

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, March 1, 2004

7:30 P.M.

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 first Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

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**
 Gayle B. Godwin, **Finance Officer**

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Kipling Godwin

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

At 7:30 P.M., Chairman Memory called the meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Sammie Jacobs. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Agenda Item #3: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the February 16, 2004 Regular Session Board Minutes, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. 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
02-02-04

TOTAL HOUSES				491		
Houses Inspected				491		
Replacement			296		296	
Repair			195		195	
Repair Work			195			
Work Write-up	0				0	
Bids Complete, Not Awarded	0				0	
Board Awarded, No Construction	0				0	
Title Opinion NOT Requested		0				0
Waiting on Title Opinion		0				0
Waiting on Prom. Note/D.O.T.		0				0
Waiting on Contractor		0				0
Under Construction	0				0	
Complete	195				195	
Replacement Work			296			
Work Write-up	0				0	
Board Awarded, No Construction	0				0	
Title Opinion NOT Requested		0				0
Waiting on Title Opinion		0				0
N.O.E. Not Sent		0				0
Waiting on Client		0				0
Under Construction	6				7	

Complete	290				289	
Not Visited				0	0	
Legal Work						
Total Titles NOT Requested			0		0	
Total Titles Requested			491		491	
Titles Requested, Not Complete			0		0	
Preliminary Title Complete			2		3	
Prom. Note/D.O.T. Requested, Not Signed			28		30	
Prom. Note/D.O.T. Recorded			461		458	

Floyd Adams stated the six (6) listed under Replacement Work - Under Construction consisted of three (3) of the Chris Parker homes of which one (1) has been released and the other two are expected to be released shortly. The other three (3) consisted of the routine houses and one was expected to be finished by the end of this week and the others would be finished by next week.

Request for Direction on Mable Moore:

Floyd Adams requested direction be given by the Board on the Mable Moore situation. He stated the following:

1. Mable Moore, situated on the Mosely Moore Road, applied for this program when she was supposed to;
2. She applied at the Dream Center and then the Dream Center was to forward her paperwork to Columbus County;
3. The application Ms. Moore filled out was somehow lost on the process;
4. Ms. Moore has made an appeal to the Task Force Committee and to the State regarding this matter;
5. Ms. Yolanda Abrams from the State has recommended that Columbus County accept Ms. Moore's application;
6. The State has agreed to add additional funds to cover Ms. Moore's application;
7. I am recommending the Columbus County Commissioner approve Ms. Moore's application;
8. The cost of Ms. Moore's application will be seventy-nine thousand five hundred and 00/100 (\$79,500.00) dollars and I am officially requested the Columbus County Commissioners add Ms. Mable Moore to the list at this cost; **and**
9. I further recommend the Columbus County Commissioners make Ms. Moore's application contingent on the additional State funding.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to add Ms. Mable Moore to the CHAF Program at the cost of seventy-nine thousand five hundred and 00/100 (\$79,500.00) dollars, being contingent on the State adding additional funds for this application, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Status of Project in Brunswick:

Commissioner Dutton asked Mr. Adams what the status of the project in Brunswick was. Mr. Adams replied stating he was working on two (2) projects and they are as follows:

1. **Scattered Site Housing Grant:** we started with eight (8) houses and it has been reduced to seven (7). Three (3) of these houses have been completed and the contracts have been awarded on the other four (4).
2. **Concentrated Needs Housing Grant:** this grant entails houses in the Brunswick Community and the Green Acres Community. We have completed one (1) of the houses. On the other seven (7) houses, the lead-based paint process is complete. The bidding process is in progress. The relocation is in process. I hope to have this information to the Board in April, 2004. This grant was originally for seven hundred thousand and 00/100 (\$700,000.00) dollars, but due to the State releasing only four hundred thousand and 00/100 (\$400,000.00) dollars originally, I had to redo my paperwork to reflect this reduction. I need to clean up the paperwork to reflect the full amount of seven hundred thousand and 00/100 (\$700,000.00) dollars. Part of this grant was for the extension of waterlines and I do not know at what stage this is at.

Agenda Item #5: SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES and SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES UPDATE:

Stephen Ramey, Area Director, presented the following update to the Board on the Southeastern Regional Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services.

1. I would like to express deep appreciation for the working relationship I have experienced with the Administration Staff and the renovation crew during this process.
2. I would like to thank Ms. Marian Duncan for her much-needed help. Without the help from Ms. Duncan, this task could not have been accomplished.
3. **Columbus County Renovations:** The renovation project is divided into "phases". Phase I is almost complete. It is expected to cost approximately sixty thousand and 00/100 (\$60,000.00) dollars, which will be paid by Southeastern Regional Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (Area Program). Phase II will begin upon completion of Phase I.
4. **Emergency Services Grant Request:** The Area Program is submitting a grant request to the Kate B. Reynold Charitable Trust to expand emergency services. If the grant is funded, mobile emergency teams and a twenty-four (24) hour crisis station will be established.
5. **System Reform:** On January 15, 2004, the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Development Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (the Division) published its final draft to revise the behavioral health service standards for North Carolina. If approved by the federal government (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid), it will be implemented on January 1, 2005. From a fiscal perspective, this change will alter the rates and types of services that are reimbursed through Medicaid. Additionally, this change will impact all local mental health agencies in terms of the rate and pace of mental health reform as required by the State of North Carolina.
6. **Legislative Proposals:** The North Carolina Council of Community Programs is proposing several legislative initiatives. The primary areas of focus are: 1) 2004/05 Budget; 2) the role of local management entity (LME); and 3) the local government retirement system.
7. **Financial Reports and Area Board Minutes:** Quarterly Financial Reports continue to be submitted to the Division and the County Administrator. The Annual Audit Report for Fiscal year 2002/03 was complete and accepted by the Local Government Commission. Copies of the report were provided to each County Commissioner and County Administrator/Manager in Bladen, Columbus, Robeson and Scotland Counties. Additional, a copy of the Area Board meeting minutes and financials is sent to each County Administrator/Manager in the catchment area.

Commissioner McKenzie stated he would like to personally thank Mr. Stephen Ramey for the help he provided in a critical situation that occurred recently. I would like for everyone to know he was there when the need arose and was very helpful.

Chairman Memory stated he would like to discuss a concern a constituent had relative to three (3) houses being dispensed of and purchased by a former employee. He asked Mr. Ramey if he would have this same practice in Columbus County. Mr. Ramey stated the following:

1. The buildings in question were under leased and the lease has been transferred;
2. We have sold some property due to downsizing;
3. I was not directly involved in the transaction, but I do understand that some property was sold to a former employee who had been an employee for seventeen (17) years, for forty thousand and 00/100 (\$40,000.00) dollars, at six and one-half (6 ½ %) percent interest; **and**
4. When transactions of this nature are done, we do them in a way to protect the staff and the consumers.

Agenda Item #6: CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM:

Kay Horne, Chairperson, requested Board approval of the following two (2) items.

1. **Application for Continuation of Implementation Funding in the amount of seventy-five thousand one hundred three and 00/100 (\$75,103.00) dollars.**

Kay Horne requested Board approval of this application. She stated for this amount of money, we provided a great deal of service. It entails the electronic monitoring of jail inmates and if all the units they have been provided are fully utilized, it will save Columbus County several thousand dollars.

Chairman Memory asked Ms. Horne what the percentage of usage was on the ankle bracelets. Ms. Horne replied stating they had got a late start and were in the process of making everyone aware of these devices.

Commissioner Dutton made a motion to approve the Application for Continuation of

Implementation Funding in the amount of seventy-five thousand one hundred three and 00/100 (\$75,103.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

2. **Appointment of the following people for membership to the Columbus County Criminal Justice Partnership Advisory Board.**

Kay Horne requested Board approval of the following recommended people: 1) Bill Horne; 2) Mike Helm; 3) Annie Brown; 4) Dawn Mehalic; **and** 5) Ricky Rouse.

Commissioner Dutton made a motion to approve the appointment of Bill Horne, Mike Helm, Annie Brown, Dawn Mehalic and Ricky Rouse to the Columbus County Criminal Justice Partnership Advisory Board, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #7: SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION - APPROVAL of SIMMONS BAY PROJECT BID PACKAGE:

Donna Register, District Conservationist, requested Board approval of the Simmons Bay Project Bid Package. She stated the Corps of Engineers gave the Simmons Bay Watershed an unsatisfactory rating. This project is to clear and snag the Simmons Bay Watershed in order to receive a satisfactory rating. This document will be on file in the Office of the Clerk to the Board for review.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the Simmons Bay Project Bid Package, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Ms. Register stated she would need help with informing the landowners of this project. Mr. James E. Hill, Jr., Columbus County Attorney, stated he would work with Richard Gore, Tax Administrator, in accomplishing this task.

