

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS****October 15, 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:**

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

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

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman Sammie Jacobs called the October 15, 2007 Board Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Bill Memory. Everyone present 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:****PRESENTATIONS - RESOLUTIONS of APPRECIATION to SENATOR R.C. SOLES, JR., and REPRESENTATIVE DEWEY L. HILL for their ASSISTANCE in RELIEVING COLUMBUS COUNTY of MEDICAID:**

Chairman Jacobs stated the Board adopted a Resolution of Appreciation to Our Local Legislators for Relieving Columbus County of Medicaid, at the September 4, 2007 Meeting. In order to show our deep appreciation to each of our local legislators, a personalized Resolution has been prepared for them. At this time, I would like to present these Resolutions to Senator R.C. Soles, Jr., and Representative Dewey L. Hill for their diligent efforts in seeking relief from Medicaid for Columbus County. We deeply appreciate your never-ending diligence in making Columbus County a better place to live for our citizenry. Chairman Jacobs asked if any of the Board members would like to speak.

**Commissioner Gore:** stated the following:

1. It is indeed a pleasure to have these distinguished gentlemen in our presence tonight;
2. Articles are constantly in the newspapers about what they have done for Columbus County and southeastern North Carolina; **and**
3. We deeply appreciate what they have done to accomplish Medicaid relief and everything else they have done.

**Commissioner Bullard:** stated the following:

1. I always feel honored to have these two (2) gentlemen in my presence;
2. I would like to personally thank you for all of your help in accomplishing Medicaid Relief for Columbus County;
3. Both of you have helped our schools tremendously and that, in itself, is a fine attribute; **and**
4. I would like to thank both of you fine gentlemen for all that you do for all the citizens that live and work in Columbus County.

**Vice Chairman Prevatte:** stated the following:

1. As has been stated before, it is always an honor to have these gentlemen in my presence;
2. I came on board three (3) years ago and discussion was being held on the Medicaid burden and we have continuously discussed this issue;
3. We diligently sought ways to ease the Medicaid burden on our citizens;
4. I have been serving on the Legislative Goals Committee and our number one issue was Medicaid Relief;
5. I, along with many more, have been lobbying the Representatives and Senators for their assistance in accomplishing Medicaid Relief for Columbus County; **and**

6. I would like to personally thank each one of you for all the assistance you rendered in accomplishing this goal for Columbus County.

**Commissioner Norris:** stated the following:

1. It is indeed always an honor to have these fine gentlemen in my presence;
2. Words cannot explain the deep gratitude that I feel for all these gentlemen have done for the citizens of Columbus County;
3. Their doors are always open to everyone; **and**
4. I would like to sincerely thank both of you for the work you have done to alleviate Columbus County of the Medicaid burden and the Medicaid Relief.

**Commissioner Memory:** stated the following:

1. As stated by each who has spoken, it is always an honor to have you in my presence;
2. During the last eight (8) years that I have been serving on this Board, both of you gentlemen have come to bat for us on many occasions;
3. The largest project being done now is the State Prison in Tabor City, which will boost our economy, and provide jobs for our citizens;
4. Your assistance on the Landfill situation in the Riegelwood area was much appreciated;
5. You took a burden off of our property owners with the Medicaid Relief; **and**
6. I would like to thank you for all that you do for this Board, the citizens of Columbus County and Southeastern North Carolina.

**Commissioner McKenzie:** stated the following:

1. Allow me to reiterate what a pleasure and honor it is to have these two (2) fine gentlemen in my presence;
2. Everything I was going to say has already been spoken;
3. I would like to deeply thank each one of you for what you do, and all that you do, for all the citizens of Columbus County and eastern North Carolina; **and**
4. A sincere thank you for your continued support and interest in Columbus County.

**Senator R.C. Soles, Jr.** stated the following:

1. I would like to thank each one of you for the Resolution and the confidence you have in me;
2. The Medicaid burden has been a burden for the citizens of Columbus County, and other counties for many years;
3. At the last session we attended, Representative Hill and I were determined not to leave until we had accomplished some relief for the taxpayers of Columbus County;
4. We worked as a team on this issue and was able to accomplish the end goal; **and**
5. You need to be cautious with this issue, due to the fact the State has resumed this burden, but has also taken away other revenue from the county.

**Representative Dewey L. Hill** stated the following:

1. I am very grateful of your consideration in presenting this Resolution to me;
2. A year ago, the House of Representatives did a quick fix to this problem that proved to be very beneficial to our citizens;
3. As stated earlier by Senator Soles, we did work as a team to get this task accomplished;
4. I would like to reiterate the importance of being very cautious of how you spend this money, due to the fact other revenue has been taken away;
5. I would like to thank the Board of County Commissioners for what they do for the citizens of Columbus County; **and**
6. I would like to have a recording of this meeting since my wife was unable to attend.

**Agenda Item #5: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:**

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the October 01, 2007 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously carried.

**Agenda Item #6: PRESENTATION - COLUMBUS COUNTY COURTHOUSE:**

Ford F. Heath, North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts, delivered the following presentation to the Board relative to safety and health concerns related to the Courthouse:

1. I am the Safty and Health Consultant for the Administrative Office of the Courts in North Carolina;
2. I cover all one hundred (100) counties in the State of North Carolina;

3. The North Carolina Courts are housed in governmental county buildings;
4. I am assigned with the task of doing a walk through in these courthouses every three (3) years;
5. I did a walk through of the Columbus County Courthouse a few weeks ago;
6. I sincerely believe that each of you already know the condition of the Columbus County Courthouse;
7. Renovations in the Courthouse are a must;
8. This Board needs to think about building a new courthouse in the next three (3) years;
9. Security is a major issue at the Courthouse;
10. During my walk through, I witnessed that the District Attorney had a prisoner handcuffed to a file cabinet due to the lack of space;
11. The condition of this Courthouse is the worst that I have ever seen;
12. The Judges and the prisoners are having to use the same bathroom, and that is unheard of;
13. The State Statute states that we are to provide a safe and healthy environment for the Court employees;
14. You simply cannot choose not to build a new courthouse due to liability issues;
15. There exists a great liability in the Columbus County Courthouse;
16. You really need to be responsible for these health and safety issues;
17. The AFC perspective is we are putting you on notice;
18. This Board needs to make the Courthouse a safe and healthy place to work;
19. This situation is not unique to Columbus County, Anson County is facing these same problems;
20. I have with me three (3) pages of issues I found during my walk through, but I will not go over all of them;
21. This Board needs to give this matter some very serious consideration in the near future; **and**
22. I do understand your shortage of funds, but this could cost you more in liability issues than renovations or building.

Commissioner Bullard thanked Mr. Heath for his understanding and the approach he used to address the Board with this matter.

Commissioner Memory asked Mr. Heath if the Columbus County Courthouse could be renovated. Mr. Heath stated it could be but the renovations would be massive, and I am more than willing to serve on a committee for this purpose if that is the decision this Board reaches.

Commissioner McKenzie stated to Mr. Heath that he appreciated his candor on this matter and his understanding.

Chairman Jacobs recognized District Attorney Rex Gore as being present in the audience and requested that he address this issue. The Honorable Rex Gore stated the following:

1. I deeply appreciate this Board listening to Mr. Heath about the condition of the Columbus County Courthouse;
2. There is approximately forty (40) people working at the Courthouse daily;
3. There is approximately five hundred (500) people frequenting the Courthouse daily;
4. We do recognize the significance of the financial status of the County, but we also know the severity of the safety issues at the Courthouse;
5. Since 1984, our cases have increased three hundred seven (307%) percent;
6. The staff is having to work in crowded work spaces, no adequate filing spaces and having to deal with security issues;
7. I know this Board is torn between the significance of the building and serving the needed function of our Court system;
8. At the time the Courthouse was built, it was adequate, but due to the increased number of employees and court cases, we have outgrown the available space;
9. You need to look for innovative ways to build a new Courthouse or do some serious renovations to the existing Courthouse; **and**
10. We are faced daily with safety and security issues which could ultimately be very expensive for the County.

Chairman Jacobs recognized Clerk of Superior Court Shelia Pridgen as being present in the audience and requested that she address this issue. The Honorable Shelia Pridgen stated the following:

1. I thank each of the Board members for the walk through of the Courthouse on September 4,

- 2007;
2. The floors are in terrible shape, the ceiling is falling down in certain areas and the work areas are severely cramped;
  3. In the month of August, 2007, we had over nine hundred (900) cases, and that was traffic cases only;
  4. Since 1973, very little work has been done to the Courthouse;
  5. This has been my home for thirty-four (34) years;
  6. The Columbus County Courthouse has become a safety hazard; **and**
  7. The Courthouse is literally rotting down.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to take this matter under advisement until the next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Memory. The motion unanimously carried.

**Agenda Item #7: MAINTENANCE - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:**

Leroy Sellers, Maintenance Director, delivered the following Departmental Update to the Board.

