

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Tuesday, January 8, 2002 Meeting

7:30 P.M.

The Honorable Board of Commissioners met at the St. James Fire Department located at 3203 Old Northeast Road, Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina, on the above stated date and time for a scheduled Public Hearing which was duly advertised in the News Reporter on December 13, 2001. The purpose of this meeting is to consider extending the St. James Rural Fire Insurance Rated District from Intersections SR-1727 (Curn Spaulding Road), intersections SR-1703 (Farmers Union Road), and intersections SR-1001 traveling north to the Bladen County line while taking in all property on the east side of SR-1001.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amon E. McKenzie, Chairman
Gene Wilson, Vice-Chairman
Spruell R. Britt
David L. Dutton, Jr.
Sammie Jacobs
Bill Memory
Lynwood Norris

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney
Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator
June B. Hall, Acting Clerk to Board

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman McKenzie called the meeting to order and stated this meeting was a continuation of the January 7, 2002 Recessed Meeting. The invocation was delivered by Reverend Campbell. Chairman McKenzie announced this meeting was being held to hear any and all comments from the public in regards to extending the St. James Fire District one (1) mile. He requested if anyone had anything they wanted to say to please stand and state their name and information. The comments were as listed below.

1. **Chief Wilbert Jacobs:** stated the intent was to extend from SR 1001 to the Bladen County line with no overlap into Welches Creek Fire District. This extension would be inclusive of the following roads: Ben Jones Road, Northeast Road, Jim Moore's Place, Whitehall Road, Annie Spaulding Place, SR 1001-Eula Station to Bladen County Line and Metchfield Road
2. **Eula Spaulding:** stated she was concerned the tax rate would be increased from the now present six (\$.06) cents for St. James to the rate of eight (\$.08) cents like Welches Creek. She stated she was presently owned property in both fire districts and was paying fire district taxes in both. She requested to know why. James E. Hill, Jr., Columbus County Attorney, informed her that whatever fire district the said property was located in would determine the fire district tax she would pay.
3. **Katie Monroe:** I reside on SR 1101 across from James Batten and I am paying fire district taxes in the Welches Creek Fire District.
4. **Jeffery Mitchell:** expressed concern regarding the Welches Creek Fire District, the Hallsboro Fire District and the Lake Waccamaw Fire District. The residents are paying the fire district taxes to districts in which they do not reside in. I have went to the Columbus County Tax Department to attempt to get this straightened out. I was informed it was handled and when the next tax bill was sent, the same information appeared on the tax bill. I would like to know what it will take to clear this problem up and assure the taxes are going to the right tax district.
5. **Haynes Graham:** this problem with the fire district taxes being billed correctly and the money being directed to the correct district was discussed five (5) years ago with the promise of the problem would be handled. As of today, the problem still exists. I suggest the Commission take care of the problem.

6. **Eula Spaulding**: I would like to hear a response from the County Commissioners in regards to Mr. Haynes Graham's request.
7. **Chairman Amon E. McKenzie**: the County Commissioners will look into this matter.
8. **Commissioner Bill Memory**: Columbus County is presently developing a Geographical Information System (GIS). This system, once implemented, will eliminate problems of this nature. We ask for your patience until this system is up and running.
9. **Commissioner Gene Wilson**: Whiteville increased their fire district tax two (\$.02) cents. Western Prong was not included.
10. **Katie Monroe**: I would like to know why a representative from the Welches Creek Fire District is not present at this meeting.
11. **Chief Wilbert Jacobs**: we are extending our fire district one (1) mile which does not include the Welches Creek District.
12. **Reverend Ronald Campbell**: expressed concern that the local residents had not been made aware of this meeting in a timely manner. Also stated he thought the residents in the St. James Fire District were mainly concerned and interested in the fact that the taxes they paid go toward the betterment of the St. James Fire Department.
13. **Henry Campbell**: stated the notice had been sent thirty (30) days in advance to the hearing as required by law.
14. **Haynes Graham**: stated the listing of the incorrect tax district had been a problem for many years. Dr. Blanks, a representative from the State had visited the area approximately ten (10) years ago and did a study and suggested the area to be included in the extension be left closed as a dead area. I personally believe it would be beneficial to the residents to include this area. He stated another problem area was around Council. We were told ten (10) years ago by a previous County Administrator that this would be handled. It was lip service then and now ten (10) years later, we're still getting lip service.
15. **Chairman Amon E. McKenzie**: informed the residents that this matter would be taken under advisement. He requested a vote from the residents for the extension of the St. James Fire District. The votes were thirteen (13) for and zero (0) against.

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED

Commissioner Sammie Jacobs made a motion for the Public Hearing to be adjourned, seconded by Commisisoner Randy Britt. The motion so carried. The Public Hearing was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

REGULAR SESSION RESUMED

Chairman Amon E. McKenzie called the regular session to order at 8:01 P.M. from a recessed meeting held on January 7, 2002. He stated that we needed to enter into a Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Authority Board Meeting. Commissioner Bill Memory made a motion to enter into a Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Authority Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Sammie Jacobs. Motion so carried.

WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT II (COLUMBUS COUNTY)

This information will be listed in the Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Minute Book.

REGULAR SESSION RESUMED

At 8:07 P.M., regular session resumed.

RIEGEL RIDGE MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILL

Billy Joe Farmer, Columbus County Administrator, presented a sample Letter of Endorsement to James C. Coffey with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources for approval. The letter reads as follows:

January 8, 2002

Mr. James C. Coffey
Acting Chief, Solid Waste Section
N.C. Dept. Of Enviroment and Natural Resources
1546 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1646

Re: Franchise Assignment

Dear Mr. coffey:

The Columbus County Commissionrs, duly elected to represent over 54,000 citizens within Columbus County do hereby recognize and endorse the ultimate design, construction and operation of the Riegel Ridge Municipal Solid Waste Landfill to Waste Management in compliance with our host franchise agreement dated October 4, 1999; Article VIII, Para. 8.02.

Based upon our many years of planning (since 1994) and your Departments continued thorough review of the site feasibility of this project (since March of 2000) we are very comfortable that this project is both environmentally safe and is a good fiscal decision for Columbus County residents, communities and businesses and we are hopeful for your speedy reply and continued assistance with Riegel Ridge, LLC, Waste Mangement and Columbus County in expediting the permitting of this project for our community.

Please call if I can provide any additional information or elaboration regarding Columbus County Comissioners' written permission of assignment of our host/franchise agreement or any other facet of the importane of this project for Columbus County.

/s/ Amon McKenzie, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

c.c. Columbus County Commissioners
Riegel Ridge Municipal Landfill (file)

A role call was executed and resulted in six (6) yeas and one (1) nay. Commissioner Gene Wilson made a motion for the Letter of Endorsement to be done, seconced by Commissioner Randy Britt. The motion so carried.

REQUEST FOR STORM DEBRIS FEE WAIVER

Billy Joe Farmer, Columbus County Administrator, stated he had received a letter from David Bone, Town Manager of Chadbourn, requesting a waiver of the storm debris fee for the cleanup following the ice storm. Commissioner Gene Wilson made a motion that the storm debris fee not be waived, seconded by Commissioner Lynwood Norris. The motion so carried.

ST. JAMES FIRE DISTRICT EXTENSION

Commissioner Lynwood Norris made a motion that the extension requested by the residents of the St. James Fire District be approved, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Commissioner Bill Memory made a motion the following Budget Amendments be approved, seconded by Commissioner Lynwood Norris. Motion so carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Decrease	10-510-8100	Principal-Leased Vehicles	(\$ 46,079.00)
Increase	10-666-9999	Contingency	\$ 46,070.00
Increase	10-620-3400	Special Projects	\$ 6,410.00
Decrease	10-660-9999	Contingency	(\$ 6,410.00)
Expend	10-495-4501	Economic Development Incent/Grants	\$ 50,000.00
Revenue	10-348-0015	NC Dept of Commerce/EDC Incentive	\$ 50,000.00
Expend	10-613-7050	Transit Building Fund (Pre-Grant Misc.)	\$ 7,000.00
Revenue	10-399-0000	CCT Transportation Match Fund (Reserve)	\$ 7,000.00
Expend	10-700-9600	Specialized Foster Care	\$ 5,301.00
Revenue	10-399-0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$ 5,301.00
Decrease	11-510-7400	Capital Outlay	(\$ 30,000.00)
Increase	11-510-3300	Departmental Supplies	\$ 30,000.00
<u>Revenue</u>	10-335-0000	Miscellaneous	\$ 6,869.00
Expend as follows:			
	10-510-1700	Maint/Repairs Vehicles	\$5,607.00
	10-510-3300	Departmental Supplies	\$1,262.00
Increase	10-510-8100	Principal-Leased Vehicles	\$ 32,748.00
Decrease	10-660-9999	Contingency	(\$ 32,748.00)
Increase	10-900-1200	Contribution to Aging Fund	\$ 6,921.00
Decrease	10-660-9999	Contingency	(\$ 6,921.00)
<u>Revenue</u>	12-397-0801	Co Approp-Bolton Senior Center	\$ 6,921.00
Expend as Follows:			
	12-606-0200	Salaries	\$2,621.00
	12-606-0500	FICA	\$ 201.00
	12-606-0600	Insurance	\$1,520.00
	12-606-0700	Retirement	\$ 129.00
	12-606-1100	Telephone	\$ 160.00
	12-606-1101	Postage	\$ 40.00
	12-606-1400	Travel	\$ 120.00
	12-606-3200	Office Supplies	\$ 930.00
	12-606-3300	Departmental Supplies	\$1,200.00

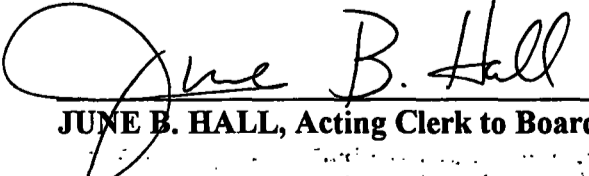
APOLOGY BY VERNON GURGANOUS

Commissioner David L. Dutton, Jr. stated Vernon Gurganous would like to send his apology for his conduct at a previous meeting.

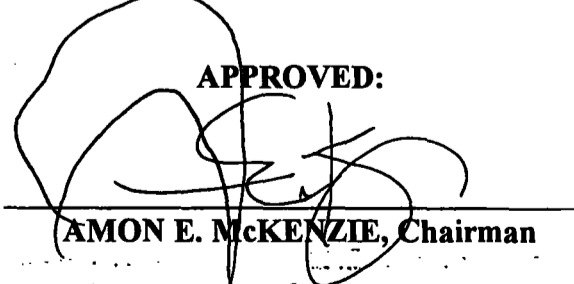
MEETING ADJOURNED

At 8:23 P.M., Commissioner Sammie Jacobs made a motion the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Commissioner Randy Britt. Motion so carried.

APPROVED:


JUNE B. HALL, Acting Clerk to Board

APPROVED:


AMON E. MCKENZIE, Chairman