Chairman Memory asked Ms. Register if the Town of Lake Waccacmaw got the grant they had applied for. Ms. Register replied stating the Town of Lake Waccamaw had received a grant in the amount of two hundred fifty thousand and 00/100 (\$250,000.00) dollars.

Agenda Item #8: TRANSPORTATION - REQUEST for ESTABLISHMENT of PUBLIC HEARING DATE:

Charles Patton, Director, requested the Board establish a date for a Public Hearing for the Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP).

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to establish the Public Hearing date for March 15, 2004, at 7:15 P.M., seconded by Commissioner Dutton. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #9: RECREATION - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Carol Worrell, Director, presented the following update on the Columbus County Recreation Department.

1. We have renovated the following parks located throughout Columbus County and I will present before and after pictures of each area:
 - A. Bolton - renovated playground;
 - B. Sandyfield - new playground area;
 - C. Riegelwood Community Center -
 - 1) Renovated existing playground;
 - 2) installed six (6') foot fencing along property line to water's edge;
 - 3) Renovated ball field lights; **and**
 - 4) Installed new light fixtures.
 - D. Bogue Community -
 - 1) Renovated existing playground area; **and**
 - 2) Supplied materials for handicapped ramp.
 - E. Mt. Olive - Mable Bradley Park -
 - 1) Replaced rotten wood on picnic shelter and installed Master Rib;
 - 2) Repaired old pump house top and installed Master Rib;
 - 3) Marl in driveway; **and**
 - 4) Water fountain installed by Maintenance stall.
 - F. Elra Gertrude Spaulding Park - Farmer's Union Area - new playground;
 - G. Rasom -

- 1) Replaced pump house top; **and**
 - 2) Repair broken water lines, winterized - saving over \$500 by in-house repairs.
 - H. Bella Coola Board Landing -
 - 1) 16' x 36' x 8" ramp / 6' x 16' boardwalk - installed and funding by the NC Wildlife at not cost to County with savings over \$30,000;
 - 2) Picnic tables;
 - 3) Marl for driveway; **and**
 - 4) By summertime, to build 12' x 12' picnic shelter, with concrete slab.
 - I. Buckhead Community -
 - 1) Replaced 4' fencing with 6' fencing around outfield;
 - 2) Repaired playground equipment replacing chain, swing seats, etc.
 - 3) By Spring, repair infield and backstop; **and**
 - 4) Installed scoreboard - County Maintenance staff did wiring for \$800.
 - J. Fair Bluff Progressive Women's Park -
 - 1) Completely renovated play area by painting and repairing existing equipment;
 - 2) Moved all equipment in one areas forming new play area;
 - 3) Repaired old equipment and installed into new play area;
 - 4) Sand and borders to meet ADA standards; **and**
 - 5) Built two (2) picnic tables for Roadside park area.
 - K. Lake Waccamaw Brinkley Park -
 - 1) Installed scoreboard;
 - 2) Enlarged play area adding plastic borders;
 - 3) Wood chips;
 - 4) Provided materials and labor for replacing dugout tops; **and**
 - 5) Two 92) picnic tables built.
 - L. Wilkes Street Park - Chadbourn -
 - 1) Refurbished discarded swing set and installed at playground area; **and**
 - 2) General upkeep of basketball area.
 - M. Chadbourn Depot -
 - 1) 500 Pounds rye grass provided; **and**
 - 2) Regular maintenance and landscaping.
2. Our General Maintenance Schedule consists of the following:
- A. Tabor City Complex (1 employee) approximately 25 acres;
 - B. Riegelwood Community Center (1 employee) approximately 17 acres;
 - C. Mowing Schedule - 16 sites and Airport;
 - D. Additional projects and repairs to other departments; **and**
 - E. Ball field maintenance at thirteen (13) locations.
3. Programs:
- A. Youth Basketball (7 sites) approximately 600 participants;
 - B. Baseball - approximately 800 participants;
 - C. Girls Softball - approximately 450 participants
 - D. Soccer - approximately 500 participants
 - E. Volleyball camp (35 participants);
 - F. Rainbow Games (130 participants); **and**
 - G. Loaner equipment to areas for recreation.
4. Sponsored Events:
- A. Easter Egg Hunts;
 - B. Fire Ant Festival;
 - C. Fire Ant / Rotary Road Race;
 - D. Spring ARC picnic for handicapped;
 - E. Families First Golf;
 - F. March of Dimes;
 - G. Christmas Candle Light Walk; **and**
 - H. Cycle in the City.

Agenda Item #10: RECREATION - COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS:

Commissioner Norris made a motion to table this item until the April 5, 2004 Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dutton. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #11: ADMINISTRATION - WRIGHT CORPORATION WATER MAIN (COLUMBUS COUNTY) - (ACCEPTANCE of LOW BIDDER and

NOTICE to PROCEED:

Natalie Carroll, Administrative Secretary, is requesting Board acceptance of Utilities Plus as being the low bidder for the Columbus County Wright Corporation Water Main and approval of notice to proceed. Bids were received on February 12, 2004, with Utilities Plus' bid being the low bid at two hundred twenty-one thousand, three hundred forty-five, and 04/100 (\$221,345.04) dollars. A copy of this document will be kept on file in the Office of the Clerk for review.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to accept the low bid of Utilities Plus for the Columbus County Wright Corporation Water Main, at two hundred twenty-one thousand, three hundred forty-five, and 04/100 (\$221,345.04) dollars and approval of the Notice to Proceed. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Ms. Carroll stated that Columbus County was notified on February 22, 2004, they had won a grant in the amount of three hundred seventy-four thousand six hundred forty-six and 00/100 (\$374,646.00) dollars for water and sewer line extensions to the planned new state prison near Tabor City

Agenda Item #12: PLANNING BOARD UPDATE:

Darren Currie, Assistant County Administrator, presented the following update on the Columbus County Planning Board.

1. A meeting was held on February 20, 2004 that lasted in excess of three (3) hours;
2. We discussed issues regarding various requests;
3. Reviewing the application process;
4. We had a very good discussion
5. A good debate was conducted among the board members;
6. We have a concrete Planning Board with good attendance by the members and very sound input by them;
7. We are concentrating heavily on the Subdivision Ordinance and will continue on with discussions
8. We hope to have something more concrete on the Subdivision Ordinance by late summer;
9. Our next meeting is scheduled for today week; **and**
10. The Planning Board would like to extend an invitation to all concerned parties for a conjunctive workshop.

Agenda Item #13: ORDINANCE AMENDMENT - AN ORDINANCE REGULATING the ASSESSMENT and COLLECTION of SOLID WASTE FEES in COLUMBUS COUNTY, ATTACHMENT I, AMENDMENT IX:

Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, requested Board Approval of the following Amendment IX to the Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Regulating the Assessment and Collection of Solid Waste Fees in Columbus County, North Carolina.

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING the ASSESSMENT and COLLECTION of SOLID WASTE FEES in COLUMBUS COUNTY**ATTACHMENT I****AMENDMENT IX****SOLID WASTE USER FEES:**

Tipping Fee \$45.31/ton

ADOPTED this the 1st day of March, 2004.

The above **Amendment IX** to the Ordinance entitled "**An Ordinance Regulating the Assessment and Collection of Solid Waste Fees in Columbus County**" was passed by the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County on March 1, 2004 to become effective immediately upon motion by Commissioner McKenzie, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and passed unanimously and is recorded in Minute Book 28, Page ____.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ **BILL MEMORY, Chairman**

ATTESTED BY:

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve and adopt Amendment IX to Attachment I of the Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Regulating the Assessment and Collection of Solid Waste Fees in Columbus County, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #14: APPOINTMENT - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BOARD of DIRECTORS:

Commissioner Amon E. McKenzie appointed Troy Willard Goss, Sr., 4514 Peacock Road, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, Telephone: (910) 640-2001, to serve the unexpired term of Samuel Carnell Frink.

Agenda Item #15: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS;

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion so carried.

A. Budget Amendments:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	10-574-02	Salaries	\$16,640
	10-574-05	FICA	\$2,080
	10-574-06	Insurance	\$1,200
	10-574-07	Retirement	\$880
	10-574-14	Travel	\$2,000
	10-574-32	Office Supplies	\$100
	10-574-33	Departmental Supplies	\$5,000
	10-574-46	Drugs and Supplies	\$1,000
Revenue	10-348-0908	March of Dimes Grant	\$28,900
Expenditure	10-587-02	Salaries	\$357,459
	10-591-02	Salaries	\$250,000
	10-592-02	Salaries	\$202,285
	10-597-02	Salaries	\$5,033
Revenue	10-399-00	Fund Balance	\$814,777
Expenditure	11-510-7400	Capital Outlay	\$29,810
Revenue	11-349-0000	LLEBG	\$24,810
	11-397-0000	Transfer from Special Alcohol	\$5,000
Expenditure	54-510-7400	Capital Outlay (for Durango)	\$22,000
	54-510-9150	Transfer to General Fund	\$3,000
	10-510-1800	Maintenance & Repairs-Radios	\$3,000
	10-520-1500	Maintenance & Repairs-Buildings	(\$16,000)
	10-520-1600	Maintenance & Repairs-Equipment	(\$4,000)
	10-520-4600	Medical & Hospital Expense	\$23,671
Revenue	54-399-0000	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$25,000
	10-335-0000	Miscellaneous Income (Insurance on wrecked car)	\$3,671

	10-397-0500	Transfer from Special Alcohol	\$3,000
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B. Amendments to the February 16, 2004 Refunds and Releases:

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Tennie Floyd. Property value should be \$2,945.00 instead of \$2,949.00.

Release the late list fee in the name of Larry J. Towns. Total amount to release should be \$6.46 instead of \$6.59.

Release the user fee in the name of Larry G. Fowler. This request was denied by Solid Waste. Customer said they would pay for the trash container for 2003 but they want it picked up for 2004. Solid Waste has agreed to this.

Release one of two user fees in the name of Adrienne Silver. The correct year to release should be 2002 instead of 2003.

C. Tax Refunds and Releases:

***NOTE: This information can be found at the very end of these minutes due to the incompatibility of the computer programs between the Tax Office and the Governing Body Office.**

Agenda Item #15: COMMENTS:

Chairman Memory asked if anyone had anything they would like to discuss. The following people spoke.

D. Public:

1. **Penny Grainger:** I am presenting to you, tonight, more Petitions for the removal of mandatory water connections in Columbus County with fifty (50) additional signatures. As of today's date, the total number of signatures on these petitions is one thousand four hundred fifty (1,450). You have previously asked if all the signatures on these petitions were from the people who lived in Water Districts II and III and my answer is no. I would like to ask the Board a question. Why has the tax rate in Columbus County increased in the last few years? From the information at these meetings I have been attending, some of the tax money has been utilized in the water districts and I would like to know why these signatures have to be restricted to Water Districts II and III.

Chairman Memory replied stating the citizens in these two (2) districts were the only eligible voters that could vote on the water and the signatures on the petitions need to be restricted in Water District II and III.

Ms. Grainger stated the following to the Board, "You should remember that the people put you in office and the people can take you out of the office".

2. **Doug Klier:** I would like to know if you were aware of the tax value of the Hill property that was purchased on October 4, 2004 before you purchased it. I will tell you what the tax value was and that is three hundred forty-three thousand five hundred and 00/100 (\$343,500.00) dollars. We, the people, think you overpaid for this property.
3. **Ricky Rhodes:** I am requesting that a copy of the 2002 - 2003 Financial Report for Columbus County be released to the Columbus County Citizen and Taxpayer Association at ten (\$.10) cents per copy which was the cost at the time of the original request on December 26, 2004.

After discussion was conducted by the Board regarding this matter, Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to release the copies to the Columbus County Citizen and Taxpayer Association at ten (\$.10) cents per copy, seconded by Commissioner Dutton. The motion so carried.

4. **David Long:** From the information I have received from the copies of the Columbus County Financial Reports, it is apparent that money from the General Fund has been used for water. Why are you stating now that money from the General Fund cannot be utilized to help in

Water Districts II and III.

Chairman Memory replied stating the Board discovered the fact that this practice was being done in late 2001 and raised the water rates to pay back the money to the General Fund.

Mr. Long stating in the year ending 2001, a transfer of eighty-eight thousand and 00/100 (\$88,000.00) dollars was transferred to Water District II.

James E. Hill, Jr., Columbus County Attorney, replied stating that money has to be advanced on the onset of these water districts, but a reimbursement resolution is in place for Columbus County to reimburse itself once the bonds have been sold for the said district.

Mr. Long asked the following question, "Is it realistic to utilize General Fund monies to help out until a water district becomes operational"? I have noticed in the Solid Waste Account, there is a sizable Retained Earnings amount. You also have Enterprise Funds such as Solid Waste, Water Districts I, II and III.

B County Commissioners:

2. **Commissioner Wilson:** we have been very generous in helping our citizens recover from the ice storm in waiving the leaf and limb fee and the inspection fee for electrical reconnects. It has been discovered the electrical reconnects are being abused by some of our citizens. I recommend that a deadline of March 10, 2004, at 5:00 P.M. be set for the electrical reconnects.

After discussion among the Board was conducted regarding this matter, Commissioner Wilson made a motion to set the deadline to be March 10, 2004, at 5:00 P.M., for the cutoff time of waiving the inspection fee for electrical reconnects. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion so carried.

3. **Commissioner McKenzie:**
 - a. **Water Workshop Date:** We have discussed setting a date for another Water Workshop but have not done so. I am requesting that a date for this be set. After discussion was conducted among the Board, it was the general consensus of the Board to establish the Water Workshop date to be March 18, 2004, 6:00 P.M., in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina.
 - b. **BB&T Utilizing County Water:** I understand that BB&T has opened up a Country Club Day Care Center and I would like to know if they are utilizing the County water. After discussion was conducted among the Board regarding this matter, it was the general consensus of the Board for Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, to look into Columbus County Water and Sewer District III serving BB&T with County water.
 - c. **Letters of Thanks for Assistance:** If we have not done so, we need to send a letter of thanks to Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation, Progress Energy and Four County for their help during the recent ice storm.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to submit a letter of thanks to Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation, Progress Energy and Four County for their help during the recent ice storm, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

David Long (continued): Is the Holiday Motel on County Water, and if not, they need to be?

After discussion was conducted among the Board, it was the general consensus of the Board for Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator, to check into this matter.

3 Commissioner Jacobs - Appointment to the Columbus County Library Board of Trustees:

I would like to appoint Jean Jacobs, P.O. Box 188, Bolton, North Carolina 28423, Telephone: (910) 655-8581, to fill the position vacated by Emma B. Moore, with term expiring June 30, 2004.

TAX REFUNDS and RELEASES (See Agenda Item #15.C.):

TAX REFUNDS (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):**March 1, 2004*****The Tax Administrator's Office recommends that the values listed below be refunded to the following citizens:***

<i>Type</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Amount Released</i>	<i>Property</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Account #</i>	<i>Bill #</i>	<i>Total</i>
Refunds	Beck, Furnie R.		Refund user fee. Customer is using a commercial hauler. Approved by Solid Waste.				
		\$0.00	\$0.00	2003	03-0160	2896	\$177.00
	<i>64 Whites Crossing Plaza Whiteville</i>	<i>NC 28472</i>					
Refunds	Bryant, George W.		Refund a portion of the property value, a portion of the Acme Delco Fire fee (5.64) and a portion of the Columbus Rescue fee (.94). One of the old mobile homes was destroyed by FEMA.				
		\$36.69	\$4,704.00	2002	15-0685	6127	\$47.60
	<i>902 Bowen Blanks Riegelwood,</i>	<i>NC 28456</i>					
Refunds	Bryant, George		Refund the property value for the Town of Sandyfield, for a old mobile home that was destroyed by FEMA.				
		\$16.46	\$4,707.00	2002	15-0685	4724	\$18.11
	<i>902 Bowen Blanks Riegelwood,</i>	<i>NC 28456</i>					
Refunds	Bryant, George		Refund the property value for the Town of Sandy Field, on a old mobile home that was destroyed by FEMA.				
		\$15.54	\$4,439.00	2003	15-0685	7523	\$17.09
	<i>902 Bowen Blanks Riegelwood</i>	<i>NC 28456</i>					
Refunds	Marlowe, Ned		Refund one half of the user fee. This is a vacation home. Approved by Solid Waste.				
		\$0.00	\$0.00	2003	07-0484	5088	\$88.50
	<i>1387 Hwy 9 W Longs</i>	<i>SC 29568</i>					
Refunds	Meares, Carl Jr.		Refund a portion of the property value, a portion of the Cole Service Fire fee (128.20) and a portion of the Columbus County Rescue fee (25.64). Failed to give propret breakdown on land use value due to transfer error.				
		\$999.96	\$128,200.	2003	10-1148	5259	\$1,153.80
	<i>P.O. Box 187 Fair Bluff,</i>	<i>NC 28439</i>					