1. During the past year, the Maintenance Department has performed a multitude of tasks;
2. We have five (5) employees and we have answered 1,934 computerized written work orders, and this does not include the verbal requests and the telephone requests made by department heads, general heating and air conditioning problems, and general maintenance to county buildings;
3. There are 22 County buildings around town which range from 45,000 square feet to 1,500 square feet;
4. We maintain the airport terminals and surrounding structures;
5. We maintain the satellite centers for the Department of Aging, Library and Parks and Recreation and they are located all over the county also;
6. Some of the tasks weekly on a regular routine are as follows:
  - deliver office supplies to all departments that request;
  - help Parks and Recreation with the food trucks; **and**
  - help any department who request such that has a need with an individual project;
7. Some of the projects that we have done are as follows:
  - 3,000 Square Feet of renovation to the District Court Judges' Office;
  - 2,500 Square Feet of renovations to the Superior Court Judges' Chambers;
  - Just finished renovating and putting Juvenile for Counseling in the old ADAPT Hall after Mental Health moved out, so they are out of the basement;
8. Renovated the Attorney's Office in the Administration Building and made a Conference Room out of the old telephone room;
9. Renovated the existing Personnel Office with complete replacement of outside window;
10. Renovated the old Computer Room to an office for the Interim Finance Director;
11. Moved several offices around which Maintenance does a lot of and we move a lot of furniture from location to location;
12. Replaced the sewer line at the Veterans Office;
13. We have renovated several buildings which we started off at \$12.00 per square foot and now we are up \$15.00 per square foot and that is rather cheap;
14. We have licensed electricians, plumbers and air conditioning/heating people on staff in the Maintenance Department which saves the County a lot of money; **and**
15. You know what our needs are and you know that we need money to meet these needs.

Commissioner Gore asked Mr. Sellers what was causing the condensation in the lights in the Courthouse. Mr. Sellers replied stating the thermostats in the Courthouse are set on 64 degrees when it is 105 degrees on the outside and this will result in condensation.

Commissioner Gore asked Mr. Sellers if there was any type of Energy Management System to control the thermostats in the Courthouse. Mr. Sellers replied stating no there was not, and the thermostats were at the will of anyone who wanted to change them. There is an Energy Management System in the school system which we need to get started and are looking into.

Commissioner Memory asked Mr. Sellers if a dehumidifier could be used to take care of this problem with condensation. Mr. Sellers replied stating on that volume, it would take a very large dehumidifier to take care of that kind of condensation,

Commissioner McKenzie asked Mr. Sellers if he had stated that a new air conditioning

system was put in the Courthouse. Mr. Sellers replied stating that in 1999 or 2000, Jerry Pridgen had installed a \$94,000 Air Conditioning/Heating System in the Courthouse, and that was seven (7) years ago. There are some issues with this system, and you can always do some work to make it better. We have a Preventive Maintenance on all of our air conditioners, and can check the records to see when filters are changed and when the coils are cleaned, etc. I can't say that this will make the condition at the Courthouse better due to the volume of heavy traffic, and whatever housekeeping does to that building, it will not last for no more than 30 minutes.

Commissioner Bullard stated the Board does need to consider building a new Courthouse, but until that time comes, there is a great need to keep the existing Courthouse clean, and if there are roaches, rodents and ants in the building, it needs to be sprayed on a regular basis to eliminate this problem. We need to work up a better maintenance program to keep the building clean. Mr. Sellers replied stating we do have limited resources moneywise, but we can also do better. We have a County employee who is responsible for emptying the trash and policing for toilet paper, paper towels, etc., and we have a contractor who cleans 3 nights a week.

Vice Chairman Prevatte stated his concerns were the same as Commissioner Bullard, and if roaches and rodents had been sited, then we need to contact the person who is under contract to find out what the problem is.

Commissioner Memory asked Mr. Sellers if the trash was being emptied on a regular basis, and if food was being left in the desks. Mr. Sellers replied stating the trash was being emptied on a daily basis and that food was being left in the desks, and with all the packages and papers being delivered to the Courthouse on a daily basis, these roaches, rodents and ants could be getting into the Courthouse through this way.

After additional discussion was conducted, it was the general consensus of the Board for Mr. Sellers to contact the contractor for additional spraying for roaches, rodents and ants, and improve the housekeeping tasks.

**Agenda Item #9:      RESOLUTION - RESOLUTION to ADOPT POLICIES and PROVIDE STAFF DIRECTION RELATING to ILLEGAL RESIDENTS in COLUMBUS COUNTY:**

Vice Chairman Prevatte requested Board discussion on a Resolution to Adopt Policies and Provide Staff Direction Relating to Illegal Residents in Columbus County. Vice Chairman Prevatte stated the following:

1.      Around the last of June, 2007, I read where Lincoln County had approved and adopted a Resolution to Adopt Policies and Provide Staff Direction Relating to Illegal Residents;
2.      I contacted the County Attorney to see if we could start working on a document like this;
3.      I would like to read this Resolution for all to hear;
4.      I have also contacted the Sheriff to be here tonight because he is working on this issue;
5.      I am not talking about legal immigrants, I am talking about illegal immigrants being in our country, state and county that are sharing in the same benefits and taking away from the legal immigrants;
6.      I think we need to start doing something about this problem;
7.      The following is the document I would like for the Board to discuss for possible approval and adoption, which I will read for the benefit of the public;

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT POLICIES  
AND PROVIDE STAFF DIRECTION RELATING TO  
ILLEGAL RESIDENTS IN COLUMBUS COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the United States now has a population in excess of 300 million people; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2000 Census estimated that between 8 and 11 million illegal aliens were living the United States at that time, with the illegal population estimated to be increasing by about one million per year; and

**WHEREAS**, as one of the states with the highest influx of foreign-born population, both legal and illegal, North Carolina saw a 273.7 percent increase in foreign-born population from 1990 to 2000 and an increase of 58.1 percent (from 373,000 to 590,000) in the past five years; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina is home to approximately 300,000 illegal aliens, costing the State approximately \$250 million per year for education, health care, and social services, all paid for by the taxpaying citizens of the State; and

**WHEREAS**, like North Carolina and Columbus County, communities throughout the nation are struggling to provide services to cope with the population explosion caused by illegal immigration; and

**WHEREAS**, the influx of illegals contributes to overcrowding in school classrooms, public parks, and recreational facilities; depletion of affordable housing, which was already in short supply for lower income citizens; havoc and death on our highways; increases in the crime rate due to lack of comprehension of the English language and inability to read and follow established laws; and lack of social and personal health care standards; and

**WHEREAS**, the increased illegal population is drastically affecting the availability of jobs and rapidly creating a negative impact on the budget of our State; and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to combat the extreme financial pressure being placed on local government, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners deems it appropriate to take steps at the local level to provide a more secure environment for the health, education, and welfare of its people who support governmental operations through payment of their annual ad valorem taxes;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners establishes the following policies with respect to illegal residents and directs County staff as follows:

1. To cease and desist local funding for any local programs to the extent that they serve illegal residents.
2. To reduce expenditures on all federally funded and state-funded non-mandated programs to the extent that they serve illegal residents.
3. To discontinue contracting, based on reasonable information, with any county or out-of-county businesses employing or using identifiable illegal residents where county tax dollars are being expended.
4. To request the Columbus County Sheriff to diligently battle the ever-increasing criminal element which is growing daily with the influx of illegal residents and to consistently check the immigration status of each undocumented resident upon his or her arrests by such available means as fingerprints, federally verified social security numbers, and other accessible data.
5. To allow the Columbus County Sheriff to partner with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials to verify undocumented residents during the investigation or processing of any public safety inspection or offense and detain for deportation any illegal residents so identified.
6. To direct all county departments and agencies, to the extent that they are able to do so with available information, to begin expenditure reductions for discretionary services provided to illegal aliens.

This \_\_\_\_ day of October, 2007.

COLUMBUS COUNTY

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Sammie Jacobs, Chairman

Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

8. I would like for the Sheriff to come forward at this time, since I understand the Sheriff's Association for the entire State has been working on this issue for the past six (6) months.

**Sheriff Christopher Batten** stated the following:

1. Last week, I was contacted by the County Attorney and was asked to participate in a conversation relative to illegal immigration in the County with him and Vice Chairman

- Prevatte and was asked if I was willing to accept such a document;
2. We had a Spring Meeting in Rockingham County with the North Carolina Sheriff's Association, and, at that meeting, all the Sheriffs present, which approximately 70+ sheriffs were present, out of 100, agreed that we all have issues facing us in illegal immigration;
  3. The Sheriff in Mecklenburg County, will be retiring in December, 2007, and feels strongly about this issue, and he has a lot of clout over the State and nation dealing with illegal immigration, and he will become the top person over the ICE Agency, which is under Homeland Security;
  4. ICE stands for Immigration Custom Enforcement;
  5. One of our top priorities at that meeting in the Spring was to address illegal immigration and we all agreed to support that issue;
  6. At our summer conference in Sunset Beach, we stepped it up and we were all asked to develop a policy and try to get involved with a 287G Program which is a federally-funded program to target illegal immigrants;
  7. We went ahead and applied for a 287G Program at that time;
  8. We started working on this since our Spring Meeting in April, 2007 in house trying to target and locate illegals by, at the time of their arrest, searching all the accessible data that we could to find out if they were here illegally or legally;
  9. We ran into a lot of people in the drug trade that are here illegally trying to make a living;
  10. We are continuously targeting the immigrants;
  11. I filed a letter with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency in June, 2007 asking for the application process and to get involved in the 287G Program;
  12. Their issues and our issues are similar;
  13. They don't have the staffing to handle the volume of people that we have here in North Carolina that are illegal;
  14. I had Al Fitzer with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, out of Wilmington, in my office about a week or two before I talked with Steve and Vice Chairman Prevatte on the issue, and he was telling me this is their issue in North Carolina;
  15. There are only two (2) facilities in North Carolina to house these federal inmates once they are targeted and once they are found, and we are not talking about just Hispanics;
  16. We are talking about Cubans, Haitians, Asians, and everybody, that are here illegally that have a Visa, don't have a work passport, and they are here under illegal means;
  17. These facilities are located in Alamance County and in Henderson County;
  18. Everyone who is targeted in this area, and found to be illegal, they have to have transportation arranged, they have to have Immigration Customs Enforcement Officers come in pairs and transported to Alamance County for holding for detainment until all the paperwork is processed;
  19. The need for getting local agencies involved is the fact that any jail that agrees and files application for a 287G Program, you have to dedicate a certain number of staff to that program, they have to be available to that program, they have to stop what they are doing if other agencies bring people in on this federal program who are illegal immigrants;
  20. You also have to have the necessary bed space;
  21. Al stated that, at any given time, they will have 100 to 150 people on a waiting list in the Eastern District of North Carolina, east of I-95, waiting for a process to go into Alamance County or Henderson County, until all their paperwork is prepared, and then they are transferred onto to Stewart County, Georgia;
  22. I have talked with the Duplin County Sheriff, the New Hanover County Sheriff, the Brunswick County Sheriff, and the Bladen County Sheriff, and we are all in the same boat;
  23. Brunswick County is probably the only county that is even close to being able to furnish enough beds to satisfy the Federal people to get contracted to where they can operate;
  24. At that time, they have to dedicate the staff and fill out the paperwork for a contract for a certain number of beds, and when you fill out the contract for a certain amount of beds, you have to fill out the contract with the Federal authorities for total costs;
  25. That is the cost for your beds, your space, your utilities, your transportation, your insurance, and your whole nine yards;
  26. Then you apply to the Federal agencies for the contract;
  27. Mecklenburg County's costs are more than any of our costs down here, and they are getting reimbursed \$130/bed for housing the Federal inmates, but they are doing it through the 287G Program, and they don't do it for other agencies;
  28. The Detention Management Section of Immigration Customs Enforcement is the one you apply to for a contract;
  29. I told them right up-front that we are not in a position to be able to afford to dedicate people to it, we can't afford to dedicate beds to it, and I don't know exactly what our options are going to be, unless there are more options on the table;

30. We do, we have and we will continue to, anytime we arrest someone, and anytime anyone is entered into our jail, we will do everything we can to find out whether they are here legally or illegally, and if they are here illegally, we are going to put a hold on them, and do everything we can to get them out of our county, and out of our state;
31. There are more illegals in North Carolina that's gone through this program, and is going through this program, and is housed in Stuart, Georgia, than Georgia and South Carolina combined;
32. There are more illegals that are found in North Carolina and housed in Stuart, Georgia, after they have gone through the system, and got their paperwork confirmed, than South Carolina and Georgia combined, which you need to think about that;
33. We are facing these illegals everyday in every community, they're everywhere;
34. We deal with them on Noise Ordinance problems, we deal with them on a lot of other issues, the illegal drug trade, and we have to deal with them on a lot of issues;
35. Ninety (90%) percent of the cases from North Carolina go through the Federal local facility in Stuart, Georgia, the rest of them are targeted through Louisiana and Alabama; **and**
36. The County Attorney forwarded some information to you relative to the application process and the letter I wrote to Immigration Custom Enforcement.

**Commissioner Memory** asked Sheriff Batten if you arrest an illegal today, and you found in the process that they are indeed an illegal, how long will it take for the Federal agencies to pick the inmate up from the jail. Sheriff Batten replied stating it will take from three (3) to six (6) months, based on our experience from the past.

**Commissioner Memory** asked Sheriff Batten what is the punishment for an employer who hires illegals, and is there a punishment. Sheriff Batten replied stating we don't get into that end of it. That is a Federal issue. If an employer has an illegal immigrant working, and the illegal immigrant is pulled off the jobsite, then we got them for six (6) months.

In response to this issue, **District Attorney Rex Gore** stated the following:

1. Undocumented immigrants, or illegal aliens, are uniquely governed by Federal law;
2. Although this is a local problem, Federal people provide all the laws for it;
3. As it relates to employers, who employ illegals, there are Federal penalties for that and they are not very much;
4. There has been a bill introduced that would increase the Federal penalty for, and knowingly, and the key is knowingly, knowingly employing an illegal immigrant, of up to \$10,0000 per illegal;
5. But, that is not the law right now;
6. At present, the law is not such that it has much teeth in it;
7. Good lawyers can get Smithfield Foods out of any claim where the knowingly hired an illegal immigrant;
8. It is an expensive process, and I think you are asking the Sheriff what he can do as far as housing and things of that nature; **and**
9. The Sheriff cannot do anything unless you are really prepared to spend some money.

**Sheriff Christopher Batten: (cont'd)**

37. Once we have documentation from ICE, or any other Federal system, that they are illegal, that there is no doubt in anybody's mind that they are illegal, then the Federal authorities will reimburse us a rate for housing until they come for transportation to a deportation system.

**District Attorney Rex Gore** stated it was a complicated process in getting them identified as being an illegal and subject to deportation.

**Vice Chairman Prevatte** stated that I am not asking the Sheriff to handle them as a criminal. I think the County needs a document in place to control the administering of local funds.

**District Attorney Rex Gore** stated the following:

1. This is an unusual situation to deal with;
2. The Sheriffs, while they are supportive and really enthusiastic about joining the program, where we can identify, detain and get them out, there has not been a system in place where they are being identifiable;
3. Most of our people are going to be those who are picked up for traffic violations or who are picked up for some minor violation;
4. At this time, we are now in the process to where we can finger print those who are arrested for DWI, and having that, we can identify them if they are in the system somewhere;

5. The Sheriff, my office and offices around the state are not properly equipped to be able to identify who is legal, and who is illegal, because we have never been able to talk across State lines, talk across county lines, in a good economical way;
6. The Sheriff is doing a good job in arresting, detaining and helping to identify the illegal immigrants; **and**
7. We have been in a system so far, unless you have a truckload of illegal immigrants, ICE was not coming to get them, you needed a bus load for ICE to come and get them.

**Sheriff Christopher Batten** stated that was one thing they will use us for. They will use us to hold onto them, once they identify them, until they are several in the area, and that is why they are looking at a regional approach. Duplin County Sheriff and New Hanover County Sheriff are in a better position financially to build a regional jail for us. The New Hanover County Sheriff has told me that he has approached the Chairman of his Board of County Commissioners, and he has the support of three (3) to build three hundred (300) beds for ICE, and if he will do that, we will be in great shape. We can transport them to New Hanover County in forty-five (45) minutes.

**District Attorney Rex Gore** stated the Columbus County Jail will be filled up with people who are not going anywhere.

**Sheriff Christopher Batten** stated one thing I did after the April Conference in Rockingham County was, I came back and adopted a policy in my procedure, that allows my Detention Staff to fingerprint misdemeanors, and that means that anyone that comes in can be fingerprinted and photographed. That is one thing we try to do, but you have to do that with the support of your Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, and we worked with Judge Gore at that time. We got the system out there to handle that.

**Commissioner Bullard** asked Sheriff Batten if the policy was adopted if he could start moving the illegals out of the jail to avoid filling the jail up too quickly. Sheriff Batten replied stating that once the Federal authorities gives you that documentation that they are illegal, you do not have an option, you have to keep them.

**District Attorney Rex Gore** stated that 287G specifically prohibits the Sheriff from going to jobsites and targeting illegals.

**Sheriff Christopher Batten** stated it would not be ethical to go on jobsites and target illegal immigrants, and you get into constitutional issues when you do that, but if they have violated the law, then we have every right in the world to check their background and to check their status, if we have reason to believe that they are here illegally.

**Vice Chairman Prevatte** stated the Board needed to stand behind the Sheriff in this process for it to be effective.

**Commissioner Bullard** asked Sheriff Batten what it would cost, roughly, to house an illegal immigrant for six (6) months. Sheriff Batten replied stating it would cost anywhere from forty-two to forty-five (\$42-\$45) dollars per day for each illegal immigrant.

**Commissioner Gore** asked Sheriff Batten if this cost is reimbursable. Sheriff Batten replied stating it would be reimbursable once the Federal authorities have given us authorization, through letter, that they will deport him, they will not allow us to release him, then we get reimbursed from that date until the day they come pick them up.

**Commissioner McKenzie** asked Sheriff Batten what was the State doing on this matter, and if they were giving us any guidelines. Sheriff Batten replied stating this all falls under Federal.

**District Attorney Rex Gore** stated there has a bill introduced, but has not been passed, but there is movement on foot, to increase the 287G Program to encourage the Sheriffs in order to do that. Probably what that bill would do, if passed by the Congress, would be to send money back to most of the areas that help pick up some of the cost of training. There is a tremendous training program for anybody just to be able to house them and hold them until the Federal authorities come and picks them up under 287G. You have to train at least two to three (2-3) people and there is cost associated with that. The 287G Bill says you can do it, but provides no money to do it with. Actually, this bill is an unfunded permission because it is not mandated. Elizabeth Dole, Mike McIntyre and other people have got together and are trying to get the bill to where they will actually be money sent back to the State level to be distributed to the Sheriffs and people who help with training and with

the initial setup cost, but not with the day-to-day operation.

**Sheriff Christopher Batten** stated the following:

1. The program requires three and one-half (3 ½) weeks of training for Correction Officers and four and one-half (4 ½) weeks for Detention Officers and Detectives;
2. The North Carolina Sheriffs Association has banded together as Sheriffs, and solicited our legislators asking for funding to help handle the training, to help pay for the training;
3. We have been able, as Sheriffs, to obtain enough funding to hire a trainer, to hire someone to oversee the training, and to get the funding to initiate the training process, in the approximate amount of \$500,000.00, for all the one hundred (100) counties;
4. This is not much, but you have to realize there is only a certain number of counties that have the program already in place;
5. Alamance County has the program, Mecklenburg County has the program, Gaston County has just recently acquired the program and Henderson County has acquired the program;
6. It is hard for the Sheriffs, in the Eastern side of the state, to get the program due to lack of bed space;
7. We are seeing a trend that a lot of the immigrants are leaving the area for jobs around the beaches; **and**
8. I think it should be the responsibility of the farmers and of the businesses to make sure their workers have legal status to be here.

**Commissioner McKenzie** asked if the staff at the Department of Social Services identifies an illegal immigrant, can the Sheriff go and pick them up.

**District Attorney Rex Gore** replied by stating I don't know her restrictions, but it would surprise me if she would allow that. The Judges tell me, because I have asked them, that they cannot ask the defendant about their legal status.

**Commissioner McKenzie** stated that unless the illegal immigrant commits a crime and gets placed in the system, there is nothing that can be done. Sheriff Batten replied stating you are just about right on target.

**Commissioner Bullard** stated that he worked immigrants and they all presented him with green cards. I have been advised to obtain their name and Social Security number, and then when taxes are taken out of their check and sent in, and then they will advise me if they do not match up. At this point in time, I get ride of them because they are illegal.

**Sheriff Batten** offered the following update of general comments:

1. We moved everyone into the new Jail yesterday, which went smoothly;
2. We are experiencing some software issues and fingerprint machine issues; **and**
3. We are having our Fall Conference at Carolina Beach tomorrow, and most of the Agenda is relating to illegal immigration, and I will bring up an update on the information I receive at this meeting, at the next Board Meeting.

**Leo Hunt, Interim County Manager**, asked Sheriff Batten the following question, "From the time you arrest the individual to the point that the Feds say yes, he/she is an illegal alien, do you have a feel for the time?", because that is going to be County cost. **Sheriff Batten** replied stating he could not readily remember, but the two (2) cases that I remember distinctly are, one (1) in the Armour Community and one (1) on the Reeves Ferry Road area. These two (2) were charged with large amounts of cocaine, over a kilo, and in these cases, the time was relatively short before we received a verbal from the Feds. If the charges had been of a minor nature, I don't know how long it would have taken for them to respond. The quickness of their response determines whether or not this person is able to be released, and if they are able to be released on bond, then we don't have the authority to hold them, once the Magistrate puts them under a bond, we don't have the authority to hold them from the time we call Customs until the time we get a response, if they got a bond. If we have reason to believe that they are a flight risk, or whatever, then we can ask the Magistrate to put them under no bond, but when they go to court within that seventy-two (72) hours window, then a Judge has the authority to give them a bond, and if they get a bond, then they can leave, and we will probably never see them again.

**Commissioner Memory** asked the following: "If you pick up someone you deem to be illegal for a DUI, you hold them, after a few weeks, you receive confirmation they are indeed an illegal, they go through our Court system, what are the chances they are going to be deported?"

**District Attorney Rex Gore** replied to Commissioner Memory's question by stating, if they had not committed another crime, with only a DWI charge, the chances are between from 0% to 10%. Representative Sue Meyer has introduced a bill, due to the Scott Garner killing in Brunswick County, to make a DWI a deportable offense, but at the present, in and of itself, and by itself, it is not necessarily a deportable offense.

**Commissioner Memory** asked if the charge of breaking and entering would be a deportable charge. District Attorney Rex Gore replied by stating no.

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

1. My budget is made of up Federal, State and local appropriations;
2. By Federal law, I cannot ask their legal status;
3. We cannot ask to see a birth certificate, a green card or any pertinent documentation;
4. We cannot deny the requested services; **and**
5. Fifty-one (51%) percent of our Maternity Program is Hispanic, and this is by name and sight only.

**Commissioner Memory** asked Ms. Smith if the following process, as he understands it, was being correctly stated:

1. If a mother-to-be immigrant entered the Health Department and she wants to enroll in the WIC (Women-Infant-Child) Program, which is a Federal program;
2. You sign her up for that program;
3. She can then go down to a local grocery store and purchase all the healthy foods the program covers to make sure that child is healthy; **and**
4. Then the baby is born in our hospital which she can go into and have a baby at absolutely no charge.

**Ms. Smith** replied by stating the following:

1. Yes, and in addition, we will sign her up for our Maternity Program;
2. That child will receive immunizations which is supplied by the State;
3. She and the child will get WIC; **and**
4. We have to supply, by Federal law, a translator, free of charge.

**Vice Chairman Prevatte** stated this Resolution was making reference to local tax dollars and not the Federal mandated programs.

**Commissioner Memory** asked Ms. Smith if any of the programs at the Health Department were funded by only local funds. Ms. Smith replied stating that she was not aware of any programs. We do have two (2) programs at the Health Department that specifically say you cannot provide to illegal aliens which are: the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program and the Wise Woman Program, which is to keep women healthy, and we do not serve any illegals in these programs.

**Commissioner Bullard** asked Ms. Smith if she could not ask, how did she know, on these two (2) programs, if they were legal or illegal. Ms. Smith replied stating she could ask this question with these two (2) programs.

**Commissioner Memory** asked Ms. Smith if an immigrant enters the Health Department with tuberculosis, which has to be treated for the safety of everyone with isolation, sanitarium, or wherever they need to be, who bears the cost for this process. Ms. Smith replied stating that if we get that person, whether legal or non-legal, convicted of a crime, then the State will reimburse for the expense. If they are not convicted of a crime, then the entire expense is ours.

**Linda S. Fry, Social Services Director**, stated the following:

1. We are mandated by Federal programs;
2. We do not serve illegal immigrants with our Food Stamps or Medicaid, except for Emergency Medical Assistance;
3. In the last year, for Emergency Medical Assistance, we spent \$68,000, which is very minimal compared to what we spend across the board;
4. If an immigrant gives birth to a child, that child automatically becomes an American citizen;
5. When you talk about child abuse, child neglect or foster care, which is all in the same, we are going to do an intervention on those children;
6. When someone walks in, during the Intake Process, we ask for the following documentation:
  - a. Birth certificate;
  - b. Certificate of naturalization

- c. Certificate of citizenship; **and**
- d. United States Passport or verification of citizenship;
- 7. We do not ask them if they are a legal or illegal immigrant, we just ask them to supply us with the necessary documentation before we provide them with any assistance; **and**
- 8. They come in and apply for assistance for their children, which were born under the program from our Health Department, and we do extend services to the children because they are American citizens.

**Commissioner McKenzie** stated he liked the approach Mecklenburg County had taken by lobbying the United States President and Congress for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, and I think this should be our first step in this process.

Discussion was conducted on the incorporation of lobbying the United States President and Congress for Comprehensive Immigration Reform into the existing Resolution. The Board directed Steven W. Fowler, County Attorney, to merge the two (2) documents for the November 5, 2007 Meeting.

After additional discussion was conducted, Vice Chairman Prevatte made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution to Adopt Policies and Provide Staff Direction Relating to Illegal Residents in Columbus County, this serving as its first reading, gather any and all information pertaining to illegal immigration and have available for the next meeting, and to place the matter on the November 5, 2007 Agenda for the second reading. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Memory and unanimously carried.

**RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into COMBINATION MEETING of COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and IV BOARD MEETING:**

At 8:11 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into a Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III and IV Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

**Agenda Item #10: COMBINATION MEETING of COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and IV BOARD - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to SEPTEMBER, 2007 MONTHLY WATER BILLS:**

Leroy Sellers, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following adjustments.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 1 for each of the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III and IV Boards.

**ADJOURN COMBINATION MEETING of COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and IV BOARD MEETING and enter into COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV BOARD MEETING:**

At 8:12 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn the Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III and IV Board Meeting, and enter into Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting, seconded by Vice Chairman Prevatte. The motion unanimously carried.

**Agenda Item #11: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV - DISCUSSION of PURCHASE of PARCEL of LAND for WELL SITE:**

Leo Hunt, Interim County Manager, requested Board discussion.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 1 for Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV.

**RECESS COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV BOARD MEETING and resume REGULAR SESSION:**

At 8:29 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to recess Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting, and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

**Agenda Item #12: APPOINTMENTS - COMMITTEE/BOARDS:**

June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, is requesting the following appointments/re-appointments be made to the following boards/committees.

COMMITTEE	ZONE/ EB	PERSON(S)	EXPIR. DATE	BOARD ACTION
Bicentennial Committee	I	Dwella Hall	N/A	Appointed
Chadbourn Planning Board	EB	Brad Walker (See Letter) <b>-Vacancy-</b>	05/2009	<b>HOLD</b>
Housing Advisory Committee	IV	Marshall Shepherd <b>(Deceased)</b>	06-30-2007	<b>HOLD</b>
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council	III	Jerry Jacobs	06-30-2007	<b>HOLD</b>
Library Board of Trustees	II	Robert L. Young	06-30-2007	<b>HOLD</b>
Planning Board	IV	Ivan Wilson <b>(Resigned)</b>	09/30/2007	<b>HOLD</b>

**Agency Item #13: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

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

**A. Budget Amendments:**

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
<b>Expenditure</b>	10-4310-550000	Capital Outlay	6,800
	10-4310-535300	M&E Vehicles	3,115
<b>Revenue</b>	10-3839-489000	Miscellaneous Revenue-General Fund	9,915
<b>Expenditure</b>	31-660-5705	Bad Debt Expense	5,700
<b>Revenue</b>	31-359-0000	Water Sales	5,700
<b>Expenditure</b>	30-600-6000	Bulk Water Purchases	21,500
<b>Revenue</b>	30-359-0000	Water Sales	20,207
	30-359-300	Penalties	1,203
<b>Expenditure</b>	35-580-4500	Contracts	130,000
<b>Revenue</b>	35-359-0300	Tipping Fees	130,000
<b>Expenditure</b>	10-4951-526003	Printing & printing info, computer supplies, refreshments, program supplies, office supplies, miscellaneous info or material, possibly some of funds used to enclose office space	5,000
<b>Revenue</b>	10-3495-340015	NC Dept of Insurance/Senior Health	5,000

**B. October 15, 2007 Tax Refunds and Releases:**

**Tax Refund (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office:  
October 15, 2007**

Refunds Name: Powell, Frank Amount: \$0.00  
Value: \$0.00 Year 006 Account # 13-33121 Bill # 48399 Total \$106.00

Refund user fee. House is vacant, has no power and no trash can. Make check payable to Anita Powell.

4801 Chadbourn Hwy. Whiteville NC 28472

**TAX RELEASES (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):  
October 15, 2007**

Release the Property Value in the name of Butler, Mickey G.	Amount:	\$159.74
Value: \$19,600.00 Year: 2007 Account # 15-04517 Bill # 2988	Total	\$380.18

Release the value of a mobile home, the Acme Delco Fire (23.52) and the Columbus Rescue (3.92). The home is listed in Pender County.

Release the Property Value in the name of Butler, Mickey G.	Amount:	\$149.94
Value: \$19,600.00 Year: 2006 Account # 15-04517 Bill # 2976	Total	\$370.38

Release the value of a mobile home, the Acme Delco Fire (23.52) and the Columbus Rescue (3.92). The home is listed in Pender County.

Release the Property Value in the name of Butler, Mickey G.	Amount:	\$143.08
Value: \$19,600.00 Year: 2005 Account # 15-04517 Bill # 2194	Total	\$347.52

Release the value of a mobile home, the Acme Delco Fire (23.52) and the Columbus Rescue (3.92). The home is listed in Pender County.

Release the Property Value in the name of Butler, Mickey G.	Amount:	\$176.28
Value: \$22,600.00 Year: 2004 Account # 15-04517 Bill # 8458	Total	\$384.92

Release the value of a mobile home, the Acme Delco Fire (27.12) and the Columbus Rescue (4.52). Home listed in Pender County.

Release the Property Value in the name of Cain, Shannon	Amount:	\$306.44
Value: \$37,600.00 Year: 2007 Account # 07-02139 Bill # 3237	Total	\$537.04

Release the value of a house, the Nakina Fire (30.08) and the Columbus Rescue (7.52). The home burned in 2006.

Release the Property Value in the name of Cartrette, David	Amount:	\$356.97
Value: \$43,800.00 Year: 2007 Account # 09-03350 Bill # 4167	Total	\$585.01

Release the value of a house the Williams Fire (26.28) and the Columbus Rescue (8.76). The home is double listed in the name of Jiles P. Edwards.

Release the Property Value in the name of Conner, James B.	Amount:	\$39.94
Value: \$4,901.00 Year: 2007 Account # 03-04023 Bill # 5567	Total	\$43.86

Release a portion of the property value, a portion of the Williams Fire (2.94) and a portion of the Columbus Rescue (.98). Acreage was incorrect and the storage barn has been removed.

Release the Property Value in the name of Cribb, Tracy	Amount:	\$101.71
Value: \$12,480.00 Year: 2007 Account # 03-02550 Bill # 6330	Total	\$318.61

Release the value of a mobile home, the Old Dock Fire (9.98) and the Columbus Rescue (2.50). The home is double listed in the name of Judy Stocks.

Release the Property Value in the name of Hunter, Eugene	Amount:	\$384.68
Value: \$47,200.00 Year: 2007 Account # 01-44950 Bill # 7654	Total	\$620.16

Release the value of a mobile home, the Brunswick Fire (33.04) and the Whiteville Rescue (9.44). The home was repossessed in 2006.

Release the Property Value in the name of Kinlaw, Jimmy C.	Amount:	\$124.06
Value: \$15,222.00 Year: 2007 Account # 12-14457 Bill # 0110	Total	\$333.80

Release a portion of the property value, a portion of the W2 (13.70) and a portion of the Columbus Rescue (3.04). The business closed and the boat was sold in Robeson County.

Release the Property Value in the name of Kinlaw, Jimmy C.	Amount:	\$214.35
Value: \$26,300.00 Year: 2007 Account # 12-14109 Bill # 0111	Total	\$268.28

Release a portion of the property value, the Evergreen Fire (25.00), the W2 23.67) and the Columbus Rescue (5.26). Customer failed to receive the senior citizens exemption.

Release the Property Value in the name of Lee, Nancy	Amount:	\$42.57
Value: \$5,832.00 Year: 2005 Account # 13-05924 Bill # 377	Total	\$234.85

Release the value of a mobile home, the Klondyke Fire (4.08) the Columbus Rescue (1.17) and W2 (5.25). The

home is double listed in the name of John L. Lee.

Release the Property Value in the name of Lee, Nancy	Amount:	\$48.36
Value: \$6,200.00 Year: 2004 Account # 13-05924 Bill # 414	Total	\$245.63

Release the value of a mobile home, the Klondyke Fire (4.34), the Columbus Rescue (1.24) and W2 (9.30). The home is double listed in the name of John L. Lee.

Release the Property Value in the name of Lee, Nancy	Amount:	\$42.74
Value: \$5,587.00 Year: 2006 Account # 13-05924 Bill # 0493	Total	\$250.58

Release the value of a mobile home, the Klondyke Fire (3.91) the Columbus Rescue (1.12) and W2 (5.03). The home is double listed in the name of John L Lee.

Release the Property Value in the name of Lee, Nancy	Amount:	\$43.19
Value: \$5,299.00 Year: 2007 Account # 13-05924 Bill # 0790	Total	\$250.53

Release the value of a mobile home, the Klondyke Fire (3.71), the Columbus Rescue (1.06) and W2 (4.77). The home is double listed in the name of John L. Lee.

Release the Property Value in the name of Lee, Nancy	Amount:	\$48.93
Value: \$6,273.00 Year: 2003 Account # 13-05924 Bill # 9159	Total	\$231.57

Release the value of a mobile home, the Klondyke Fire (4.39) and the Columbus Rescue (1.25). The home is double listed in the name of John L Lee.

Release the Property Value in the name of Lewis, Emerson	Amount:	\$37.49
Value: \$4,600.00 Year: 2007 Account # 15-23920 Bill # 1250	Total	\$43.93

Release the property value, the Acme Delco Fire (5.52) and the Columbus Rescue (.92). The property is double listed in the name of William J. Smith.

Release the Property Value in the name of Morris, Jonnie	Amount:	\$51.35
Value: \$6,300.00 Year: 2007 Account # 15-27910 Bill # 5750	Total	\$60.17

Release the property value, the Acme Delco Fire (7.56) and the Columbus Rescue (1.26). The property is double listed in the name of James N. Morris.

Release the Property Value in the name of Obrien, Richard	Amount:	\$40.75
Value: \$5,000.00 Year: 2007 Account # 15-00060 Bill # 7287	Total	\$47.75

Release a portion of the property value, a portion of the Acme Delco Fire (6.00) and a portion of the Columbus Rescue (1.00). The business equipment has been disposed of.

Release the Property Value in the name of Swinson, Carl	Amount:	\$125.19
Value: \$16,050.00 Year: 2002 Account # 13-01838 Bill # 4057	Total	\$141.24

Release the value of a mobile home and the Columbus Rescue. The home is double listed in the name of Mattie Swinson.

Release the Property Value in the name of Swinson, Carl	Amount:	\$116.69
Value: \$14,960.00 Year: 2003 Account # 13-01838 Bill # 4781	Total	\$218.65

Release the value of a mobile home and the Columbus Rescue. The home is double listed in the name of Mattie Swinson.

Release the Property Value in the name of Swinson, Carl	Amount:	\$109.28
Value: \$14,010.00 Year: 2004 Account # 13-01838 Bill # 1128	Total	\$210.29

Release the value of a mobile home and the Columbus Rescue. The home is double listed in the name of Mattie Swinson.

Release the Property Value in the name of Swinson, Carl	Amount:	\$95.63
Value: \$13,100.00 Year: 2005 Account # 13-01838 Bill # 5294	Total	\$195.08

Release the value of a mobile home and the Columbus Rescue. The home is double listed in the name of Mattie Swinson.

Release the Property Value in the name of Swinson, Carl	Amount:	\$93.71
Value: \$12,250.00 Year: 2006 Account # 13-01838 Bill # 6611	Total	\$319.24

Release the value of a mobile home, the Klondyke Fire (8.58), the Columbus Rescue (2.45) and W2 (11.03). The home is double listed in the name of Mattie Swinson.

Release the Property Value in the name of Swinson, Carl	Amount:	\$93.56
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Value: \$11,480.00 Year: 2007 Account # 13-01838 Bill # 7139 Total \$317.62  
 Release the value of a mobile home, the Klondyke Fire (8.04) the Columbus Rescue (2.30) and the W2 (10.33). The home is double listed in the name of Mattie Swinson.

Release the Property Value in the name of T A Real Estate LLC Amount: \$700.67  
 Value: \$85,972.00 Year: 2007 Account # 15-00713 Bill # 7170 Total \$821.03  
 Release the business personal value, the Acme Delco Fire (103.17) and the Columbus Rescue (17.19). The business is double listed in the name of Delco Urgent Care LLC.

Release the Property Value in the name of Turner, Keith Amount: \$45.97  
 Value: \$5,640.00 Year: 2007 Account # 06-03814 Bill # 8637 Total \$58.01  
 Release the value of a boat, the Yam City Fire (5.64) and the Columbus Rescue (1.13). The boat was sold in 2006.

Release the User Fee in the name of Baldwin, Roy (Heirs) Amount: \$0.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 14-01360 Bill # 8544 Total \$193.00  
 Release user fee. House is vacant and does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Bellamy, Jimmy Amount: \$0.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 01-04440 Bill # 9636 Total \$106.00  
 Release user fee. House vacant, no power and no trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Bethea, Eva Amount: \$0.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 10-02159 Bill # 0084 Total \$106.00  
 Release one of two user fees. One mobile home is vacant.

Release the User Fee in the name of Brown, Torie Amount: \$0.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 16-00324 Bill # 7631 Total \$96.52  
 Release a portion of the user fee that was prepaid.

Release the User Fee in the name of Creech, Wayne Amount: \$0.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 01-18183 Bill # 6170 Total \$106.00  
 Release one of two user fees. Only one trash can here.

Release the User Fee in the name of Freeman, Henry W. Amount: \$0.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 11-09660 Bill # 0982 Total \$193.00  
 Release user fee. House vacant, no power and no trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Freeman, Walter H. Amount: \$0.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 04-05450 Bill # 1151 Total \$193.00  
 Release user fee. House vacant and trash can picked up.

Release the User Fee in the name of Freeman, Walter N. Amount: \$0.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 04-05450 Bill # 1001 Total \$193.00  
 Release user fee. House vacant and trash can picked up.

Release the User Fee in the name of Frink, Donald Amount: \$0.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 13-02526 Bill # 1206 Total \$193.00  
 Release user fee. All mobile homes have been torn down and removed.

Release the User Fee in the name of Gaskins, J.C. Amount: \$0.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 06-13520 Bill # 1623 Total \$193.00  
 Release one of two user fees. One house is vacant and does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Hamer, William Amount: \$0.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 01-00706 Bill # 4576 Total \$128.68  
 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 Hilburn Road LLC Amount: \$0.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 09-01729 Bill # 6321 Total \$386.00  
 Release two of four user fees. Only two trash cans here.

Release the User Fee in the name of Hinson, Carl S. Amount: \$0.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 13-19100 Bill # 6598 Total \$193.00  
 Release user fee. House is vacant and does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Ivey, Mary (etal)	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 12-01757 Bill # 7965	Total	\$193.00
Release user fee. House vacant and trash can picked up.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Long, Allene L.	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 03-01517 Bill # 1601	Total	\$193.00
Release user fee. House vacant and trash can picked up in 2006.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Lytton, Mariogene	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 01-54740 Bill # 2240	Total	\$106.00
Release user fee. Home burned in 2006.		
Release the User Fee in the name of McCants, Lisa	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 09-04214 Bill # 3077	Total	\$193.00
Release user fee. House is vacant and does not have a trash can.		
Release the User Fee in the name of McLelland, Jeremy	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 16-05315 Bill # 3487	Total	\$193.00
Release the user fee on land that is vacant.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Milligan, Melissa	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 09-04135 Bill # 4991	Total	\$193.00
Release user fee. House vacant and does not have a trash can.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Moore, H.B.	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 14-03041 Bill # 5524	Total	\$193.00
Release user fee. House is vacant and does not have a trash can.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Powell, Frank	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 13-33121 Bill # 8818	Total	\$106.00
Release user fee. House is vacant and does not have a trash can.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Powell, James E.	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 12-22140 Bill # 8437	Total	\$193.00
Release user fee. House vacant and trash can picked up.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Selove, William	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 10-04742 Bill # 2345	Total	\$106.00
Release user fee. House is vacant and does not have a trash can.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Soles, Sallie	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 13-37460 Bill # 4727	Total	\$193.00
Release user fee. House is vacant and trash can picked up in 2006.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Turner, John A.	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 10-04023 Bill # 8635	Total	\$106.00
Release user fee. House vacant, no trash can.		
Release the User Fee in the name of White, Minnie	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 05-07520 Bill # 1446	Total	\$96.50
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 Williamson, Hank	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 12-30645 Bill # 2350	Total	\$193.00
Release user fee. House is vacant and does not have a trash can.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Williamson, Hank	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 12-30645 Bill # 2351	Total	\$193.00
Release user fee. House is vacant and does not have a trash can.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Wright, Michael	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 06-04638 Bill # 3307	Total	\$87.00
Release a portion of the user fee. House is inside the town limits.		

**Agenda Item #14: COMMENTS:**

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

**A. Public:**

**James Edwin Spivey:** stated the following:

1. I have been a patient in the Columbus Regional Healthcare System recently;
2. I have been informed by the hospital that they will not finance any owing balance on your bill, and that you must use your credit card to pay your bill off in full;
3. Historically, the hospital has not been charging any interest for the first twelve (12) months, and if you use your credit card, you must pay a high rate of interest right away;
4. I do not think this is fair to the citizens of Columbus County, and I would like to know if you, as a Board, can do anything about this.

**B. Department Heads:**

**Kimberly Smith (Health Director):** stated the Health Department was now administering Flu Vaccines at the cost of thirty-one and 00/100 (\$31.00) dollars per vaccine, we have already administered three thousand (3,000) doses, and we have plenty of the vaccine. Our hours for the vaccine are from Monday through Friday, from 1:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M., and I encourage everyone to get vaccinated.

**C. Board of Commissioners:**

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

- a. There is evidently a breakdown in protocol between the Sheriff's Department and the 911 Center;
- b. The Sheriff's Department is not getting all of their calls and some of the calls are being delayed; **and**
- c. I am requesting the Clerk to ask Kay Worley, Interim Emergency Services Director, to check into this matter and report to the Board at the next meeting.

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

- a. I have been in contact with Monty Herring with Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation and they are very much interested in buying the gas that is generated from the Landfill, and they would like to be the first on the list;
- b. The mayor from Cerro Gordo, Boardman and Fair Bluff have contacted me and are upset about some information that was sent to the County and they have received no response;
- c. This is relative to the Sewer Agreement; **and**
- d. I am requesting that Al Leonard be placed on the November 5, 2007 Agenda.

3. **Vice Chairman Prevatte:** stated the following:

- a. I have been in touch with Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation, and they have stated they will buy all the electricity that is generated from the methane gas at the Landfill;
- b. When the issue of the timeliness of the Sewer Agreement was brought to my attention, I referred back to the August 23, 2007 Water Board Minutes;
- c. The parties had sixty (60) days to show the Board that this system could be operated at no cost to the citizens of Columbus County;
- d. At this time, I have not seen anything;
- e. Myself, Commissioner Memory, Steve Fowler, Bobbie Faircloth, Leroy Sellers and Gail Edwards have met with Al Leonard on this matter; **and**
- f. Mr. Hunt, will you check with Al Leonard and see at what point this matter is.

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

At 8:43 P.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 (6) Personnel, seconded by

Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously carried.

**Agenda Item #15: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (6) PERSONNEL:**

No official action was taken.

**ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:**

At 10:45 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

**OTHER:**

**HUMAN RESOURCES - ADVERTISEMENT for MEDICAL DIRECTOR:**

Commissioner Memory directed June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, to instruct the Human Resources Director to start advertising for a Medical Director, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously carried.

**Agenda Item #16: RECESS MEETING:**

At 10:47 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to recess this Regular Session Board Meeting until October 22, 2007, at 6:00 P.M., at the usual meeting location, for the purpose of interviewing three (3) applicants for the position of County Manager, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously carried.

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**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and IV**  
**COMBINATION BOARD MEETING**

**Monday, October 15, 2007**

**8:11 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, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III and IV Board.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 8:11 P.M., Chairman Jacobs called the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III and IV **Combination** Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #10: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and IV COMBINATION MEETING - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to September, 2007 MONTHLY WATER BILLS:**

Leroy Sellers, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following adjustments to the monthly water bills for September, 2007.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACCT #</u>	<u>ACCT NAME</u>	<u>ADJ. AMOUNT</u>	<u>REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT</u>
9/5/07	300910	FRANKIE HAMMOND	-200.00	METER READ WRONG
9/5/07	602380	SYLVESTER & MARY STEPHENS	-36.00	COMPUTER ERROR
9/6/07	402520	PHYLISS ADKINS	-4.00	METER READ WRONG
9/6/07	101570	NETTIE LAWSON	26.00+	BILLING ERROR
9/10/07	103410	KENNETH MCPHERSON	-28.00	METER READ WRONG
9/14/07	300610	JOESPH MORRIS	-105.00	BILLING ERROR
9/14/07	400810	SARAH SPIVEY	-497.01	CUST WATER LEAK
9/17/07	205400	GLADYS WASHINGTON	25.00+	MANUAL BILL
9/18/07	203901	ALLEN SARVIS	32.60+	CREDIT REFUNDED
9/18/07	101140	LUTHER WATTS	50.00+	CREDIT REFUNDED
9/18/07	200120	GLENNE FOWLER	-21.00	BILLING ERROR
9/18/07	207480	WILLARD GREENE	82.00+	CREDIT REFUNDED
9/18/07	208605	SADIE WITHEHER	-9.80	BILLING ERROR
9/21/07	201370	DONALD WILLIAMS	-30.00	CUT OFF FEE WAIVED
9/24/07	103030	BOBBY STANLEY	-117.01	CUST WATER LEAK

# 209

9/26/07	105120	MICHEAL STANLEY	100.00+	BROKEN LOCK
9/26/07	100445	JOHN MCCUMBEE	50.00+	METER TAMPERING
9/26/07	600660	WILLIE GRAHAM	-30.00	CUT OFF FEE WAIVED
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>-712.22</b>	

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the adjustments for the September, 2007 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District I, as submitted, seconded by Vice Chairman Prevatte. The motion unanimously carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:12 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

## **APPROVED:**

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

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**SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and IV  
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING**

**Monday, October 15, 2007**

**8:11 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, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III and IV Board.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 8:11 P.M., Chairman Jacobs called the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III and IV **Combination** Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #10: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and IV COMBINATION MEETING - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to September, 2007 MONTHLY WATER BILLS:**

Leroy Sellers, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following adjustments to the monthly water bills for September, 2007.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACCT #</u>	<u>ACCT NAME</u>	<u>ADJ. AMOUNT</u>	<u>REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT</u>
9/5/07	121130	PEGGY GERALD	-60.00	CUST WATER LEAK
9/5/07	111394	JAMES MCKEITHAN	-380.40	BILLING ERROR
9/5/07	111396	JAMES MCKEITHAN	-380.40	BILLING ERROR
9/5/07	120235	WILLIE WALLS	-8.00	CUST WATER LEAK
9/6/07	131032	AUBREY & TERRI PERRITT	-8.00	METER READ WRONG
9/10/07	122600	ROBERT MATHESON	50.00+	SECURITY DEPOSIT
9/16/07	120887	LORI GRAINGER	-24.00	CUST WATER LEAK
9/17/07	131305	ENOCH SINGLETARY	-25.00	BILLING ERROR
9/18/07	121640	FRANKIE JAMES	50.00+	CREDIT REFUNDED
9/21/07	141049	WELDON MCKENZIE	-30.00	CUT OFF FEE WAIVED
9/25/07	133598	HECK STRICKLAND	50.00+	SERVICE CALL
9/25/07	133598	HECK STRICKLAND	-50.00	SERVICE CALL VOIDED
9/25/07	111894	INEZ HORNE	-5.00	PENALTY WAIVED
9/25/07	111894	INEZ HORNE	-30.00	CUT OFF FEE WAIVED
9/28/07	132580	KEVIN GODWIN	25.00+	DISCONNECTION FEE

**TOTAL**

**-825.80**

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the adjustments for the September, 2007 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District II, as submitted, seconded by Vice Chairman Prevatte. The motion unanimously carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:12 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and IV  
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING**

**Monday, October 15, 2007**

**8:11 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, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III and IV Board.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 8:11 P.M., Chairman Jacobs called the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III and IV **Combination** Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #10: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and IV COMBINATION MEETING - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to September, 2007 MONTHLY WATER BILLS:**

Leroy Sellers, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following adjustments to the monthly water bills for September, 2007.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACCT #</u>	<u>ACCT NAME</u>	<u>ADJ. AMOUNT</u>	<u>REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT</u>
9/4/07	340376	OTIS & CAROLYN MCNEIL	-60.00	BILLING ERROR
9/4/07	340900	MARK OWENS	-138.00	CUST WATER LEAK
9/5/07	331550	BRENDA HUGGINS	-8.00	METER READ WRONG
9/5/07	371065	KEVIN PATTERSON	-64.00	METER READ WRONG
9/6/07	370640	TYRONE TEDDER	75.00+	BILLING ERROR
9/18/07	371010	WILLIAM SMITH	21.00+	CREDIT REFUNDED
9/18/07	350170	WILLIAM RUBY	-24.17	BILLING ERROR
9/18/07	350170	WILLIAM RUBY	42.00+	CREDIT REFUNDED
9/18/07	340007	ERMA WEAVER	50.00+	CREDIT REFUNDED
9/18/07	350170	DORTHY WELLS	-23.33	BILLING ERROR
9/18/07	350230	MICHEAL WILSON	25.00+	CREDIT REFUNDED
9/25/07	380680	PATRICIA BRADLEY	-35.00	BILLING ERROR
9/27/07	381240	JAMES STARNES	50.00+	SECURITY DEPOSIT

**TOTAL**

**-89.50**

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the adjustments for the September, 2007 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III, as submitted, seconded by Vice Chairman Prevatte. The motion unanimously carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:12 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and IV**

**COMBINATION BOARD MEETING**

**Monday, October 15, 2007**

**8:11 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, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III and IV Board.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 8:11 P.M., Chairman Jacobs called the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III and IV **Combination** Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #10: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and IV COMBINATION MEETING - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to September, 2007 MONTHLY WATER BILLS:**

Leroy Sellers, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following adjustments to the monthly water bills for September, 2007.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACCT #</u>	<u>ACCT NAME</u>	<u>ADJ. AMOUNT</u>	<u>REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT</u>
9/6/07	410470	Arthur Redwine	-320.00	Meter Read Wrong
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>-320.00</b>	

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the adjustment for the September, 2007 monthly water bill for Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV, as submitted, seconded by Vice Chairman Prevatte. The motion unanimously carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:12 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV****Monday, October 15, 2007****8:12 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, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 8:12 P.M., Chairman Jacobs called the Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #11: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV - DISCUSSION of PURCHASE of LAND for WELL SITE:**

Leo Hunt, Interim County Manager, requested Board discussion on the purchase of a parcel of land to be used for a well site. Mr. Hunt stated he was going to refer all discussion and questions to Leo Green with Green Engineering.

Leo Green, Green Engineering, stated the following:

1. Before the meeting, I handed out some information on a proposed well site to serve District IV in the Riegelwood area;
2. The map on Page One (1), we have identified, based on the petitions we have received in that area, to be the Phase 1 of this Phase 4 project;
3. We are hoping to complete the cost estimates and the rate study for this service area by the end of next week and have things prepared so it can go back to Rural Development for their review and approval;
4. Once that takes place, I am sure there will be more public meetings down in that area to attract and encourage more participation;
5. Presently, District IV has somewhere in the neighborhood of six hundred (600) petitioned names and/or existing users, either in the Northwest area, the Lakeland Village area and Deerfield which are the existing users there;
6. The more signups we have, the less the rate will be, and we will have those numbers, hopefully by the end of next week;

7. The first thing we had to do to get this rolling, is to get a source of water;
8. Presently, you have a contract with the City of Northwest for twenty-five thousand (25,000) gallons of water per day, and that is not an ample water supply to handle six hundred (600) potential customers;
9. We have had this conversation before relative to the quality of water, and as you know, anything east of Livingston Creek, the quality of water is bad;
10. We have targeted the area west of Livingston Creek and the proposed site we have identified, in the information I have provided to you, is near the intersection of NC 11 and Old Lake Road;
11. The property owner is L.M. Rawls, and identified on the sheet as a green tract,
12. The Rawls family owns this tract of land and it is totally located within Columbus County;
13. The following page gives you more detailed information on the tract of land from the Tax Office;
14. The last colored page shows you the well site, and we had a representative from the DEHNR Office to come and inspect that well site, and it is totally in a field and is clear, the portrait of the site that we are going to put the well on is in the clear land, that wooded area, along the branch to the west of that site, which the owner requested that we include it in the purchase of the property;
15. This site is plus or minus 1.2 acres of land and the asking price is twenty-five thousand and 00/100 (\$25,000.00) dollars;
16. I have given you a summary sheet that was provided by Beck Sales here in Whiteville, of comparable land sales in this area, with the median price being twenty-one thousand, three hundred forty and 00/100 (\$21,340.00) dollars per acre;
17. If you take the acreage we are proposing to purchase here of 1.2 acres, the asking price is twenty-five thousand and 00/100 (\$25,000.00) dollars per acre, you will get twenty thousand, eight hundred thirty-three and 00/100 (\$20,833.00) dollars per acre;
18. I will provide a complete documentation to the Water Department once I get back and can copy this information that I just received this afternoon.
19. This is a very good site for a well;
20. We have had a well driller to go down and inspect the site and he liked the location;
21. This site is high with sandy soil, with very little work to be required to improve the site, very well drained and requiring very few improvements to develop it;
22. In talking with the Rawls family, they have agreed to sell it for twenty-five thousand and 00/100 (\$25,000.00) dollars and want three thousand and 00/100 (\$3,000.00) dollars of option money;
23. If the site does not turn out to be a suitable site, which we have a proposal for the well drilling, and what is the amount of money you have appropriated for the test wells? Gail Edwards stated that forty-six thousand and 00/100 (\$46,000.00) dollars had been budgeted in the proposed budget for this water district, for the test wells;
24. The amount that has been given to us for the test wells is considerably less than that per well, and you will have ample money to do the test well.

Leroy Sellers, Public Utilities Director, asked Mr. Green if the selling price for the site was twenty thousand and 00/100 (\$20,000.00) dollars for each site. Mr. Green replied stating the selling price was twenty-five thousand and 00/100 (\$25,000.00) dollars.

25. If the site does not produce a good yielding well, then we need an option drawn and I will provide the attorney with a copy of an option he can use that will allow the County to close

- the well per State standards, and restore the land to its original use and move on;
26. You will have to expend the money for the drilling of the test well, but not for the purchase of the land;

Commissioner McKenzie stated that we have a contract for twenty-five thousand and 00/100 (\$25,000.00) dollars, and three thousand and 00/100 (\$3,000.00) dollars of this amount is option money in the event the well is not usable. My question to you is do we get this option money returned if the well is not usable.

27. Leroy, I apologize, you are correct, that is twenty thousand and 00/100 (\$20,000.00) dollars, it is fifteen (15%) percent option money, and that is twenty thousand and 00/100 (\$20,000.00) dollars, and the value is twenty thousand, eight hundred thirty-three and 00/100 (\$20,833.00) dollars;

Commissioner Bullard asked Mr. Green if any of this lot was wooded. Mr. Green replied stating on the western part of the lot, fifty or sixty (50 'or 60') feet go down to the branch that he hasn't cleared for the farm.

28. We are asking the Board to act on this tonight, keeping in mind that we don't want to move to the east, and if we move any further west, keep in mind that we have a twelve (12") inch water line planned to go down this road;
29. This well site will not accommodate the water tank;
30. We do not want the water tank on the same site as the well;
31. We would prefer to go east with the tank site and hopefully be able to negotiate a site at the school;

Commissioner Bullard asked Mr. Green why would you separate the tank site and the well site. Mr. Green replied stating what you like to do is to have your supply at one end of the system and your elevated storage on the other end to give you equal distribution of pressure across your system.

Commissioner Gore asked Mr. Green what size area would be needed for the tank and the well site. Mr. Green replied stating we have put tanks on less than a quarter of an acre. On the well site, you have to have a minimum of an acre. The State requires that you control one hundred (100') feet in all directions from the well point, and that is a boxed two hundred (200') feet by two hundred (200') feet, and that is from the right-of-way, you cannot include any part of the right-of-way in that two hundred (200') feet.

Commissioner Memory asked Mr. Green if he thought we would find good water at this site. Mr. Green replied stating, based on the history of some wells in that area, and a little bit further west, they found good quality water there. They are not finding an abundance of water, but the well drillers are talking in the neighborhood of two hundred (200) gallons of water per minute, and if we could get two hundred (200) gallons per minute, and we can utilize the supply that you have already bought from Northwest, that would certainly be sufficient to operate the system. Commissioner Memory stated that twenty thousand and 00/100 (\$20,000.00) dollars was a lot of money.

Mr. Green stated that if you moved this site any further, the additional cost would be twenty-five and 00/100 (\$25.00) per foot, and for each additional one hundred (100") feet, it would equate

to two thousand, five hundred and 00/100 (\$2,500.00) dollars.

Commissioner Bullard asked Mr. Green if the land on Highway 76 was FEMA land. Mr. Green replied stating it was FEMA land and we could not do anything with it.

Commissioner Memory asked Mr. Green that with the three hundred sixty-five people that we have looked at here, and then we got another eighty-six taps in the Riegelwood area, that will equate to four hundred fifty-one (451) people, plus we got other petitions floating out, will this district be feasible to install. Mr. Green replied stating I will hold comment on that until we finish the cost estimates for it. We have selected the most densely populated, the most densely petitioned areas to put it, and just as soon as we finish the cost estimates, then I can tell you that. We are not going to recommend to you to proceed if it is not feasible.

Chairman Jacobs stated that the Board does need to proceed with this approval. Mr. Green stated that square one was the location of a suitable source of water.

Mr. Green stated that these cost estimates are based on current prices, and by the time you include the pipe itself, the cleanup, the valves, the fire hydrants and the services, you will have a minimum of twenty-five and 00/100 (\$25.00) dollars per running foot.

Chairman Jacobs asked Mr. Green if he had negotiated with Mr. and Mrs. Rawls on the purchase of this property. Mr. Green replied stating yes.

Commissioner Bullard stated he would like to know where both pieces of property are located before we approve the well site. Discussion was conducted relative to the fact that only this site had been chosen, and that there were advantages and disadvantages of choosing other sites.

Commissioner Memory made a motion to authorize staff to go into negotiations with the family who owns the property on Old Lake Road for a well site for Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:29 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman**