25,600, year 1995, account #13-26164. H-5-47 (35.64 acres) acreage breakdown incorrect.

Annie F. Walker: Failed to receive the Senior-Citizen's exemption on her lot and house valued \$11,100, map W-1-49, year 1994 and 1995. Amount \$283.14, valuation \$22,200, year 1994-95, account #15-37160.

James Richard Ward: N-3-16, Leasehold (house value \$16,900) double-listed to Woodrow & Annie P. Ward N-3-15P on #14-17378. Amount \$191.82, valuation \$16,900, year 1995, account #02-01649.

James Richard Ward: Vehicle discovery, 1984 Buick never owned - clerical error. Amount \$24.21, valuation \$3,190, year 1991, account #17-38654.

Robert Gale Whitehead: E-6-116, farm equipment keyed-in under M. Home through error. Amount \$90.00, year 1991, account #16-17100.

Glenn B. Williamson: C-3-28, house demolished by fire prior to 1994. Amount \$344.10, valuation \$33,000, years 1994-95, account #12-30600.

Ordered: That a refund check be issued to Bobby J. & Debbie Jones, 428 Seal Street, Tabor City, NC 28463, in the amount of \$365.56 for years 1994 and 1996. Double-wide mobile home valued \$21,400 not on map TC-1-138. Rebilled to Tommy & Estelle Strickland, map TC-1-137D. Amount \$365.56, valuation \$42,800, years 1994-95, account #06-21623.

Ordered: That a refund check be issued to The News Reporter, P.O. Box 707, Whiteville, NC 28472, in the amount of \$17.38, for years 1994 and 1995. WH-5-117, lot double-listed to WH-5-107 (News Reporter). Amount \$17.38, valuation \$2,200, years 1994-95, account #01-65420.

Ordered: That a refund check be issued to National Spinning Company, Inc. Attn/Accounting, Post Office Box 191, Washington, NC, 27889, in the amount of \$3,893.97, for year 1995. Error in their 1995 rendition. They listed equipment that had been disposed of prior to 1-1-95. Valuation \$458,114, account #01-64881.

**TAX - APPROVAL OF INSOLVENT PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR 1990**

Ida McPherson, representing the Tax Department, presented the Board with the insolvent personal property list for 1990 in the amount of \$101,399.57 for consideration of approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to approve the insolvent personal property list for 1990 in the amount of \$101,399.57 as presented by Ms. McPherson. A copy of the insolvent list is on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board.

**RESOLUTION - REQUEST TO ADD HILLCREST VILLAGE OFF SR 1002 TO STATE MAINTAINED SYSTEM**

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

North Carolina  
County of Columbus  
Road Description: Hillcrest Village off SR 1002

WHEREAS, the attached petition has been filed with the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Columbus requesting the above described road, the location of which has been indicated in red on the attached map, be added to the Secondary Road System; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is of the opinion that the above described road should be added to the Secondary Road System, if the road meets minimum standards and criteria established by the Division of Highways of the Department of Transportation for the addition of roads to the System.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Columbus that the Division of Highways is hereby requested to review the above described road, and to take over the road for maintenance if it meets established standards and criteria.

CERTIFICATE

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus at a meeting on the 15th day of July, 1996.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this the 15th day of July, 1996.

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

(SEAL)

**INSPECTIONS - REQUEST A POLICY TO CHARGE MUNICIPALITIES A FEE  
TABLED**

Jerry Pridgen, Chairman of the Inspections Advisory Board, requested the Board to consider adopting a policy to charge municipalities a fee of \$25.00 when the County Inspectors fill in for municipalities during their inspectors absence from work.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Dutton to table the request to charge municipalities a fee of \$25.00 for work performed by the County Inspectors until the Administrator can check the records indicating the number of inspections made by the County for municipalities.

**INSPECTIONS - REQUEST FOR ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS TO BECOME A  
COUNTY INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT**

Bill Ashley, a member of the Inspections Advisory Board, requested the Board to consider placing the electrical inspectors under the umbrella of the Inspections Department to allow the County to set consistent fees and have a check off list of items when inspections are preformed. At the present, we have four (4) electrical inspectors throughout the County who perform this service on a private basis for the County but the County holds the liability for electrical inspections.

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

**GOVERNING BODY - DESIGNATION OF A VOTING DELEGATE FOR THE 89TH ANNUAL NCACC CONFERENCE**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to designate Commission Chairman Spruell Randolph Britt as voting delegate for Columbus County at the 89th Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners to be held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, on August 22-25, 1996.

**APPOINTMENT - HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to reappoint Haynes Graham to serve on the Housing Advisory Committee, to represent Zone 3, for a two (2) year term, expiring June 30, 1998.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - CDBG GRANT DOCUMENTS APPROVED FOR HAWORTH**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Gray and passed unanimously to adopt the following documents for the Haworth, Incorporation Economic Development Grant:

Grant Agreement;  
 Funding Approval;  
 Re-Sale Agreement;  
 Pipeline Operating Agreement (NCNG mailing to County on 7-5-96);  
 Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan;  
 Recipient's Plan to Further Fair Housing;  
 Resolution to Further Fair Housing;  
 Procurement Policy for CDBG Project;  
 Section 519 Certification;  
 Citizen Participation Plan;  
 Community Development Code of Conduct;  
 Food Plain Certification;  
 Project Budget Ordinance;  
 Section 3 Plan for Employment Opportunities for Businesses & Lower Income Persons;  
 Equal Employment and Procurement Plan; and  
 Resolution for Requisitions and Check Signatures as follows:

**COLUMBUS COUNTY  
 RESOLUTION FOR REQUISITION AND CHECK SIGNATURES  
 AND  
 ADMINISTRATION OF THE COLUMBUS COUNTY  
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

WHEREAS, in order to receive Community Development Block Grant funds, Columbus County must authorize persons to sign the requisition forms for Community

Development funds and checks for the Haworth, Inc. Economic Development Grant project;  
and

WHEREAS, in order to carry out all the activities of the Community Development Block Grant project, Columbus County will authorize persons to administer the program and execute all applicable documents;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Dempsey B. Herring, Spruell R. Britt, Gayle B. Godwin, and Steve Yost be authorized to execute the signature requirements for requisitions of Community Development Block Grant funds and checks for disbursements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dempsey B. Herring, Spruell R. Britt, Gayle B. Godwin, and Steve Yost be also authorized to administer the Community Development Block Grant Program and execute all applicable documents.

ADOPTED, this the 15th day of July, 1996.

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

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

(SEAL)

**SHERIFF - POLICY FOR ISSUANCE OF WEAPONS TO RETIRING DEPUTIES**

Sheriff Jimmy Ferguson requested the Board to establish a County Policy for the issuance of weapons to retiring Deputies. Sheriff Ferguson requested that the Sheriff be authorized to allow Officers retiring with at least fifteen (15) years of service to purchase their weapons for a sum of ten (\$10.00) dollars.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to adopt a County Policy for the issuance of weapons to retiring Law Enforcement Officers with at least fifteen (15) years of service to purchase their weapons for a sum of ten (\$10.00) dollars.

**SHERIFF - EQUIPMENT GRANT APPROVED**

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to approve a Local Law Enforcement Grant Application to the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$30,961.00 with the County matching \$3,096.10, to be absorbed within the Sheriff's Department Budget, for a total of \$34,057.10, to be used for equipment only.

**INTERAGENCY TRANSPORTATION - APPROVAL OF ELDERLY AND DISABLED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FUNDS**

Tommy Holmes, Chairman of the Columbus County Interagency Transportation, Incorporated, requested the Board to support the continuation of Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program funds available through the North Carolina Department of Transportation for Coordinated Human Service Transportation Programs. The amount allocated for Columbus County for Fiscal Year 1997 is \$28,196.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to approve the continuation of Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program funds available through the North Carolina Department of Transportation for Coordinated Human Service Transportation Programs in the amount of \$28,196.00.

**BUDGET AMENDMENT - SOCIAL SERVICES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Gray and passed unanimously to approve the following budget amendment for Social Services.

Accept 10-348-2000 State Grant for IV-D/ACTS	\$18,060.00
Expend 10-610-0200 Salaries-Temporary Employment	\$18,060.00

**LIVESTOCK - PRESENTATION ON HOG WASTE REPORT IN COLUMBUS COUNTY BY THOMAS J. HOBAN, PH.D**

Thomas J. Hoban, PH.D, Extension Sociology Specialist with the North Carolina State University, presented the Board with a hog waste report in Columbus County prepared by N. C. State University of focused groups conducted with citizens and leaders. A copy of the report is on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board.

**HOSPITAL (COLUMBUS COUNTY) - APPROVAL TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH FIRST UNION FOR FINANCING**

James E. Hill, Jr., representing Columbus County Hospital, made a recommendation to the Board to allow Hollis Sauer, Chief Financial Officer with the Columbus County, to continue negotiations with First Union Bank as their proposal has the best workable financing arrangements for the hospital renovations. A total of five (5) proposals were received.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to allow Mr. Sauer, Chief Financial Officer for the Columbus County Hospital, to continue negotiations for financing the hospital renovations with First Union Bank.

**PROCLAMATION - DECLARING COLUMBUS COUNTY A DISASTER AREA**

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

**PROCLAMATION OF DISASTER DESIGNATION**

**for COLUMBUS COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Columbus County has historically and is, at the present, an agricultural dependent county; and

**WHEREAS**, as farming and farm products are a primary source of the livelihood for a great number of citizens in Columbus County; and

**WHEREAS**, Hurricane Bertha has devastated a major portion of the crops, especially corn and tobacco; and

**WHEREAS**, this hurricane has caused financial disaster for the areas' farm crops in the estimated amount of fifteen (15) million to twenty-five (25) million dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, adjoining counties have been declared disaster counties with similar amounts and same kind of damages.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is earnestly requested by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners that Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., designate Columbus County as a disaster county and that relief be granted to the County; and

**FURTHERMORE**, allow Columbus County to be entitled to any and all benefits that are offered by State and Local agencies which regulate disaster relief.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**/s/ SPRUELL R. BRITT, Chairman**

**ATTESTED BY:**

**/s/ IDA L. SMITH, Clerk to Board**



**CLOSED SESSION**

At 8:15 P.M., a motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Gray and passed unanimously to enter into executive session in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(5).

**RESUME REGULAR SESSION**

At 8:25 P.M., a motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to adjourn closed session and resume regular session.

No action was taken.

**HOSPITAL (COLUMBUS COUNTY) - TWENTY (20) YEAR LEASE (PORTION)****APPROVED**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to approve the following twenty (20 ) year Lease (portion) with the Columbus County Hospital, Incorporated.

The composition of the Columbus County Hospital, Incorporated Board of Trustees shall consist of nine (9) members. All of the present members of the Columbus County Board of Trustees (Bob Deans, E.L. Council, Harry L. Jordan, Carl W. Meares, Jr., A. Paul Rogers, Jr., Thomas Jones, Emogene W. Suggs, L. Lynwood Norris and John Hodgson, M.D.) are hereby re-appointed by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners until their death, resignation or until a vacancy occurs under the other terms and conditions as stated in the present By-Laws of the Columbus County Hospital, Inc. When through either death or resignation or by operation of these By-Laws, a vacancy occurs on the Columbus County Hospital, Incorporated Board of Trustees, the remaining Trustees shall select at least three (3) qualified individuals from each of the Columbus County Commissioners' zone where the vacancy occurred and which is not represented on the then sitting Board of Trustees within thirty (30) days of the vacancy.

These individuals' names shall be nominated by the remaining Trustees of the Columbus County Hospital, Incorporated to the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, by written notice. The Columbus County Board of Commissioners shall make the appointment of the replacement from the names submitted, considering the qualifications of

each nominee within sixty (60) days of the vacancy. If the Columbus County Board of Commissioners shall fail to make the appointment within sixty (60) days of the vacancy, then the remaining members of the Columbus County Hospital Incorporated Board of Trustees shall be reconvened and shall select one (1) of the three (3) nominees previously submitted to the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, who shall be then appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Columbus County Hospital, Incorporated with the full authority and for the same term as any other Trustee.

If the Board of Trustees of the Columbus County Hospital, Incorporated shall fail to submit a list of three (3) nominees within thirty (30) days of the vacancy, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners shall be allowed to appoint a member to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees of the Columbus County Hospital, Incorporated without waiting for nominations, provided the person appointed shall be from one of the Commissioners's zones which is not represented on the Board of Trustees of the Columbus County Hospital, Incorporated.

One (1) member of the Columbus County Board of Trustees shall be the then Chief of Medical Staff of the Columbus County Hospital, Incorporated who shall be a full voting member of the Board. The Chief of the Medical Staff shall be selected by the approved Medical Staff of the Columbus County Hospital, Incorporated.

One (1) member of the Board of Trustees shall be a sitting and acting member of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners who shall be selected by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners. This appointment is an annual appointment and shall be made at each organizational meeting in December of each year by the said Board.

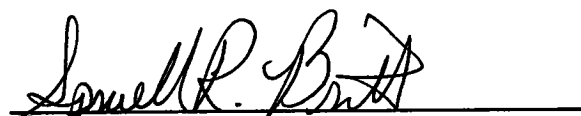
This change shall be made in the twenty (20) year lease which has been previously authorized by this Board of Commissioners on January 16, 1996.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 P.M.

**APPROVED:**

  
 Ida L. Smith, Clerk to the Board

  
 Spruell R. Britt, Chairman