

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**March 19, 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 the purpose of holding a Public Hearing and 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:

Jimmy Varner, **County Manager**
 Steven W. Fowler, **County Attorney**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

Leo Hunt, **Interim Finance Officer**

5:00 P.M.**Annual Dinner and Update - Cooperative Extension:**

At 5:00 P.M., the invocation was delivered by Esther Collier, and a delicious and nutritious meal was served by the Cooperative Extension Staff.

UPDATE:

Jacqueline Roseboro, Cooperative Extension Director, delivered the following update:

1. We have a very unique partnership with A&T University and North Carolina State University from which we receive funding and our programs;
2. I would like to introduce our representative, Dr. David Lyons, from A&T University;
3. I would like for our staff members to stand, followed by our Extension Advisory Council members to be recognized;
4. Howard Wallace, Area Agriculture Agent, delivered a PowerPoint presentation that was compiled by Kathy Faulk, Whiteville Primary School, entitled "Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program";
 - We held an Agriculture Field Day which entailed two hundred (200) kindergarten students;
 - This Program had to be supported by the school system and the community;
 - Obesity among children is very prevalent; **and**
 - During the Field Day, we tried to teach the students where food comes from, where to find fresh fruits and vegetables and how to make good food choices;
5. Teresa Thompson, Nutrition Program Assistant, shared information regarding the assistance she had given to John Jones who was very obese through a nutrition regimen;
6. Nakoma Simmons introduced Matthew Blanks who is a St. James 4-H member and Richard Hoyt which was accompanied by his mother Shirley Phipps;
7. Carolyn McCain, Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences, introduced Norman Watkins who has been able to turn his life around through the help and encouragement she rendered to him; **and**
8. We all enjoy our work and thank you for your participation in this dinner.

6:30 P.M.**PUBLIC HEARING -**

Contracting to Make Cash Grant to Top Tobacco for Expansion:
 the purpose of this Public hearing is to receive comments from the public, either written or oral.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED:

At 6:30 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion for the Public Hearing to open, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

PUBLIC HEARING CALLED to ORDER:

Chairman Jacobs stated the Public Hearing is now open, and the purpose is to receive comments from the public, either written or oral, on the contracting to make cash grant to Top

Tobacco for expansion. Chairman Jacobs requested that Jim Hinkle, Interim Economic Development Director, to present details pertaining to this grant. Mr. Hinkle presented the following information:

1. This is a sixteen million, five hundred thousand, and 00/100 (\$16,500,000.00) dollars investment;
2. There will be seventy (70) additional jobs created;
3. If for any reason, the company falls short, the amount will be prorated downward;
4. This will be over a five (5) year period;
5. Most of the investment will be in machinery; **and**
6. It is believed the project will total four hundred seventy-nine thousand, six hundred fifty-five and 00/100 (\$479, 655.00) dollars over a five (5) year period, with the following breakdown:

Tax year 1	85%	\$107,291.00
Tax Year 2	80%	\$100,980.00
Tax Year 3	75%	\$ 94,669.00
Tax Year 4	70%	\$ 88,358.00
Tax Year 5	70%	<u>\$ 88,358.00</u>
TOTAL:		\$479,655.00.

Vice Chairman Prevatte asked Mr. Hinkle why five (5) jobs were listed on the Incentive Policy. Mr. Hinkle replied stating that five (5) jobs were the minimum.

Commissioner McKenzie asked Mr. Hinkle if the company would be hiring seventy (70) additional people. Mr. Hinkle replied stating yes.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED:

At 6:35 P.M., there being no further comments, either oral or written, Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

6:35 P.M. REGULAR SESSION

Agenda Items #1, #2 and #3: MEETING CALLED to ORDER, INVOCATION and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:

At 6:35 P.M., Chairman Sammie Jacobs called the meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Ricky Bullard. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, which was led by Vice Chairman James E. Prevatte.

Agenda Item #4: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the March 05, 2007 Regular Session Board Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #5: JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL - APPROVAL of COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Greg Worthington, Chairman of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, requested Board approval of the following Membership Roster:

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>
Olaf Thorsen/Greg Worthington	DJJDP
Chief District Court Judge	Douglas B. Sasser
Chief of Police	Steve Shaw, Chadbourn Police Department
Columbus County Sheriff	Chris Batten/Lewis Hatcher
Columbus County Manager	Jim Varner
Columbus County DSS	Melinda Lane, Hilda Coleman
Dr. Local Management Entity	Caroline Staton
District Attorney	Rex Gore/Glenda Ansley
Juvenile Defense Attorney	Randy Cartrette
Local Health Department Director	Kim Smith
Member of Business Community	Vacant

Member of Faith Community
 Rep. United Way or non-profit organization
 Columbus County Parks and Recreation
 School Superintendent
 Student Volunteer
 Substance Abuse Professional

Reverend Charles M. Hunt
 Vickie Pait
 Carol Worrell
 Dr. Dan Strickland/Keith Jefferys
 Kelly Pait
 Rickie Rouse

Vice Chairman Prevatte made a motion to approve the Membership Roster for the Columbus County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, as presented by Greg Worthington, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #6: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - APPROVAL of COUNTY INCENTIVE POLICY for TOP TOBACCO EXPANSION:

James Hinkle, Interim Economic Development Director, requested Board approval of the following Incentive Policy for Top Tobacco Expansion. The required Public Hearing was conducted on this date prior to this meeting.

Columbus County Incentive Policy
Project Top Tobacco Expansion

Minimum of \$100,000 investment and the creation of 5 jobs

The incentives would apply to manufacturing, distribution and other industrial projects. Each project will be considered based upon the merits of that project. We do not do retail or commercial which includes professional offices.

Requirements (Must meet all)

- Entrepreneurs must show their belief in the project by detailing personal investment and liability for failure.
- No payments are made until jobs created, continuously employed, and reported to the state on quarterly or annual forms. These jobs must be in place for the quarter in which payment is to be received. The investment also must be listed and taxable per the tax roles.
- To be eligible, companies must provide evidence of a banking relationship, acceptable to the Economic Development Director's satisfaction.

Example of Investing \$16,500,000.00

The incentive is based on the tax rate of .765 for the 2006 year. *The actual investment will be multiplied by the tax rate and percentage of incentive over a five year time span.