TAX RELEASES (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):**March 1, 2004*****The Tax Administrator's Office recommends that the values listed below be released to the following citizens:***

<i>Type of Release</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Amount Released</i>	<i>Property</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Account #</i>	<i>Bill #</i>	<i>Total</i>
Property	Bellamy, Wendy		Release the value of a mobile home and the Acme Delco Fire fee. The home is double listed in the name of Hattie Bellamy. Release of user fee approved by Solid Waste.				
		\$47.95	\$6,147.00	2003	15-0414	29216	\$239.22
Property	Bridges, Kuchandra		Release the value of a mobile home. Customer purchase a permit but never bought the home.				
		\$148.31	\$21,340.0	1999	01-0242	1958	\$148.31
Property	Bridges, Kuchandra		Release the value of a mobile home. Customer purchased a permit but never bought the home.				
		\$142.99	\$19,860.0	2000	01-0242	82813	\$157.29
Property	Bridges, Kuchandra		Release the value of a mobile home and the Columbus County Rescue fee. Customer purchased a permit but never bought the home.				
		\$147.26	\$18,880.0	2001	01-0242	82853	\$166.14
Property	Bridges, Kuchandra		Release the value of a mobile home, the Brunswick Fire fee (12.21) and the Whiteville Rescue fee (3.49). Customer purchased a permit but never bought the home.				

		\$136.03	\$17,440.0	2002	01-0242	60375	\$166.90
Property	Bridges, Kuchandra	Release the value of a mobile home, the Brunswick Fire fee (11.31) and the Whiteville Rescue fee (3.23). Customer purchased a permit but never bought the home.					
		\$125.97	\$16,150.0	2003	01-0242	30596	\$140.51
Property	Bryant, George	Release the value of a mobile home and the Acme Delco Fire fee. The old mobile home was destroyed by FEMA. Release of the user fee approved by Solid Waste.					
		\$34.62	\$4,439.00	2003	15-0685	31516	\$221.92
Property	Cruse, Charles	Release the value of a boat, the Acme Delco Fire fee (1.08) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.18). Boat was junked in 2001.					
		\$7.01	\$899.00	2002	15-0494	65225	\$9.10
Property	Cruse, Charles	Release the value of a boat, the Acme Delco Fire fee (1.08) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.18). The boat was junked in 2001.					
		\$7.00	\$898.00	2003	15-0494	35534	\$9.09
Property	Dale, Robert V.	Releas the 2% discount not absorbed by the					
		\$19.30	\$0.00	2003	15-1132	35694	\$19.30
Property	Egley, Grant H.	Release the interest on this account for the following reason. On Dec. 18, 2003 the Engleys mailed three (3) cks to the tax office, two checks for vehicles and one ck for real estate. Only one vehicle was paid. I feel that the other two cks may have been thrown away due to the fact that normally there is only one check per envelope.					
		\$60.03	\$0.00	2003	04-0363	37465	\$60.03
Property	Ellis, Wilton	Release the value of a mobile home, the Old Dock Fire fee (8.11) and the Columbus Rescue fee (2.03). The home is double listed in the name of Lisa Hobbs. Release of user fee approved by Solid Waste.					
		\$79.09	\$10,140.0	2003	03-0383	37705	\$275.15
Property	Kinlaw, Alan K.	Release the value of a boat and the Columbus Rescue fee. The boat is listed in Bladen County.					
		\$35.49	\$4,550.00	2003	12-0385	48449	\$40.04
Property	Linnartz, Lonnie	Release the value of a boat, the Acme Delco Fire fee (2.41) and the Columbus County Rescue fee (.40). The boat is listed in Brunswick County.					
		\$15.66	\$2,008.00	2003	15-0290	49762	\$20.32
Property	Linnartz, Lonnie	Release the value of a boat, the Acme Delco Fire fee (2.42) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.40). The boat is listed in Burnswick County.					
		\$15.70	\$2,013.00	2002	15-0290	79235	\$20.37
Property	Meares, Billy	Release the value of a boat, the Cole Service Fire fee (.54) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.11). The boat was sold two years ago.					
		\$4.21	\$540.00	2003	10-0330	52578	\$5.35
Property	Meares, Billy	Release the value of a boat, the Cole Service Fire fee (.54) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.11). The boat was sold two years ago.					
		\$4.22	\$541.00	2002	10-0330	81990	\$5.36
Property	Norris, Willard	Release the value of a mobile home and the Columbus Rescue fee. The home is double listed in the name of David Duncan. Release of user fee approved by Solid Waste.					
		\$22.07	\$2,830.00	2003	09-2334	55136	\$199.64
Property	Sharp, Clarence	Release the 2% discount not absorbed by computer.					
		\$11.62	\$0.00	2003	01-8150	60180	\$11.62
Property	Smith, Lenwood	Release the value of a boat and the Columbus Rescue fee. The boat is listed in Brunswick County.					

		\$9.67	\$1,240.00	2001	15-3489	13069	\$10.91
Property	Smith, Lenwood	Release the value of a boat, the Acme Delco Fire fee (1.48) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.25). The boat is listed in Brunswick County.					
		\$9.63	\$1,235.00	2002	15-3489	91138	\$12.50
Property	Smith, Lenwood	Release the value of a boat, the Acme Delco Fire fee (1.12) and the Columbus Rescue fee (.19). The boat is listed in Brunswick County.					
		\$7.25	\$930.00	2003	15-3489	61851	\$8.56
Property	Strole, Joseph	Release the value of a jet ski that was sold in 1998.					
		\$15.32	\$2,205.00	1999	01-0423	52416	\$16.85
Property	Strole, Joseph	Release the value of a jet ski that was sold in 1998.					
		\$15.88	\$2,205.00	2000	01-0423	14683	\$17.47
Property	Waccamaw Salvage	Release the value of a boat and the Columbus Rescue fee. The boat has been junked.					
		\$42.51	\$5,450.00	2003	08-0042	66717	\$47.96
Property	Williams, Ricky K.	Release the value of a boat and the Columbus Rescue fee. The boat is listed in Bladen County.					
		\$8.49	\$1,088.00	2002	05-0001	98760	\$9.58
Property	Williams, Ricky K.	Release the value of a boat and the Columbus Rescue fee. The boat is listed in Bladen County.					
		\$12.00	\$1,539.00	2003	05-0001	69548	\$13.54
Property	Wilson, Mathew E.	Release the value of a boat and the Columbus Rescue fee. The boat was sold in 1999.					
		\$41.10	\$5,269.00	2003	08-0460	70261	\$46.37
Property	Young, John H.	Release the property value, The Buckhead Fire fee (3.84) and the Columbus Rescue fee (1.28). The property is double listed in the name of Charlie					
		\$49.92	\$6,400.00	2002	08-2148	272	\$55.04
Property	Young, John H.	Release the property value, the Buckhead Fire fee (3.84) and the Columbus Rescue fee (1.28). The property is double listed in the name of Charlie					
		\$49.92	\$6,400.00	2003	08-2148	71063	\$55.04
User Fee	Cartrette, Cathy	Release one of two user fees. Customer only has one trash can. Approved by Solid Waste.					
		\$0.00	\$0.00	2003	09-0375	33322	\$177.00
User Fee	George, Titus R.	Release user fee on vacant house that has no electricity. Approved by Solid Waste.					
		\$0.00	\$0.00	2003	16-0502	40672	\$177.00
User Fee	Graham, Curtis L.	Release user fee on old house that is vacant and has no electricity. Approved by Solid Waste.					
		\$0.00	\$0.00	2003	13-1584	42016	\$177.00
User Fee	McKeithan, Eugene	Release two user fees. Customer is using a commercial hauler. Approved by Solid Waste.					
		\$0.00	\$0.00	2003	03-0455	51697	\$354.00
User Fee	McKeithan, Ivan	Release user fee. Customer is using a commercial hauler. Approved by Solid Waste.					
		\$0.00	\$0.00	2003	03-1580	51706	\$177.00
User Fee	Rogers, James C.	Release user fee. House is vacant and does not have a trash can. Approved by Solid Waste.					
		\$0.00	\$0.00	2003	06-3148	28872	\$177.00
User Fee	Strickland Charles D.	Release user fee. House is vacant. Approved by Solid Waste.					
		\$0.00	\$0.00	2003	16-1397	64106	\$177.00

At 8:53 P.M., Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

BILL MEMORY, Chairman