

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 16, 2007

6:30 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:

Sammie Jacobs, **Chairman**
James E. Prevatte, **Vice Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie
Bill Memory
Lynwood Norris
Ricky Bullard
Ronald Gore

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Jim Varner, **County Manager**
Steven W. Fowler, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
Leo Hunt, **Interim Finance Officer**

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

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman Sammie Jacobs called the meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Ronald Gore. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Amon E. McKenzie.

Agenda Item #3: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the January 02, 2007 Regular Session Meeting Minutes and the January 02, 2007 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #4: ANIMAL CRUELTY INVESTIGATORS - CONSIDERATION of FUNDING INCURRED EXPENSES:

Lisa Hartman, Animal Cruelty Investigator, requested the Board's consideration of funding of incurred expenses. Ms. Hartman stated the following:

1. We have a particular case involving a horse named Lacey, coming up on Monday, January 22, 2007;
2. For the past five (5) months, approximately two thousand, eight hundred (\$2,800) dollars have been spent on this particular horse;
3. The summary of the expenses incurred are as follows:

Feed:	Hudson True Value: Senior Life Design 28 bags	\$13.75/each	= \$385.00
	Alfalfa cubes 5 bags	\$12.99/each	= \$ 64.95
	Milam Hardware: Senior Feed 4 bags	\$12.60/each	= \$75.60
	Alfalfa Pellets 6 bags	\$ 8.50/each	= \$51.00
	Southern States: Triple Crown Senior 2 bags	\$12.75/each	= <u>\$25.50</u>
Total Feed Expenses:			\$602.05
Health:	Dewormed on dates: 09/10/06, 11/29/06		
	Salt mineral block		= \$ 7.99
	Trace mineral block		= \$ 8.49
	Rice Bran oil		= <u>\$ 39.99</u>
Total:			\$ 56.47
Veterinary Care:			
	Rocky Point Animal Hospital		= \$1,292.69
	Cape Fear Equine Clinic, PC		= <u>\$ 155.00</u>
Total:			\$1,447.69
Hoof Care:			
	4 Hoof trims done by Audrey Salisbury @ \$35/trim		= \$ 140.00
Board:			
	\$140/per month x 4 months (Sept-December)		= <u>\$ 560.00</u>
Total Expenses for Lacy as of 12-05-2006:			\$2806.21
4. The Court has got a new District Attorney, and we don't know which way he might go; **and**
5. The defendant's attorney is a former judge.

Commissioner Memory asked Ms. Hartman what the average weight should be for a horse of this age and where was the horse picked up from. Ms. Hartman replied stating 750-800 pounds, and the horse was picked up from a residence on Mill Branch Church Road.

Ms. Hartman stated that this case will be considered a misdemeanor with a two hundred (\$200.00) dollars fine. In this court case, I am asking for restitution of these expenses that have been incurred, but I don't know if we will prevail. This case has been put off twice. It is my opinion that Columbus County needs to set aside an amount of funds to help in situations of this type.

After additional discussion was conducted, Chairman Jacobs stated it was his opinion that Columbus County should set aside funds to help with future expenses.

Rossie Hayes, Animal Control Director, stated these Animal Cruelty Investigators had been a tremendous help to him and he was very thankful for their help. These ladies work for the North Carolina Equine Rescue.

Vice Chairman Prevatte asked Ms. Hartman where was Lacey being housed. Ms. Hartman replied stating Lacey is being housed in New Hanover Safe Haven. Vice Chairman Prevatte stated that the Board needed a total figure of all the expenses that have been incurred from the beginning to the end.

Commissioner Gore asked how many horses did the Animal Cruelty Officers handle each year. Ms. Hartman stated there were two (2) last year.

Commissioner Bullard asked Ms. Hartman if these horses could be sold at an auction. Ms. Hartman replied she did not know.

Commissioner Memory recommended that the Board set aside some funds for the North Carolina Equine Rescue.

Chairman Jacobs asked for a recommendation from the County Manager. Mr. Varner stated it was his recommendation that Ms. Hartman come back to the Board after the Court date and discuss this matter further.

After additional discussion was conducted, it was the general consensus of the Board for Ms. Hartman to come back to the Board after the court date, and bring details and results of the Court proceedings, and for the Board to set aside funds in next year's budget to allow for expenses of this nature.

**Agenda Item #5: MEDICAID ADVISORY COMMITTEE - INTRODUCTION of
COMMITTEE MEMBERS and PRESENTATION of STATUS
REPORT:**

Al Daniel, Chairman of the Columbus County Medicaid Advisory Committee, introduced the committee members as follows: District I - Wynola Peacock, District II - John Youngerman, District III - Steve Smith, District IV - Vacant, District V - Henry Milligan, District VI - Al Daniel, Chairman, and District VII - Robert Adams, Kimberly Smith, Health Director, and Marva Scott, Social Services Director. Mr. Daniel delivered the following status report of the committee's work:

1. What we have done:
 - Initial Meeting - August, 2006
 - Joint Meeting with Board of Commissioners and Salient Corporation - September, 2006
 - Election of Officers (Chair/Vice/Recorder) - October, 2006
 - Joint Meeting with the Board of Commissioners and Access III - November, 2006
 - Formulated/Adopted Charter
 - Appointed first research team
 - Decided to meet twice a month
 - Received team report on RRL HLTH clinics - December, 2006
2. Where we are Now:
 - Preparing to receive report on Community Pharmacy Program
 - Seeking Board's review/approval and Chair's signature on Charter/MOU
 - Preparing to receive report on County Medicaid expenditures (DSS)
 - Feel that it will be helpful to have someone from Department of Aging join us
 - Need replacement for Mr. Larry Moore

3. What we have Learned:
 - Medicaid is a very large and complex system
 - Many programs, players, components, participants and clients
 - No centralized/single source for all needed information
 - Areas where local governments have little or no latitude to change
 - Federal/State/Regional oversight/Review functions in place - not local
 - Seek State/Regional guidance on areas that are candidates for change
4. What We Plan To Do Next:
 - Have Commissioner Review, Revise and ultimately sign MOU
 - In-dept analysis of Columbus County Medicaid Expenditures
 - Contact State/Regional offices about briefing us on rules/options
 - Investigate ways to get more information about available services to those in need
5. What the Issues Are:
 - Travel and Administrative Expenses
 - Provisional identification to authenticate us as County agents/Reps
 - Arranging convenient routine access to building for meetings
6. We would like for the County Commissioners to endorse the following Charter which was approved by our committee on November 08, 2006:

(DRAFT)

8-Nov-06

MEDICAID ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHARTER

MISSION:

To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the overall Medicaid Program as it relates to Columbus County, its citizens, services and providers, and recommend systemic improvements to the Board of Commissioners.

SCOPE:

Includes all programmatic, operational, organizational and participatory components of the program.

STRATEGY:

1. Gain a general knowledge of the intent, scope, components and requirements of the overall program;
2. Identify key organizations involved in the operational, administrative, regulatory and oversight areas of the program;
3. Become familiar with inter-office information flows, requirements and procedures (Who does what to whom and way?);
4. Identify high-cost areas and the areas most likely to produce the quickest and greatest returns;
5. Assign teams to review and investigate particular areas of concern and report findings and suggestions back to the committee; **and**
6. Assess team reports and formulate recommendations to the Commissioners. Recommendation reports to the Commissioners must include: background, methodology used, findings, specific detailed recommendations and associated expected cost savings and other benefits.

APPROACH:

Open mind, clear focus, professional manner and respectful attitude.

MOTTO/SLOGAN: “Working for the citizens; considering all interests”

Vice Chairman Prevatte asked Mr. Daniel what he meant by administrative expenses. Mr. Daniel replied stating he needed a recording secretary.

Commissioner McKenzie asked Mr. Daniel what he meant by travel expenses. Mr. Daniel replied stating the committee members may need to travel to the State level to get the information they needed and would like to be reimbursed for their expenses.

Commissioner Memory stated the Board of Commissioners has requested the Medicaid Advisory Committee to bring recommendations to them and they need the necessary tools to work with to accomplish this goal.

Chairman Jacobs asked Jim Varner, County Manager, what his opinion was on this matter. Mr. Varner stated it was his opinion that this was a Department of Social Services issue. Ms. Marva Scott, Social Services Director, stated that this was not a Department of Social Services issue, we just handle this program for the County. The Board of Commissioners formed this committee.

After additional discussion was conducted relative to this matter, Chairman Jacobs stated that Columbus County had a \$5.8 million problem with Medicaid, and the County Commissioners would not hold back spending the necessary funds to try and resolve this problem.

Commissioner Bullard stated that if the Board of Commissioners funded one committee, other committees may request the same.

AGENDA ADD-ON:

INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES and POLLUTION CONTROL FINANCING AUTHORITY (COLUMBUS COUNTY) - ESTABLISH PUBLIC HEARING DATE of FEBRUARY 05, 2007, at 6:15 P.M., for REFUNDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS on BEHALF of INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY:

Lionel Todd, Chairman of the Columbus County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority, requested the Board to establish a Public Hearing date of February 5, 2007, at 6:15 P.M., for the refunding of Environmental Improvement Revenue Bonds on behalf of International Paper Company, and to meet the requirements of the Local Government Commission.

Lionel Todd stated the following:

1. This will help the largest taxpayer in Columbus County;
2. The Board of County Commissioners appoints the members of the Columbus County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority;
3. This involves three (3) Bond issues;
4. I apologize for the short notice, but I was not informed of this until this past Friday from a gentleman representing International Paper;
5. Please allow me to read you the following Public Notice for details:
Public Notice is hereby given that the County Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina (the "Board"), at the request of the Columbus County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority (the "Authority") will conduct a public hearing at 6:15 P.M., on February 5, 2007 at the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, on the proposed issuance of \$13,500,000.00 Environmental Improvement Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series A (the "Series A Bonds"), \$8,300,000.00 Environmental Improvement Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series B (the "Series B Bonds") and \$7,700,000.00 Environmental Improvement Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series C (the "Series C Bonds") by the Authority, the proceeds of which would be made available to International Paper Company (the "Company") to refinance certain sewage and solid waste disposal facilities at the Riegelwood Mill located in Columbus County at John L. Riegel Road, Riegelwood, North Carolina 28456.

The Bonds, when and if issued, will be limited obligations of the Authority, payable solely and only out of payments to be made by or on behalf of the Company. The Bonds will not constitute a debt of the State of North Carolina or any political subdivision or agency thereof within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory limitation and neither the full faith and credit nor the taxing power of the State of North Carolina or any political subdivision or agency thereof shall be pledged to the payment of the Bonds or the interest thereon.

At the time and place fixed for said public hearing, all who appear will be given an opportunity to express their views for or against the proposal to issue the Bonds. Within fourteen (14) days of the date of the publication of this public notice, written comments may be submitted to June Hall, Clerk to the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, Columbus County Administrative Building, 111 Washington Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472. Following the public hearing, the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County will consider the adoption of a resolution approving in principle the proposed issuance of the Bonds.

6. This will not cost Columbus County anything;
7. The will not cost the State of North Carolina anything;
8. Every time this has been done in the past, we make sure it will not cost Columbus County or the State of North Carolina any money; **and**

9. Our Board will meet next week for consideration of this matter.

Commissioner Memory made a motion to establish February 05, 2007, at 6:15 P.M., for a Public Hearing for the refunding of Environmental Improvement Revenue Bonds on behalf of International Paper Company, seconded by Vice Chairman Prevatte. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item 6: DOG ORDINANCE - DISCUSSION of MATTERS of INTEREST:

Flora White, private citizen, requested to address the Board relative to this matter.

Vice Chairman Prevatte stated the following on this issue:

1. I am definitely not against dogs, but I do have some concerns;
2. I have been contacted by many citizens regarding the nuisance that stray dogs are creating in their neighborhoods;
3. Steven W. Fowler, Columbus County Attorney, has forwarded several copies of sample Nuisance Ordinances, which would be most beneficial if we were to adopt one;
4. Ms. White and myself are looking at ways to improve our neighborhood.

Ms. White stated she would like to make the following recommendations to the Board relative to stray dogs:

1. Leash or Tether Ordinance for dogs with 75 feet of other residents in Columbus County;
 2. Kennel Law - how many dogs a household can have within 75 feet of a resident without obtaining a kennel license;
 3. Pen for dogs not on leash or tethered - aggressive, intimidating dogs like pit bulls, rottwieler, labs roaming, while children trying to play or get on the school bus. (Bothering dogs in their yards, tearing up/pulling off porches, eating food left out for your animals or the neighborhood sentry dog, leaving feces in your yard, and other destructive behavior.)
1. Pen or tether dogs - 2 months old or older to keep from becoming a public nuisance.
 2. Grandfather clause for max - neighborhood sentry that keeps stray dogs not from the area away.

Commissioner Gore stated the attorney had supplied the Commissioners with forty (40) pages of sample nuisance ordinances which I believe would be beneficial if we adopted one.

After additional discussion was conducted relative to this matter, Commissioner Norris made a motion to take the matter under advisement, seconded by Vice Chairman Prevatte. The motion unanimously carried..

Agenda Item #7: PLANNING - APPROVAL and ADOPTION of NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT of TRANSPORTATION'S (NCDOT) COLUMBUS COUNTY LAND USE PLAN:

Stevie Cox, Columbus County Planner, requested Board approval and adoption of the Columbus County Land Use Plan, and the following Resolution Adopting a Vision for Future Land Use For Columbus County, North Carolina. A copy of the Columbus County Land Use Plan will be marked as Exhibit "A" and filed in Minute Book Attachments #2, for review, in the Clerk to the Board's Office.

**Resolution
Adopting a Vision for Future Land Use
for Columbus County, North Carolina**

WHEREAS, Columbus County and the Transportation Planning Branch of the North Carolina Department of Transportation actively worked to develop a *vision for future land use* for Columbus County; **and**

WHEREAS, the County is directed by North Carolina General Statutes 136-66.2(b) to have a qualifying land development plan that can be a policy document that expresses a jurisdiction's goals and objectives for the development of land within that jurisdiction; **and**

WHEREAS, the County sees agriculture as the primary current and future land use for the rural areas and residential, commercial and industrial as secondary current and future land use for

the rural areas; **and**

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the County expects past trends of minimal growth and development to continue for the future throughout the rural areas; **and**

WHEREAS, the County agrees that future growth and development will continue to follow the existing land use and development patterns; **and**

WHEREAS, the aforementioned *vision for future land use* was used in the development of the Columbus County Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the vision for future land use as documented in the 2007 Columbus County Comprehensive Transportation Plan Study Report, be adopted as a guide in the future land use of Columbus County.

ADOPTED, this the 16th day of January, 2007.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ **SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman**
ATTESTED BY:
/s/ **JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board**

Stevie Cox, Columbus County Planner, stated the following:

1. This request is for County Commissioners to approve and adopt the Columbus County Land Use Plan that has been prepared by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT);
2. This document is required by the NCDOT Board of Directors for their adoption of the County Comprehensive Transportation Plan;
3. The adoption of the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Study conducted by the NCDOT staff does not supersede Comprehensive Land Use Study that will be completed by the North Carolina Department of Commerce Division of Community Assistance; **and**
4. The County views its primary current and future land use for the planning area as agricultural. Residential, commercial and industrial are the secondary current and future land uses for the planning area. Substantial growth is not expected throughout the planning area with the exception of a Federal Prison in northeast Tabor City. The county expects past trends of minimal growth and development to continue and follow existing land use and development patterns in the future.

Tyler Bray, EIT, Transportation Engineer, North Carolina Department of Transportation, stated the following:

1. This matter was brought to the Board in October, 2006;
2. This study began in April 2004;
3. This shows the projected growth for Columbus County;
4. This plan will not supercede the Department of Transportation's Land Use Plan;
5. I am asking for the Resolution to be adopted;
6. This meets the minimum requirements for the Comprehensive Transportation Plan to be adopted; **and**
7. This plan will be updated in the next seven (7) to ten (10) years.

Vice Chairman Prevatte asked if the wording could be changed to read "significant growth is expected in the Southern and Eastern part of Columbus County". Mr. Bray replied stating that what is written is adequate for what is trying to be accomplished.

Vice Chairman Prevatte asked Mr. Bray if he got the interchange at Lake Waccamaw straightened out. Mr. Bray replied stating that this was inside another Land Use Plan and had not been included in this plan.

Travis Marshall, a representative from the North Carolina Department of Transportation, stated that Environmental Assessments was the next step in this process, and at that time, public forums and meetings in several areas of the County would be conducted for public input and questions.

Don Eggert, Cape Fear Council of Governments, stated he was present to address the question of “will the four (4) lane road take most of the Riegelwood Park?” In answer to this, Mr. Eggert stated he did not think it would, and he hoped it wouldn’t.

After additional discussion was conducted, Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the North Carolina Department of Transportation’s Columbus County Land Use Plan, and adopt the Resolution Adopting a Vision for Future Land use For Columbus County, North Carolina, seconded by Vice Chairman Prevatte. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #8: PLANNING - APPROVAL and ADOPTION of the COLUMBUS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN and RESOLUTION:

Stevie Cox, Columbus County Planner, requested Board approval and adoption of the Columbus County Comprehensive Transportation Plan and a Resolution Adopting a Comprehensive Transportation Plan for Columbus County, North Carolina. Mr. Cox stated the following:

1. This request is for the County Commissioners to approve and adopt the Columbus County Comprehensive Transportation Plan and Resolution;
2. On October 02, 2006, the Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing to receive public comments on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan and Recommendations;
3. At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Board of Commissioners tabled this matter until the November 06, 2006 Meeting;
4. This decision was made to allow staff and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to address concerns that were raised at the Public Hearing;
5. During this time, NCDOT staff has provided copies of the document to Steve Chandler with Brunswick County Realtors Association and Charles Patton with the Columbus County Transportation Agency.

**Resolution
Adopting a Comprehensive Transportation Plan
for Columbus County, North Carolina**

WHEREAS, Columbus County and the Transportation Planning Branch, North Carolina Department of Transportation actively worked to develop a comprehensive transportation plan for the Columbus County; and

WHEREAS, the County and the Department of Transportation are directed by North Carolina General Statutes 136-66.2 to reach agreement for a transportation system that will serve present and anticipated volumes of traffic in the County; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the proper movement of traffic within and through Columbus County is a highly desirable element of the comprehensive plan for the orderly growth and development of the County; and

WHEREAS, after full study of the plan, and following a public hearing, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners feels it to be in the best interest of Columbus County to adopt a plan pursuant to General Statutes 136-66.2.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Columbus County Comprehensive Transportation Plan as shown on a map dated August 4, 2006, be approved and adopted as a guide in the development of the transportation system in Columbus County and the same is hereby recommended to the North Carolina Department of Transportation for its subsequent adoption.

ADOPTED, this the 16th day of January, 2007.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ **SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman**
ATTESTED BY:
/s/ **JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board**

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve and adopt the Columbus County

Comprehensive Transportation Plan, and the Resolution Adopting a Comprehensive Transportation Plan for Columbus County, North Carolina, seconded by Commissioner Bullard . The motion unanimously carried. A copy of this document, with the attached maps, will be marked as Exhibit "B" and filed in Minute Book Attachments #2, in the Office of the Clerk to the Board for review.

Agenda Item #9: PARKS and RECREATION - APPROVAL to APPLY for PARTIAL GRANT with 50% MATCHING FUNDS from COUNTY:

Carol Worrell, Recreation Director, requested Board approval to apply for a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant for improvements to the Columbus County / Riegelwood Park in the amount of one hundred thousand and 00/100 (\$100,000.00) dollars, with a fifty (50%) percent match of fifty thousand and 00/100 (\$50,000.00) dollars from Columbus County. Ms. Worrell stated the following:

1. The plans call for converting an existing practice field into a multi-purpose field, adding fencing, press box/concession/bathroom facilities within one (1) unit, and lighting the field;
2. This addition will allow for more tournament play creating revenue, and will also provide a playing field for the Dixie Boys' teams that now play more than six (6) miles away at another facility; **and**
3. A County employee also maintains the field currently being used for Dixie Boys' games, and this will eliminate travel to the site for daily maintenance.

Commissioner Bullard stated it was his opinion that the Board needed to postpone projects of this nature until the Budget was in better shape, and cutting back has to start somewhere.

Discussion was conducted relative to the amount of the grant, and if this could wait until a later time. Ms. Worrell stated the deadline for this grant was January 31, 2007.

After discussion was conducted, Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the application for a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant for improvements to the Columbus County / Riegelwood Park in the amount of one hundred thousand and 00/100 (\$100,000.00) dollars, with a fifty (50%) percent match of fifty thousand and 00/100 (\$50,000.00) dollars from Columbus County, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

AYES: Chairman Jacobs, Commissioners McKenzie, Memory, Norris
NAYS: Vice Chairman Prevatte, Commissioners Bullard and Gore.

The motion passed on a four (4) to three (3) vote.

Agenda Item #10: ADMINISTRATION - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Jim Varner, County Manager, delivered the following Departmental Update to the Board:

1. Water District V - waiting on formal approval from USDA for approximately fifty-four (54) miles of water lines, paperwork has been in the USDA Office since December 21, 2006, with a thirty (30) day turn around time;
2. Water District IV - USDA approved sixteen (16) miles of waterline extensions, plans sent to USDA in mid December;
3. Timber Cove Project - waterline extensions for nine (9) houses, bids awaiting approval from Ronnie Pope, USDA, has been delivered since January 04, 2007;
4. Waccamaw River Snagging - forty (40%) percent completed, and project has been held up due to inclement weather, deadline date is March 31, 2007,;
5. POTW Project - Phase I and Phase II completed and a ribbon cutting has been held, with the following expenditures:
 - \$53,000 Generator
 - \$54,000 Area Platform
 - \$65,000 Laboratory Control Room
 - \$23,000 SCADA System;
6. Livingston Creek - working for a short-term grant;
7. Airport Wetlands - mitigating ten (10) acres to be declared wetlands;
8. Government Complex Road Paving - environmental assessment has been completed, and the

Department of Transportation will have an area ready to survey, working with Corps of Engineers to obtain the proper permits, Department of Transportation wants to finish in the spring of 2007;

9. Jail Project - expected to be completed in April or May, 2007, and is on budget;
10. Budget Packets will be given to Department Heads in mid February;
11. The employees insurance was bid out last year, and the County saved three hundred thousand and 00/100 (\$300,000.00) dollars, the new company will give the new rates in February;
12. Working on a Wellness Program for the County employees; **and**
13. The Guideway School lines are installed with the prison water system.

Agenda Item #11: APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS:

June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, requested Board appointments/re-appointments and/or replacements to the following committees/boards.

A. Medicaid Advisory Committee:

Commissioner Bullard appointed John Hardwick, 12287 James B. White Highway South, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, Telephone: (910) 653-2516, to replace Al Daniel. No term length has been established for this committee.

Commissioner Memory appointed Al Daniel to fill the vacancy in District IV, and after discovery was made that Mr. Daniel did not reside in Columbus County, Commissioner Memory withdrew his appointment of Mr. Daniel.

MOTION:

After discussion was conducted relative to committee members residing within the boundaries of Columbus County, Commissioner Bullard made the following motion, for the first reading:

All committee members must live within the Columbus County boundaries to be eligible to serve, seconded by Vice Chairman Prevatte. The motion unanimously carried.

B. Whiteville Planning and Zoning Board:

Commissioner Gore made a motion to appoint Chris Edge, 53 Pineway Lane, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, Telephone: (910) 642-5872, to the Whiteville Planning and Zoning Board as the ETJ member, with term expiring January 16, 2012, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously carried.

C. Beaver Management Team Committee:

Commissioner Gore appointed Lanny Formyduval, 14233 New Britton Highway East, Nakina, North Carolina 28455, Telephone: (910) 642-6069, to replace Jimmy Gore. No term length has been established.

Agenda Item #12: AMENDMENTS to DECEMBER 04, 2006 REGULAR SESSION BOARD MINUTES:

June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, requested Board approval of the following two (2) amendments to the December 04, 2006 Regular Session Board Minutes.

Error 1: (Page 718)

Agenda Item #4: Surety Bonds - Examination and Approval

Amendment 1:

Agenda Item #5: Surety Bonds - Examination and Approval

Error 2: (Page 721)

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the following amended Signatory Resolution by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion unanimously carried.

Correction:

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the above listed amended Signatory Resolution

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the two (2) above listed amendments to the December 04, 2006 Regular Session Board Minutes, seconded by Vice Chairman Prevatte. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #13: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

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

A. Tax Refunds and Releases:

**TAX REFUNDS (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):
January 16, 2007**

Refunds Name: Willett, Mary E. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year 006 Account # 15-01712 Bill # 61090 Total \$193.00
 Refund one of two user fees. Only one house here.
 537 Piney Grove Rd. Delco NC 28436

Refunds Name: Baker, Ronald E. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year 006 Account # 03-00489 Bill # 18421 Total \$193.00
 Refund user fee on a house that is vacant, has no power and no trash can.
 73 Christian Way Whiteville NC 28472

Refunds Name: Brubaker, Alice F. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year 006 Account # 06-01936 Bill # 22102 Total \$106.00
 Refund user fee on land that is vacant
 39 Weaver Ave. Ephrata Pa 17522

Refunds Name: Graham, James G. Amount: \$24.94
 Value: \$3,260.00 Year 006 Account # 01-05757 Bill # 33267 Total \$25.59
 Refund the value of a boat and the Whiteville Rescue fee. The boat is listed and taxed in Horry County.
 1114 Pinkney St. Whiteville NC 28472

Refunds Name: Lovitt, Adrian Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year 006 Account # 09-02346 Bill # 41807 Total \$193.00
 Refund user fee that was paid on vacant land.
 825 Butlertown Rd. Clarendon NC 28432

Refunds Name: Thompson, Arthur G. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year 005 Account # 03-05046 Bill # 25691 Total \$177.00
 Refund the user fee that was paid on vacant land.
 1231 Gores Trailer Rd. Whiteville NC 28472

Refunds Name: Willett, Mary E. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year 006 Account # 15-01712 Bill # 61089 Total \$386.00
 Refund two user fees. This land is vacant.
 537 Piney Grove Rd. Delco NC 28436

**TAX RELEASES (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):
January 16, 2007**

Release the Property Value in the name of Enzor, Billy G. Amount: \$54.31
 Value: \$7,100.00 Year: 2006 Account # 10-04430 Bill # 8745 Total \$69.22
 Release a portion of the property value, a portion of the Cole Service (7.10), a portion of the Columbus Rescue (1.42) and a portion of the W2 (6.39), The property was billed with incorrect value.

Release the Property Value in the name of McPherson, Roger D. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-19700 Bill # 3949 Total \$27.16

Release the late list fee that was included in error.

Release the Property Value in the name of Prince, Bonnie (Trust)	Amount:	\$1,344.87
Value: \$175,800.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-05719 Bill # 9120	Total	\$1,485.51

Release the value of a house, the Williams Fire (105.48) and the Columbus Rescue (35.16). The home double listed in the name of Hilburn Road LLC.

Release the Property Value in the name of Suggs, Thomas	Amount:	\$123.24
Value: \$15,800.00 Year: 2003 Account # 03-24820 Bill # 0454	Total	\$123.24

Release the deferred tax. Property should have remained in the Land Use Program.

Release the Property Value in the name of Suggs, Thomas	Amount:	\$174.42
Value: \$22,800.00 Year: 2006 Account # 03-24820 Bill # 0450	Total	\$197.22

Release the deferred tax, the Old Dock fire (18.24) and the Columbus Rescue (4.56). The land should remain in the Land Use Program.

Release the Property Value in the name of Suggs, Thomas	Amount:	\$166.44
Value: \$22,800.00 Year: 2005 Account # 03-24820 Bill # 0451	Total	\$166.44

Release the deferred tax. The land should remain in the Land Use Program.

Release the Property Value in the name of Suggs, Thomas	Amount:	\$123.24
Value: \$15,800.00 Year: 2004 Account # 03-24820 Bill # 0453	Total	\$139.04

Release the deferred tax, the Williams Fire (12.64) and the Columbus Rescue (3.16). The property should remain in the Land Use Program.

Release the User Fee in the name of Bowen, Erica	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 15-03627 Bill # 0880	Total	\$193.00

Release user fee on vacant Ice Cream Shop.

Release the User Fee in the name of Bright, James A.	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 11-03820 Bill # 1251	Total	\$193.00

Release user fee on a vacant house.

Release the User Fee in the name of Czartoxzewiski, Wlodziemierz	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 03-03351 Bill # 6509	Total	\$193.00

Release one of two user fees. Only one house here.

Release the User Fee in the name of Dew, Danny	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 06-02234 Bill # 7219	Total	\$193.00

Release user fee on a vacant mobile home.

Release the User Fee in the name of Freedman, Wilbur	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 01-29760 Bill # 0710	Total	\$386.00

Release both user fees on land that is vacant.

Release the User Fee in the name of Godwin, Brady	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 12-09509 Bill # 2029	Total	\$96.50

Release half of the user fee. This is a vacation home.

Release the User Fee in the name of Godwin, Hattie	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 16-05276 Bill # 2107	Total	\$193.00

Release user fee. Old store closed. No trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Godwin, Jake	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-10380 Bill # 2120	Total	\$193.00

Release user fee. Using a commercial hauler.

Release the User Fee in the name of Godwin, Jake	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-10380 Bill # 2119	Total	\$193.00

Release user fee. Using a commercial hauler.

Release the User Fee in the name of Godwin, Larry	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 03-04605 Bill # 2157	Total	\$193.00

Release user fee. House vacant and does not have a trash can.

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Release the User Fee in the name of Godwin, Larry Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-10580 Bill # 2159 Total \$193.00
Release user fee. Using a commercial hauler.

Release the User Fee in the name of Godwin, Larry Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-10580 Bill # 2160 Total \$193.00
Release user fee. Using a commercial hauler.

Release the User Fee in the name of Godwin, Larry Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 13-01419 Bill # 2161 Total \$193.00
Release user fee. House vacant and does not have trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Godwin, Larry Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 14-01342 Bill # 2163 Total \$193.00
Release user fee. House vacant, no trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Gore, Jerry L Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 07-06401 Bill # 2661 Total \$193.00
Release user fee. House vacant with no trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Gore, Mark Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-11550 Bill # 2805 Total \$193.00
Release user fee on old storage building.

Release the User Fee in the name of Green, Horace Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2000 Account # 16-06243 Bill # 4181 Total \$125.00
Release user fee that is double listed in the same name with a different account number.

Release the User Fee in the name of Hilburn Road LLC Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-01729 Bill # 6076 Total \$386.00
Release two user fees. One lot is vacant and the other only has one house on it.

Release the User Fee in the name of Hinson, Deborah Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 01-01811 Bill # 6386 Total \$193.00
Release user fee on a vacant storage building.

Release the User Fee in the name of Kona, Larry Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 03-12640 Bill # 9937 Total \$193.00
Release user fee on a vacant house that does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of McPherson, Mattie Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-19820 Bill # 3899 Total \$579.00
Release three user fees. All houses are vacant.

Release the User Fee in the name of McPherson, Roger Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-19700 Bill # 3951 Total \$193.00
Release user fee on vacant land.

Release the User Fee in the name of Mills, Michael Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 08-12580 Bill # 4688 Total \$193.00
Release user fee on a house that is vacant and does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Moore, Robert Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 01-02373 Bill # 5302 Total \$193.00
Release user fee on a vacant house.

Release the User Fee in the name of Prince, Bonnie (Trust) Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-05719 Bill # 9120 Total \$772.00
Release all user fees on vacant land.

Release the User Fee in the name of Ransom, Tiffany Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 16-00451 Bill # 9486 Total \$193.00
Release user fee on a vacant house.

Release the User Fee in the name of Reeves, Ray Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 11-22130 Bill # 9851 Total \$193.00
 Release user fee on a vacant house.

Release the User Fee in the name of Sellers, Agnes Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-25440 Bill # 1558 Total \$193.00
 Release user fee. Using a commercial hauler.

Release the User Fee in the name of Sellers, Graham Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-25600 Bill # 1665 Total \$386.00
 Release both user fees. Using a commercial hauler.

Release the User Fee in the name of Sellers, Graham Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-02441 Bill # 1654 Total \$32.16
 Release a portion of the user fee. Did not have the trash can for a full year.

Release the User Fee in the name of Sellers, Graham(Logging) Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-25602 Bill # 1658 Total \$193.00
 Release user fee on a mobile home that has not been set up yet.

Release the User Fee in the name of Shipman, Andrew Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 14-13680 Bill # 2204 Total \$193.00
 Release one of two user fees. Only one house here.

Release the User Fee in the name of Smith, Charles Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 04-14540 Bill # 3198 Total \$106.00
 Release one of two user fees. One house is vacant, has no power, and no trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Sneed, Lottie Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 15-35120 Bill # 3955 Total \$193.00
 Release user fee. House vacant and trash can picked up in 2004.

Release the User Fee in the name of Thompson, Arthur G. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 03-05046 Bill # 7018 Total \$193.00
 Release user fee on land that is vacant.

Release the User Fee in the name of Ward, Dale Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-03861 Bill # 9274 Total \$193.00
 Release user fee on a mobile home that burned.

Release the User Fee in the name of Ward, Dale Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 06-04834 Bill # 9273 Total \$193.00
 Release one of two user fees. Only one house here.

Release the User Fee in the name of Watt, Clara Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 03-28327 Bill # 0083 Total \$193.00
 Release user fee on vacant house and trash can has been picked up.

Release the User Fee in the name of Williams, Nicole Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 07-03237 Bill # 1432 Total \$193.00
 Release one of two user fees. Only one house here.

Release the User Fee in the name of Williams, Wade Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-33713 Bill # 1534 Total \$193.00
 Release user fee on a vacant house with no trash can.

B. Amendments to the January 02, 2007 Tax Releases:

Release the property value in the name of Barbara Boone for the year 2004, Total district to release should be \$55.52 instead of \$55.50.

Release the value of a building in the name of James D. Keith. Amount released should be \$419.99 instead of \$419.00. Total release should be \$496.85 instead of \$495.86.

Release the property value in the name of Ernest King. Amount released should be \$12.21 instead of \$13.21. Total value released should be \$13.77 instead of \$14.77. Property value should be \$1565.22, instead of \$1330.00. This is for the year 2004.

Release the property value in the name of Ernest King for the year 2005. The property value should be \$1565 instead of \$1330.00.

Release the user fee in the name of Byrd Family LLC for the year 2006 on bill number 23069, the amount to release should be \$386.00 instead of \$336.00.

Release the user fee in the name of Barbara Larrimore. The bill number should be 40252 instead of 40253.

Release the user fee in the name of Walter McPherson. The correct account number should be 09-03218 instead of 09-03216.

Release the user fee in the name of Billy Turbeville. The bill number should be 57900 instead of 27900.

Release the user fee in the name of Marian Williams. Correct bill number should be 61406 instead of 61407.

C. Amendments to the January 16, 2007 Tax Refunds and Releases:

Release the deferred tax in the name of Thomas Suggs. Release the Old Dock Fire (12.64) instead of the Williams Fire.

Release the user fee in the name of Jake Godwin on property number 32119, bill number 15865. This request should be deleted completely. There is a trash can here and the fee was paid.

Agenda Item #14: COMMENTS:

Chairman Jacobs opened the floor for comments. The following spoke.

A. Public:

Jim Nance (private citizen): stated the following:

- I was told that the Noise Ordinance would be on this Agenda, and it is not;
- I have given more thought to this Noise Ordinance and have been told it would eventually be a hindrance to some businesses within Columbus County, which brings revenue into the County;
- Instead of a Noise Ordinance, I think Columbus County needs a nuisance ordinance enacted to deal with disturbances;
- the 2,000, plus, acres of park land on the Lumber River was took over by the State to preserve certain species of endangered plants;
- due to the permitted use of the park land, the horses are destroying this endangered species of plants; **and**
- I still want to know why I am being denied the ability to camp in this area.

Billy Williamson (private citizen): stated the following:

- I would like to respond to Jim Nance's comments about the 2,000, plus, acres of park land;
- I don't know why he stated that he can't go fishing and camping on these grounds; **and**
- I do know that he has harassed the State Park personnel.

B. Department Heads:

1. **Kimberly Smith, Health Director:** stated the following:

- we have plenty of flu vaccines and I encourage everyone to come and get their flu shots; **and**
- I would like to let everyone know the series of shots for rabies which consist of five (5) injections cost one thousand five hundred and 00/100 (\$1,500.00) dollars.

2. **Carol Worrell, Parks and Recreation Director:** stated they had started basketball

registration and soon will be starting signups for baseball.

3. **Ed Worley (Aging Director):** stated he would like for everyone to know that he is a new grandpa.

C. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Vice Chairman Prevatte:** at the January 02, 2007 Board Meeting, the Board issued a directive for the Manager and the Clerk to send a letter requesting information regarding the park land that Mr. Nance is asking about, and requested to know the status. June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, replied stating a copy of the letter that was mailed is located in the Information Section of the Board Packet.

Vice Chairman Prevatte stated the following:

-At the Legislative Goals Conference, all Legislative Goals passed, with some minor tweaking except two (2) and they were: 1) Land for Tomorrow, and 2) Mental Health (deaf and hard of hearing issue);

-There were eighty-four (84) counties represented;

-The number one priority goal was the promotion of Medicaid Relief, number two was School issues, and number three was the Revenue Options for Counties.

2. **Commissioner Gore:** stated the following:
 - I learned a lot and have got a lot more to learn; **and**
 - Every county has the same problems that Columbus County has.
3. **Commissioner Bullard:** stated it was his opinion that the Board of Commissioners should send a letter to Congressman Mike McIntyre, Senator R.C. Soles, Jr., and representative Dewey L. Hill and request them to help Columbus County to locate the necessary funds for the Cultural Arts Center at Williams Township School. It is also my opinion that a Resolution Prohibiting Seasonal Sunday Hunting in Columbus County, North Carolina be approved and adopted and mailed to the same three (3) delegates.

MOTION:

Commissioner Bullard made a motion that a letter be prepared, and mailed to Congressman Mike McIntyre, Senator R.C. Soles, Jr., and representative Dewey L. Hill and request them to help Columbus County to locate the necessary funds for the Cultural Arts Center at Williams Township School, seconded by Vice Chairman Prevatte. The motion unanimously carried.

MOTION:

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve and adopt the following Resolution Prohibiting Seasonal Sunday Hunting in Columbus County, North Carolina, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION PROHIBITING SEASONAL HUNTING of GAME
on SUNDAY in COLUMBUS COUNTY

WHEREAS, several counties within North Carolina have passed Resolutions that allow the seasonal hunting of game within their boundaries; **and**

WHEREAS, seasonal hunting is already being allowed from Monday through Saturday weekly; **and**

WHEREAS, Sunday is a day of family events, special occasions, rest and relaxation from the week's work, and a day for children to participate in activities they don't have time for during the run of the week; **and**

WHEREAS, the sport of seasonal hunting on Sunday would deprive certain citizens and families of the presence and participation of their family member(s); **and**

WHEREAS, the allowance of Sunday hunting would, or could, interfere with the serenity and relaxation that has been enjoyed by the majority of our citizenry; **and**

WHEREAS, it is our strong belief that Sunday hunting would greatly contradict the

foundation and belief that our great County was built on.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, strongly oppose the hunting of seasonal game on Sunday.

ADOPTED this the 16th day of January, 2007.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman**

ATTESTED BY:

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

Commissioner Bullard asked Jim Varner, County Manager, if he had the information that he requested on the water districts. Mr. Varner replied stating he had left the maps in his office.

4. **Commissioner Gore:** stated the following:
 - A. On the E-Rate Funding for schools and libraries, Columbus County applied in 1999, 2001 and 2002;
 - B. These funds have been available since 1999, and Columbus County quit applying for these funds in 2002;
 - C. The deadline for applying for this year's funding is today and has been missed;
 - D. I would like for directions to be given to the Library to start applying for these available funds which could save Columbus County a lot of money; **and**
 - E. I am requesting a salary schedule for all County employees that consists of what their salary was as of July 1, 2006 and what their salary is now.

5. **Commissioner McKenzie:** stated the following:
 - A. On December 18, 2006, I became a proud grandfather of twin girls; **and**
 - B. On the county-wide water system, I would like for the Board to form a committee to check into the possibilities.

6. **Chairman Jacobs:** the Board of Commissioners will meet with the Columbus Regional Healthcare System for the presentation of their audit on February 5, 2007, at 5:00 P.M.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (5) REAL ESTATE, and (6) PERSONNEL:

At 9:01 A.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (5) (i) Real Estate, and (6) Personnel, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion unanimously carried.

No official action was taken.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:

At 10:00 P.M., Vice Chairman Prevatte made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #15: ADJOURNMENT:

At 10:01 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion unanimously carried.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman