

**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., December 4, 2000 to hold their regularly scheduled Board Meeting, it being the first Monday.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lynwood Norris, Chairman

Spruell R. Britt, Vice Chairman

David L. Dutton, Jr.

Sammie Jacobs

Amon E. McKenzie

Bill Memory

C.E. Wilson

James E. Hill, Jr., County Attorney

Dempsey B. Herring  
County Administrator

Ida L. Smith  
Clerk to Board

**OATHS OF OFFICE - NEWLY ELECTED COMMISSIONERS**

At 8:00 A.M., Oaths of Office were administered to the following newly elected Commissioners by the Honorable Thomas V. Aldridge, Jr., District Court Judge as follows:

December 4, 2000

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY**

**OATH OF OFFICE**

**“I, (Commissioner’s name) do solemnly and sincerely swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; and that I will**

endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as a member of the Board of Columbus County Commissioners, so help me God.”

/s/ Sammie Jacobs  
 /s/ Bill Memory  
 /s/ Lynwood Norris  
 /s/ C.E. Wilson

Sworn to before me this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December 2000.

/s/ Thomas V. Aldridge, Jr.  
 District Court Judge

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

**OATHS OF OFFICE - REGISTER OF DEEDS AND DEPUTIES**

Oaths of Office were administered by the Honorable Thomas V. Aldridge, Jr., District Court Judge, to the Register of Deeds and Deputies as follows:

NORTH CAROLINA

COLUMBUS COUNTY

I, Kandance H. Whitehead, do solemnly affirm that I will support and maintain the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution and laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as Register of Deeds of Columbus County.

/s/ Kandance H. Whitehead

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December 2000.

/s/ Thomas V. Aldridge, Jr.

District Court Judge

NORTH CAROLINA

COLUMBUS COUNTY

I, (Deputy Register of Deeds), do solemnly affirm that I will support and maintain the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution and laws of North

Carolina not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as Deputy Register of Deeds of Columbus County.

/s/ Jeannie Dianne Stocks

/s/ Nancy P. Tolley

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December 2000.

/s/ Thomas V. Aldridge, Jr.

District Court Judge

**REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING CONVENED**

Chairman Norris called the regularly scheduled Board Meeting to order and Commissioner McKenzie gave the invocation.

**APPOINTMENTS - CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

James E. Hill, Jr., County Attorney, presided as Acting Chairman to transact the appointments of Chairman and Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

Acting Chairman Hill briefed the Board on the procedure for selecting officers and then opened the floor for nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Commissioner Wilson nominated Commissioner Spruell R. Britt for Chairman and Commissioner Sammie Jacobs as Vice Chairman.

There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to close nominations.

The vote was unanimous to appoint Commissioner Britt to serve as Chairman and Commissioner Jacobs to serve as Vice Chairman

Acting Chairman Hill announced that Commissioner Britt was appointed as Chairman and Commissioner Jacobs as Vice Chairman by acclamation.

Chairman Britt and Vice Chairman Jacobs are authorized to sign all instruments on behalf of Columbus County. A Resolution is on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board.

**AWARD - COMMISSIONER LYNWOOD NORRIS, PAST CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Britt presented Commissioner Norris, past Chairman, with the following "Plaque of Appreciation."

**PRESENTED TO**

**LYNWOOD NORRIS**

\* \* \* \* \*

**THIS THE 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER 2000**

**IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION OF YOUR DEVOTED LEADERSHIP  
AS CHAIRMAN TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**12-6-1999 - 12-4-2000**

\* \* \* \* \*

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**AWARD - FRANCES BURGE, REGISTER OF DEEDS**

Kandance Whitehead, Register of Deeds, presented Frances Burge, former Register of Deeds, with the following "Plaque of Appreciation."

**PRESENTED TO**

**FRANCES V. BURGE**

\*\*\*\*\*

**IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION OF YOUR SERVICE AS**

**REGISTER OF DEEDS**

**FOR COLUMBUS COUNTY**

**11-11-2000 - 12-3-2000**

\*\*\*\*\*

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to approve the November 20, 2000 Board Minutes, as recorded.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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

**Tax Refund:**

Request a refund in the name of James D. Bryant, 105 Hoover Rd., Riegelwood, NC 28456. Refund the value of a mobile home and Bolton Fire District, that is double listed in

the name of James O. Bryant. Amount \$195.95, Value \$8,270.00, Year 2000, Account # 04-02314, Bill # 83677.

**Tax Releases:**

Release the User Fee in the name of Bonsignore, Anthony Heirs. House is vacant. Amount \$125.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 15-01122, Bill # 82293.

Release the User Fee in the name of Brown, Gertrude. Overcharge on user fee due to computer error. Amount \$160.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 05-00720, Bill # 83269.

Release the User Fee in the name of Contimortgage Corp. Did not have trash can for a full year. Amount \$105.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 15-04629, Bill # 86722.

Release the User Fee in the name of Cox, Barry E. House is vacant. Amount \$125.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 06-05978, Bill # 87007.

Release the User Fee in the name of George, Christopher. Overcharge on user fee due to computer error. Amount \$340.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 01-31218, Bill # 92204.

Release the User Fee in the name of Graham, Riley E. Overcharge on user fee due to computer error. Amount \$160.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 08-07425, Bill # 93819.

Release the User Fee in the name of Grainger, Dennis. House is vacant. Amount \$65.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 13-16070, Bill # 93931.

Release the User Fee in the name of Hilburn, Steve. House is vacant. Amount \$125.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 09-13580, Bill # 96285.

Release the User Fee in the name of Nance, Bobby. House is vacant. Amount \$65.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 16-11280, Bill # 4932.

Release the User Fee in the name of Smith, Joe T., Jr. House is vacant. Amount \$125.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 01-85500, Bill # 12129.

Release the User Fee in the name of Strickland, Ruth. Overcharge on user fee due to computer error. Amount \$160.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 10-16500, Bill # 14616.

Release the User Fee in the name of Weathers, Debbie. User fee double listed in the name of Willie Lamar Weathers. Amount \$125.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 02-03449, Bill # 18427.

Release the User Fee in the name of Yeoman, Irene. House is vacant. Amount \$125.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2000, Account # 11-31137, Bill # 20894.

Release the Property Value in the name of Graham, Lewis G. Release property value and St. James Fire District fee that are double listed in the name of Riley Graham. Amount \$106.08, Value \$13,600.00, Year 2000, Account # 08-07337, Bill # 93775.

Release the Property Value in the name of Graham, Naomi H. Release the property value and the Acme Delco Fire fee, that was billed with incorrect land value. Amount \$227.64, Value \$27,100.00, Year 2000, Account # 15-03322, Bill # 93803.

Release the Property Value in the name of Mack, Barbara J. Release value of a mobile home that burned. Amount \$171.68, Value \$13,470.00, Year 2000, Account # 06-25011, Bill # 1554.

Release the Property Value in the name of Roby, Richard W. Release value of double wide and Bolton Fire fee, that burned in 1999. Amount \$398.78, Value \$35,100.00, Year 2000, Account # 04-13781, Bill # 9300.

Release the Property Value in the name of Stanley, S.P. Release the value of some old buildings and the Whiteville Rescue fee, that were torn down in 1999. Amount \$129.50, Value \$17,500.00, Year 2000, Account # 01-88740, Bill # 13701.

**Budget Amendment:**

Accept 10-348-2000 Juvenile Justice Specialized Foster Care	\$4,400
Expend 10-700-9600 Specialized Foster Care	\$4,400

**ATTORNEY - APPOINTMENT DELAYED UNTIL AFTER CLOSED SESSION**

A motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and passed unanimously to delay appointing the County Attorney until after closed session at the end of the Board Meeting.

**BONDS - SURETY**

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Norris and

passed unanimously to approve Surety Bonds as listed for the following employees:

Gayle Godwin, Finance Officer	\$100,000
Jimmy Ferguson, Sheriff	50,000
Richard Gore, Tax Administrator	25,000
Shirley Settlemyre, Deputy Tax Collector	25,000
Brenda Strickland, HUD Director	25,000
Linwood Cartrette, Coroner	25,000
William Hannah, Assistant Coroner	25,000
Kandance Whitehead, Register of Deeds	10,000

**PAYROLL - DISTRIBUTION OF DECEMBER PAYCHECKS APPROVED**

A motion was made by Commissioner McKenzie, seconded by Commissioner Norris and passed unanimously to approve the distribution of December paychecks and Christmas Bonuses (\$35.00 each full-time employee) on December 22, 2000.

**RESOLUTION - CANCEL DECEMBER 18, 2000 BOARD MEETING**

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

**NOTICE and RESOLUTION to CANCEL MEETING**

**of the BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**of COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

The Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, unanimously approved on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of December 2000, to adopt the following Resolution.

**W I T N E S S E T H :**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, has presently scheduled meetings at 8:00 A.M. the first Monday and 7:30 P.M. on the third Monday of each month; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina is desirous of canceling the meeting scheduled for the third Monday in December, only.

**BE IT THEREFORE, RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF COLUMBUS COUNTY**, North Carolina, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153A-40, shall cancel the regular meeting of the said Board scheduled for December 18, 2000 and the same is hereby canceled, and the next regularly scheduled meeting of the said

Board shall be in the Columbus County Commissioners' Chambers, Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, on Tuesday, January 2, 2001 at 8:00 A.M., due to Monday, January 1, 2001 being an observed Holiday.

**BE IT, FURTHER, RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners that a copy of this **Resolution** and **Notice** shall be placed on the Courthouse Bulletin Board, as well as mailed to all of the news media who has requested notice.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

/s/ Spruell R. Britt, **CHAIRMAN**

**ATTESTED BY:**

/s/ Ida L. Smith, **CLERK TO BOARD**

**AGREEMENT (LEGAL SERVICES) - WATER DISTRICTS III AND IV**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and passed unanimously to approve an Agreement for Legal Services for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts III and IV as follows:

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RURAL ECONOMIC  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT**

**THIS AGREEMENT MADE** this the 2nd day of May, 2000, between **Columbus County Water & Sewer District III**, hereinafter referred to as "Owners," and **James E. Hill, Jr. of Hill & High**, hereinafter referred to as "Attorney";

**WHEREAS**, Owners are a North Carolina subdivision of Columbus County, in Columbus County, North Carolina, and intend to develop a Columbus County & Sewer District (District 111), hereinafter referred to as the "project";

**WITNESSETH:**

**THAT FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION** of the mutual covenants and promises between the parties hereto, it is hereby agreed:

**SECTION A - LEGAL SERVICES**

That the Attorney will perform such services as are necessary to accomplish the above recited objectives including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Furnish advice and assistance to the governing body of the Owners in connection with (a) the notice for and conducting of meetings; (b) assist in the preparation of minutes of meetings; (c) the preparation and enactment of resolutions as may be necessary in connection with the authorization, financing, construction, and operation of the project; (d)



the preparation of such affidavits, publication notices, ballots, reports, certifications, and other instruments and advice as may be needed in the conduct of bond elections as may be necessary; (e) the preparation and completion of such bonds or other obligations as may be necessary to finance the project; (f) the completion and execution of documents for obtaining a loan made or insured or a grant made by the United States of America, acting through the RECED, USDA; (g) entering into construction contracts; (h) assist in the preparation and adoption of By-laws, Rules and Regulations, and rate schedules; (i) such other corporate action as may be necessary in connection with the financing, construction, and initial operation of the system.

2. Review of construction contracts, bid-letting procedures, and surety and contractual bonds in connection therewith.

3. Preparation, negotiation, or review of contract(s) to purchase services or utilities.

4. Preparation, where necessary, and review of deeds, easements and other rights-of-way documents, and other instruments for sites for water supply, pumping stations, treatment plants, and other facilities necessary to the project and to provide continuous rights-of-way therefore; rendering title opinion with reference thereto; and providing for the recordation thereof.

5. Assist in obtaining necessary permits and certificates from county and municipal bodies, from State regulatory agencies, and from other public or private sources with respect to the approval of the system, the construction and operation thereof, pipeline crossings, and the like.

6. Cooperate with the engineer employed by Owners in connection with preparation of tract sheets, easement, and other necessary title documents, construction contracts, water supply contracts, health permits, crossing permits, and other instruments.

7. When applicable, secure assistance of and cooperate with recognized bond counsel in the preparation of the documents necessary for the financing aspects of the project. The owner shall pay all bond counsel fees in perfecting the financing aspects, assessment procedures and completion of documents. Where bond counsel is retained, the Attorney will not be responsible for the preparation and approval of those documents pertaining to the issuance of the Owners' obligations.

#### **SECTION B - COMPENSATION**

1. Owners will pay to the Attorney for professional services rendered in accordance herewith, fees as follows:

(a) An hourly rate will be billed at the rate of \$150.00 per hour for time spent on project plus cost advanced; and

(b) Fee to be paid when billed.

**HILL & HIGH**

By: /s/ James E. Hill, Attorney

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT III**

By: /s/ Lynwood Norris

Attest: /s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk/Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RURAL ECONOMIC  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT**

**THIS AGREEMENT MADE** this the 2nd day of May 2000, between Columbus County Water & Sewer District IV, hereinafter referred to as "Owners," and James E. Hill, Jr. of Hill & High, hereinafter referred to as "Attorney":

**WHEREAS**, Owners are a North Carolina subdivision of Columbus County, in Columbus County, North Carolina, and intend to develop a Columbus County & Sewer District (District IV), hereinafter referred to as the "project";

**WITNESSETH:**

**THAT FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION** of the mutual covenants and promises between the parties hereto, it is hereby agreed:

**SECTION A - LEGAL SERVICES**

That the Attorney will perform such services as are necessary to accomplish the above recited objectives including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Furnish advice and assistance to the governing body of the Owners in connection with (a) the notice for and conducting of meetings; (b) assist in the preparation of minutes of meetings; (c) the preparation and enactment of resolutions as may be necessary in connection with the authorization, financing, construction, and operation of the project; (d) the preparation of such affidavits, publication notices, ballots, reports, certifications, and other instruments and advice as may be needed in the conduct of bond elections as may be necessary; (e) the preparation and completion of such bonds or other obligations as may be necessary to finance the project; (f) the completion and execution of documents for obtaining a loan made or insured or a grant made by the United States of America, acting through the RECED, USDA; (g) entering into construction contracts; (h) assist in the preparation and adoption of By-laws, Rules and Regulations, and rate schedules; (i) such other corporate action as may be necessary in connection with the financing, construction, and initial operation of the system.
2. Review of construction contracts, bid-letting procedures, and surety and contractual bonds in connection therewith.

3. Preparation, negotiation, or review of contract(s) to purchase services or utilities.

4. Preparation, where necessary, and review of deeds, easements and other rights-of-way documents, and other instruments for sites for water supply, pumping stations, treatment plants, and other facilities necessary to the project and to provide continuous rights-of-way therefore; rendering title opinion with reference thereto; and providing for the recordation thereof.

5. Assist in obtaining necessary permits and certificates from county and municipal bodies, from State regulatory agencies, and from other public or private sources with respect to the approval of the system, the construction and operation thereof, pipeline crossings, and the like.

6. Cooperate with the engineer employed by Owners in connection with preparation of tract sheets, easement, and other necessary title documents, construction contracts, water supply contracts, health permits, crossing permits, and other instruments.

7. When applicable, secure assistance of and cooperate with recognized bond counsel in the preparation of the documents necessary for the financing aspects of the project. The owner shall pay all bond counsel fees in perfecting the financing aspects, assessment procedures and completion of documents. Where bond counsel is retained, the Attorney will not be responsible for the preparation and approval of those documents pertaining to the issuance of the Owners' obligations.

**SECTION B - COMPENSATION**

1. Owners will pay to the Attorney for professional services rendered in accordance herewith, fees as follows:

(a) An hourly rate will be billed at the rate of \$150.00 per hour for time spent on project plus cost of advanced; and

(b) fee to be paid when billed.

**HILL & HIGH**

By: /s/ James E. Hill, Attorney

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT IV**

By: /s/ Lynwood Norris

Attest: /s/ Ida L. Smith, Clerk/Secretary

**HURRICANE FLOYD - CRISIS ASSISTANCE FUNDS PROGRAM APPROVED**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and passed unanimously to approve the Program Start-Up Documents for the Crisis Housing Assistance Funds Program as follows:

- A. Grant Project Ordinance;
- B. Residential Anti-Displacement Plan;
- C. Citizen Participation Plan;
- D. Section 3 Plan;

- E. Equal Employment and Procurement Plan;
- F. Program Policies;
- G. Optional Coverage Relocation Plan; and
- H. Replacement and Rehabilitation Financial Design.

The Capital Project Ordinance is as follows:

**GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE  
2000 CHAF PROGRAM  
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS**

Be it ordained by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners that, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant project ordinance is hereby adopted:

**Section 1.** The project authorized is the Crisis Housing Assistance Funds project described in the work statement contained in the grant agreement #OO-D-113 between this unit and the Department of Commerce. This project is more familiarly known as the Columbus County 2000 Crisis Housing Assistance Funds Project.

**Section 2.** The officers of this unit are hereby directed to proceed with the grant project within the terms of the grant documents, the rules and regulations of the Department of Commerce and the budget contained herein.

**Section 3.** The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete this project:

62-348-0000 Crisis Housing Assistance Funds	\$3,981,970
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,981,970</b>

**Section 4.** The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

62-640-0000 B-1 Aid to Local Governments	\$158, 740
62-650-0000 R-1 Rehabilitation	\$1,351,350
62-660-0000 R-2 Replacement	\$1,651,500
62-670-0000 S-1 Relocation	\$ 820,380
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,981,970</b>

**Section 5.** The finance officer is hereby directed to maintain within the Grant Project Fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to provide the accounting to the grantor agency required by the grant agreement and federal and state regulations.

**Section 6.** Funds may be advanced from the General Funds for the purpose of making payments as due. Reimbursement requests should be made to the grantor agency in an orderly and timely manner.

**Section 7.** The finance officer is directed to report annually on the financial status of each project element in Section 4 and on the total grant revenues received or claimed.

**Section 8.** The budget officer is directed to include a detailed analysis of past and future costs and revenues on this grant project in every budget submission made to this board.

**Section 9.** Copies of this grant project ordinance shall be made available to the budget officer and the finance officer for direction in carrying out this project.

**Adopted** this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December 2000.

/s/ Lynwood Norris, Chairman

Program Start-Up Documents 2-8 are on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board.

**FIRE & RESCUE (ADR) - FIRE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES APPROVED FOR SUBSTATION**

A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and passed unanimously to approve the Acme-Delco-Riegelwood Fire District boundaries for a substation as presented by letter by Steve Camlin, Fire Chief.

**APPOINTMENTS - TABOR CITY PLANNING AND ZONING AND BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and passed unanimously to appoint the following persons to listed Boards as extraterritorial members due to the Town of Tabor City extending their jurisdiction two (2) miles:

<b>Board</b>	<b>Appointee</b>	<b>Length of Term</b>
Planning & Zoning	Patrick Milligan	3 years
Zoning Board of Adjustments	Johnnie Jernigan, Jr.	3 years

**APPOINTMENTS - NURSING/ADULT CARE HOME JOINT COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

A motion was made by Commissioner McKenzie, seconded by Commissioner Britt and passed unanimously to appoint the following persons to serve on the Nursing/Adult Care Home Joint Community Advisory Committee as follows:

- A. Annie L. Hayes reappointed for a three (3) year term, with term expiring 8-1-2003.
- B. Commissioner C.E. Wilson reappointed for the length of his term, expiring 12-2004.

**APPOINTMENTS - PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

The following persons were appointed to serve on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board by the Commissioner elected for their respective Districts.

<b>District/Commissioner</b>	<b>Appointment</b>	<b>Length of Term</b>
I - Amon McKenzie	Clarence H. Williams	2 years
II - C.E. Wilson	C. Lloyd Lennon, Jr.	2 years
III - Sammie Jacobs	Michael A. Graham	2 years
VI - Spruell R. Britt	Jack Meares	2 years
VII - David L. Dutton, Jr.	Ricky Ward	2 years

**APPOINTMENT - SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and passed unanimously to reappoint Commissioner C.E. Wilson to serve on the Southeastern Regional Mental Health Board for the length of his term, expiring December 2004.

**APPOINTMENT - TRAVEL AND TOURISM**

The following persons were appointed to serve on the Travel and Tourism Board by the Commissioner elected for their respective Districts.

<b>District/Commissioner</b>	<b>Appointment</b>	<b>Length of Term</b>
II - C.E. Wilson	June B. Elkins	4 years
III - Sammie Jacobs	Melissa Singler	4 years
IV - Bill Memory	Nancy Sigmon	4 years
V - Lynwood Norris	Burnett Coleman	4 years

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - UPDATE ON PROJECTS**

Phyllis Owens, Economic Development Director, updated the Board on Economic Development projects as follows:

**Review of Available Space:**

1. **Shell Building #4** - Was completed in July of this year. After extensive research a larger, more costly shell was built to attract a higher-level owner. The shell is indeed generating traffic and although it was not selected may well have enticed another company who is considering the purchase of an existing building. The shell is a drawing card and working well. We do not however have a pending purchase on it but several of the first visits are expected to return and we remain hopeful.
2. **Umbro** - Have shown building to three projects. The Cleanup of the facility was a major help. Anvil is renting space for warehousing. Discussions are underway this week on a possible offer to purchase.
3. **Owens-Corning** - Kroy Building Products began locating this week. Will take possession Dec. 29, 2000. IRB Authority to meet Dec. 20, 2000 to authorize the release of bonds and approve some further documents that require signing by the Authority. We Hope to do an announcement in early January or an opening/dedication.
4. **Taylor Manufacturing** - Facility is now being used as a Flea Market but we do continue to promote it.

5. **Ithaca Building #2** - Has an offer we believe will lead to a purchase. Ithaca Building #1 is the home of Nordic Air, Inc.
6. **Anvil** - Building has sold but 60,000 square feet are available for lease.

We are quickly becoming a county without much available space for the midrange market. This will impact our ability to attract clients into the county.

#### **Project Updates:**

1. **Sumitomo** - Closed land sale to Brunswick Holding. Building is coming together rapidly.
2. **InterKordSA** - Ahead of schedule on construction. Some employees have been overseas receiving training.
3. **Southeastern Materials** - Closed on purchase.
4. **Penn Ventilation** - Land purchase has not and may not occur. Reorganizing the production areas to facilitate the new machinery coming in.
5. **Haworth Expansion** - Reorganizing the production area also, adding new equipment. Looking at exercising the option on adjoining land for future growth. Requesting natural gas extension.

#### **JOBS:**

Even with an unemployment rate around 10% there are jobs not being filled. Telemarketing Concepts has 90 positions to fill. Start at \$6.00/hour, average \$9.00 hour, based on sales production could be \$11.00/hour to \$12.00/hour, good benefits, and excellent flexibility in hours to work.

The problem is many of the 9.5% unemployed are x-textile workers who will not be reentering the labor market but are taking advantage of the "dislocated worker" opportunities. Some of our unemployed do not have the necessary skills for the companies, or lack the education required.

As you all know we operate in an international market. Sumitomo, InterKordSA, and Conflandey show that even we can attract international investment. We are therefore impacted by things that happen in all parts of the world. The Middle East situation is and has impacted investments coming into Columbus County (the Pharmaceutical Project). We may see other impacts too.

We need to continue the great efforts already underway and never become

complacent. We may never provide enough jobs for all our residents in the County or the region but we must continue the effort. The leadership of various organizations is all working with you to be successful.

**APPOINTMENT - RESCIND MOTION TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER C.E. WILSON TO BOARD OF HEALTH - DIED IN LACK OF A SECOND**

A motion was made by Commissioner McKenzie to rescind the motion that was made at the November 20, 2000 Board Meeting to appoint Commissioner C.E. Wilson to serve on the Board of Health to replace A. Dial Gray, III, a Commissioner position, and appoint Bill Memory to serve on the Board of Health to fill the Commissioner position that was vacated by the former Commissioner, A. Dial Gray, III.

Commissioner's McKenzie motion died in lack of a second.

**APPOINTMENT - FOUR COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to appoint Commissioner Bill Memory to serve the length of his term (4 years) on the Four County Community Services Board of Directors to replace Commissioner C.E. Wilson, whose term expired December 4, 2000.

**CLOSED SESSION**

At 8:55 A.M., a motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and passed unanimously to enter into closed session in accordance with N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(4).

James E. Hill, Jr., County Attorney, was excused from closed session.

**RESUMED REGULAR SESSION**

At 9:40 A.M., a motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and passed unanimously to adjourn closed session and resume regular session.

No action was taken.

**ATTORNEY - RETAINED**

A motion was made by Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and passed unanimously to retain James E. Hill, Jr. as County Attorney and directed Dempsey B. Herring, County Administrator to check the feasibility on hiring a full time lawyer for Columbus County and provide the Board with salaries and budget figures from



surrounding counties of similar means.


**FIRE MARSHAL - POSITION OFFERED TO JOHN SAYLOR**

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dutton and passed unanimously to offer the Fire Marshal's position to John Saylor, Mooresville, NC at an annual salary of \$35,896.00 as recommended by the Personnel Interview Committee, to begin employment of January 1, 2001.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs and passed unanimously to adjourn the Board Meeting at 9:45 A.M.

**ADJOURNMENT**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ida L. Smith, Clerk to Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Spruell R. Britt, Chairman