

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**Monday, November 15, 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 third Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Darren L. Currie, **Assistant County Manager**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
 Roxanne Coleman, **Finance Officer**

APPOINTEES ABSENT:

Billy Joe Farmer, **County Manager**
 James E. Hill, Jr., **County Attorney**

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

At 7:30 P.M., Chairman Memory called the meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner McKenzie. 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 November 01, 2004 Regular Session Minutes and the November 08, 2004 Special Called Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #4: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - RESOLUTION to ADD NEW ADDITION, CARDINAL LANE to STATE SYSTEM:

Robert Crumpler, District Engineer, North Carolina Department of Transportation, requested Board approval of the addition of Cardinal Lane to the State System, by the following Resolution.

North Carolina
 County of Columbus
 Road Description: Cardinal Lane (off Highway SR 1167)

WHEREAS, the attached petition has been filed with the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Columbus requesting that the above described road, the location of which as been indicated in red on the attached map, be added to the Secondary Road System, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is of the opinion that the above described road should be added to the Secondary Road System, if the road meets minimum standards and criteria established by the Division of Highways of the Department of Transportation for the addition of roads to the System.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Columbus that the Division of Highways is hereby requested to review the above described road, and to take over the road for maintenance if it meets established standards and criteria.

CERTIFICATE

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus at a meeting on the 15th day of November, 2004.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this the 15th day of November, 2004.

Official Seal

/s/ JUNE B. HALL
 Clerk, Board of Commissioners

County of Columbus

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to approve, by Resolution, the addition of Cardinal Lane to the State System, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

NON-AGENDA ITEM:**PROCLAMATION - PROCLAMATION of APPRECIATION to THE HONORABLE CARL EUGENE "GENE" WILSON:**

Chairman Memory stated this being the last official regularly scheduled Board Meeting for outgoing Commissioner Wilson, the Board of Commissioners, along with staff, would like to recognize him with the following Proclamation.

**PROCLAMATION of APPRECIATION to
THE HONORABLE CARL EUGENE "GENE" WILSON**

WHEREAS, Columbus County was chartered in 1808 and has experienced many County Commissioners of various talents, abilities, goals, levels of expertise, ambitions and degrees of dedication; and

WHEREAS, Columbus County has been blessed with County Commissioners who have applied their attributes to the greatest degree possible; and

WHEREAS, in the year of 1929, a citizen, namely *CARL EUGENE WILSON*, better known as *GENE*, was born in the State of Georgia, was dutifully employed with Georgia Power until retirement in 1986, and in 1987, this said citizen relocated to North Carolina and reached the decision to reside in Columbus County; and

WHEREAS, the above stated citizen honorably served his fellow Americans in the Korean War in the same period of time of his employment years; and

WHEREAS, in the year 1994, *THE HONORABLE CARL EUGENE "GENE" WILSON* was appointed to serve as a Columbus County Commissioner and began his tenure on the Board on December 5, 1994; and

WHEREAS, *THE HONORABLE CARL EUGENE "GENE" WILSON* has zestfully exercised his abilities, to the fullest, to serve the citizens of Columbus County in all the avenues afforded to him; and

WHEREAS, this said gentleman has given, freely, many long and laborious hours of his time in promoting advancement to the betterment of the quality of life for the citizens within Columbus County; and

WHEREAS, our fellow County Commissioner has served graciously, in a diligent and dedicated manner, on many committees during his tenure, and the following listed committees are examples of his service as a proud representative of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners:

Cape Fear Council of Governments Growth Team;	Equalization and Review Board;
Columbus County Board of Health;	Human Resources - State level.
Columbus County Transportation Committee	Local Emergency Planning Committee;
Criminal Justice Partnership Program;	Nursing/Adult Care Home Joint Community Advisory Council; and
Downtown Revitalization Board;	Southeastern Regional Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Authority.

