

**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 7:25 P.M. for a Public Hearing and 7:30 P.M., for the regularly scheduled Board Meeting, Monday, November 18, 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

Sammie Jacobs

Lynwood Norris

C.W. Williams

James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney

Dempsey B. Herring  
Administrator

Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

**PUBLIC HEARING**

At 7:25 P.M., Chairman Britt called the Public Hearing to order regarding the application for funding under the U.S. Department of Justice Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program for the Sheriff's Department.

The Chairman requested anyone wishing to speak in regards to the public hearing to be recognized by stating their name.

There were no comments.

**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to close the Public Hearing at 7:27 P.M.

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING COMMENCED**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Spruell R. "Randy" Britt and the invocation was given by Commissioner C.W. Williams.

**BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to approve the Minutes of the November 4, 1996, Board Meeting, as recorded.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and passed unanimously to approve the consent agenda items as follows:

**Tax Releases:**

Lynette Barnes Breeden: F-5-19A, house vacant. Amount \$60.00, year 1996, account #12-08717.

Dawsey Homes, Inc.: WH-3-385A was transferred and billed to Mildred Faulk. Amount \$37.44, valuation \$4,800, year 1996, account #01-20219.

Mary C. Dew: Failed to receive the Senior-citizen's exemption on her mobile home. Amount \$13.68, valuation \$1,520, year 1996, account #15-11980.

Albert Edwards Heirs: D-8-31, house vacant. Amount \$60.00, year 1996, account #16-03840.

Charlie Philip & Dorothy Fowler: Mobile home double-listed to Marrell & Marie Thigpen on #15-36197, as personal property. Amount \$88.98, valuation \$3,220, year 1996, account #15-14360.

Gary W. Gore: Mobile home was moved to South Carolina in 1995. Amount \$87.63, valuation \$3,220, year 1996, account #07-05095.

McRoy Gore, Jr.: J-13-3, poultry house removed prior to 1-1-96. Amount

\$14.17, valuation \$1,610, year 1996, account #06-15000.

Needom Gore Hughes, III: M-16-32, vacant tract. Mobile double-listed to Jennifer McPherson on #03-16052. Amount \$322.08, valuation \$33,600, year 1996, account #07-08781.

Viola Long Jacobs: Discovered vehicle (1987 Plymouth) junked in 1989. Amount \$7.14, valuation \$1,050, year 1990, account #06-20500.

Martin Lewis: Mobile home (1970 year model) double-listed on 15-23960, James Martin. Amount \$8.58, valuation \$1,000 year 1995, account #15-23867.

Townzel & Helen McKissick: Mobile home double-billed - clerical error. Amount \$209.18, valuation \$5,580, year 1995 for years 1994-96, account #15-24960.

Odell McPherson: I-9-135, addition to 2nd house (packhouse converted into dwelling) for 1996 only with valuation of \$27,500. Amount \$1,502.50, valuation \$167,500, year 1996 for years 1991-96, account #09-19520.

Ted McPherson: I-9-141A, Beauty Shop completed in 1995, per affidavit. Amount \$858.92, valuation \$109,000, year 1996 for 1991-1995, account #09-19860.

George B. Nance: G-6A-37, not deferred. Amount \$500.65, valuation \$62,000, year 1995, year 1995 for 1994, year 1995 for 1993, year 1995 for 1992, account #13-28760.

Douglas Nance: E-6-72, house vacant. Amount \$60.00, year 1996, account #16-11420.

Rosa W. T. Norris (Heirs): G-5-81, Second house vacant. Amount \$60.00, year 1996, account #13-31340.

Taft & Beulah Jane Turbeville: I-11-22, vacant house. Amount \$60.00, year 1996, account #09-30880.

Waccamaw Medical Center: Personal property/equipment owned by Columbus County Hospital, tax exempt. Amount \$49.04, valuation \$5,715, year 1996, account #08-19608.

Sylvia D. Ward: V-4-32, house vacant on 1-1-96. Amount \$60.00, year 1996, account #15-37512.

Alicia D. Willard: Did not own mobile home until February of 1996. Amount \$316.96, valuation \$29,200, year 1996, account #07-19089.

James W. Williamson: G-11-1, house vacant. Amount \$36.00, year 1996, account #09-33860.

Shelia Jenkins: D-6-24A, real and personal property located outside city limits. Amount \$9.58, valuation \$4,790, years 1987-88, account #16-09093.

**Refunds:**

Ordered: That a refund check be issued to Dyrell Hill, 209 Green Sea Road, Tabor City, NC 28463, in the amount of \$60.00, for year 1996. H-11-84, house vacant. All taxes paid. Account #09-13680.

Ordered: That a refund check be issued to Patsy Ivey, 12859 James B. White Highway South, Clarendon, NC 28432, in the amount of \$60.00, for year 1996. Vacant service station located on H-10-36B. Account #09-27273.

**Budget Amendments:**

Appropriate 10-399-0000 Fund Balance (Interest earned on grant during FY 95-96)	\$478.00
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Expend as follows:

10-700-9700 E & H Grant - Health Department	\$112.00
10-700-9701 - Aging Department	110.00
10-700-9702 - Social Services	34.00
10-700-9704 - Mental Health	222.00

**PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED - CDBG**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to schedule a public hearing on December 2, 1996 at 8:00 A.M., to receive views and opinions from the citizens of Columbus County on community development and housing needs.

**SHERIFF - BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to allow the Sheriff's Department to apply for funding under the U.S. Department of Justice Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program.

**SOIL CONSERVATION - EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION  
AGREEMENT INFORMATION**

Dempsey B. Herring, Administrator, advised the Board, as a point of information, the Emergency Watershed Protection Agreement that was approved by the Board on November 4, 1996 does require the County to cost share 25% with the Federal Government, which can be recovered from the State upon presenting invoices for services rendered.

**ORDINANCE (FIRE INSPECTION/PREVENTION) - AMENDMENT ADOPTED**

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Gray and passed unanimously to amend the Columbus County Fire Inspection/Prevention Ordinance, dated July 1, 1996, to include the following:

“Any facility storing in excess of the permitted amount of hazardous material will be required to have on file an up-to-date Pre-Fire Plan for Hazardous Materials. This form will be available from the County’s Fire Marshal/Fire Inspector’s Office. The plan will be updated annually. A copy will be kept on site, a copy mailed to the local Fire Chief and a copy mailed to the County’s Fire Marshal/Fire Inspector. This plan/form does not replace any other required documentation. Additionally, the facility will post the required placard on the outside of the facility in a position well visible to the public.”

**FIRE MARSHAL - APPROVAL FOR REPAIR/UPGRADE AIR COMPRESSOR**

Jimmy Jackson, Fire Marshal, reported that the 5 horse power breathing air compressor that is housed at the City of Whiteville Fire Station needs repairs and upgrading and presented the Board with a bid price of \$6,569.00 from Comp-Air Equipment, Incorporated, Charlotte, NC. This compressor is used by all Fire and Rescue Departments located in Columbus County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to commit the County to pay for one-third of the cost contingent upon the City of Whiteville and the Fire and Rescue Association cost-sharing one-third of the cost each.

**FIRE & RESCUE - NORTH WHITEVILLE & OLD DOCK/CYPRESS CREEK****VFD'S RADIO APPROVALS**

Jimmy Jackson, Fire Marshal, reported that requests for radios for new equipment have been received from North Whiteville and Old Dock/Cypress Creek Volunteer Fire Departments. The bids received are as follows:

Piedmont Communications Co., Incorporated	\$1,321.30
Billy Taylor Broadcast & Communications	\$1,428.33
Communication Specialists Company	\$1,227.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and passed unanimously to award the North Whiteville and Old Dock/Cypress Creek Volunteer Fire Departments the sum of ONE THOUSAND FORTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$1,045.00 in accordance with policy adopted 11-19-90) toward the purchase of a radio of their choice to be installed on the newly purchased equipment with the purchase to be coordinated by the Columbus County Fire Marshal. Also, approved a budget amendment appropriating funds in the amount of \$2,090.00 from Non-Departmental Contingency (10-660-9999) to be expended in Special Appropriations (10-690-9501) Fire and Rescue Department Radios.

**APPOINTMENT - VEHICLE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to reappoint Linwood Cartrette to serve on the Columbus County Vehicle Review Committee for a three (3) year term, retroactive to February 1, 1996, with term expiring February 1, 1999.

**GOVERNING BODY - N.C.A.C.C. LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE VOTING****APPOINTMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to designate Commissioner Spruell R. "Randy" Britt as the voting delegate for the 1997 North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Legislative Goals Conference to be held January 9-10, 1997 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel,

Research Triangle Park, NC (Durham County).

**WHITEVILLE (CITY OF) - WATER & SEWER LINES DEDICATION**

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to approve the dedication of Water and Sewer lines and applicable Easements to the City that were extended to Columbus County's Department of Social Services building as per original Water & Sewer Agreement in November of 1994.

**RESOLUTION - CAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY**

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to adopt the following Resolution as presented to Columbus County by Carolina Power and Light Company.

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION  
By the Officers and Employees of  
Carolina Power & Light Company  
To  
COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

**WHEREAS,** Columbus County and its citizens are valued customers, partners and friends of Carolina Power & Light Company; and

**WHEREAS,** Columbus County and its citizens experienced significant damage, discomfort and imposition from Hurricane Fran in early September 1996, including the widespread loss of electric service; and

**WHEREAS,** the citizens of Columbus County exhibited exemplary patience, understanding and teamwork rising above the difficult aftermath of the storm; and

**WHEREAS,** the citizens of Columbus County, as well as local civic and church organizations, assisted Carolina Power & Light in its Operation Restore effort with individual and coordinated acts of kindness and consideration - clearing streets to provide access to line and service crews, helping to feed out-of-state crews and other personnel or simply offering words of encouragement; and

**WHEREAS,** such cooperation by Columbus County and its citizens facilitated the safe restoration of electric service to local Carolina Power & Light Company customers and enhanced and solidified the relationship between Columbus County and

Carolina Power & Light Company.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the officers and employees of Carolina Power & Light Company do acknowledge with deep gratitude the contribution of Columbus County and its citizens during Operation Restore, and do express the highest appreciation for the distinguished service provided locally in aiding the restoration effort.

/s/ H. Thomas Jones, II

Whiteville Area Manager  
Carolina Power & Light Company

**TAX (REVALUATION) - REMARKS BY DAVID MILLIGAN**

David Milligan, a Columbus County resident, addressed the Board in regards to revaluation of personal property.


**LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS - REMARKS BY DR. ROBERT EPLEE**

Dr. Robert Eplee, a Columbus County resident, addressed the Board in regards to Livestock Operations in Columbus County.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 P.M.

APPROVED:

  
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Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

  
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Spruell R. Britt, Chairman