

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, July 7, 2003

7:30 P.M.

6:00 P.M.: Cooperative Extension Dinner and Departmental Update:

Commissioners in Attendance: C.E. "Gene" Wilson, **Chairman**, Bill Memory, **Vice Chairman**, Kipling Godwin, Amon E. McKenzie, Lynwood Norris

Appointees in Attendance: Billy Joe Farmer, **County Administrator**, Darren L. Currie, **Assistant County Administrator**, June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**

An evening dinner was served buffet style and Jackie Roseboro, Cooperative Extension Director, presented the Departmental Update as follows:

Mission: the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service (NCCES) helps people improve the quality of their lives by providing research-based information and informal educational opportunities focused on issues and needs.

Organization: we are a unique educational system with support from county, state and federal governments, and close ties to the state's two (2) land grant universities - N C State University and NC A&T State University. The educational philosophy is to help individuals, families, and communities learn to identify and solve their own problems. We are committed to making certain that the programs are open to all citizens of N.C. regardless of age, race, color, national origin, sex or economic circumstance.

Our Goals:

- Deliver programs that adequately address the relevant issues and needs of a diverse clientele.
- Employ and support a staff of diverse and competent personnel.
- Foster an environment that will enable staff members and volunteers to achieve their full potential.
- Obtain and manage resources to ensure an effective and efficient organization.
- Broaden public understanding of Extensions' mission, goals, programs and accomplishments.

The Columbus County Staff was recognized and the Extension Advisory Council. Ms. Roseboro requested everyone in attendance to observe the material that was nicely displayed of some of the programs they were involved in.

7:30 P.M.: Regular Session:

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, for their regular scheduled meeting on the third Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

C.E. "Gene" Wilson, **Chairman**
Bill Memory, **Vice Chairman**
David L. Dutton, Jr.
Kipling Godwin
Sammie Jacobs
Amon E. McKenzie
Lynwood Norris

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Billy Joe Farmer, **County Administrator**
James E. Hill, Jr., **County Attorney**
Darren L. Currie, **Assistant County Administrator**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**

Agenda Items #1 and #2: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:30 P.M., Regular Session was called to order and the invocation was delivered by Commissioner Bill Memory. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER SYSTEM - DISTRICTS II and III:

Chairman Wilson stated the Agenda would be rearranged to allow the citizens who wished to make comments on Water Districts II and III to do so. The following people spoke:

1. **Linda Russ:** stated the following:
 - a. The mandatory hookup you are enforcing is very unfair and is the result of a lot of misinformation that has been given to the citizens of Columbus County;
 - b. You had no consensus of the people to do this;
 - c. You held the elections for these water districts at off times when you knew the voters would not vote and it would get passed;
 - d. You Commissioners are sitting in Fat City and afford this but there are many elderly citizens in this county who cannot; **and**
 - e. Why are you doing this?

Chairman Wilson replied stating in the Bond Referendum that was voted on it stated the Commissioners had the legal right to tax the citizens in order to make this water system work, but the County Commissioners thought that taxing would be unfair and reached the decision to have mandatory hookup.

2. **Jeff Taylor:** stated the following:
 - a. I would like to know why grant money was not utilized in these water districts in lieu of loans. Grant money was allocated to Columbus County and why was it used in districts and not countywide.

James E. Hill, Jr., Columbus County Attorney, replied stating in Water District II there were eighteen (18%) percent grant money and the remaining amount was in loans.

- b. You have stated that all surrounding counties have mandatory hookup and I have been in touch with Robeson County and they do not have mandatory hookup. I have also discovered the flat rates in the adjoining counties are much cheaper than what the flat rate you are charging as follows: Robeson County - \$9.00, Brunswick County - \$11.00, Bladen County - \$14.00. I would like to know how these counties can have such low flat rates and Columbus County is charging \$\$22.50 and \$25.00.

Mr. Hill replied stating that in 1987 the county-wide water was put out for vote and failed.

At that time, this entailed seventy-five (75%) percent grant money and only twenty-five (25%) percent loan money. If this vote had passed, the cost of this water system would have been considerably cheaper for everyone involved. Since that time, the Federal government (FHA - Rural Center) has continuously decreased the amount of grant money they are willing to supply for projects of this nature. When Districts II and III were done, the grant money percentage was very low falling in the twenty-five (25%) percent to thirty-five (35%) percent range.

Commissioner Dutton stated that mistakes had been made and we apologize for them. We did not have a water-oriented staff member and were misinformed on many of the facts and details. We do have a person on staff now that is familiar with water systems and is desperately trying to correct these many mistakes and to make this system work as cheaply and efficiently as possible.

- c. Since the Commissioners have realized that many mistakes have been made in the establishment of this water system, would there any objections to bringing in the State Auditor to come in here and straighten this mess out and allowing him to check the books?

