

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., October 19, 1998, for the regularly scheduled Board Meeting, it being the third Monday.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

David L. Dutton, Jr., Chairman

A. Dial Gray, III, Vice Chairman

Spruell Randolph Britt (Departed at 8:05 P.M.)

Sammie Jacobs

Lynwood Norris

C.W. Williams

C.E. Wilson

James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney

Dempsey B. Herring
County Administrator

Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

Chairman David L. Dutton, Jr. called the meeting to order and Commissioner C.E. "Gene" Wilson gave the invocation.

BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously to approve the Minutes of the October 5, 1998, Board Meeting, as recorded.

BUDGET AMENDMENT - LIBRARY

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Britt, and passed unanimously to approve the following budget amendment.

Accept 10-348-3400	State Library Grants	\$5,000.00
	(Local Records Educational Assistance	

Program for Newspaper Indexing Conversion)

Expend as follows:

10-631-7400	Capital Outlay	\$2,485.00
10-631-0200	Salaries	2,325.00
10-631-0500	FICA	190.00

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION - PURCHASE APPROVAL FOR A NO-TILL DRILL

Gilbert Anderson, Soil & Water Conservation District Chairman, requested the County to assist in the purchase of a no-till drill (farm equipment) in the amount of \$22,000.00 for Soil Conservation. This equipment is be rented to small farmers with the proceeds to be used for maintenance and the possibility of purchasing additional no-till drills. Soil Conservation is in the process of applying for a grant which, if funded, will require a fifty percent (50%) match from Columbus County.

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

RESOLUTION - COLUMBUS COUNTY COMMUNITY FARMER'S MARKET

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

RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF

COLUMBUS COUNTY COMMUNITY FARMER'S MARKET

The Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, at their regular meeting on the 19th day of October 1998, in Whiteville, North Carolina, unanimously adopted the following Resolution.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, marketing is critical to farmers across Columbus County not only for traditional fruit and vegetable farmers, but for tobacco producers interested in or making the transition to alternative cropping systems; and

WHEREAS, marketing is one of several opportunities for farmers to market

their produce without going through a middleman; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Community Farmer's Market is in the development stage by the Farmer's Market Planning Committee and the Cooperative Extension Service that is needed to serve our producers in Columbus County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners unanimously supports and endorses the planning, design and development of the Columbus County Community Farmer's Market and encourages interested farmers and any other interested groups to participate in making the Farmer's Market a reality in Columbus County.

ADOPTED this the 19th day of October 1998.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ David L. Dutton, Jr., Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

RESOLUTION - SUPPORT OF REPEALING LEGISLATION THAT LIMITS COUNTY'S ABILITY TO MAKE FUNDING DECISIONS FOR LOCAL AREA AUTHORITIES

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

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION

WHICH WOULD REPEAL THAT PORTION OF GENERAL STATUTE 122C-115(d) THAT LIMITS A COUNTY'S ABILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS ON FUNDING FOR LOCAL AREA AUTHORITIES

The Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, at their regular meeting on the 19th day of October 1998, in Whiteville, North Carolina, unanimously adopted the following Resolution.

W I T N E S S E T H :

WHEREAS, County Commissioners are charged with the responsibility of

being good stewards of county tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, to be effective curators of these tax dollars, County Commissioners must make decisions that will address the needs of our citizens and the ability of taxpayers to fund these needs; and

WHEREAS, General Statute 122C-115(d) abolishes the ability of counties to make these decisions by stating the county appropriations and expenditures for area authorities may not be reduced because of the availability of state-allocated funds, fees, capitation amounts, or fund balance of the area authority; and

WHEREAS, this legislation can mean to many counties that some necessary programs can suffer because of lack of funding because area authorities must be funded at current levels even though the programs they administer have excessive funds at their disposal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners supports legislation that will repeal that portion of General Statute 122C-115(d) which eliminates a county's ability to make decisions on funding for area authorities and requests that local legislators, representing Columbus County, lend their support.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be transmitted to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and all County Chairs in the State of North Carolina requesting that they support this legislation so that control of county tax dollars will remain with each individual county.

ADOPTED this the 19th day of October 1998.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ David L. Dutton, Jr., Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

RESOLUTION - ENDORSEMENT OF PROPOSED STATE BOND ISSUES FOR WATER, SEWER AND NATURAL GAS

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner

Britt and passed unanimously to adopt a Resolution in support of the proposed State Bond Issues for water, sewer and natural gas.

Also, the Board directed Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, to write a letter to the Clean Water and Bonds for Progress Committee and inquire whether or not there will be sufficient, or any funds, provided by the State Bond Issuance to rural areas for the development of rural water systems within Columbus County as this is a major concern of the Board of County Commissioners.

RESOLUTION

**IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED STATE BOND ISSUES FOR
WATER, SEWER AND NATURAL GAS**

The Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, at their regular meeting on the 19th day of October 1998, in Whiteville, North Carolina, unanimously adopted the following Resolution.

W I T N E S S E T H :

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly in its 1998 session ratified Senate Bill 1354 Bonds/Critical Infrastructure Needs, and Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. signed the bill into law and pledged his active support; and

WHEREAS, SB 1354 provides \$800 million in loans and grants for much needed water and wastewater capital projects; and

WHEREAS, SB 1354 provides \$200 million to extend natural gas service into under-served areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, a recent study has identified more than \$11 billion in water and sewer capital needs, and the bonds are a critical step in meeting these long-range infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, the water and sewer bonds will assist local governments in all areas of the state to protect the quality of our surface and drinking water and promote sound economic development; and

WHEREAS, the water, sewer and natural gas bonds will facilitate smart

growth and result in more jobs for North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, the bond issues will help move North Carolina forward.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the bond issues proposed by SB 1354 for water, sewer and natural gas and encourages citizens to vote in favor of these bond issues at the polls on November 3, 1998.

ADOPTED this the 19th day of October 1998.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ David L. Dutton, Jr., Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

INSPECTIONS - AUTHORIZATION TO PERFORM INSPECTIONS IN THE TOWNS OF CHADBOURN & FAIR BLUFF DURING TEMPORARY LEAVES-OF-ABSENCE

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and passed unanimously to approve the Columbus County Inspections Department to perform inspections for the Town of Chadbourn and the Town of Fair Bluff during temporary leaves-of-absence of their Building Inspectors as requested by letter from the Towns of Chadbourn and Fair Bluff.

EMERGENCY SERVICES - REQUEST THE STATE TO PERFORM AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES STUDY OF THE RESCUE SERVICES IN COLUMBUS COUNTY - DELETED FROM AGENDA

The Board concurred to delete item number 10, Emergency Services, from the Agenda as Dempsey Herring, County Administrator, advised the State has agreed to perform an Emergency Medical Services Study of the Rescue Services in Columbus County as of today, October 19, 1998.

APPOINTMENT - COLUMBUS COUNTY HOSPITAL

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner

Wilson, and passed unanimously to appoint Andy Martin to serve on the Columbus County Hospital Board of Directors to replace Harry L. Jordan due to his resignation effective November 30, 1998.

BUDGET AMENDMENT - FINANCE

A motion was made by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and passed unanimously to approve the following budget amendment.

Appropriate 10-660-9999 Contingency	(\$12,500)
Expend 10-470-0402 Professional Services (PER for Water & Sewer District III)	\$12,500

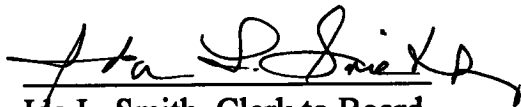
REPORTS

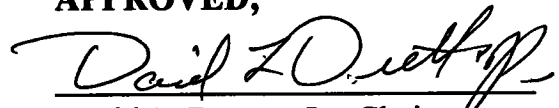
Commissioner Wilson reported on the Four County Food Commodities for June 1998.

Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, reported the Register of Deeds and Board of Elections offices have been moved to their new locations.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 P.M.


Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

APPROVED;

David L. Dutton, Jr., Chairman