

**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 7:00 P.M., May 13, 1997, for the purpose of a 1997-98 Columbus County Preliminary Budget Work Session.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

C.W. Williams, Chairman

Lynwood Norris, Vice Chairman

Spruell Randolph Britt

David L. Dutton, Jr.

Sammie Jacobs

C.E. Wilson

Dempsey B. Herring  
Administrator

Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

Gayle B. Godwin  
Finance Officer

**ABSENT:**

A. Dial Gray, III, Commissioner

James E. Hill, Jr., County Attorney

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order.

**BUDGET WORK SESSION**

Dempsey B. Herring, Administrator, presented the following overview of the 1997-98 Preliminary Operating Budget for Columbus County and requested guidance from the Board.

1. Solid Waste - The Proposed Amended Ordinance will increase the Solid Waste

User Fees as follows:

Tipping Fee	\$ 30.00/Ton
Collection and Landfill Fee for County Residents	100.00 Annually
Landfill Fee for Municipal Residents	60.00 Annually

Also, amend the Solid Waste Ordinance to rescind exemption categories for Solid Waste User Fees as follows:

- a. House value is below \$4,000.00; and
- b. Mobile home value is below \$2,000.00.

The above listed fees will be used for the operation and collection of solid waste in Columbus County.

- 2. Tax Levy - The projected tax base for Fiscal Year 1997-98 is estimated to be \$2,242,500.00. A \$.70 tax rate has been used with a 96.5% collection rate which equals a total of \$15,148,087.00.
- 3. Education - County and City Schools were proposed a 2% increase in current expense and \$850,000 in capital outlay to be equated by the state formula. Southeastern Community College is proposed a 2% increase in current expense and \$100,000 in capital outlay.
- 4. Salary Adjustments - A 5% across-the-board salary increase has been proposed with the exception of where job descriptions have been revised and additional increases reflect those positions.
- 5. Rescue Departments - The Rescue Departments have requested an additional paid person for daytime calls. This request is not included in the proposed preliminary budget.

There was discussion among the Board Members regarding the 1997-98 Preliminary Proposed Operating Budget and it was a general consensus to direct Dempsey B. Herring, Administrator, to look at options for reducing the proposed tax rate from \$.70 to \$.69.

Chairman Williams declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.