Chairman Wilson stated there had been Public Hearings held in each district for the citizens to attend. Mr. Taylor asked what method was used to inform the citizens of these Public Hearings. Chairman Wilson replied stating the Public Hearings had been duly advertised in the News Reporter, a paper of general circulation in Columbus County. Chairman Wilson

asked Mr. Taylor if he voted for water in District II and if he did, did you read what was written in the Bond Referendum? Mr. Taylor stated yes I voted but cannot remember what was stated word for word.

Mr. Hill stated in the Bond Referendum that was voted on in District II, it stated it authorizes a levy of taxes in an amount sufficient to pay the principal and interest on the said bonds to be approved.

Commissioner Memory stated this decision was not an easy decision to make. We have been discussing this for a long time and we must start paying this money back. Believe me this was a difficult decision to make and we looked at three (3) different alternatives which were:

- a. Mandatory hookup - this way, at least you are getting a service for the money you are paying and that will go against the maintenance and operation of the system and the outstanding debt we owe;
- b. Tax - each water district stands on its own. We looked at taxing people in Water District II which would equate to a large sum on those utilizing the water; **and**
- c. Accessibility Fee - charging everyone along the water line and this would equate to as much as two hundred (\$200.00) dollars

Jeff Taylor asked why we did not take the grant money we had to use and put in a small amount of the water system and then as you collected revenue, phase the rest in. Mr. Wilson replied stating when you apply for this loan and grant, we have to spend the loan first and then the grant money.

Commissioner Memory stated the Board had discovered they had been misinformed by the engineering firm as to whether the system would work feasibly or not.

The general consensus of the Board was that there would not be any objections to bringing in the State Auditor.

Commissioner McKenzie went into lengthy detail to explain to the people in attendance that Columbus County had an outstanding debt that needed to be paid back and the way that was chosen to accomplish this task was the fairest of the options that were available. He stated when new businesses look at Columbus County to locate, they asked the following three (3) questions: where will my water come from, how will I dispose of my solid waste and how is the housing and schools in Columbus County. Since we have installed as many water lines as we have, we have had much better opportunities for new businesses and industries to locate in Columbus County. In order for new jobs to be created in Columbus County, we need proper infrastructure to attract them. He stated all the Commissioners were asking is for everyone to support the water system and help meet the obligations we have. I know that some have been misled and I apologize for that happening but whether we do this ourselves or allow the State to do it for us, the end result will be the same in the end. The debt will have to be paid back.

3. **Jerry Benton (Merritt Road):** stated the following:

I can only remember the original county-wide water being voted on back in the 1980's and I did not know of any vote that was done. I found out about this when they started running water lines by my house and was told by the contractors the County was having it done. I have good water and don't want this water and don't want it shoved down my throat.

4 **Tommy Johnson (Evergreen):** you have stated that you have large outstanding debts that need to be paid back, why has my property taxes increased from \$850.00 to \$1,450.00 in the last eight (8) years. We're buying a building from Dewey Hill for a sizable sum and you are talking about spending 2.5 million dollars more in the paper today, then why you don't stop and catch up and run your business like everyone else runs their business and put the money where it needs to go and get some of this paid off before you keep trying to spend money.

Commissioner Memory stated the story printed in the News Reporter was printed incorrectly. The Hill Building was purchased to accommodate the Register of Deeds Office and the Tax Office due to them outgrowing the available space they had now.

Commissioner McKenzie stated the Courthouse was in desperate need of work that needed

to be done.

- 5 **Robert Adams (Western Prong, District III):** everyone is accusing the Commissioners for misleading them on the Water District, but they were not the only ones. Lee Hinnant with the News Reporter played a major role in printing information that was misleading regarding the Water District. After many lengthy statements made, the main emphasis and points made were to mandate the eight hundred eleven (811) people who paid their tap-on fee to pay for the system and not the ones who did not pay their tap-on fee and do not want the water pay for the system.

Commissioner Dutton stated Mr. Adams was present at almost all of the Commissioners' meetings to voice a complaint of some nature.

Commissioner Godwin stated the decision for mandatory hookup that was made was the most difficult decision he had to make since becoming a Commissioner and did not want to make this decision, but of the choices they had, this was the best, albeit none of the choices were good ones. He requested Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, to explain what the recourse would be if this federal loan was not paid back.

Mr. Farmer replied stating he had contacted the Rural Center and asked what would happen if we defaulted on our loan and was informed if that indeed did happen, they would send representatives down to correct the problem and would charge everyone whatever amount was necessary to get the loan paid. I do not think that any citizen in this County want this to happen. In addition to being a staggering amount for everyone, Columbus County would lose their bond rating and would not be able to acquire any grant money for quite some time and this would throw Columbus County back approximately twenty (20) years.

- 6 **Roy Hedgepeth:** if you had to make a choice to pay a water bill for water you are not using or to pay for medicine to sustain you life, which would you do?

- 7 **John Russ:** I would like to know from each one of you how many of you have been in the military?

Commissioner McKenzie stated he had been in the military for a period of thirty-four (34) years.

Mr. Russ asked how many wells do we have constructed in the County for this water system?

The answer among the Board members was there were five (5) wells that had been constructed as follows: one (1) one in the Industrial Park, one on Highway 242, one (1) on Golf Course Road, and two (2) on Page Road.

Mr. Russ asked what was the criteria to locate these wells where they are at?

Commissioner McKenzie stated the engineering firm suggested the locations where the wells needed to be.

Mr. Russ asked if the County bought the property where the wells are located?

Chairman Wilson stated the locations where the wells are located in Water District III were donated and the other locations were purchased for the other districts.

James E. Hill, Jr., Columbus County Attorney, stated the going price for these well locations was \$10,000.00.

Mr. Russ stated that many people in the County were not aware that locations were being sought for these wells and may have wanted to be a part of this. He stated that when you went in the military and had to defend your country, you were fighting for freedom. The way this water system is being handled is strictly a communistic step.

8 **Roscoe Nobles (District II):** I understand that the water system that was installed was based on the number of signups that were taken at the beginning. I do not think that what you are trying to do in mandating the ones that did not sign up for this water to be charged whether they utilize the water or not is right. That is strictly unconstitutional and I think that this crowd should ban together and hire a lawyer to fight this and if anyone here is interested in doing this, contact me and we will go forward. The ones that wanted the water should be the ones who pay for it.

Commissioner McKenzie stated that we, as voters, elect our public officials and even though the officials that we vote for may not go into office, we do need to support the ones that are in office. We, as Commissioners, were elected to make good sound decisions for the best benefit of our citizens and some of the decisions we have to make are not the most agreeable but those are in the best interest of the citizens even though everyone does not agree. We proceeded, at that time on the information that we received.

9 **Junior (no last name stated) - (Mollie):** I am not here to bash the Commissioners, I am here to bash the crowd. We got a water system down there that we were not allowed to vote on period. We don't feel like you should pass the cost for Districts I, II, III and IV on to us. I do realize that this system has to be paid for.

10 **Carol Bullard (Whiteville):** I spent nine and one-half (9½) years in the military. I do understand that you have a debt to pay but you are forcing some of the senior citizens to have to choose between their medicine, food or electric bill to pay for this water. I am on a fixed income. I am a single parent and I cannot afford your water and do not want this water. I have a well and it is good water. I have been back home since 1998 and I am sorry I chose to come back to Columbus County. Do not make the ones that do not want the water, make the ones that do want the water pay for it. Listen to the people who elected you into office.

11 **Davis Pridgen:** I would like to know what the tap-on fee will be to tap onto this water system. Chairman Wilson replied stating that we had placed this out for bid to install these tap-ons and meters and will be opened on July 16, 2003 and we have scheduled a meeting for the July 17, 2003 and I can assure you they will be a low as we can possible have them to be.

Davis Pridgen: will the cost be \$100.00 like they were when it started. Chairman Wilson replied stating that if you do not sign up at the beginning, the tap-on fee would be \$400.00.

Davis Pridgen: we did not sign up because we did not want the water. They signed up because they wanted it. Commissioner Memory stated that the tap-on fee would be just as cheap as it could possibly be for the citizens without going below cost.

12 **Terry Priest (Western Prong) -speaking for Roscoe Edwards:** I have a few issues. I was told by a Commissioner that if I hooked onto the water for my vacant lot, I could pay the \$100.00 tap-on fee and it would not cost me anymore money. The issues are as follows:
A. If the County can't pay for one system, then why are they putting in another one;
B. They installed a gas line and didn't charge the citizens for it;
C. I don't think it is right to have to pay a bill if you are not hooked on; **and**
D. How can some of the Commissioners have wells located on their property.

13 **Chuck Mills (Union Valley):** This water issue is tearing the County apart. I understand the base rate for District III is \$22.50 per month. How long can this rate be guaranteed. When all the mandatory hookups are done, then how much will the monthly rate be.

Chairman Wilson replied stating that if enough people hooked onto the system, then the base rate would decrease.

Chuck Mills stated they he had no plans to hooked onto the water system and he would not be scared into doing so and the County could not force him to do so.

14 **Edwin Butler:** I have five (5) rental property which is sometimes vacant. I cannot afford to pay bills at locations where they are vacant and I cannot depend on my renters to pay. The

monthly fee has continuously increased since the original start.

