

COLUMBUS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

The Honorable Board of Columbus County Commissioners met in their said office at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, NC at 8:00 A.M., Monday, November 1, 1999, for the regularly scheduled Board Meeting, it being the first Monday.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

C.E. Wilson, Chairman

Sammie Jacobs, Vice Chairman

Spruell Randolph 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

Chairman C.E. Wilson called the Board Meeting to order and Ed Worley, Aging Director, gave the invocation.

BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and passed unanimously to approve the Minutes of the October 18, 1999 Board Meeting, as recorded.

TAX REFUND AND RELEASES

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Britt and passed unanimously to approve the tax refund and releases as recommended by Richard Gore, Tax Administrator.

Tax Refund:

Request a refund in the name of Baleria E. & George Southern, 4760 Chadbourn Road, Whiteville, NC 28472. House is double listed in the name of Elizabeth Powers. Amount \$208.63, value \$14,200, year 1999, account #13-37523.

Tax Releases:

Release the August discount of 2% in the name of Margaret Skipper & David Barrow, not absorbed by computer. Amount \$10.94, Value \$N/A, Year 1999, Account #01-03138.

Release the property value in the name of Mary Ruth Blackwell. Ms. Blackwell failed to receive the senior citizens exemption. Amount \$228.58, Value \$18,500, Year 1999, Account #09-03152.

Release the special district fire tax in the name of Mace C. Edge. Not in the Evergreen Fire District. Amount \$25.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1999, Account #12-06715.

Release the user fee in the name of Bobby Gerald & Edith Brown. Mobile home is vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1999, Account #12-03240.

Release the user fee in the name of Jacob Brown (Heirs). Home is vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1999, Account #15-05440.

Release the user fee in the name of Jerry Caines. House is vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1999, Account #07-01260.

Release the user fee in the name of William Gilbert & Estalene Faulk. House vacant. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1999, Account #07-04680.

Release one user fee in the name of Lacy Dean Freeman. There are only two (2) trash carts here. Billed for three (3). Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1999, Account #04-05080.

Release the user fee in the name of Christopher Shane & Pamela W. Miller. Mobile home used for storage. Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1999, Account #15-26781.

Release the user fee in the name of Joe & Gail Sabatini. Keyed in boat & motor as mobile home. Amount \$60.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1999, Account #01-04740.

Release the user fee in the name of Oliver W. Spaulding. House is vacant.

Amount \$100.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1999, Account #14-15920.

Release the user fee in the name of The Church of God. Church closed.

Amount \$60.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1999, Account #18-00412.

Release one-half of the user fee in the name of Emma Lee Smith. Trash cart picked up. Amount \$50.00, Value \$N/A, Year 1999, Account #07-15010.

Release the property value in the name of Francis & Rosa B. Benton. Property double listed in the name of Mike Hyatt. Amount \$20.25, Value \$2,700, Year 1989, Account #01-04860.

Release the property value in the name of Francis & Rosa B. Benton. Property double listed in the name of Mike Hyatt. Amount \$20.79, Value \$2,700, Year 1990, Account #01-04860.

Release the property value in the name of Francis & Rosa B. Benton. Property double listed in the name of Mike Hyatt. Amount \$21.06, Value \$2,700, Year 1991, Account #01-04860.

Release the property value in the name of Francis & Rosa B. Benton. Property double listed in the name of Mike Hyatt. Amount \$21.06, Value \$2,700, Year 1992, Account #01-04860.

Release the property value in the name of Francis & Rosa B. Benton. Property double listed in the name of Mike Hyatt. Amount \$34.02, Value \$4,200, Year 1993, Account #01-04860.

Release the property value in the name of Francis & Rosa B. Benton. Property double listed in the name of Mike Hyatt. Amount \$35.70, Value \$4,200, Year 1994, Account #01-04860.

Release the property value in the name of Francis & Rosa B. Benton. Property double listed in the name of Mike Hyatt. Amount \$36.54, Value \$4,200, Year 1995, Account #01-04860.

Release the property value in the name of Francis & Rosa B. Benton. Property double listed in the name of Mike Hyatt. Amount \$36.54, Value \$4,200, Year 1996, Account #01-04860.

Release the property value in the name of Francis & Rosa B. Benton. Property

double listed in the name of Mike Hyatt. Amount \$63.59, Value \$8,100, Year 1997, Account #01-04860.

Release the property value in the name of Francis & Rosa B. Benton. Property double listed in the name of Mike Hyatt. Amount \$63.59, Value \$8,100, Year 1998, Account #01-04860.

Release the property value in the name of Francis & Rosa B. Benton. Property double listed in the name of Mike Hyatt. Amount \$63.59, Value \$8,100, Year 1999, Account #01-04860.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Doris Billings, Renea Haney & Arron Haney. Home double listed in the name of Roceda Haney. Amount \$138.45, Value \$8,580, Year 1992, Account #16-00553.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Doris Billings, Renea Haney & Arron Haney. Home double listed in the name of Roceda Haney. Amount \$118.56, Value \$7,200, Year 1993, Account #16-00553.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Doris Billings, Renea Haney & Arron Haney. Home double listed in the name of Roceda Haney. Amount \$113.68, Value \$6,950, Year 1994, Account #16-00553.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Doris Billings, Renea Haney & Arron Haney. Home double listed in the name of Roceda Haney. Amount \$136.65, Value \$6,700, Year 1995, Account #16-00553.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Doris Billings, Renea Haney & Arron Haney. Home double listed in the name of Roceda Haney. Amount \$146.38, Value \$6,090, Year 1996, Account #16-00553.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Doris Billings, Renea Haney & Arron Haney. Home double listed in the name of Roceda Haney. Amount \$151.07, Value \$5,840, Year 1997, Account #16-00553.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Mary Blackwell. Home double listed in the same name in a different township. Amount \$122.24, Value \$3200, Year 1999, Account #01-06301.

Release the property value in the name of Dixie Acceptance Corp. Double

listed in the name of J. Monroe & Blanch McDowell. Amount \$19.04, Value \$2,800, Year 1990, Account #0906620.

Release the property value in the name of Dixie Acceptance Corp. Double listed in the name of J. Monroe & Blanch McDowell. Amount \$19.32, Value \$2,800, Year 1991, Account #09-06620.

Release the property value in the name of Dixie Acceptance Corp. Double listed in the name of J. Monroe & Blanch McDowell. Amount \$19.32, Value \$2,800, Year 1992, Account #09-06620.

Release the property value in the name of Dixie Acceptance Corp. Home double listed in the name of J. Monroe & Blanch McDowell. Amount \$20.16, Value \$2,800, Year 1993, Account #09-06620.

Release the property value in the name of Dixie Acceptance Corp. Double listed in the name of J. Monroe & Blanch McDowell. Amount \$21.28, Value \$2,800, Year 1994, Account #09-06622.

Release the property value in the name of Dixie Acceptance Corp. Double listed in the name J. Monroe & Blanch McDowell. Amount \$21.84, Value \$2,800, Year 1995, Account #09-06620.

Release the property value in the name of Dixie Acceptance Corp. Double listed in the name of J. Monroe & Blanch McDowell. Amount \$23.52, Value \$2,800, Year 1996, Account #09-06620.

Release the property value in the name of Dixie Acceptance Corp. Double listed in the name of J. Monroe & Blanch McDowell. Amount \$31.31, Value \$4,200, Year 1997, Account #09-06622.

Release the property value in the name of Dixie Acceptance Corp. Double listed in the name of J. Monroe & Blanch McDowell. Amount \$31.31, Value \$4,200, Year 1998, Account #09-06620.

Release the property value in the name of Dixie Acceptance Corp. Double listed in the name of J. Monroe & Blanch McDowell. Amount \$31.31, Value \$4,200, Year 1999, Account #09-06620.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Sammy & Annie Hardee.

Home double listed in the name of Annie Walker & Sammy H. Coleman. Amount \$263.14, Value \$21,340, Year 1999, Account #06-00814.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Johnny Ray & Linda K. Huggins. Home burned in 1997. Amount \$107.65, Value \$1,000, Year 1999, Account #07-08698.

Release the property value in the name of Retha McClelland. Property double listed in the name of Thomas Bridgers. Amount \$21.75, Value \$2,900, Year 1990, Account #13-25120.

Release the property value in the name of Retha McClelland. Property double listed in the name of Thomas Bridgers. Amount \$22.04, Value \$2,900, Year 1991, Account #13-25120.

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Release the property value in the name of Retha McClelland. Property double listed in the name of Thomas Bridgers. Amount \$22.91, Value \$2,900, Year 1993, Account #13-25120.

Release the property value in the name of Retha McClelland. Property double listed in the name of Thomas Bridgers. Amount \$24.07, Value \$2,900, Year 1994, Account #13-25120.

Release the property value in the name of Retha McClelland. Property double listed in the name of Thomas Bridgers. Amount \$24.65, Value \$2,900, Year 1995, Account #13-25120.

Release the property value in the name of Retha McClelland. Property double listed in the name of Thomas Bridgers. Amount \$24.65, Value \$2,900, Year 1996, Account #13-25120.

Release the property value in the name of Retha McClelland. Property double listed in the name of Thomas Bridgers. Amount \$39.02, Value \$5,100, Year 1997, Account #13-25120.

Release the property value in the name of Retha McClelland. Property double

listed in the name of Thomas Bridgers. Amount \$39.02, Value \$5,100, Year 1998, Account #13-25120.

Release the property value in the name of Retha McClland. Property double listed in the name of Thomas Bridgers. Amount \$39.02, Value \$5,100, Year 1999, Account #13-25120.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Gloria Murray. Home repossessed prior to 1997. Amount \$412.75, Value \$45,000, Year 1997, Account #15-28341.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Gloria Murray. Home was repossessed prior to 1997. Amount \$412.75, Value \$45,000, Year 1998, Account #15-28341.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Gloria Murray. Home repossessed prior to 1-1-97. Amount \$412.75, Value \$45,000, Year 1999, Account #15-28341.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Oakwood Acceptance Corporation. Home double listed in the name of Roceda Haney. Amount \$198.58, Value \$12,400, Year 1999, Account #16-12031.

Release the property value in the name of Mrs. D.B. Ward. Property double listed in the same name with a different account number. Amount \$186.49, Value \$24,700, Year 1997, Account #09-31800.

Release the property value in the name of Mrs. D.B. Ward. Property double listed in the same name with a different account number. Amount \$186.49, Value \$24,700, Year 1998, Account #09-31800.

Release the property value in the name of Mrs. D.B. Ward. Property double listed in the same name with a different account number. Amount \$186.49, Value \$24,700, Year 1999, Account #09-31800.

Release a portion of the value of a mobile home in the name of Janette & Lisa Bunch Ward. Billed with incorrect year. Amount \$72.78, Value \$9,520, Year 1998, Account #12-45391.

Release a portion of the property value in the name of Janette & Lisa Bunch Ward. Billed with incorrect year. Amount \$63.99, Value \$8,370, Year 1999, Account #12-45391.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Debra Willis. Home double listed in the name of Deborah McLaughlin. Amount \$220.95, Value \$15,820, Year 1999, Account #01-00962.

AGING - AWARDS TO SENIOR CENTER COORDINATORS

Chairman C.E. Wilson presented awards to the Columbus County Senior Center Directors, Mary Lee McPherson, Lillie A. Young, Pamela Ann Spivey, Jenette G. Long and Jean C. Powers for their accomplishments in completing the National Institute of Senior Centers' Assessment for a three (3) year period.

AGING - MOVING ST. JAMES FEEDING SITE TO BOLTON

Ed Worley, Aging Director, reported upon mutual agreement between the St. James and Bolton Communities, the St. James Senior Center Nutrition Site will be moved to Bolton, NC, effective November 15, 1999.

PROCLAMATION - RUTH WHITLEY LITERACY DAY

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

RUTH WHITLEY LITERACY DAY

Proclamation - November 1, 1999

WHEREAS, *Ruth Whitley*, by virtue of her interest in her fellow citizens, established the first Columbus County Literacy effort on November 3, 1979; **and**

WHEREAS, for twenty (20) years *Ruth Whitley* has led the fight against illiteracy in Columbus County; **and**

WHEREAS, *Ruth Whitley* has devoted thousands of hours in volunteer service and has been responsible for training hundreds of tutors and has taught hundreds to read thereby enhancing their quality of life and economic prospects; **and**

WHEREAS, the need for a highly literate citizenry increases as North Carolina and Columbus County move toward an increasingly technological future; **and**

WHEREAS, the efforts of *Ruth Whitley* have assisted Columbus County and her people in a monumental and unselfish manner, and one to be highly commended; **and**

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that *Ruth Whitley's* efforts, achievement and contributions be acknowledged and appreciated by the citizens of Columbus County on

the twentieth (20th) anniversary of the Columbus County Literacy Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, do hereby declare and proclaim **November 1, 1999, *Ruth Whitley Literacy Day*** in Columbus County, and urge our fellow citizens to learn more about the importance of literacy and to become involved in learning to read and in helping others to read, and further urge all Columbus Countians to extend their gratitude, and congratulations to the Columbus County Literacy Council and its founder *Ruth Whitley*.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ C.E. WILSON, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ IDA L. SMITH, Clerk to Board

APPOINTMENT - SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE AUTHORITY

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs, and passed unanimously to reappoint Junius B. Lee to serve on the Southeastern Regional Mental Health Development Disabilities and Substance Abuse Authority for a four (4) year term, expiring November 30, 2003.

TAX - DECLARED 1995 VEHICLE TAXES INSOLVENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs, and passed unanimously to declare the 1995 vehicle taxes levied for the year 1995 as insolvents in the amount of one hundred three thousand, nine hundred fifty-five and 84/100 dollars (\$103,955.84) in accordance with N.C.G.S. §105-373(a)(2). A copy of the tax insolvent list is on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - GROVER ADAMS UPDATE

Grover Adams, representing Federal Emergency Management, updated the Board regarding the progress being made in Columbus County to help flood victims. Mr. Adams reported Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded \$3,000,000.00 to Columbus County for Hurricane Floyd damages and 4,000 applications have been received and approximately 2,500 processed.

FEMA HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM - APPROVAL FOR COLUMBUS COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Gray, and passed unanimously for Columbus County to be a part and in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

ADMINISTRATION - EXPENDITURES APPROVED FOR HURRICANE FLOYD EXPENSES INCURRED

A motion was made by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and passed unanimously to allow Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, to advance funding from the General Fund to allow Hurricane Floyd expenses incurred to be paid prior to receiving Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding.

RESOLUTION - REQUESTING CORP OF ENGINEER TO PROCESS REGULATORY AGENCIES TO CONTROL FLOODING WITHIN COLUMBUS COUNTY RIVER BASINS

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

**RESOLUTION
FOR FLOOD PROTECTION MAPS AND PLANS
FOR COLUMBUS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Columbus County and Southeastern North Carolina have endured six (6) major hurricanes in the past three (3) years; and

WHEREAS, each of these hurricanes have caused major damages especially by flooding of properties and communities; and

WHEREAS, Hurricanes Floyd and Irene completely flooded major areas in Columbus County; and

WHEREAS, Columbus County contains portions of the Cape Fear River Basin, the Waccamaw River Basin and the Lumber River Basin and absorbs a tremendous amount of run-off waters which directly affect Columbus County; and

WHEREAS, Columbus County, by geography, is forced to receive inundation of waters which flow through the county's rivers, marsh areas, swamps and wetlands from other areas; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers is the regulatory agency for development, drainage, clearing and run-off of waters; and

WHEREAS, in order for any actions, whether active or proactive, in nature must be permitted by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers; and

WHEREAS, plans for preventative measure for future flooding are based on information developed by the U.S. Corp of Engineers and their maps; and

WHEREAS, maps and preventative action needs to be developed and updated; and

WHEREAS, these maps and plans seem to be outdated or obsolete for flood plain protection in Columbus County; and

WHEREAS, it is felt that the U.S. Corp of Engineers should provide adequate maps and preventive measures if they are truly the regulatory agency for rivers, river basins, wetlands, as well as, all tributaries concerned in Columbus County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners requests that the U.S. Corp of Engineers provide for Columbus County updated flood plain maps and preventive measure programs that will allow Columbus County to have a plan of action for the prevention of loss of life and personal property.

ADOPTED this the 1st day of November 1999.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ C.E. Wilson, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

ADMINISTRATION - HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM AGREEMENT

Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, reported the procedure for filing an application for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (FEMA purchasing or elevating homes that qualify) which includes nineteen (19) pages and is complicated for the average citizen to complete. Mr. Herring reported it is the County's responsibility to assist the citizens who qualify for this program. Mr. Herring also advised we have received a proposal from the Adams Company for the preparation of the applications and requested the Board's advise regarding the preparation of the Hazard Mitigation Program applications.

The Board concurred to allow Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator, to proceed with a suitable resolution in preparing the Hazard Mitigation Program applications for those persons who qualify.

RESOLUTION - TEN COMMANDMENTS

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

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT
OF
*THE TEN COMMANDMENTS***

WHEREAS, violence has increased dramatically in our society and our schools;

and

WHEREAS, the passage of new laws to stop violence has had little, if any, beneficial effect and has diminished the personal liberty of law-abiding citizens; **and**

WHEREAS, there is no better code of moral conduct than *The Ten Commandments* and many of our laws have their origin in *The Ten Commandments*; **and**

WHEREAS, the phrase, "separation of church and state" never appears in the Constitution and the Bible was the most frequent source of quotations during the Constitutional Convention.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, without reservation, supports legislation to display *The Ten Commandments* in our schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to each U.S. Representative and Senator from the great State of North Carolina, to each North Carolina State Senator and Representative and to each of the other ninety-nine (99) counties in North Carolina.

This the 1st day of November, 1999.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ C.E. WILSON, Chairman

/s/ IDA L. SMITH, Clerk to Board

SHERIFF - DISPLAYED NEW UNIFORMS

Sheriff Jimmy Ferguson reported the Sheriff's Department now has their new

black and grey Law Enforcement uniforms and had Sanford Hardee, Division Supervisor, to model the new uniform to the Board of Commissioners which will become the official uniform for Law Enforcement Officers effective as of November 1, 1999.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) - REQUEST FOR MAINTENANCE

A motion was made by Commissioner McKenzie, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to request the Department of Transportation to provide certain areas of Columbus County, which continually flood, preferential maintenance work and some remedial as well as permanent solutions to solve problems in the following areas.

1. Intersection of Old Lumberton Road SR 1002 and Red Store Road 1534.
2. Intersection of Joe Brown Highway SR 410 and Old Lumberton Road SR 1002 in the Newman Grocery Store area.
3. Clogged ditches along Old Highway 76 and Otis Nixon Road SR 1513.
4. Flooding at Old 74 and Davis Road in the Hallsboro areas.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:40 A.M., a motion was made by Commissioner McKenzie, seconded by Commissioner Dutton, and passed unanimously to enter into a closed session in accordance with N.C.G.S.(a)(4).^{143-318.11}

RESUME REGULAR SESSION

At 8:50 A.M, a motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Dutton, and passed unanimously to adjourn closes session and resume regular session.

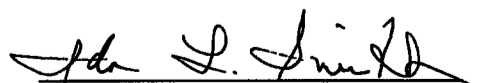
No action was taken.

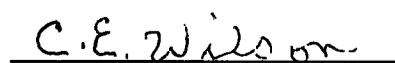
BOARD MEETING RECESSED

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Britt, and passed unanimously to recess the Board Meeting at 8:55 A.M. with the date and time to be determined later.

At 11:00 A.M., November 1, 1999, the date and time was established to resume the Board Meeting at 3:00 P.M., November 2, 1999.

APPROVED:


Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board


C.E. Wilson, Chairman