Tax year 1	85%	\$107,291.00
Tax Year 2	80%	\$100,980.00
Tax Year 3	75%	\$ 94,669.00
Tax Year 4	70%	\$ 88,358.00
Tax Year 5	70%	<u>\$ 88,358.00</u>
TOTAL:		<u>\$479,655.00.</u>

Columbus County Incentive Policy

The above figures are hypothetical and are based on the assumption that the company will make an investment of \$100,000.00, or more, subject to the payment of county taxes. Each year, the tax records will be checked to verify that the company has paid taxes on at least \$100,000.00 in property. Also, the Employment Security Commission must certify that the company has at least the minimum number of employees on the payroll to qualify for an incentive grant. If the taxable property is less than \$100,000.00, the incentive payment will be reduced based on the same percentage basis of the actual property taxes paid by the company. The incentive payment is paid once a year, over a period of five (5) years, after the taxes and employment numbers are verified each of the five (5) years.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the County Incentive Policy for Top Tobacco Expansion, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #7: COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS - DECLINATION of SURPLUS PROPERTY:

Tommy Nance, Columbus County Board of Education, requested the Board to decline the offer to purchase a twenty-five (25') foot strip of property located between Chadbourn Elementary School and Chadbourn Florist.

DELETED (Per: Jim Varner, Columbus County Manager - telephone call received from Dan Strickland, Superintendent of Columbus County Schools)

Agenda Item #8: PROCLAMATIONS - APPROVAL and ADOPTION of SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH 2007 and CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH 2007 PROCLAMATIONS:

Vickie Pait, Executive Director of Families First, requested Board approval and adoption of the following two (2) Proclamations.

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
PROCLAMATION 2007**

WHEREAS, child maltreatment is a community problem and finding solutions depends on involvement among people throughout the community; **and**

WHEREAS, over one hundred thousand (100,000) children are reported as abused and neglected in North Carolina each year; **and**

WHEREAS, the majority of child maltreatment cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable with the help of an engaged and supportive community; **and**

WHEREAS, the effects of child maltreatment are felt by whole communities, and need to be addressed by the community as a whole; **and**

WHEREAS, child maltreatment not only directly harms children, but also increases the likelihood of criminal behavior, substance abuse, health problems such as heart disease and obesity, and risky behavior; **and**

WHEREAS, all citizens should be involved in supporting families in raising their children in a safe, nurturing environment; **and**

WHEREAS, effective child maltreatment prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; **and**

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April as **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in Columbus County and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to prevent child maltreatment, thereby strengthening the communities in which we live.

ADOPTED this 19th day of March, 2007.

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

**SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH
PROCLAMATION 2007**

WHEREAS, Families First, Incorporated, responded to ninety-eight (98) sexual assault calls from July 1, 2005 - July 31, 2006; **and**

WHEREAS, of the ninety-eight (98) sexual assault calls Families First Incorporated, received, thirty-one (31) were children under the age of seventeen (17); **and**

WHEREAS, one (1) in five (5) North Carolina women have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives (North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, 1999); **and**

WHEREAS, in the United States, rape is the most costly crime to its victims totaling \$127 billion a year considering factors such as medical cost, lost earnings, pain, suffering and lost quality of life (U.S. Department of Justice, 1996); **and**

WHEREAS, in the United States one (1) in six (6) women, and one (1) in thirty-three (33) men has experienced a completed or attempted rape at some time in their life (US Department of Justice 1998); **and**

WHEREAS, there are five thousand, nine hundred fifteen (5,915) sex offenders and sexual predators registered as living in North Carolina (State Bureau of Investigation, 2002).

NOW, THEREFORE, we the Columbus County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim that April 2007, is **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH** in Columbus County and call upon all citizens to join in increasing awareness and to speak out against sexual assault and support their local communities efforts to provide services to victims of this heinous crime.

ADOPTED this 19th day of March, 2007.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman**

ATTESTED BY:

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

Ms. Pait stated the following:

1. We would like to invite you to the Columbus County Child Protection Team's Prayer/ Remembrance Service on April 05, 2007, at 9:30 A.M., at the Columbus County Department of Social Services; **and**
2. We would like for each of you to wear the Blue Ribbon for Kids during the entire month of April, and if asked what the blue ribbon mean, state the following facts:
 - Last year in North Carolina, more than 111,000 children were reported as abused or neglected;
 - 31 children died from child abuse homicide in our state last year;
 - We can prevent child abuse in our communities by better supporting parents right from the start.

Vice Chairman Prevatte made a motion to approve the Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation 2007 and the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation 2007, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #9: HEALTH - APPROVAL of LOCAL FEE for MODEL WELL PROGRAM:

Dr. Darryl Diefes, Chairman of the Board of Health, and Kimberly Smith, Health Director, requested Board approval of the following local fee for the Model Well Program.

**Model Well Program
Fee Calculations**

Water Testing Kit	\$55.00
Travel (per well site)	\$72.75
Avg. Miles per well site: 50 miles	
# Of visits to each well site: 3	
Current mileage reimbursement: \$0.485/mile	
Salaries:	
Registered Sanitarian (avg. \$22.00/hour)	\$66.00
1 Hour per visit x 3 visits	
Fringe benefits	\$ 9.54
Office Assistant (\$13.58/hour)	\$13.58
1 Hour per well	
Fringe benefits	\$ 3.18
Forms	\$00.45
3 Per well x 0.15/page printing	

***TOTAL:** **\$220.50**

Fee Request **\$200.00**

*(Does not include wear/tear on vehicle, annual training requirements, supplies, additional water testing kit if needed for multi-water testing per well)

Dr. Diefes and Ms. Smith stated the following:

1. The General Assembly passed House Bill #2873 on July 19, 2006, which will require permitting and inspection of new, repair or abandon private drinking water wells, effective July 1, 2008;
2. The State is encouraging the counties currently without well regulations to pass the regulations effective July 1, 2007;
3. The State will give us \$40,000 as an incentive to adopt the well regulation early;
4. The Board of Health approved the Model Well Regulations on March 7, 2007, final adoption pending on April 25, 2007; **and**
5. The Board of Health is requesting the approval of \$200.00 as the fee for a well permit in Columbus County.

Lengthy discussion was conducted relative to the need for the early start-up date of this State mandate, what the total fee included, and the amount of the fee being charged.