- 15 **George Smith (Boardman):** I am here on behalf of my 85 year old Grandmother who is here tonight and is upset about her \$70.00 water bill. She lives by herself and the house has been checked for leaks and none were discovered. You cannot get any answers from the water office.
Chairman Wilson advised Mr. Smith to step to the back of the room and discuss this with Dixon Medlin.
- 16 **Doris Wilder (District V):** I am here tonight to speak on behalf of myself, my husband and my mother. I do not live in District V but I own some rental property as well as my mother owns rental property in that district also. Each of the properties now have good water and my experience with public water systems in the Raleigh is not good. The water is never just right. In view of all the multiple problems you have experienced with the other districts, I ask that you do not put in District V.
- 17 **82 Year Old (Chadbourn District):** I am greatly disabled on a walker and cannot afford to pay for water and my medicine. I have a water bill in my pocket from Columbus County for \$179.00 and I simply cannot afford to pay it. Something needs to be done about this water system.
- 18 **Mike Bartley (District III):** many fallacies have occurred with this county water system. I understand that District I was subsidized at the beginning because they couldn't survive on their own. It would be only fair to subsidize the other districts until they have a chance to get started. You need to be fair to all citizens. We have been told the fire hydrants that were installed can not be utilized by the fire departments and they would decrease our insurance rates which they haven't.
- 19 **Clara Harrison:** I am on a fixed income and I would like to know when I pay my water bill, could I send my grocery bill and light bill to you gentlemen for you to pay. I did not vote for the water and I do not want the water and I simply cannot afford to pay a water bill.
- 20 **Ricky Williamson (District II):** I would like to ask Commissioner Kip Godwin what are you going to do to help the people in your district on this water situation?

Commissioner Godwin replied stating that he had been sorry for being a County Commissioner since he had begun but one time and that was the time when the decision was made on this mandatory hookup. We held a one-half day workshop on this matter and looked at all the options that were available to us and there simply was no good option to choose from. We looked at the option of allowing the people who signed up for the water to pay for it but the figures would not work. The one option we could have chosen was to default on the paying the debt back and would disallow any progressive thing happening in Columbus County in years. This would hurt our credit rating and bond rating and would hinder Columbus County from doing any good project in the future that everyone agreed upon. We do owe the citizens of Columbus County an apology for the way this water system has been handled. There have been mistakes made along the way and for that we do apologize. You, as citizens, elected the County Commissioners to make the best decisions for you on matters of this nature. We feel the best decision was made out of the choices we had to choose from, although none of the choices were good. I am open for any suggestion to be made of a better way to handle this situation. We do have in excess of \$13 million of water pipe in the ground that must be paid for.

Chairman Wilson stated we will take all the comments made tonight under consideration and another meeting has been scheduled for July 17, 2003, for Water District III at 6:00 P.M., and for Water District II at 6:35 P.M. We will discuss these issues at the next meeting.

Agenda Item #3: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the June 16, 2003 Regular Session Minutes and the June 23, 2003 Regular Session conclusion from June 16, 2003 Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #4: CHAF PROGRAM UPDATE:

Floyd Adams, The Adams Company, Incorporated, presented the following update on the Columbus County CHAF Program.

Columbus County Summary Sheet

CHAF Program

**Previous
May 19, 2003**

TOTAL HOUSES				491		
Houses Inspected				491		
Replacement			296		295	
Repair			195		196	
Repair Work			195			
Work Write-up	0				0	
Bids Complete, Not Awarded	0				0	
Board Awarded, No Construction	3				5	
Title Opinion NOT Requested		0				0
Waiting on Title Opinion		0				0
Waiting on Prom. Note/D.O.T.		3				3
Waiting on Contractor		0				2
Under Construction	15				34	
Complete	177				157	
Replacement Work			296			
Work Write-up	0				0	
Board Awarded, No Construction	0				5	
Title Opinion NOT Requested		0				0
Waiting on Title Opinion		0				2
N.O.E. Not Sent		0				1
Waiting on Client		0				2
Under Construction	76				88	
Complete	220				201	
Not Visited				0	0	
Legal Work						
Total Titles NOT Requested			0		0	
Total Titles Requested			491		491	
Titles Requested, Not Complete			0		2	
Preliminary Title Complete			39		49	
Prom. Note/D.O.T. Requested, Not Signed			41		49	
Prom. Note/ D.O.T. Recorded			411		391	

Mr. Adams stated there were ninety-four (94) left to be done. Thirty (30) had been finished last month. All the remaining houses were under construction and the projected finished time would be September, 2003.

Agenda Item #5: TRAVEL and TOURISM - INTRODUCTION of NEW DIRECTOR:

Lou Boren, past Travel and Tourism Director, introduced Ms. Kim Huffham as the new Travel and Tourism Director. Ms. Huffham thanked the Board for the opportunity to be on board and stated she had fourteen (14) years experience in this field and looked to do new and exciting things in this area.

Agenda Items #6: REQUEST to ADDRESS the BOARD: No Show.

Agenda Item #7: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - SERVICES AGREEMENT for WATER LINE EXTENSION:

Phyllis Owens, Economic Development Director, requested Board approval of an Agreement for Professional Engineering Services for Columbus County, Wright Corporation Water Main Extension. The water mains will generally be installed along the roadways described as follows:

- SR 1419 Fertilizer Road;
- SR 1871 Edgecomb Road;
- Sr 1818 Neils Eddy Road; **and**
- Old SR 1818 Cronly Road.

The total fee of this agreement will be thirty-five thousand nine hundred and 00/100 (\$35,900.00) dollars. A copy of this document will be kept on file in the Office of the Clerk to the Board and in the Office of Economic Development for review.

Commissioner Memory made a motion to approve the Agreement for Professional Engineering Services For Columbus County, Wright Corporation Water Main Extension, seconded by Commissioner Dutton. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #8: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - EDA GRANT for WRIGHT CORPORATION SEWER PROJECT:

Phyllis Owens, Economic Development Director, requested Board approval to accept the Financial Assistance Award in the amount of eight hundred sixty thousand and 00/100 and proceed to construction with no cost to Columbus County. The Investment Number is 04-01-05248. Ms. Owens explained this project has been underway for a period of eight (8) years and it was a \$2.3 million project and the other funds for this project had been secured through other sources. This document will be kept on file in the Office of the Clerk to the Board and in the Office of Economic Development for review.

Commissioner Godwin asked Ms. Owens if there were any stipulations in this document that Columbus County could not meet. Ms. Owens replied stating no there were not.

Commissioner McKenzie asked Ms. Owens if this project would create more jobs for Columbus County. Ms. Owens replied it would keep the present industry within Columbus County.

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to approve the Financial Assistance Award, Investment Number 04-01-05248, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #9: SOLID WASTE - APPROVAL and ADOPTION of RESOLUTION for the SOLID WASTE THREE (3) YEAR UPDATE:

Chuck Stanley, Solid Waste Director, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution for the Columbus County Solid Waste Three (3) year Update.

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND ENDORSING THE SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT PLAN OF 2003 FOR COLUMBUS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, it is a priority of this community to protect human health and the environment through safe and effective management of municipal solid waste;

WHEREAS, the reduction of the amount and toxicity of the local waste stream is a goal of this community;

WHEREAS, equitable and efficient delivery of solid waste management services is an essential characteristic of the local solid waste management system;

WHEREAS, it is a goal of the community to maintain and improve its physical appearance and to reduce the adverse effects of illegal disposal and littering;

WHEREAS, Columbus County recognizes its role in the encouragement of recycling markets by purchasing recycled products;

WHEREAS, involvement and education of the citizenry is critical to the establishment of an

effective local solid waste program;

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has placed planning responsibility on local government for the management of solid waste;

WHEREAS, NC General Statute 130A-309.09A(b) requires each unit of local government, either individually or in cooperation with other units of local government, to update the Ten Year Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan at least every three years;

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Solid Waste Management Department and Citizens Solid Waste Advisory Council have undertaken and completed a long-range planning effort to evaluate the appropriate technologies and strategies available to manage solid waste effectively;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF COLUMBUS COUNTY that Columbus County's 2003 ten Year Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan is accepted and endorsed and placed on file with Clerk to the Board on this day, July 7, 2003.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ C.E. WILSON, Chairman\

ATTESTED BY:
/s/ JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to approve the Resolution Accepting and Endorsing the Solid Waste Management Plan of 2003 for Columbus County, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #10: LUMBER RIVER SNAGGING PROJECT:

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, presented to the Board a request from the Lumber River Council of Governments to participate in a joint proposal for a snagging project on the Lumber River beginning in norther Scotland County to the NC/SC line in Columbus County.

After discussion was conducted among the Board, Commissioner Norris made a motion to take this request from the Lumber River Council of Governments under advisement, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT I AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING:

At 9:41 P.M., Commissioner Dutton made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Authority Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book I of the Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Authority Board.

ADJOURN COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT I AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING and enter into COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT II AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING:

At 9:51 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Authority Board Meeting and enter into Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Authority Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book I of the Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Authority Board.

ADJOURN COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT II AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING and enter into COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT V AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING:

At 9:53 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to adjourn Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Authority Board Meeting and enter into Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Authority Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dutton. The motion so carried.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book 1 of the Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Authority Board.

ADJOURN COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT V AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING and resume REGULAR SESSION:

At 10:17 P.M., Commissioner Dutton made a motion to adjourn Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Authority Board Meeting and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #14: PUBLIC HEARING - DATE ESTABLISHMENT for AMENDMENTS to the WATERSHED PREVENTION ORDINANCE:

Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator, requested the Board to set a date for a Public Hearing for the amendments to the current Columbus County Watershed Prevention Ordinance as recommended by the State. Commissioner Norris made a motion to set the date for the public hearing for the amendments to the Columbus County Watershed Prevention Ordinance as recommended by the State to be July 21, 2003, at 7:15 P.M., seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #15: PERSONNEL - APPROVAL of PURCHASING DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION:

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, requested the Board's approval of a proposed job description for the newly created Purchasing Director position prior to advertisement. This job description will be kept on file in the Office of the Clerk to the Board and in the Personnel Office for review.

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to approve the Job Description for Purchasing Director, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY YOUTH and FAMILIES ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED:

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, provided the Board a description of the Columbus County Youth and Family Association, Incorporated, and the kinds of services provided with a request for any assistance the Board is able to provide.

After discussion was conducted by the Board, Commissioner Dutton made a motion to take this matter under advisement, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #17: COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS / REAPPOINTMENT / APPROVALS:

The following committee appointments were made:

1. **E-911 Oversight Committee:**

(Term of Appointment has not been determined at this time)

District III (Sammie Jacobs): Ervin R. Jacobs, 782 Jacobs Road, Bolton, NC 28423
Telephone: (910) 655-8376

District IV (Bill Memory): Steve Camlin, Acme Delco Fire Department, P.O. 187,
Riegelwood, NC 28456, Telephone: (910) 655-3117 (W),
(910) 655-2448 (H)

District VII (David Dutton): Sammie Jacobs, 285 E. Vinson Boulevard, Whiteville, NC 28472, Telephone: (910) 642-8737 (H) and (W)

2. **Columbus County Water and Sewer Advisory Commission:**
(Length of term not decided at this time)

Water District I (Lynwood Norris): William Hannah, 11655 James B. White Highway South, Whiteville, NC 28472
Telephone: (910) 653-4993 (H)

Agenda Item #18: CONSENT AGENDA ITEM:

A. Budget Amendment:

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the following Budget Amendment, seconded by Commissioner Dutton. The motion so carried.

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	10-520-7200	Building (for security doors)	\$20,000
	10-510-7400	Capital Outlay (for panel van)	\$7,000
Revenue	54-399-0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$27,000

B Tax Refunds and Releases:

Commissioner Dutton made a motion to approve the following Tax Refunds and Releases, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

**TAX REFUNDS (as submitted to Administration from the Tax Office):
July 7, 2003**

Request a refund in the name of Gause, James, P.O. Box 187, Evergreen,, NC 28438. Refund taxes that were paid on Mr.'s Gause's father's account (same name) in error. Refund will include \$40.64 in interest. Amount \$106.95, Value \$1,000.00, Year 1998, Account # 13-14861, Bill # 49290.

Request a refund in the name of Gause, James, P.O. Box 187, Evergreen,, NC 28438. Refund taxes that were paid on Mr. Gause's father's account (same name) in error. Refund will include \$31.22 interest. Amount \$107.65, Value \$1,000.00, Year 1999, Account # 13-14861, Bill # 11059.

Request a refund in the name of Gause, James, P.O. Box 187, Evergreen, NC 28438. Refund taxes that were paid on Mr Gause's father's account (same name) in error. Refund will include \$28.47 interest. Amount \$142.32, Value \$2,406.00, Year 2000, Account # 13-14861, Bill # 92125.

Request a refund in the name of Gause, James, P.O. Box 187, Evergreen, NC 28438. Refund taxes and the Columbus Rescue fee, that were paid on Mr. Gause's father's account (same name) in error. Refund will include \$20.61 interest. Amount \$187.35, Value \$2,540.00, Year 2001, Account # 13-14861, Bill # 92387.

Request a refund in the name of Gause, James, P.O. Box 187, Evergreen, NC 28438. Refund taxes and the Columbus Rescue fee that was paid on Mr. Gause's father's account (same name) in error. Refund will include \$2.52 interest. Amount \$199.88, Value \$2,600.00, Year 2002, Account # 13-14861, Bill # 70080.

Request a refund in the name of Jacobs, Rena B., P.O. Box 115, Bolton,, NC 28423. Refund the value of a single wide home, the Bolton Fire fee (3.38) and the Columbus Rescue fee (1.13). Single wide was traded on double wide. Amount \$128.38, Value \$5,643.00, Year 2001, Account # 04-08620, Bill # 98626.

Request a refund in the name of Mounce, Julie, P.O. Box 3024, Elizabethtown, NC 28337. Refund a portion of the user fee. Customer did not have the trash can for a full year. Refund approved by

Litter Patrol. Amount \$73.75, Value \$0.00, Year 2002, Account # 05-04344, Bill # 83339.

Request a refund in the name of Stevens, Sherri S., 2410 B. Detlesfson PI SE, Lacey, WA 98503. Refund user fee. There is no trash can at this address. Approved by Litter Patrol. Amount \$177.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2002, Account # 13-38210, Bill # 93121.

**TAX RELEASES (as submitted to Administration from the Tax Office):
July 7, 2003**

Release the Property Value in the name of Rose, Sherill. Release a portion of the property value. Billed with incorrect value. Amount \$3.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2002, Account # 01-04838, Bill # 88361.

Release the Property Value in the name of Anderson, Roland. Release the value of a mobile home, Evergreen Fire fee (25.00) and Columbus Rescue fee (1.06). The home is double listed in the name of Mary Wells. Amount \$248.65, Value \$5,301.00, Year 2002, Account # 12-00349, Bill # 57347.

Release the Property Value in the name of Batten, Daniel O.. Release the value of a single wide home, the Klondyke Fire fee (2.06) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.59). The single wide home was traded for a double wide and listed. Amount \$205.18, Value \$2,945.00, Year 2002, Account # 13-01559, Bill # 58497.

Release the Property Value in the name of Cooper, Ila S.. Release the deferred tax, the Williams Fire fee (10.62) and the Columbus Rescue fee (3.54). Property was sold to a family member. Amount \$152.22, Value \$17,700.00, Year 2002, Account # 09-04980, Bill # 61433.

Release the Property Value in the name of Cooper, Ila S.. Release the deferred tax, the Williams Fire fee (10.62) and the Columbus Rescue fee (3.54). The property was sold to a family member. Amount \$152.22, Value \$17,700.00, Year 2001, Account # 09-04980, Bill # 61434.

Release the Property Value in the name of Cooper, Ila S.. Release the deferred tax and the Williams Fire fee. The property was sold to a family member. Amount \$138.06, Value \$17,700.00, Year 2000, Account # 09-04980, Bill # 61435.

Release the Property Value in the name of Cooper, Ila S.. Release the deferred tax and the Williams Fire fee. The property was sold to a family member. Amount \$133.63, Value \$17,700.00, Year 1999, Account # 09-04980, Bill # 61436.

Release the Property Value in the name of Garver, Heidi. Release the value of a single wide home, the Acme Delco Fire fee (6.12) and the Columbus Rescue fee (1.02). Home is double listed in the same name on a different acct. number. Release of user fee approved by Litter Patrol. Amount \$228.65, Value \$5,104.00, Year 2002, Account # 15-02230, Bill # 70011.

Release the Property Value in the name of Huestess, Charlie M.. Release the value of a mobile home, the North Whiteville Fire fee (25.00) and the Columbus Rescue fee (2.77). Home is double listed in the name of Helen B. Heustess. Release of user fee approved by Litter Patrol. Amount \$323.70, Value \$13,830.00, Year 2002, Account # 05-03056, Bill # 75540.

Release the Property Value in the name of McAlister, Denise F.. Release a portion of the mobile home value, the Klondyke Fire fee (.74) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.22). Home was billed with incorrect size. Amount \$9.46, Value \$1,090.00, Year 2002, Account # 13-04545, Bill # 80674.

Release the Property Value in the name of Rose, Sherill. Release a portion of the property value. Billed with incorrect value. Amount \$3.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2001, Account # 01-04838, Bill # 10313.

Release the Property Value in the name of Williamson, Chad. Release the value of a mobile home, the Hallsboro Fire (5.22) and the Columbus Resue fee (1.74). Home was repossessed in 1998. Amount \$259.35, Value \$8,705.00, Year 2002, Account # 11-30562, Bill # 98905.

Release the Property Value in the name of Tedder, James P.. Release the value of a mobile home, the

Acme Delco Fire fee (6.85) and the Columbus Rescue fee (1.14). Home is double listed in the name of Rachel Bernice Bell. Amount \$57.79, Value \$5,712.00, Year 2002, Account # 15-36085, Bill # 94273.

Release the Property Value in the name of Ward, F.B. (Mrs). Release the property value that is double listed in the name of James and Paula Canady. Amount \$47.52, Value \$6,600.00, Year 2000, Account # 03-26520, Bill # 17534.

Release the Property Value in the name of Williamson, Chad. Release the value of a mobile home and the Columbus Rescue fee. Home was repossessed in 1998. Amount \$81.49, Value \$9,260.00, Year 2001, Account # 11-30562, Bill # 20701.

Release the Property Value in the name of Williamson, Chad. Release the value of a mobile home that was repossessed in 1998. Amount \$83.08, Value \$10,490.00, Year 2000, Account # 11-30562, Bill # 19652.

Release the Property Value in the name of Williamson, Chad. Release the value of a mobile home that was repossessed in 1998. Amount \$64.60, Value \$8,450.00, Year 1999, Account # 11-30562, Bill # 37839.

Release the Property Value in the name of McAllister, Denise. Release the value of a mobile home, the Klondyke Fire fee (15.43) and the Columbus Rescue fee (4.41). The home is double listed in the same name with a different account number. Release of user fee approved by Litter Patrol. Amount \$387.93, Value \$22,040.00, Year 2002, Account # 13-03341, Bill # 80678.

Release the Property Value in the name of Ward, F.B. (Mrs). Release the property value and the Columbus Rescue fee. Property is double listed in the name of James and Paula Canday. Amount \$52.80, Value \$6,600.00, Year 2001, Account # 03-26520, Bill # 18529.

Release the Property Value in the name of Ward, F.B. (Mrs). Release the property value that is double listed in the name of James and Paula Canady. Amount \$34.56, Value \$4,800.00, Year 1993, Account # 03-26520, Bill # 93329.

Release the Property Value in the name of Ward, F.B. (Mrs). Release the property value that is double listed in the name of James and Paula Canady. Amount \$45.87, Value \$6,600.00, Year 1999, Account # 03-26520, Bill # 35766.

Release the Property Value in the name of Ward, F.B. (Mrs). Release the property value that is double listed in the name of James and Paula Canady. Amount \$45.87, Value \$6,600.00, Year 1998, Account # 03-26520, Bill # 73227.

Release the Property Value in the name of Ward, F.B. (Mrs). Release the property value that is double listed in the name of James and Paula Canady. Amount \$45.87, Value \$6,600.00, Year 1997, Account # 03-26520, Bill # 67806.

Release the Property Value in the name of Ward, F.B. (Mrs). Release the property value that is double listed in the name of James and Paula Canady. Amount \$37.44, Value \$4,800.00, Year 1996, Account # 03-26520, Bill # 69475.

Release the Property Value in the name of Ward, F.B. (Mrs). Release the property value that is double listed in the name of James and Paula Canady. Amount \$37.44, Value \$4,800.00, Year 1995, Account # 03-26520, Bill # 24014.

Release the Property Value in the name of Ward, F.B. (Mrs). Release the property value that is double listed in the name of James and Paula Canady. Amount \$36.48, Value \$4,800.00, Year 1994, Account # 03-26520, Bill # 52392.

Release the Property Value in the name of Ward, F.B. (Mrs). Release the property value and the Columbus Rescue fee. Property is double listed in the name of James and Paula Canady. Amount \$52.80, Value \$6,600.00, Year 2002, Account # 03-26520, Bill # 96721.

Release the User Fee in the name of Jacobs, Alvin M.. Release user fee. Customer has a commercial hauler. Approved by Litter Patrol. Amount \$177.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2002, Account # 08-09703, Bill # 76250.

Release the User Fee in the name of Williams, Milton. Release user fee. This is vacant land. Approved by Litter Patrol. Amount \$177.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2002, Account # 03-02208, Bill # 98714.

Release the User Fee in the name of Singletary, Richard. Release user fee that was paid previously in pre payment. Approved by Litter Patrol. Amount \$177.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2002, Account # 03-21977, Bill # 90423.

Release the User Fee in the name of Rose, Marie. Release one of two user fees. There only one trash can at this address. Approved by Litter Patrol. Amount \$177.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2002, Account # 05-03609, Bill # 88359.

Release the User Fee in the name of James, William. Release the user fee that was double listed in the name of Teinnie James and paid. Approved by Litter Patrol. Amount \$177.00, Value \$0.00, Year 2002, Account # 09-15560, Bill # 76539.

C Amendment to July 7, 2003 Refunds and Releases:

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to approve the following amendment to the July 7, 2003 Refunds and Releases, seconded by Commissioner Dutton. The motion so carried.

The request for a refund in the name of James Gause has been corrected in our office. The funds have been applied to the correct account and Mr. Gause has been rebilled for the delinquent tax.

AGENDA ADD-ON:

Item #1: HOME CARE and COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT:

Ed Worley, Aging Director, requested Board approval to accept sixteen thousand two hundred fifty and 00/100 (\$16,250.00) dollars from the Cape Fear Council of Governments with a ten (10%) percent County match of one thousand eight hundred six and 00/100 (\$1,806.00) dollars which is in the Department of Aging's Budget, for a total of eighteen thousand fifty-six and 00/100 (\$18,056.00) dollars.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to accept the sixteen thousand two hundred fifty and 00/100 (\$16,250.00) dollars from the Cape Fear Council of Governments with a ten (10%) percent County match of one thousand eight hundred six and 00/100 (\$1,806.00) dollars which is in the Department of Aging's Budget, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Mr. Worley stated that an in-house audit had been done and the Department of Aging was turning in the amount of two hundred eighty-one thousand four hundred sixty-five and 00/100 (\$281,465.00) dollars to the General Fund.

Agenda Item #19: COMMENTS:

B Board of Commissioners:

Commissioner McKenzie stated he wished to return thanks to Jackie Roseboro, Cooperative Extension Director, for the invitation to the dinner this evening and the Departmental Update. He stated she was doing a good job as director.

C Administrator:

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, stated that Angie Mettlan with Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates, for Columbus County Water and Sewer District V was present and had done a very

good job for the County. She came into the middle of a difficult situation and had done well with what she had to work with. Mr. Farmer stated that Fred Hobbs which is over Angie is putting pressure on her regarding compensation for the work that had been performed so far but not paid.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION:

Agenda Item #20: CLOSED SESSION:

At 10:37 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. §143-318.11, seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

No official action was taken.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:

At 11:35 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion so carried.

OPTION to PURCHASE PROPERTY for PRISON:

Commissioner Kipling Godwin moved the Board of Commissioners for adoption of the following motion:

Should Columbus County exercise its option to purchase a certain tract of land form The May Company, LP et al, then the said purchase shall be in accordance with all of the terms, restrictions and conditions as defined in the said Option to Purchase, dated the 1st day of July, 2003 and signed by The May Company, LP et al. The instrument executed by The May Company, LP et al is an Option to Purchase and is not a Contract to Convey Land and the right to exercise or not to exercise, provided Columbus County is in compliance with the terms of the instrument, is the right of Columbus County or its assigns.

The motion, seconded by Commissioner L. Lynwood Norris, passed unanimously.

Ayes: Commissioners - Chairman C.E. Wilson, David L. Dutton, Jr., William Memory; Kipling Godwin, L. Lynwood Norris, Sammie Jacobs and Amon E. McKenzie.

Nays: None.

Agenda Item #21: ADJOURNMENT:

At 11:37 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

C.E. WILSON, Chairman