WHEREAS, this gentleman has, and is presently, encouraging greater participation in community events and the decision making process that will affect the operations of Columbus County from all citizens; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his role as a Columbus County Commissioner, *Mr. Wilson* engages in extensive yard and vegetable gardening as is evidenced by his generosity in sharing the fruits of his labor; and

WHEREAS, the said *CARL EUGENE "GENE" WILSON* serves the people in his community in an exemplary manner by expending his time and help whenever asked, or not asked, and when he detects a need; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners graciously and proudly present this *Proclamation of Appreciation* to our fellow County Commissioner, *The Honorable Carl Eugene "Gene" Wilson* for his years of public service to the citizens of Columbus County and wish to commend him for his diligence, dedication and never-ending desire to deliver the greatest benefits to the people he so proudly serves.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, we, fellow County Commissioners, wish to extend a warm thank-you to *The Honorable Carl Eugene "Gene" Wilson* for his long-enduring patience, diligence, dedication and his ability to work harmoniously with the Board on any given situation of any magnitude, at any given time.

ADOPTED this the 15th day of November, 2004.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ BILL MEMORY, Chairman, District IV
 /s/ AMON E. McKENZIE, District I
 /s/ LYNWOOD NORRIS, District V

/s/ DAVID L. DUTTON, JR., Vice-Chairman, District VII
 /s/ SAMMIE JACOBS, District III
 /s/ KIPLING GODWIN, District VI

ATTESTED BY:
 JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve and adopt the Proclamation of Appreciation to The Honorable Carl Eugene "Gene" Wilson, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

Chairman Memory presented the following plaque to Commissioner Wilson for his ten (10) years of public service as a Columbus County Commissioner.

PRESENTED TO:
CARL EUGENE "GENE" WILSON

THIS THE 15TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2004
IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION
of YOUR DEDICATED SERVICE as a
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
12-04-1994 - 12-06-2004

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Jacobs, on behalf of the entire Board of County Commissioners and staff, presented Commissioner Wilson with a large framed print of the Native Americans Ten Commandments.

Following these three (3) presentations, the individual County Commissioners delivered a short synopsis of their experiences with Commissioner Wilson and thanked him for his years of loyal and dedicated service.

Agenda Item #5: COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS - REQUEST for WAIVER of INSPECTION and ELECTRICAL PERMIT FEES:

Ken Buck, Director of Media and Technology for Columbus County Schools, requested Board approval of the waiver of inspections and electrical permit fees of concrete poles being erected on the campuses of various schools to upgrade their Wide Area Network (WAN). The following fees requested to be waived are as follows:

SCHOOL	TYPE	PERMIT FEE	ELECTRICAL INSPECTION FEE
Acme Delco Elementary	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
Acme Delco Middle	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
Boys Home	Roof Mount		\$30.00
Cerro Gordo Elementary	Roof Mount		\$30.00
Chadbourn Elementary	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
Chadbourn Middle	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
East Columbus High	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
Evergreen Elementary	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
Fair Bluff Elementary	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
Guideway Elementary	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
Hallsboro-Artesia Elementary	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
Hallsboro Middle	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
Nakina Alternative	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00

Old Dock Elementary	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
South Columbus High	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
Tabor City Elementary	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
Tabor City Middle	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
West Columbus High	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
Williams Township School	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
Mt. Olive Annex	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
Board of Education	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
Bus Garage	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
Whiteville Repeater Site	Pole	\$150.00	\$30.00
Sub-total:		\$3,150.00	\$690.00

GRAND TOTAL: \$3,840.00

Mr. Buck stated the following relative to the request made for the waiver of the permit fees and electrical inspection fees:

1. Columbus County Schools are trying to meet the State mandate by the specified time frame;
2. This concrete poles will enhance our Wide Access Network (WAN); and
3. There are twenty-three (23) locations that need these concrete poles erected.