After additional discussion was conducted, with no resolve, Commissioner Norris made a motion to table this Agenda item until the April 02, 2007 Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #10: EMERGENCY SERVICES - APPROVAL and ACCEPTANCE, if GRANTED, to APPLY for \$5,0000 HMEP GRANT:

Kay Worley, Interim Emergency Services Director, requested Board approval to apply for a Hazardous Material Emergency Planning Grant (HMEP) in the amount of five thousand and 00/100 (\$5,000.00) dollars. Ms. Worley stated the following:

1. This plan will address potential emergency hazardous substance release issues to include plan implementation, responsibilities, emergency notifications, equipment/coordination responsibilities and traffic evacuation plans;
2. There is no County match;
3. Will mainly be used for the Riegelwood area; **and**
4. Will include a hazmat and evacuation plan.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve Kay Worley, Interim Emergency Services Director, to apply for a Hazardous Material Emergency Planning Grant (HMEP) in the amount of five thousand and 00/100 (\$5,000.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #11: BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE - APPROVAL to ADD THREE (3) EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Kandance Whitehead, Chairperson of the Bicentennial Committee, requested Board approval to add the following three (3) ex-officio members to this committee:

Harry Warren	Museum of Forestry;
Robb Cross	Museum of Forestry; and
Rhonda Billeaud	Museum of Forestry.

Commissioner Memory made a motion to add three (3) ex-officio members to the Bicentennial Committee, namely Harry Warren, Robb Cross, Rhonda Billeaud, Museum of Forestry, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #12: COOPERATIVE EXTENSION - APPOINTMENT to EXTENSION ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Jacqueline Roseboro, County Extension Director, requested a Board appointment to the Extension Advisory Council to replace former Commissioner Kipling Godwin.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to appoint Commissioner Ricky Bullard to the Extension Advisory Council to replace former Commissioner Kipling Godwin, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously carried.

Vice Chairman Prevatte informed Ms. Roseboro that one of the members of this committee was not a county resident and that the Board has unanimously passed a motion that all committee members must live within the boundaries of Columbus County.

After discussion was conducted relative to this matter, it was the final determination that Al Daniel was to be removed from this committee and a replacement be located.

Agenda Item #13: COOPERATIVE EXTENSION - DISTRIBUTION of 2006 HIGHLIGHTS to GENERAL PUBLIC:

Jacqueline Roseboro, County Extension Director, stated the following:

1. We were honored to serve the Annual Cooperative Extension Dinner on this date;
2. Brief outlines were presented relative to the various programs that we offer to the public;
3. I have with me here tonight copies of the publications so entitled "Extension Highlights" and "Solutions for North Carolina" which were given to the guests at the dinner; **and**
4. I would like to distribute copies of this material to the general public for their information.

Agenda Item #14: TRAVEL and TOURISM - MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING:

Evelyn Anderson, Chairperson, Travel and Tourism Board of Directors, and Jennifer Long, Executive Director, are requesting discussion of the following proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Columbus and the Columbus County Board of Travel and Tourism for possible Board approval. (This document was tabled for one (1) month at the February 19, 2007 Board Meeting.)

County of Columbus)
State of North Carolina) **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

THIS AGREEMENT, entered into this _____ day of _____, 20___, by and between the COUNTY OF COLUMBUS (hereinafter called "COUNTY"), and the COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM (hereinafter called "TOURISM BOARD"), whose principal office and place of business is in Columbus County;

WITNESSETH :

WHEREAS COUNTY has implemented a Resolution to provide tourism service in Columbus County (hereinafter attached and referred to as "Appendix A" and hereby incorporated by reference) and;

WHEREAS, The Columbus County Tourism Bureau (hereinafter "BUREAU") promotes Travel and Tourism for the benefit of Economic Growth and Development of COUNTY;

WHEREAS, The COUNTY collects occupancy tax funds for the BUREAU that are intended to encourage the development of new or expanding tourism projects and activities that foster sustainable economic development;

WHEREAS TOURISM BOARD has agreed to provide consultation and direction in support of COUNTY'S tourism interests by acting as a governing body for BUREAU;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. That the Columbus County Tourism Bureau Director (hereinafter "DIRECTOR") will be considered for all intents and purposes a County Employee and as the COUNTY Department Head of the BUREAU.
2. That DIRECTOR will serve under the supervision of the TOURISM BOARD.
3. However, as a limitation of Section Number Two (2) above, COUNTY has priority and

- ultimate authority to hire and fire DIRECTOR under COUNTY personnel policies and other applicable laws.
4. COUNTY may also provide any disciplinary action upon the DIRECTOR in compliance with COUNTY personnel policies and other applicable laws.
 5. Upon a DIRECTOR vacancy, by resignation, termination or otherwise, TOURISM BOARD will initiate and supervise a process of application and selection for the DIRECTOR's employment pursuant to the COUNTY personnel policy. Upon selection of a final candidate, TOURISM BOARD will submit one applicant to the COUNTY for approval. That the TOURISM BOARD will recommend the initial salary of DIRECTOR to the COUNTY for approval. All future increases in said DIRECTOR'S salary will be equal to the same amount of increase approved for all COUNTY employees as agreed on by COUNTY.
 6. If the Candidate for the DIRECTOR'S position is not approved by the COUNTY, TOURISM BOARD will submit another candidate for the DIRECTOR to COUNTY until a final candidate is chosen.
 7. All TOURISM BUREAU expenses shall be paid by occupancy tax funds collected by the COUNTY or by funds otherwise available from Non-COUNTY funds.
 8. Upon finding of misappropriation of funds by DIRECTOR or by any secondary employee, TOURISM BUREAU will be solely responsible from its budget for any shortfall or damages.
 9. Any finding of misappropriation by DIRECTOR beyond the amount budgeted for the TOURISM BOARD shall be borne solely by the TOURISM BOARD out of its annually appropriated budget or from other funding.
 10. Secondary employees are defined as any other employee, member of staff or worker, other than DIRECTOR, performing any kind of work for the TOURISM BOARD for payment, salary or some schedule of regular taxable income compensation.
 11. Any secondary employees to do work for the Tourism Board will have their salary; expenses; travel; insurance and any other benefits or items of consideration paid exclusively by the TOURISM BOARD and funds in its then-current fiscal year budget from COUNTY or from other Non-COUNTY funds.
 12. Any temporary employees will not, under any circumstances, be considered a county employee receiving the rights, responsibilities and benefits thereof.
 13. The COUNTY hereby contributes to the TOURISM BOARD any costs of administering and collecting occupancy tax pursuant to General Assembly Ratified Bill Chapter 530 – SB 364 not to exceed seven percent (7%) of the gross proceeds.
 14. The COUNTY may, by subsequent writing to the TOURISM BOARD, amend or terminate any part of this agreement, via hand delivery or U.S. Mail, to the TOURISM BOARD.
 15. Exclusive Agreement. This agreement is exclusive. The TOURISM BOARD does not reserve the right to contract with other DIRECTORS to perform same or similar duties during the duration of this agreement. DIRECTOR is exclusively bound to COUNTY and TOURISM BOARD in the performance of tourism related duties promoting the COUNTY. DIRECTOR may not be employed or serve, in any way, a private entity promoting tourism in COUNTY for a fee or financial compensation.
 16. Binding Effect. This AGREEMENT shall be binding upon the parties hereto, and their heirs, successors, executors, administrators and assigns.
 17. Further Actions. The parties will make and execute all further instruments and documents required to carry out the purposes and intent of this AGREEMENT.
 18. Inclusive Terms. Use of the masculine herein shall include the feminine and neuter, and the singular shall include the plural.
 19. Governing Law. All of the terms and conditions contained herein shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina.
 20. Notices. All notice required hereunder to be sent to either party shall be sent to the following designated addresses, or to such other address or addresses as may hereafter be designated by either party by mailing of written notice of such change of address, by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested:

To COUNTY:

Columbus County Attorney
Attention: Steve Fowler
 111 Washington Street
 Whiteville, North Carolina 28472

To TOURISM BOARD:

Travel and Tourism
 104 East Walter Street

Whiteville, N.C. 28472

- 21. Assignability. It is mutually agreed by the parties hereto that this AGREEMENT is not transferable and shall not be assigned by either party without the written consent of the other party to this contract.
- 22. Nondiscrimination. DIRECTOR and TOURISM BOARD will take affirmative action not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment or otherwise illegally deny any person participation in or the benefits of the activities which are the subject of this contract, because of race, creed, color, sex, age, disability, or national origin.
- 23. Amendments. This AGREEMENT shall not be modified or otherwise amended except in writing signed by the parties.
- 24. Termination. This AGREEMENT may be terminated at any time by either party, without penalty, provided that written notice of such termination is furnished to the other party at least sixty (60) days prior to termination. Any net payment shall be appropriated at the date of termination.
- 25. Entire Agreement. This agreement constitutes an understanding between the parties and supersedes all prior and independent agreements. Any change or modification of this agreement must be in writing signed by both parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused the execution of the foregoing instrument, by authority duly given and in duplicate originals, all on the day and year first above written.

COLUMBUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 By: /s/ Sammie Jacobs, Chairman
 Columbus County Commissioners

Attested by:
 /s/ June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board

Approved as to form:
 /s/ STEVEN W. FOWLER
 County Attorney

This instrument has been preaudited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

/s/ LEO HUNT
 County Finance Officer

 Columbus County Tourism Board
 By: _____(SEAL)
 Title: _____

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
 COUNTY OF COLUMBUS

This ____ day of _____, 2007, personally came before me, _____, a Notary Public of Columbus County, June B. Hall, who being by me duly sworn, says that she knows the official seal of the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, and is acquainted with Sammie Jacobs, who is Chairman of said Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, and that she, the said June B. Hall, is the Clerk of the said Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, and saw the Chairman sign the foregoing instrument, and saw the said official seal of said Board of Commissioners of Columbus County affixed to the said instrument in the presence of said Chairman of said Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, all by order of said Board.

WITNESS my hand and official seal or stamp, this the ____ day of _____, 2007.

_____(SEAL)
 _____ NOTARY PUBLIC
 My Commission Expires on the ____ day of _____, _____.

NORTH CAROLINA
 COLUMBUS COUNTY

I, _____, a Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, certify that _____ personally came before me this day and

acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal, this _____, day of _____, 20_____.

(SEAL)
Notary Public

My commission expires on the _____ day of _____, _____.

Effective May 31, 2003
per Columbus County Tourism Bureau Board approval

REVISION OF BYLAWS

The Columbus County Tourism Bureau Board of Directors recommends that the By-Laws Officer Appointment be amended to include 1 (one) member from the Lodging Industry have a voting seat on the board. This member will be appointed by the Columbus County Tourism Bureau’s Executive Board and serve for a 2 (two) year term running concurrent to the calendar year.

Recommendations can be made to the Executive Board from any accommodation that pays occupancy tax to the bureau.

The Columbus County Tourism Bureau Board of Directors further recommends that ex-officio board seats be offered to the current Director of each of the Chambers of Commerce in the County, a media representative, and also the Promotions Director of the Tabor City Welcome Center.

Vice Chairman Prevatte made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Columbus and the Columbus County Board of Travel and Tourism, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #15: PARKS and RECREATION - APPROVAL to ACCEPT STONE MEMORIAL at RIEGELWOOD PARK:

Carol Worrell, Recreation Director, requested Board approval for the Cape Fear Chapter of Catholic Charities to place 2 x 6 x 4 granite stone memorial in the Riegelwood Community Park in memory of the eight (8) people who lost their lives in the November 16, 2006 tornado. Ms. Worrell stated the inscription could be written in collaboration with the Board of County Commissioners, other County officials and the Riegelwood Disaster Relief Committee (RWDRC).

