

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., May 3, 1999, for the regularly scheduled Board Meeting, it being the first Monday.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

C.E. Wilson, Chairman

Spruell R. Britt

David L. Dutton, Jr.

A. Dial Gray, III

Amon E. McKenzie

Lynwood Norris

James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney

Dempsey B. Herring
County Administrator

Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

ABSENT:

Sammie Jacobs, Vice Chairman

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order and Commissioner Amon E. McKenzie gave the invocation.

BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to approve the Board Minutes of the April 19, 1999 Board Meeting, as recorded.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to approve the following consent agenda items.

Tax Refunds:

Request a refund in the name of Harvey & Elouise C. Bowen, Box 171, Bolton, N.C. 28423. Home double listed in the name of Jimmy Wayne Bowen. Amount \$342.84 (includes 27.65 int.), Value \$33,800, Year 1997, Account #04-01140.

Request a refund in the name of Harvey & Elouise C. Bowen, Box 171, Bolton, N.C. 28423. Home double listed in the name of Jimmy Wayne Bowen. Amount \$315.19, Value \$33,800, Year 1998, Account #04-01140.

Request a refund in the name of Jehrie Lynn Jacobs, 137 Ricefield Rd., Bolton, N.C. 28423. Paid user fee on vacant mobile home. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #04-08241.

Request a refund in the name of P. Gregg & Christie Nealey, 503 West College St., Whiteville, N.C. 28472. Paid county user fee on property located inside the city limits. Amount \$40.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #13-29089.

Request a refund in the name of Marianna Black Robinson, 227 5th St. #B, Encinitas, Ca. 92024. Paid user fee on vacant land. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #11-22941.

Request a refund in the name of Owen Franklin Sellers, 12 Pleasant Hill Rd., Whiteville, N.C. 28472. Paid user fee on vacant house. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #01-80927.

Tax Releases:

Release the user fee in the name of Lee Vern Brown. House vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #12-03780.

Release the user fee in the name of Shannon Long. Fee double listed in the name of Bert Long. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #19-03936.

Release the user fee in the name of Owen Franklin Sellers. Fee double listed in the name of Owen & Sara Sellers. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #19-05227.

Release the user fee in the name of Claire Soles. Fee double listed in the name of Dewitt Simmons. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #19-01615.

Release the user fee in the name of Gilbert Williams. Fee double listed in the name of Gilbert R. & Sharon Williams. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #19-00031.

Release the user fee in the name of Raymond & Connie Young. House is vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1998, Account #08-21561.

Release a portion of the property value in the name of Clyde Vernon & Ollie Prince. Keying error on land description. There is no building site. Amount \$89.85, Value \$11,900, Year 1998, Account #09-24280.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Sarah Lee Soles. Home sold in 1996. Amount \$118.20, Value \$2,040, Year 1997, Account #16-13527.

Release the value of a mobile home and user fee in the name of Sarah Lee Soles. Home sold in 1996. Amount \$218.20, Value \$2,040, Year 1998, Account #16-13527.

COLUMBUS COUNTY JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL - 1999-2000

BUDGET EXPENDITURES APPROVED

Judy Spivey, Chairperson of the Columbus County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, requested the Board to approve the 1999-2000 Juvenile Crime Prevention existing programs to be funded from the Office of Juvenile Justice to be expended as follows:

Court Psychologist	\$ 2,700
Youth & Family Counseling	87,056
Student Assistance	43,527
Columbus County Juvenile Restitution	20,024
Certification (expenses of council)	<u>250</u>
GRAND TOTAL	\$153,557

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Gray and passed unanimously to approve the 1999-2000 Juvenile Crime Prevention existing programs and expenditures as listed above by Judy Spivey, Columbus County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Chairperson.

PROCLAMATION - OLDER AMERICANS' MONTH

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

OLDER AMERICANS' MONTH

1999

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the theme for Older American Month is **The International Year of Older Persons** with the conceptual proposal "Toward a Society for all Ages" which typifies the lifestyle of older adults in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, seventeen percent of North Carolina's over seven million population are adults age 60 and older; and

WHEREAS, these adults may be native born North Carolinians or those who have retired to this state from other states; and

WHEREAS, we are proud of our older adults as they, in their zest for living, contribute to a positive influence on all generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus does hereby proclaim May 1999, as "**OLDER AMERICANS MONTH**," The International Year of Older Persons with the conceptual proposal "Toward a Society for all Ages" in North Carolina.

ADOPTED this the 3rd day of May 1999.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ C.E. WILSON, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

PROCLAMATION - SENIOR CENTERS' WEEK

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

SENIOR CENTER WEEK PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, older Americans are significant members of our society, investing their wisdom and experience to help enrich and better the lives of younger generations; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Department of Aging and its five (5)

Senior Centers have acted as a catalyst for mobilizing the creativity, energy, vitality and commitment of the older residents of Columbus County; and

WHEREAS, through the wide array of services, programs and activities, Senior Centers empower older citizens of Columbus County to contribute to their own health and well-being of their fellow citizens of all ages; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Department of Aging and its five (5) Senior Centers in the County of Columbus affirms the dignity, self-worth and independence of older persons by facilitating their decisions and actions; tapping their experiences, skills and knowledge and enabling their continued contributions to their community.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners does proclaim May 15-19, 1999

SENIOR CENTER WEEK

and call upon all citizens to recognize the special contributions of the Columbus County Department of Aging and its Five (5) Senior Centers' participants and the special efforts of the staff and the volunteers who work every day to enhance the well-being of the older citizens of our community.

ADOPTED this the 3rd day of May 1999.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ C.E. Wilson, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

AGING - SENIOR CENTER OUTREACH FUNDING PROPOSAL APPROVAL

Ed Worley, Aging Director, requested the Board to approve the Department of Aging to apply for Senior Center Outreach funding for July 1, 1999, up to \$10,000.00 of which the County's match will be \$1,112.00 from the Cape Fear Council of Governments, Region O.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Britt and passed unanimously to permit Ed Worley, Aging Director, apply for the Senior Center

Outreach funding up to \$10,000.00, of which the County's match will be \$1,112.00, from the Cape Fear Council of Governments, Region O.

PROCLAMATION - CHILD CARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

Lauren Cole, representing Southeastern Community College, and Leigh McManus, representing Partnership for Children, requested the Board adopt a Proclamation proclaiming May 7, 1999, as **Provider Appreciation Day in Columbus County**.

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

CHILD CARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Partnership for Children and Southeastern Child Care Resource and Referral and other organizations nationwide are recognizing Child Care Providers on this day, May 7, 1999; **and**

WHEREAS, of the twenty-one (21,000,000) million children under age six (6) in America, thirteen (13,000,000) million are in child care at least part time. An additional twenty-four (24,000,000) million school-age children are in some form of child care outside of school time; **and**

WHEREAS, by calling attention to the importance of high quality child care services for all children and families within our state/community, these groups hope to improve the quality and availability of such services; **and**

WHEREAS, our future depends on the quality of the early childhood experiences provided to young children today; high quality early child care services represent a worthy commitment to our children's future.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, Whiteville, North Carolina, hereby proclaims Friday, May 7, 1999, as **Provider Appreciation Day in Columbus County** and urge all citizens to recognize Child Care Providers for their important work.

ADOPTED this the 3rd day of May 1999.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ C.E. WILSON, Chairman

/s/ IDA L. SMITH, Clerk to Board

PROCLAMATION - RSVP VOLUNTEER WEEK FOR COLUMBUS COUNTY

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

RETIRED and SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM WEEK

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, when Columbus County citizens reach the age of fifty-five (55) and beyond, they are at their very prime in experience, maturity and capability; and

WHEREAS, many of these citizens are anxious and ready to apply their energy and share their time and knowledge where it will best help other people and nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, the prime opportunity to do this is as community Volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the continuing pace of activity and community involvement has been proven contributory to good health and longer, richer life for those who participate; and

WHEREAS, our society is becoming increasingly dependent upon the Nonprofit Community for providing a variety of vital, supportive services to people in need; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of this trend, the United States Congress, in 1965, legislated law leading to the creation of the **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program** - known throughout America as RSVP - to match up Volunteers with nonprofit community organizations; and

WHEREAS, through this one (1) program alone, each year more than two hundred fifty (250) Volunteers provide nearly fifty thousand (50,000) hours of service time to thirty-three (33) public and nonprofit community organizations; and

WHEREAS, the RSVP of Columbus County is celebrating its twenty-sixth (26th) anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the RSVP of Columbus County is an outstanding and accessible conduit to volunteerism to those fifty-five (55) and older in this community; and

WHEREAS, the RSVP experience is designed to be enjoyable, satisfying and flexible for the convenience of its Volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the need for Volunteers has never been greater in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus County RSVP is ready to welcome new Volunteers immediately.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners shall designate the second week of May 1999 (May 9-15) as **RSVP Volunteer Week** for Columbus County, and the Senior Citizens of our Community are hereby encouraged to become RSVP Volunteers.

PROCLAIMED this the 3rd day of May 1999.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ C.E. WILSON, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ IDA L. SMITH, Clerk to Board

RESOLUTION - COLUMBUS COUNTY INDUSTRY WEEK

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

RESOLUTION

Proclaiming

INDUSTRY APPRECIATION WEEK

WHEREAS, existing industries in Columbus County assist to provide an excellent standard of living by providing jobs to the county's citizens; and

WHEREAS, these industries generate millions of dollars in the local economy, provide jobs to thousands of people, pay millions of dollars in property tax and create spin off benefits that help sustain other businesses; and

WHEREAS, the industrial base in Columbus County has expanded over the last twenty (20) years to include companies that produce a wide variety of products such as: clothing, tools, scales, yarn, pipe fittings, lumber, paper, plywood, trailers, furniture, chemicals, polyester, windows, vinyl siding, ventilators, curtains, cabinets, monitoring devices, fiber optic cable, tobacco, steel wire and cord; and

WHEREAS, the industrial base has expanded to include international companies that view Columbus County as a great place to establish their United States operations; and

WHEREAS, existing industries sell their products all over the world and are very much a part of the global economy; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Columbus County are excellent workers for these industries, and their solid work ethic is a primary reason for the overall success for the industries; and

WHEREAS, Columbus County has a very pro-industry attitude that believes industrial development and the successful growth of our existing industries is the key to an ever-improving quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners is highly appreciative of the County's industries and proclaim May 17-21, 1999 as Columbus County Industry Appreciation Week.

ADOPTED this the 3rd day of May 1999.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ C.E. WILSON, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ IDA L. SMITH, Clerk to Board

RESOLUTION - OPPOSITION TO PROPOSAL THAT WOULD HAVE NORTH CAROLINA COUNTIES FUND 50% OF THE NON-FEDERAL SHARE FOR MENTAL HEALTH MEDICAID SERVICES

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Britt

and passed unanimously to adopt the following Resolution.

**OPPOSITION to PROPOSAL that WOULD HAVE NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTIES FUND 50% of the NON-FEDERAL SHARE for**

MENTAL HEALTH MEDICAID SERVICES

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Columbus County is one (1) of one hundred (100) counties in the State of North Carolina dedicated to the principles of accountability, fiscal responsibility and good government; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is one (1) of only seven (7) states which requires counties to match Medicaid costs; and

WHEREAS, Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. is proposing to increase from fifteen (15%) percent to fifty (50%) percent the non-federal share for mental health Medicaid services paid by North Carolina counties; and

WHEREAS, this type of unfunded mandate will place a severe financial burden on Columbus County and its taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners hereby requests the Columbus County delegation to the North Carolina General Assembly to oppose any legislation that would increase the Medicaid funding burden on North Carolina counties.

ADOPTED this the 3rd day of May 1999.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ C.E. WILSON, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ IDA L. SMITH, Clerk to Board

APPOINTMENT - SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and passed unanimously to reappoint Commissioner David L. Dutton, Jr. to serve on the Social Services Board of Directors for a three (3) year term from July 1, 1999 through

June 30, 2002.

SOLID WASTE - C&D LANDFILL

Bill Dreitzler, representing Marlowe, Dreitzler & Associates, addressed the Board regarding a quotation for additional fill required to satisfy the North Carolina Division of Solid Waste for the proposed C&D Landfill at an estimated cost of \$16,500.00 from Bobby Hinson Land Clearing & Ditching, Chadbourn, NC.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to approve the quotation for additional fill as required by the North Carolina Division of Solid Waste for the proposed C&D Landfill not to exceed \$16,500.00.

AIRPORT - HEIGHT HAZARD ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED

A motion was made by Commissioner McKenzie, seconded by Commissioner Gray and passed unanimously to schedule a public hearing regarding the Airport Height Hazard Ordinance for May 17, 1999 at 7:30 P.M.

ORDINANCE (SUB-DIVISION) - DRAFT AND WILL BE READY FOR NEXT

BOARD MEETING

Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, reported the Sub-Division Ordinance has been drafted and will be ready to present to the Board at the May 17, 1999 Board Meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:32 A.M., a motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and passed unanimously to enter into a closed session in accordance with N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(5).

RESUME REGULAR SESSION

At 9:30 A.M., a motion was made by Commissioner McKenzie, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to adjourn closed session and resume regular session.

No action was taken.

ADMINISTRATION - ADMINISTRATOR'S SALARY ADJUSTMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Commissioner Britt and passed unanimously to increase the annual salary of Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, from \$61,950.00 to \$68,950.00. The salary is based on a 1998 average of salaries within thirteen (13) surrounding counties with similar population.

BOARD MEETING RECESSED

At 9:32 A.M., a motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to recess the Board Meeting for the purpose of inspecting the safety of the Columbus County Courthouse offices due to a recent bomb threat.

BOARD MEETING RESUMED

At 9:53 A.M., Chairman Wilson resumed the regular Board Meeting.

COURTHOUSE - APPROVAL OF SOLID GLASS DOORS

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and passed unanimously to install solid glass doors in the Columbus County Courthouse offices to allow all employees to keep their doors closed at all times.

COURTHOUSE - APPROVAL OF ONE ARMED DEPUTY ON DUTY DURING WORKING HOURS

A motion was made by Commissioner McKenzie, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to provide an armed Deputy to be on duty in the Columbus County Courthouse at all times during working hours.

COURTHOUSE - APPROVAL OF ARMED DEPUTY DURING SCHEDULED MEETINGS AFTER OFFICE HOURS

A motion was made by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and passed unanimously to furnish an armed Deputy to be on duty in the courthouse when meetings are scheduled after working hours at the rate of \$15.00 per hour. The agency holding the meeting in the Columbus County Courthouse will be responsible for paying the deputy for hours on duty.

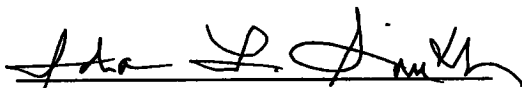
**GOVERNING BODY - APPROVAL OF DEDUCTING EQUAL PAYMENTS FROM
EACH BOARD MEMBER'S SALARY FOR STRAWBERRY AND YAM AUCTIONS**


A motion was made by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and passed unanimously to direct the Clerk to the Board to advise the payroll department to deduct equal payments from each Board Member's salary for the Annual Strawberry and Yam Auctions that are held during the Strawberry and Yam Festivals.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and passed unanimously to adjourn the Board Meeting at 10:10 A.M.

APPROVED:


Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board


C.E. Wilson, Chairman