Commissioner McKenzie asked Mr. Buck why he was requesting the waiver of the fees. Mr. Buck replied stating Columbus County Schools anticipated the electrical inspections, but did not anticipate the permit fees for these poles

Commissioner Godwin asked Mr. Buck what was the source of the funds they were using for this project. Mr. Buck replied stating eighty-three (83%) percent was State funds and seventeen (17%) percent was local school funds and the total project cost was two hundred eighty thousand and 00/100 (\$280,000.00) dollars.

Darren Currie, Assistant County Manager, asked Mr. Buck how tall were these poles. Mr. Buck replied stating the poles were one hundred to one hundred forty (100' - 140') feet in height.

After discussion was conducted among the Board members, it was the overall opinion of the Board that if this fee was waived, it could lead to many more requests of this nature being made, and eventually, the Inspections Department would not have enough revenue to operate efficiently.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to deny the request for the waiver of the permit fees and electrical inspection fees for the concrete poles as requested by Columbus County Schools, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #6: PROCLAMATION - ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH 2004:

Marva Scott, Director of Social Services, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Proclamation.

ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH 2004
by the
COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, every child deserves the chance to grow up in a loving, stable family and adoption is a beautiful way to build a family; **and**

WHEREAS, caring adults can make all the difference in the lives of young people, sibling groups, children of different ethnicities and youth who have been harmed by abuse; **and**

WHEREAS, last year, more than one thousand three hundred (1,300) foster children in

North Carolina were adopted; and

WHEREAS, more than eight hundred fifty (850) foster children in North Carolina, with an average age of eight (8) years old, are currently legally available for adoption, and more will continually become available.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim November, 2004, as "**ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH**" in Columbus County. We commend this observance to our citizens as an opportunity to celebrate foster and adoptive families and spread awareness on behalf of the hundreds of foster children in North Carolina who are waiting for a loving family. I further encourage the community, businesses, groups, schools, faith-based organizations and families to participate in efforts to find permanent, loving families for Columbus County's waiting children.

ADOPTED this the 15th day of November, 2004.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **BILL MEMORY, Chairman**

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ **JUNE B. HALL Clerk to Board**

Ms. Barbara Graham, Social Worker III, stated there were fifty-five (55) children presently in the Foster Care Program and thirteen (13) of these children were ready for adoption. These children range in age from birth to eighteen (18) years of age.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve and adopt the Adoption Awareness Month 2004, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #7: SOLID WASTE - PURCHASE OF LAND for CONVENIENCE CENTER:

Commissioner Gene Wilson requested Board approval of the purchase of one (1) acre of land, which has been under option as of October 20, 2004, from Larry A. Hinson, at the price of ten thousand and 00/100 (\$10,000.00) dollars to be used as a convenience center in the Evergreen Community.

After discussion was conducted by the Board members, it was established this is a new site and does not replace any other site and the Grice site has been closed.

Doug Klier, private citizen, asked what the cost of this land was. Commissioner Wilson replied stating the cost was ten thousand and 00/100 (\$10,000.00) dollars.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the purchase of one (1) acre of land to be used for a Convenience Center, from Larry A. Hinson, at the cost of ten thousand and 00/100 (\$10,000.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #8: RESOLUTION - RESOLUTION REQUESTING RELIEF and DIRECTION for TOBACCO WAREHOUSE CONVERSIONS:

Commissioner Kipling Godwin requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution.

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING RELIEF and DIRECTION
for TOBACCO WAREHOUSE CONVERSIONS**

WHEREAS, throughout the State of North Carolina and within Columbus County, there are numerous tobacco warehouses that are now vacant as a result of the changes in the tobacco industry including the Tobacco Quota Buyout Program; and

WHEREAS, the citizens within Columbus County who own these tobacco warehouses are attempting to salvage them by converting them to other uses and/or renting them to companies and businesses, thus, avoiding the impact of closing large usable facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is our understanding that under the current State Fire Code, these tobacco

warehouses, if utilized by anyone other than the owner, are required to install a sprinkler system by a State certified contractor; **and**

WHEREAS, due to the present condition of the economy, very few warehouse owners can afford to operate these large warehouses themselves, and if rented, the requirement of a sprinkler system installed by a State certified contractor will place an undue financial burden on the owners or force the warehouses to remain vacant; **and**

WHEREAS, the Columbus County economy has been largely based on tobacco and textiles, and, due to the relocation, downsizing and closing of many of those businesses, and the changes in the tobacco industry, we have suffered a tremendous economic loss; **and**

WHEREAS, our unemployment rate continues to be higher than the State and national averages as a result of the closing of our industries and many of our workforce have been forced to relocate seeking employment out of the county; **and**

WHEREAS, Columbus County is desirous of relief from the negative impact the current State Fire Code has placed on our citizens, and is seeking direction from you as to what avenue we could take to give our citizens relief from this burden.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Columbus County Board of Commissioners is seeking relief and direction from you relative to the utilization of the numerous vacant tobacco warehouses resulting from the changes in the tobacco industry including the Tobacco Quota Buyout Program.

ADOPTED this the 15th day of November, 2004.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **BILL MEMORY, Chairman, District IV**

/s/ **DAVID L. DUTTON, JR., Vice Chairman, District VII**

/s/ **AMON E. McKENZIE, District I**

/s/ **C.E. "GENE" WILSON, District II**

/s/ **SAMMIE JACOBS, District III**

/s/ **LYNWOOD NORRIS, District V**

/s/ **KIPLING GODWIN, District VI**

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ **JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board**

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the Resolution Requesting Relief and Direction for Tobacco Warehouse Conversions, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #9: WRIGHT CORPORATION WATER MAIN EXTENSION - AMENDMENT NUMBER TWO (2):

Natalie Carroll, Project Manager, requested Board approval of the following Amendment Number Two (2) to the Agreement for Professional Engineering Services For Columbus County, Wright Corporation Water Main Extension.

**AMENDMENT NO. 2
TO THE
AGREEMENT FOR
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES
FOR COLUMBUS COUNTY
WRIGHT CORPORATION WATER MAIN EXTENSION**

This AMENDMENT NO 2 made this ____ day of _____, 2004, to the agreement for professional engineering services dated July 7, 2003, by and between Columbus County (hereinafter called "OWNER") and McKIM & CREED, P.A., a professional corporation under the laws of the STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, for itself and its successors and assigns (hereinafter called the "CONSULTANT").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Owner has retained the Consultant to furnish professional engineering and construction administration services in connection with preparation of a water main extension along US Highway 74 as an amendment to the Wright Corporation Water Main Extension Project.

Specific tasks include:

- Design of approximately 2,500 linear feet of 6-inch diameter water main to include fire hydrants, water services, and appurtenances.
- Preparation of detailed plans and technical specifications for construction
- Preparation and submittal of application to all pertinent reviewing agencies
- Preparation itemized quantities for construction by selected contractor
- Construction Administration and Project Closeout Services
- Construction Observation

NOW, THEREFORE, the Owner and the Consultant agree as follows:

I. PROJECT UNDERSTANDING

Design 2,500 feet of 6-inch PVC water main. The new main will be installed within the existing rights-of-way of US Highway 74 beginning at the intersection of SR 1871 Edgemonte Road and running northwest along US Highway 74. This water main will provide potable water service to businesses and residents along this route.

Consultant will provide design, permitting and production of plans and specifications for construction. We will also provide Construction Administration and Construction Observation. Record drawings will be provided to the owner and certifications to NCDENR to allow public use of the new facilities.

II. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The Consultant agrees to provide professional services and assistance to the Owner as follows:

A. Design Services

1. Meet with NCDOT staff to review project scope and to obtain information relative to NCDOT rights-of-way.
2. Perform field reconnaissance of the water main routes to determine route feasibility, including potential construction conflicts. Coordinate preliminary design and route of the water main with NCDOT staff and Columbus County staff.
3. Prepare construction plans at a scale of 1"=50 feet Horizontal with plan view only. Profile data is not required by NCDENR for permit approval and will not be included unless pertinent to construction of the project. Plans will be completed in either planimetric format or using aerial photography at the discretion of the Engineer.
4. Compile quantity take-off for project and prepare bid form with unit items and measurement of payment specifications.
5. Prepare contract technical specifications as required to supplement current specifications.
6. Submit 100% design documents to NCDOT, NCDENR Public Water Supply Branch, NCDENR Land Qualify, NCDENR Stormwater Management, and all other necessary review and permitting agencies as required. Note that actual permit fees will be paid by Columbus County.
7. Receive and respond to review comments from review and permitting agencies.

B. Construction Stage

1. Coordinate with selected contractor for scheduling of installation of the proposed improvements.
2. Schedule and conduct progress meetings on a monthly basis. Prepare and distribute minutes.
3. Review and approve shop drawings from Contractor.
4. Provide field observation at approximately 20 hours per week for a 4-week construction period.

Prepare field reports on a weekly basis and provide to Columbus County. This report shall detail and provide chronology of events occurring or observed during the period that the field observer was present. This report will include quantity measurements for payment.

5. Endeavor to resolve problems in a timely manner as work proceeds and involve appropriate parties in resolving disputes and problems associated with the project.
6. Pay request review and recommendation for payment to Columbus County.
7. Change Order review and recommendation to Columbus.
8. Perform inspections of project at Substantial and Final Completion. Prepare punch-list and coordinate completion of punch-list items with Contractor.
9. Provide record drawings and certification of project completion. This shall include submittal of as-built drawings (mylar) and completion of closeout documentation for project. Electronic files of the final project as constructed will be provided for implementation in the County 013 system. Engineer's certification shall be as required by the NCDENR Public Water Supply Branch.

C. Additional Services

Additional professional services will be provided (within the qualifications of the Consultant and associate firms) upon request by the Owner or upon authorization by the Owner following recommendation of the Consultant. Additional services shall include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Provide Construction Administration or Construction Observation beyond what has been delineated in this Agreement.
2. Design Services and Bid/Award Services beyond what has been delineated in this Agreement.
3. Provide Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Statements or biological surveys for endangered species.
4. Redesign of facilities after approval of final plans.

III. PAYMENTS TO THE CONSULTANT

The Owner agrees to pay the Consultant as compensation for their services as follows for Amendment No. 2:

A.	Design	\$4,500 (Lump Sum)
C.	Construction Administration/Observation	\$3,400 (Lump Sum)
	Total Fee	\$7,900 (lump sum)

D. Additional Services. The Owner, at his discretion, may contract with the Consultant to perform additional services for this project. Compensation shall be a negotiated fee commensurate with the services required.

ACCEPTANCE AND AUTHORIZATION

If this proposal is acceptable, please sign below as indicated and return one executed copy to our office. Upon receipt, McKim & Creed will consider this as the authorization to proceed.

ATTEST:

COLUMBUS COUNTY

Billy Joe Farmer Columbus County Administrator

McKIM & CREED, PA
/s/ Anthony W. Boahn, PE
Office Manager

Ms. Carroll stated this project entailed the sum of forty thousand and 00/100 (\$40,000.00) dollars left from a previous grant.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the Amendment Number Two (2) To The Professional Engineering Services For Columbus County Wright Corporation Water Main Extension, subject to James E. Hill's, Columbus County Attorney, approval, seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

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

At 8:03 P.M., Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into a Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number One (1) for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III.

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

At 8:05 P.M., Commissioner Wilson made a motion to adjourn Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #11: SURPLUS PROPERTY SALE - ACCEPTANCE OF HIGH BID for TIMBER on the "OLD COUNTY FARM" TRACT;

Stuart Carroll, Purchasing Department, requested Board approval and acceptance of the highest bid for the sale of surplus timber on the "Old County Farm" Tract. The bid was held on Monday, November 15, 2004, and the results are as follows:

BIDDER	BID AMOUNT	BID CHECK/BID BOND
Timber Network Inc.	\$15,768.00	Yes
Waccamaw Lumber Corp.	\$12,205.00	Yes

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve and accept the high bid amount of fifteen thousand seven hundred sixty-eight and 00/100 (\$15,768.00) dollars for the surplus property timber on the "Old County Farm" tract, submitted by Timber Network, Incorporated, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #12: PURCHASING - APPROVAL of AMENDMENT to PURCHASING POLICY:

Stuart Carroll, Purchasing Director, requested Board approval of an Amendment to the recently adopted Purchasing Policy to increase the amount from two hundred and 00/100 (\$200.00) dollars to five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) for the dollar amount limit requiring a purchase order to be done.

Mr. Carroll stated with the present dollar amount limit of two hundred and 00/100 (\$200.00) dollars, there was very little paperwork being eliminated, and if the amount was increased to five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars, this would speed the process up and eliminate a lot of paperwork being done.

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to approve the dollar amount limit of two hundred and 00/100 (\$200.00) dollars for the requirement of a purchase order to be done, to the dollar amount limit of five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #13: ADMINISTRATION - APPROVAL of the FOLLOWING ITEMS:

Billy Joe Farmer, County Manager, requested Board approval of the following three (3) items.

A. Receipt of the Pay Plan, as Presented, for Approval and Adoption;

Chris May, Cape Fear Council of Governments, stated the following relative to the new Pay Plan which he was retained by Columbus County to prepare:

1. This study has taken one (1) year to complete from start to finish;
2. I initially started with the Institute of Government and discovered the information was not inclusive of all the details that was needed to complete this study;

3. I then visited different counties to obtain the needed information;
4. Columbus County has approximately seven hundred (700) employees, including part-time employees;
5. I used the salary comparisons from Bladen, Robeson and Pender Counties;
6. These figures represent a regional average;
7. Hopefully, each employee will be starting at an average amount;
8. The job description describes what each employee does;
9. This study is a thorough study;
10. I discovered in the Health Department and in the Department of Social Services, there were exceptions where certain positions and classifications are mandated and cannot be changed;
11. In Cooperative Extension, the salaries are subsidized and had to be handled in a different manner;
12. Each step is a two and one-half (2 ½%) percent increase;
13. Each grade is a five (5%) percent increase; and
14. I am presenting to you three (3) options of which I will recommend the middle option which is the Hold Harmless Option which will entail the amount of sixty-seven and 00/100 (\$67,000.00) dollars to implement.

A copy of this Pay Plan was distributed to the County Commissioners previous to the Board Meeting. The Clerk to the Board did not receive a copy of this said document for reference. A copy of this Pay Plan is expected to be kept on file in the Administration Office, or in the office of Chris May, Cape Fear Council of Governments, for inspection.

In-depth discussion was conducted among the Board members relative to the best option to select, and whether to make it retroactive back to July 1, 2004.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve and adopt the Pay Plan, as presented, utilizing the Option B: Hold Harmless Option, to be made retroactive back to July 1, 2004, to be implemented immediately and to be included in the November, 2004 paychecks. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Yvonne Norris, Social Services employee, asked if the employees would be receiving this information on paper. Darren Currie, Assistant County Manager, stated he would send a slip to each Department Head to be shared with their employees.

B Designation of Early Pay Date of December 20, 2004 as the date Payroll will be distributed for the month of December, 2004; and

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to designate December 20, 2004 as the early pay date for Payroll to be distributed for the month of December, 2004, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion so carried.

C Approval of Christmas Bonuses and the Establishment of Amount.

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to approve the award of Christmas Bonuses in the amount of fifty and 00/100 (\$50.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #14: PUBLIC HEARING - SCATTERED SITE HOUSING APPLICATION for COLUMBUS COUNTY:

Darren Currie, Assistant County Manager, requested the Board to establish December 6, 2004, at 7:15 P.M., as the date for a Public Hearing to be conducted for the Scattered Site Housing Application for Columbus County.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to establish December 6, 2004, at 7:15 P.M., as the date for a Public Hearing to be conducted for the Scattered Site Housing Application for Columbus County, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #15: DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

James Hinkle, Interim Economic Development Director, presented the following Departmental Update:

1. The new projects involve:
 - A. IMT which is a defense company and they have bought a building in Chadbourn. This is a defense company and very little information can be obtained due to the nature of their business; **and**
 - B. Vera Cam - not much change there.

2. Expansions:
 - A. Applied Plastics has received a one hundred ten thousand and 00/100 (\$110,000.00) dollars grant from the Committee of 100 and has applied for an eighty thousand and 00/100 (\$80,000.00) dollars grant from USDA; **and**
 - B. National Spinning has been able to retain two hundred twenty-seven (227) jobs. They have added fifty-seven (57) jobs. They now have a total of two hundred eighty-four (284) jobs as of today.

3. We are checking into a very innovative intensive training program at Southeastern Community College.

Commissioner McKenzie asked Mr. Hinkle if he anticipated anything new. Mr. Hinkle replied stating nothing was affirmative at the time.

Commissioner Jacobs thanked Mr. Hinkle for the work he had done with Applied Plastics.

Agenda Item #16: COMMITTEE and/or BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

The following appointments and/or reappointments were made.

COMMITTEE	ZONE	PERSON(S)	EXPIR. DATE	BOARD ACTION
Board of Health <u>M=Wilson S=McKenzie</u>	VII At Large	Earl Fowler Anthony C. Terrance, O.D.	12/31/2007 12/31/2007	Reappoint Reappoint
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board	I II III IV V	Clarence H. Williams C. Lloyd Lennon, Jr. Paula Jacobs James W. Duncan David Strickland	12/2006 12/2006 12/2006 12/2006 12/2006	Reappoint Reappoint Reappoint Reappoint Appoint
Planning Board	IV	Ivan Wilson	09/30/2007	Reappoint
Travel and Tourism Board	III	Joel Devon Moore	12/2008	Appoint

Agenda Item #17: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Budget Amendment:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	10-700-9610	Adoption Incentive Funds	\$21,336
Revenue	10-399-0000	Fund Balance	\$21,336

B. Tax Refunds and Releases:

At the request of Chuck Stanley, Solid Waste Director, Commissioner Norris made a motion to table the Tax Refunds and Releases, seconded by Commissioner Godwin. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #18: COMMENTS:

Chairman Memory opened the floor for any comments anyone would like to make. The following people spoke.

A. Public:

Doug Klier: How many people have signed up for county water since the special fee has been

offered? Leroy Sellers, Public Utilities Director, replied stating approximately seventy (70) and the deadline is January 03, 2005. Mr. Klier stated there is not enough people that knows about this and whatever means you are using to let them know is not working. You need to try another method to distribute this information to the general public.

Mr. Klier asked if building permits were supposed to be posted on job sites. Chairman Memory replied stating yes and requested that Mike Richardson with the Inspections Office deliver an explanation. Mr. Richardson stated it was the contractor's responsibility to post the permits and to have a port-a-john on the jobsite. We are doing our best to make sure this is done at every job site, but there are only two (2) inspectors to cover the entire county, and some of these contractors have to be led, and not pushed, and given enough time, we feel we will be able to get everyone to abide by this guideline.

Mr. Klier stated the intersection at Peacock Road was very dangerous and needed some additional traffic safety devices installed. He was informed this was in the process of being done.

B. Board of Commissioners:

Commissioner McKenzie:

1. Resolution:

I am making a motion that the following Resolution be approved and adopted, which, with the help of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, will slow traffic down on Highway 410 from the speed of fifty-five (55) miles per hour to forty-five (45) miles per hour in front of all churches located on this highway.

**RESOLUTION to REDUCE SPEED LIMIT on
JOE BROWN HIGHWAY (HIGHWAY 410)**

WHEREAS, public safety for the citizens within Columbus County, and people who travel through Columbus County, is an important issue with the Board of County Commissioners; **and**

WHEREAS, excessive speed has become an issue on public roads regarding to the general health and welfare of citizens who use public roads to commute to churches located on Joe Brown Highway North and South (Highway 410); **and**

WHEREAS, speeding vehicles have created a dangerous situation for the Columbus County citizens in their commute to and from the seven (7) churches located on Joe Brown Highway North and South (Highway 410); **and**

WHEREAS, many citizens congregate at these locations traveling to, and leaving, thus creating congestion in these areas during the established times for church services to be conducted; **and**

WHEREAS, the church congregations consist of many elderly citizens and young children who need extra guidance in their maneuvering patterns; **and**

WHEREAS, the said areas are also residential areas; **and**

WHEREAS, recently many accidents, as well as potential accidents, have occurred due to excess speed by motor vehicles.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Columbus County Board of Commissioners requests the North Carolina Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit from the present fifty-five (55) miles per hour to forty-five (45) miles per hour at the location of the seven (7) churches located on Joe Brown Highway North and South (Highway 410).

ADOPTED this the 15th day of November, 2004.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **BILL MEMORY, Chairman**

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ **JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board**

The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Dutton. The motion so carried.

- 2. I am requesting consideration from the Board of Commissioners for tax relief on motor vehicles for Water Districts II and III. This would help a lot of our citizens who are on fixed incomes. Please give this matter any consideration that you can.

C Administration:

Darren Currie: on behalf of Billy Joe Farmer, County Manager, I am requesting a Special Called Meeting for December 03, 2004, at 8:30 A.M., for the purpose of approval of the low bid on the POTW Facility

The Board called for a Special Called Meeting for December 03, 2004, at 8:30 A.M., for the purpose of approval of the low bid on the POTW Facility, to be held in the Economic Development Conference Room, Administration Building, 111 Washington Street, Whiteville, NC 28472.

AGENDA ADD-ONS:

TAX - ESTABLISHMENT of PUBLIC HEARING DATE:

Richard Gore, Columbus County Tax Administrator, requested the Board to establish the date of November 29, 2004, at 6:00 P.M., for the Public Hearing for Columbus County's 2005 Octennial revaluation.

Vice Chairman Dutton made a motion to establish November 29, 2004, at 6:00 P.M., for the Public Hearing for Columbus County's 2005 Octennial revaluation, to be held in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

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

Betty Ann Paige, Chairperson of the Nursing/Adult Care Home Joint Community Advisory Committee, is recommending the following:

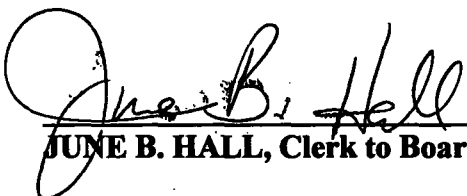
- 1. Add Roger McPherson, 1500 Roseland Road, Chadbourn, NC 28431, Telephone: (910) 653-3724, to serve in the vacant position created when Boisy Hardee resigned; **and**
- 2. Appoint Commissioner C.E. "Gene" Wilson to serve on this committee in a private citizen capacity after his term ends as County Commissioner, due to his participation and dedication over the years he has served as a member.

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to approve the above listed two (2) recommendations made by Betty Ann Paige, Chairperson of the Nursing/Adult Care Home Joint Community Advisory Committee, seconded by Vice Chairman Dutton. The motion so carried.

Agenda Item #19: ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:59 P.M., Commissioner Wilson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion so carried.

APPROVED:



JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board



BILL MEMORY, Chairman