Commissioner Memory made a motion to approve the Cape Fear Chapter of Catholic Charities to place 2 x 6 x 4 granite stone memorial in the Riegelwood Community Park in memory of the eight (8) people who lost their lives in the November 16, 2006 tornado, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #16: ADMINISTRATION - APPROVAL to BORROW an ADDITIONAL \$2.5 MILLION for DETENTION PROJECT:

Jim Varner, Columbus County Manager, requested Board approval to move forward with securing additional funding for the Detention Project. Mr. Varner stated the following:

1. In 2005, \$7.2 million was borrowed from RBC Centura for construction and professional services to build the addition to the Columbus County Detention Center;
2. The project was bid during July 2005, with a low bid of \$9,487,631.00;
3. After negotiations, the final bid was \$8,551,863, for construction only;
4. As a result, staff requests permission to proceed with borrowing an additional \$2.5 million to fund the remainder of this project and reimburse the General Fund for other associated expenses;
5. The following is a breakdown of the additional funds needed:

Final bid for construction	\$8,551,863.00
Professional Services/Architect	325,000.00
Fire Extinguishers/Fence, etc.	57,900.00
Phone upgrade	9,850.00
BATT Construction	70,000.00
ECS Soil Testing	30,000.00
TOTAL:	\$9,044,613.00

Less RBC Centura Loan	<u>\$7,200,000.00</u>
Total to Complete Project:	\$1,844,613.00
Previous Funds Spent:	
Service Road	26,000.00
Land	174,253.00
Architect Fees (First Design)	366,000.00
Storage Building	<u>90,000.00</u>
Total (To reimburse General Fund):	\$ 656,253.00
<u>TOTAL LOAN REQUESTED:</u>	\$2,500,866.00; and

6. RBC Centura has a lien on the property and staff will need to secure the remaining funds to complete this project from them.

Lengthy discussion was conducted relative to why the inclusion of certain items listed in the breakdown was not included in the original bid, if the \$1.3 million approved in the 2006-2007 Budget Workshop to be borrowed for this project was included in these figures or not, and the reason why there was the large difference in costs.

Sheriff Batten stated he had met with Glen Ware, Ware Bonsall Architects, and deleted the items that could be deleted, and then they had to add back some items that were mandated by the State to have in a detention facility. Sheriff Batten stated it was his opinion some of these items in question should have been included in the original bid.

After additional discussion was conducted, Commissioner Memory made a motion to table this Agenda item until the April 02, 2007 Board Meeting, and for Gail Edwards to set up a meeting with the architect and the Board of Commissioners to discuss this matter before this time, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #17: RESOLUTION - A RESOLUTION ALLOWING RICHMOND COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA to JOIN the SOUTHEASTERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:

Leon Martin, Executive Director, Southeastern Economic Development Commission, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution.

**A RESOLUTION ALLOWING
RICHMOND COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA to JOIN the
SOUTHEASTERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the counties of Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, New Hanover, Pender, Robeson, Sampson and Scotland joined together to mutually assist one another in the various endeavors of these counties in their economic development; **and**

WHEREAS, the County of Richmond has officially submitted a Resolution to join the Southeastern Economic Development Commission, with said Resolution being adopted on February 05, 2007; **and**

WHEREAS, the Executive Director of the Southeastern Economic Development Commission has recommended the membership of Richmond County in the Commission as beneficial to the Commission and its existing membership; **and**

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the membership of the Commission to approve the membership of new members, and the Commissioners of Columbus County accept and congratulate Richmond County on its request for membership.

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Commissioners of Columbus County, sitting in the Regular Session of this date, do invite and hereby allow the membership of Richmond County into the Southeastern Economic Development Commission as a member County with all the rights and appurtenances thereof.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 19th day of March, 2007.

APPROVED:/s/ **SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman****ATTESTED BY:**/s/ **JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board**

Jim Varner, Columbus County Manager, stated the following:

1. I have been contacted by Leon Martin, Executive Director of the Southeastern Economic Development Commission (SEDC), with information regarding Richmond County's request to join;
2. The SEDC Executive Committee has approved their membership; **and**
3. Before they can join, the Board of County Commissioners of each of the current eleven (11) member counties must approve their membership before they can become a member.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the resolution so entitled "A Resolution Allowing Richmond County, North Carolina to Join the Southeastern Economic Development Commission", seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #18: RESOLUTION - OPPOSITION to SENATE BILL 120 RESOLUTION:

Commissioner Bill Memory requested discussion of school consolidation and Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution.

OPPOSITION to SENATE BILL 120 RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, within Columbus County, there exist two (2) school systems, the Columbus County School System and the Whiteville City School System; **and**

WHEREAS, over a period of many years, discussion has been conducted relative to the merger of our two (2) school systems and has met strong opposition from a large percentage of our citizenry; **and**

WHEREAS, the results that have been received, from the research performed, do not reflect enough significant advantage of merging our two (2) school systems to warrant such action being taken; **and**

WHEREAS, if the merger of two (2), or more, school systems, within a said County, proves to be beneficial to that County, then the action would be justifiable; **and**

WHEREAS, the cons to the merger of the two (2) school systems within Columbus County are as follows:

- Loss of control in decision making;
- Loss of specialized programs;
- The majority of the funding for administration is provided by the State, therefore very little savings will be realized; **and**
- If the merged systems cannot afford to pay all of the supplement, the city teachers could see their higher pay supplements disappear.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, that the merger of our two (2) existing school systems would be of no significant value to Columbus County and/or the citizenry.

ADOPTED this the 19th day of March, 2007.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman
ATTESTED BY:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

Commissioner Memory stated the following:

1. I do not believe merging our two (2) school systems will be beneficial to Columbus County; **and**
2. We have two (2) distinct school systems and I think they should stay that way.

Commissioner Memory made a motion to approve the Opposition to Senate Bill 120 Resolution, seconded by Vice Chairman Prevatte.

Commissioner Bullard stated the Board needed to have information from both sides of the merger before a sound and informed decision could be made.

Commissioner McKenzie stated some previous studies had been done and he had been furnished some figures where it showed significant savings would be realized by the merger of our two (2) school systems.

Vice Chairman Prevatte stated that no merger had ever saved any money for the school systems that were involved, due to the fact they did not eliminate any administrative positions, they just change the titles and kept every employee on.

After additional discussion was conducted, a roll-call vote was taken, with the following results:

AYES: Chairman Jacobs, Vice Chairman Prevatte and Commissioner Memory

NAYS: Commissioners McKenzie, Norris, Bullard and Gore.

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

Agenda Item #19: DISCUSSION - WATER DEPARTMENT ADJUSTMENTS:

Commissioner Bill Memory would like to conduct a discussion of the adjustment made to the monthly water bill at the Columbus County Public Utilities Department.

Commissioner Memory stated this discussion was directly related to the recommended changes to the uniform rules for all water districts and retail water facilities within Columbus County and recommended that this discussion be conducted during the water district meetings.

Commissioner Bullard stated that Leo Hunt, Interim Finance Officer, was not present at this meeting, and he needed some questions answered on this matter before he could make a decision on how to vote.

Commissioner Memory made a motion to table **Agenda Item #19** and **Agenda item #20**, until the **April 02, 2007 Board Meeting**, and for this item to be a part of the water district meetings at that meeting, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #20: PUBLIC UTILITIES - DISCUSSION of RECOMMENDED CHANGES to the UNIFORM RULES for all WATER DISTRICTS and RETAIL WATER FACILITIES:

Tabled until the April 02, 2007 Board Meeting (see motion made in Agenda Item #19).

Agenda Item #21: APPOINTMENTS - BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE:

Chairman Jacobs requested Board approval of the following two (2) appointments to the Bicentennial Committee: Nancy Sigmon, Chief Superior Court Judge's Appointment, and Ray Wyche, Chief District Court Judge's Appointment.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to appoint Nancy Sigmon, P.O. Box 125, Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina 28450, Telephone: (910) 646-4255 (H), and Ray Wyche, P.O.Box 183, Hallsboro, North Carolina 28442, Telephone: (910) 646-3704 (H) and (910) 642-4104, Extension: 229 (W), to the Bicentennial Committee, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously carried.

Agenda Item #22: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Budget Amendment:

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

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	10-620-6000	Special Programs	(\$22,000)
	10-620-3400	Special Projects	\$22,000
	10-620-6000	Special Programs	\$1,700
Revenue	10-336-211	Registration fees	\$1,700

B. Amendments to the March 05, 2007 Refunds and Releases:

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the following Amendments to the March 05, 2007 Refunds and Releases, and the March 19, 2007 Refunds and Releases. The motion unanimously carried.

Release the value of a boat in the name of William Britt. The property value should be \$8,960.00 instead of \$89.50.

Release the value of a single wide home in the name of Linda Bullock. This release was for the years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2005 and 2006. Each of these years indicated that a late list was to be included in the release. This late list should be taken off of each request. Total amount to release on each year is as follows: 2000 (\$104.53), 2001 (\$117.75), 2002 (\$126.49), 2005 (\$122.56) and 2006 (\$137.58).

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Heather Cribb. The correct amount for the Columbus Rescue should be \$2.89 instead of \$2.29.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Ethel Hill for the year 2006. The late list fee should be \$18.16 instead of \$13.46. This will make the total release \$392.75.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Demarks Long. The total district amount to release should be \$12.73 instead of \$12.78. This makes the total amount to release \$304.55 instead of \$304.60.

Release the value of a mobile home in the name of Michael Watts. The Whiteville Rescue fee should be \$4.48 instead of \$4.45.

Release one of two user fees in the name of Solomon Pridgen. The correct account should be 12-22860 instead of 12-22840.

Bullard Brothers - Account #12-04188. Release user fee \$193.00. Memo should read, release the user fee that is double listed in the name of Charles Bullard instead of refund the user fee that is double listed in the name of Charles Bullard.

C. Tax Refunds and Releases:

**TAX REFUNDS (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):
March 19, 2007**

Refunds Name: Jordan, Jack Amount: \$164.25
Value: \$22,500.00 Year 005 Account # 09-16029 Bill # 8146 Total \$182.25
Refund a portion of the property value. A portion of the Roseland Fire (13.50) and a portion of the Columbus Rescue (4.50). Customer billed incorrectly on Land Use Program.
7358 Old Stake Rd. Clarendon NC 28432

Refunds Name: Jordan, Jack Amount: \$172.13
Value: \$22,500.00 Year 006 Account # 09-16029 Bill # 39253 Total \$190.13
Refund a portion of the property value. A portion of the Roseland Fire (13.50) and a portion of the Columbus Rescue (4.50). Customer was billed incorrectly on Land Use Program.
7358 Old Stake Rd. Clarendon NC 28432

**TAX RELEASES (as submitted to the Governing Body from the Tax Office):
March 19, 2007**

Release the Property Value in the name of Bridgers, Teresa Amount: \$2.42
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 01-01771 Bill # 1224 Total \$2.42
Release the 2% discount not absorbed by computer.

Release the Property Value in the name of Carolina Farms Inc. Amount: \$455.14
Value: \$58,351.00 Year: 2004 Account # 09-01423 Bill # 9175 Total \$513.49
Release the personal property value and the Columbus Rescue. The business closed prior to 2004.

Release the Property Value in the name of Carolina Farms Inc. Amount: \$413.79
Value: \$56,684.00 Year: 2005 Account # 09-01423 Bill # 2968 Total \$467.64
Release the personal property value and the Columbus Rescue. The business closed prior to 2004.

Release the Property Value in the name of Carolina Farms Inc. Amount: \$437.26
Value: \$57,158.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-01423 Bill # 3769 Total \$493.56
Release the personal property value and the Columbus Rescue. The business was sold prior to 2004.

Release the Property Value in the name of Castaneda, Miguel Amount: \$4.50
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 07-05437 Bill # 4388 Total \$4.50
Release the 2% discount not absorbed by computer.

Release the Property Value in the name of Covington, Sylvia Amount: \$3.48
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 03-04152 Bill # 5895 Total \$3.48
Release the 2% discount not absorbed by computer.

Release the Property Value in the name of Ezzell, Thomas Amount: \$0.61
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-07844 Bill # 9140 Total \$3.97
Release the 2% discount not absorbed by computer.

Release the Property Value in the name of FormyDuval, Doris Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 01-28772 Bill # 0209 Total \$4.33
Release the 2% discount not absorbed by computer.

Release the Property Value in the name of Godwin, David Amount: \$11.70
Value: \$1,530.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-01045 Bill # 2056 Total \$14.22
Release the value of a boat, the Williams Fire (.92) and the Columbus Rescue (.31). The boat burned in 2005.

Release the Property Value in the name of Jordan, Bob Amount: \$1.85
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 01-04316 Bill # 9216 Total \$1.85
Release the 2% discount not absorbed by computer.

Release the Property Value in the name of Kersey, Neil W. Etal Amount: \$24.48
Value: \$3,400.00 Year: 2000 Account # 14-08340 Bill # 9435 Total \$27.20
Release the property value and the Welches Creek Fire. The property is double listed in the name of William Avery Dew.

Release the Property Value in the name of Kersey, Neil W. Etal Amount: \$23.63
Value: \$3,400.00 Year: 1997 Account # 14-08340 Bill # 1530 Total \$26.35
Release the property value and the Welches Creek Fire. The land is double listed in the name of William Avery Dew.

Release the Property Value in the name of Kersey, Neil W. Etal Amount: \$23.63
Value: \$3,400.00 Year: 1998 Account # 14-08340 Bill # 6243 Total \$26.35
Release the property value and the Welches Creek Fire. The property is double listed in the name of William Avery Dew.

Release the Property Value in the name of Kersey, Neil W. Etal Amount: \$23.63
Value: \$3,400.00 Year: 1999 Account # 14-08340 Bill # 8224 Total \$26.35
Release the property value and the Welches Creek Fire. The property is double listed in the name of William Avery Dew.

Release the Property Value in the name of Kersey, Neil W. Etal Amount: \$26.52
Value: \$3,400.00 Year: 2002 Account # 14-08340 Bill # 7783 Total \$29.92
Release the property value, the Welches Creek Fire (2.72) and the Columbus Rescue (.68). The property

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is double listed in the name of William Avery Dew.

Release the Property Value in the name of Kersey, Neil W. Etal Amount: \$26.52
Value: \$3,400.00 Year: 2003 Account # 14-08340 Bill # 8274 Total \$29.92

Release the property value, the Welches Creek Fire (2.72) and the Columbus Rescue (.68). The property is double listed in the name of William Avery Dew.

Release the Property Value in the name of Kersey, Neil W. Etal Amount: \$30.66
Value: \$4,200.00 Year: 2005 Account # 14-08340 Bill # 478 Total \$34.86

Release the property value, the Welches Creek Fire (3.36) and the Columbus Rescue (.84). The property is double listed in the name of William Avery Dew.

Release the Property Value in the name of Kersey, Neil W. Etal Amount: \$32.13
Value: \$4,200.00 Year: 2006 Account # 14-08340 Bill # 9603 Total \$36.33

Release the property value, the Welches Creek Fire (3.36) and the Columbus Rescue (.84). The property is double listed in the name of William Avery Dew.

Release the Property Value in the name of Kersey, Neil Walker Etal Amount: \$26.52
Value: \$3,400.00 Year: 2001 Account # 14-08340 Bill # 9916 Total \$29.92

Release the property, the Welches Creek Fire (2.72) and the Columbus Rescue (.68). The property is double listed in the name of William Avery Dew.

Release the Property Value in the name of Kersey, Neil Wd. Etal Amount: \$26.52
Value: \$3,400.00 Year: 2004 Account # 14-08340 Bill # 514 Total \$29.92

Release the property value, the Welches Creek Fire (2.72) and the Columbus Rescue (.68). The property is double listed in the name of William Avery Dew.

Release the Property Value in the name of Looper, Karen Amount: \$39.09
Value: \$5,110.00 Year: 2006 Account # 07-02348 Bill # 1721 Total \$48.62

Release the value of a mobile home, the Nakina Fire (4.09) and the Columbus Rescue (1.02). The home is double listed in the name of Andrew L. Richardson.

Release the Property Value in the name of Lord's Chapel Church Amount: \$134.94
Value: \$17,300.00 Year: 2004 Account # 03-03652 Bill # 605 Total \$150.51

Release the property value, the Brunswick Fire (12.11) and the Columbus Rescue (3.46). The property is tax exempt.

Release the Property Value in the name of Lord's Chapel Church Amount: \$154.76
Value: \$21,200.00 Year: 2005 Account # 03-03652 Bill # 0570 Total \$173.84

Release the property value, the Brunswick Fire (14.84) and the Columbus Rescue (4.24). The property is tax exempt.

Release the Property Value in the name of Lord's Chapel Church Amount: \$162.18
Value: \$21,200.00 Year: 2006 Account # 03-03652 Bill # 1730 Total \$181.26

Release the property value, the Brunswick Fire (14.84) and the Columbus Rescue (4.24). The property is tax exempt.

Release the Property Value in the name of Parker, Veronica Amount: \$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 12-04217 Bill # 7316 Total \$1.36

Release the 2% discount not absorbed by computer.

Release the Property Value in the name of Stanley, Jennifer Amount: \$4.74
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 03-04121 Bill # 5089 Total \$19.39

Release balance due on mobile home. Taxes were pre-paid early 2006.

Release the Property Value in the name of Taylor, Vanessa G. Amount: \$62.88
Value: \$8,220.00 Year: 2006 Account # 05-06973 Bill # 6788 Total \$103.37

Release the value of a single wide home, the North Whiteville Fire (25.00) the Columbus Rescue (1.64) and W2 (7.40). The home was traded for a double wide and listed.

Release the Property Value in the name of Waryas, Gloria B. Amount: \$31.86
Value: \$4,365.00 Year: 2005 Account # 06-00135 Bill # 8553 Total \$37.10

Release the value of a boat, the Yam City Fire (4.37) and the Columbus Rescue (.87). The boat was sold in S.C. in 2004.

Release the Property Value in the name of Waryas, Gloria B. Amount: \$28.38
 Value: \$3,710.00 Year: 2006 Account # 06-00135 Bill # 9936 Total \$32.83
 Release the value of a boat, the Yam City Fire (3.71) and the Columbus Rescue (.74). The boat was sold in S.C. in 2004.

Release the Property Value in the name of Whiteman, Willard Amount: \$11.32
 Value: \$1,480.00 Year: 2006 Account # 15-02747 Bill # 0943 Total \$14.74
 Release the value of a boat, the Acme Delco Fire (1.78) and the Columbus Rescue (.30). The boat is listed in Brunswick County.

Release the Property Value in the name of Woodle, Susie Amount: \$7.65
 Value: \$1,000.00 Year: 2006 Account # 04-24561 Bill # 2302 Total \$202.30
 Release the value of a mobile home, the Buckhead Fire (.60) and the Columbus Rescue (.20). The mobile home was unlivable and has been junked.

Release the User Fee in the name of Caines, Edgar Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 13-06343 Bill # 3240 Total \$386.00
 Release both user fees. Customer using a commercial hauler.

Release the User Fee in the name of Gibson, Charles D. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 01-00147 Bill # 1885 Total \$193.00
 Release the user fee on vacant land.

Release the User Fee in the name of Green E.M. Jr. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 16-06033 Bill # 3701 Total \$193.00
 Release user fee on vacant land.

Release the User Fee in the name of Jacobs, Elton Ray Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2005 Account # 04-00352 Bill # 901 Total \$177.00
 Release user fee. Mobile home never set up. No trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Jacobs, Elton Ray Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 04-00352 Bill # 7978 Total \$193.00
 Release user fee. Mobile home never set up. No trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of James, William Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-15564 Bill # 8249 Total \$193.00
 Release user fee. Mobile home unlivable.

Release the User Fee in the name of Jordan, Jack Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-16029 Bill # 9253 Total \$193.00
 Release the user fee. House is vacant with no trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Lennon, James W. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 12-15380 Bill # 0696 Total \$193.00
 Release user fee. House vacant, trash can picked up.

Release the User Fee in the name of Little, Billy W. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 15-24022 Bill # 1134 Total \$193.00
 Release user fee. House vacant, no trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Little, G.B. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 04-10280 Bill # 1151 Total \$193.00
 Release user fee. House vacant, trash can picked up.

Release the User Fee in the name of McMillan, Zander Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 01-57140 Bill # 3520 Total \$193.00
 Release user fee. House vacant, no power and no trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Page, Rickie Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 02-04935 Bill # 7133 Total \$193.00
 Release the user fee. Customer is using a commercial hauler.

Release the User Fee in the name of Riegelwood Sanitary Dist. Amount: \$0.00

Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 15-31623 Bill # 0248 Total \$212.73
 Release user fee. Customer using a commercial hauler. Release also the 2% discount that was not absorbed by computer.

Release the User Fee in the name of Smith, James W. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2005 Account # 01-85420 Bill # 2190 Total \$177.00
 Release user fee. House is unlivable and does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Smith, James W. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 01-85420 Bill # 3481 Total \$193.00
 Release user fee. House is unlivable and does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Vaught, Roosevelt Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 16-16600 Bill # 8384 Total \$193.00
 Release user fee. House is vacant and does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Watkins, Linda Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 15-03724 Bill # 9988 Total \$193.00
 Release the user fee. Customer lives in a mobile home park that has a commercial hauler.

Release the User Fee in the name of Webb, Emmer Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 08-20420 Bill # 0383 Total \$193.00
 Release user fee. House is unlivable and does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Williamson, Mary L. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 03-04715 Bill # 1887 Total \$193.00
 Release the user fee on land that is vacant.

Agenda Item #23: COMMENTS:

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

A. Public:

1. **Carlton Cartrette:** stated the following:
 - I have distributed to each of you a petition which has been signed by numerous citizens in Columbus County that would like to see a Nuisance Ordinance enacted;
 - There is a big need for a Nuisance Ordinance in Columbus County to control the damages that are being done by unrestrained animals, especially dogs;
 - In my neighborhood, these dogs are demolishing shrubbery, removing articles from off of porches, dropping feces in yards and even creating some structural damage;
 - I will pass around some pictures that were taken on Sunday that will reflect the end results of what these dogs are doing;
 - One of my neighbors took legal action against the dog's owner, relative to the damages on his property, but the case has not been heard yet; **and**
 - I am requesting that you enact some type of Nuisance Ordinance for Columbus County.
2. **Sammy Hinson:** stated the following:
 - I have been talking with Congressman Mike McIntyre relative to a possible expansion of the port at Southport and establishing an international seaport, and securing funding to bring Interstates 74 and 20 through Columbus County;
 - Congressman McIntyre stated that he had not received any support from our County Commissioners on these two (2) projects, and he stated he was surprised that he had not received any support;
 - The Columbus County Citizens For Better Government has prepared a Resolution supporting these two (2) projects and will be sending it to Congressman McIntyre; **and**
 - I am requesting the Board of Commissioners to prepare a Resolution and forward it to Congressman McIntyre.
3. **Robert Eugene Adams:** stated the following:
 - Our roads and highways are deteriorating with trash;
 - It is a disgrace to see the amount of trash along our roads and highways;
 - I keep the trash picked up on the road I live on;
 - The State is not allowing the prisoners to pick up trash along the roads anymore; **and**

-I urge the Board of Commissioners to request the release of more funds for gasoline for the much-needed trash pickup.

After discussion was conducted regarding this matter, it was the general consensus of the Board for the County Manager to look into this matter.

4. **Frank Foronda:** stated the following:

- I would like to thank the Board of Commissioners for the award of one thousand and 00/100 (\$1,000.00) dollars for the care packages to be sent to the troops in Iraq;
- Two hundred (200) individual packages went out to the troops in Iraq; **and**
- I will take any personal donations that anyone would like to make.

B. **Department Heads:**

1. **Leroy Sellers:** stated the following:

- We are starting a program of catching individuals who are throwing out trash;
- We strongly urge anyone, business or private citizen, to contact our office if they witness any person throwing out trash where it does not belong; **and**
- We have been successful recently in getting convictions for illegal trash disposal.

2. **Jackie Roseboro:** stated the following:

- It was indeed an honor to serve the annual dinner to everyone who attended and deliver our annual update; **and**
- We had one (1) client present with our Parenting Program Matters that shared some of his life experiences, and the success he had achieved through this program.

C. **Board of Commissioners:**

1. **Commissioner McKenzie:** stated the following:

- I would like to commend Jackie Roseboro, Cooperative Extension Director, for the fine job she is doing; **and**
- The Columbus County Cooperative Extension Service is rated great across the State of North Carolina.

2. **Commissioner Memory:** stated the following:

- There is a couple who lives on Byrdville Road that is doing a project and it is taking six (6) months to go through our Planning Department before they can get started;
- The Columbus County Planning Board of Directors has informed the Board members that they must sign a Conflict of Interest Statement to serve on the Board;
- The Planning Board has passed a motion stating that if the member does not sign the Conflict of Interest Statement, then they cannot vote; **and**
- We have a great need for a faster turnaround time in the Planning Department.

3. **Commissioner Bullard:** stated the following:

- I have received some samples of Guidelines and Procedures for Boards to establish and follow from the County Attorney;
- I would like for the attorney to draft a set for the Columbus County Board of Commissioners and have this on the April 02, 2007 Agenda for consideration and possible adoption; **and**
- We will need a Closed Session on the April 02, 2007 Agenda for the opening of the January 16, 2007 Closed Session Minutes.

Agenda Item #24: ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:23 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman