

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS****August 04, 2008****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 their regular scheduled meeting on the first Monday.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

William S. Clark, **County Manager**  
 Steven W. Fowler, **County Attorney**  
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**  
 Bobbie Faircloth, **Deputy Finance Officer**

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

**CDBG - 2008 Community Development Block Grant Funding:** the purpose of this Public Hearing is to notify citizens of the proposed application contents and receive comments relative to the proposed application contents. **(This is the second of the two (2) required Public Hearings.)**

**PUBLIC HEARING CALLED to ORDER:**

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman James E. Prevatte called the Public Hearing to order and stated this Public Hearing was for the 2008 Community Development Block Grant Funding. Chairman Prevatte requested that Steven W. Fowler, Columbus County Attorney, explain the Policy on Comments at Public Hearings. Mr. Fowler read, orally, the Policy on Comments at Public Hearings, in its entirety. Chairman Prevatte requested that Floyd Adams, The Adams Company, Incorporated, who will be administering the grant, to inform the public about the details of this grant. Mr. Adams stated the following:

1. This is the second of the two (2) required public hearings;
2. It is directly related to the County applying for a 2008 Community Development Block Grant, under the category of Community Revitalization;
3. In this particular category, you may request up to eight hundred fifty thousand, and 00/100 (\$850,000.00) dollars, with a ten (10%) percent County match;
4. You must have a project area that is concentrated meaning that you can draw a boundary line around the area you want to work and that boundary line needs to follow the property lines, right-of-ways, roads, and other conditions, but basically a contiguous area.
5. It needs to include low income families with as many and as high a percentage as you can get, and needs to include at least two (2) of the following needs:
  - A. Housing needs;
  - B. Water needs;
  - C. Sewer needs;
  - D. Street needs; **and**
  - E. Drainage needs;
6. These needs must be in the order listed, because that is their priority;
7. After the first public hearing, I was somewhat charged with the task of locating a target area that the County could apply for, and bring a recommendation back to the Board;
8. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to basically announce where that area is, and what it includes;
9. The location is behind the National Spinning Plant just outside the Town of Brunswick;
10. The proposed work for this grant is as follows:

Rehabilitation (3)	3 Units @	\$100,000
Relocation (2)	2 Units @	\$190,000
Acquisition (2)	2 Units @	\$ 2,000
Clearance (2)	2 Units @	\$ 16,000
Water (1,500 LF)	1,500 LF @	\$110,300

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Sewer (1,300 LF)	1,300 LF @	\$201,800
Streets (380 LF)	380 LF @	\$192,300
Drainage (200 LF)	200 LF @	\$ 37,600
Administration	Lump Sum @	<u>\$ 85,000</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b><u>\$935,000</u></b>

11. The revenues for this project will be eight hundred fifty thousand, and 00/100 (\$850,000.00) dollars from the CDBG grant, with matching County funds of eight-five thousand, and 00/100 (\$85,000.00) dollars;
12. The matching County funds are estimated by the average amount of County funds from previous grants, due to the fact, with this grant, it is done on a point system, and the matching funds could vary; **and**
13. The application is due by August 29, 2008.

Chairman Prevatte opened the floor for comments from the public. The following spoke.

1. **Mayor Perry Dixon, Town of Sandyfield:** stated the following:
  - A. I am concerned about the CDBG Scattered Site Grant that is being funded through Columbus County;
  - B. We have approximately eight or nine (8 or 9) applications that have been forwarded to the County as part of that CDBG grant;
  - C. I would like to make sure that we are included in the grant, due to the fact of several previous times that we made application and we were not included, and it was brought to DCA's attention.

Chairman Prevatte stated that Mayor Dixon's concern was relative to a Scattered Site CDBG grant and this public hearing was for a concentrated needs CDBG grant, and the stated concern could be addressed during the Pubic Comment section of this meeting.

2. **Jim Nance, Evergreen:** stated the following:
  - A. I am sixty-three (63) years old;
  - B. During my lifetime, I have never received improvements to my living conditions with taxpayer's money; **and**
  - C. It would be more beneficial for the citizens of Columbus County, and the taxpayers, for each person to improve their living conditions with their own means, and not depend on taxpayers to do so.

## **PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED:**

At 6:45 P.M., Vice Chairman Memory made a motion to closed the Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

## **6:46 P.M. REGULAR SESSION**

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

At 6:46 P.M., Chairman James E. Prevatte called the August 04, 2008 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Amon E. McKenzie. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, which was led by Vice Chairman Bill Memory.

### **Agenda Item #4: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:**

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the July 21, 2008 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

### **Agenda Item #5: PUBLIC INPUT:**

Chairman Prevatte opened the floor for any comments from the public. The following spoke.

1. **Johnny Albert Phillips:** stated the following:
  - A. I live in Columbus County and I am presently employed with Robeson County in the

- County Garage as a Shop Foreman;
- B. I am traveling seventy (70) miles per day to and from work, and I am ready to locate employment closer to home;
  - C. If Columbus County had a County Garage, it would result in a tremendous savings on parts, labor and vehicle maintenance;
  - D. I am requesting that you consider this in the near future.
2. **Mayor Perry Dixon, Town of Sandyfield:** stated the following:
1. I would like an explanation relative to the Town of Sandyfield not being included in the Scattered Site CDBG Grant.

Chairman Prevatte requested that Floyd Adams, The Adams Company, Incorporated, who will be the Administrator of the grant, explain how the Scattered Site CDBG Grant works. Mr. Adams stated the following:

- A. They have changed the rules for the Scattered Site Program;
  - B. They give the money to the County, and they expect the County to listen to, and have participation from all the towns;
  - C. The towns can apply, individually, for this type grant;
  - D. The best answer I can give from the County selection process, is that we did send that information to all the mayors, and this information was distributed to all the people and sent back to the County;
  - E. The Housing Advisory Council took all the houses and conditions, with no names or addresses, and made a selection, and unfortunately, they could only pick four (4) to be included, with four (4) alternates;
  - F. The applications came from all over the County, and we had two hundred eight (208) applications, and from that we had to pick four (4);
  - G. During the selection process, we had no names or addresses, and the four (4) were chosen based on income and need; **and**
  - H. The Housing Advisory Council feels like they picked the ones with the greatest needs.
2. I would like to know the status of the contract between Acme Delco-Riegelwood Fire Department and the Town of Sandyfield, based on the following information:
- A. In 2004, a contract was drawn up and signed between the Acme Delco-Riegelwood Fire Department and the Town of Sandyfield for the collection of the twelve (\$ .12) cents tax;
  - B. What initiated this issue is that only part of the town is being taxed and collected on the twelve (\$ .12) cents tax, because a large portion of the town is out of the fire district, and the citizens are paying double insurance;
  - C. ADR started complaining that they were not getting their full amount of their taxation, and we ran into all these different problems, and we decided to bring this matter to the Board of Commissioners to see if you could work it out to see if the other part could be included and make them start paying the twelve (\$ .12) cents of the one hundred and 00/100 (\$100.00) dollars property valuation; **and**
  - D. We want the relationship with ADR to continue for the Town of Sandyfield.

After lengthy discussion was conducted relative to this matter, the following facts were determined:

1. In March, 2004, a contract was entered into by ADR and the Town of Sandyfield
2. ADR is not getting the tax they are due;
3. This affects approximately three hundred (300) people with the town population being six hundred twenty-seven (627);
4. ADR is asking for an extension, and will need a substation to cover this area;
5. At the present time, ADR is spread out too far; **and**
6. This would be approximately four thousand and 00/100 (\$4,000.00) dollars in additional taxes for ADR annually.

William S. Clark, County Manager, stated the Board needed a Resolution from the Town of Sandyfield to accompany this request.

**Agenda Item #6: AGING - HOME and COMMUNITY CARE BLOCK GRANT for OLDER ADULTS - APPROVAL of AGREEMENT for the PROVISION of COUNTY-BASED AGING SERVICES:**

Ed Worley, Aging Director, requested Board approval of the Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults, Agreement for the Provision of County-Based Aging Services.

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Agreement for the Provision of County-Based Aging Services for the Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed. A copy of this document will be marked as Exhibit "A: and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 2, in the Clerk to the Board's Office for review.

**Agenda Item #7: JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL - DECLINE in ATTENDANCE of COMMISSIONERS' REPRESENTATIVES:**

Greg Worthington, Chairman, Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, requested Board review of the attendance of the Commissioner representatives on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.

In the absence of Greg Worthington, Chairman of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, Chairman Prevatte stated the following:

1. I received a letter from Greg Worthington with attached attendance rosters for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Meetings, over the last two (2) years;
2. As is evident from the attendance rosters, some of the Commissioners' representatives have not attended the meetings on a regular basis;
3. In order for this committee to function, the members need to attend regularly; **and**
4. Mr. Worthington is requesting that we encourage our representatives to start attending regularly, or perhaps consider a replacement for them.

**Agenda Item #8: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:**

Justin Smith, Economic Development Director, delivered the following departmental update to the Board.

1. I started employment on June 16, 2008, which is one and one-half (1 ½) months ago, which has been very busy;
2. I have been meeting with business leaders and your appointees to the Economic Development Commission;
3. I would like to share with you some of my initial observations and goals which I have divided into three (3) focus areas, as follows:
  - A. **Business Retention and Expansion:**
    - We have great industries in the County already which make various products;
    - We have more than thirty (30) existing industries listed in our directory;
    - According to Sanford Holshouser, one of the leading economic consulting groups in the State, those existing industries create about fifty-five (55%) percent of the new jobs in investment;
    - It is important that we take care of the existing industries that we already have;
    - I have started an existing industry team, composed of four (4) people that will visit every existing industry at least once a year;
    - This team will be comprised of Beverlee Nance of Southeastern Community College, Martie Butler from the Department of Commerce, Charles Garrett with the Employment Security Commission, and myself;
    - We will visit the industry and meet with the manager to see what their needs are; **and**
    - We have two (2) events coming up in the near future, as follows:
      - September 3, 2008 Lunch at Southeastern Community College
      - September 19, 2008 Annual Appreciation Golf Tournament
  - B. **Recruitment:**
    - Very few companies contact the Economic Development Commission directly, and that is why our relationship with our allies is so important;
    - Most of the contacts come from the following:

- North Carolina Southeast;
- The Department of Commerce;
- Utility Companies; **and**
- Commercial Real Estate Brokers;

- We have a lot of interest in Columbus County primarily because of the Southeast Regional Park;
- Spread out over four (4) buildings, we have 285,000 square feet of space available right now, and I, personally have shown every building available in the past two and one-half (2 ½) months to prospects;
- We have warehouses and other buildings spread out throughout the County, and Tabor City has a State certified Industrial Park with about twenty-seven (27) acres available;
- Marketing is a big component in recruitment, and we are busy working on that;
- We are creating a new data book which will have demographics and statistical information and we will give those to our prospects;
- We are also working on some handouts that will detail every building and site that is available for industrial use in Columbus County;
- We plan to start a quarterly newsletter which will be sent out to all our allies to let them know what we have available and to let them know what we are doing here in Columbus County;
- Sandra Richardson, my Administrative Assistant, is taking the lead on creating a new website;
- We are working with Progress Energy on creating some marketing materials for the Southeast Regional Park, and the best part is, they are picking up most of the tab; **and**
- Nothing beats face-to-face marketing, and I have the opportunity to go to the International Boat Expo in Miami in October;. **and**

**C. Product Development:**

- Columbus County is the product;
- One (1) thing we are working on is the two (2) county park with Brunswick County, which will be approximately 1100 acres with about one third (1/3) of it in Columbus County;
- The park will meet the warehousing and distribution needs of the Port of Wilmington;
- Creating a business-friendly environment here in Columbus County, and we are doing that at Economic Development Commission by working with our partners - working with Chambers of Commerce, Committees of 100, working with small business centers and business incubators.

4. I think good things are on the horizon, so let's celebrate every success we have, no matter how big or small.

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

At 7:23 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into a **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #9: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

July 21, 2008 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 Sets**).

This information will be recorded in Minute Book 1 for each Columbus County Water and Sewer District, respectively.

**Agenda Item #10: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV - APPROVAL of ENGINEERING PLANS:**

Leo Green, Engineer with Green Engineering, requested Board approval of the plans presented for Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV. (**This item was tabled at the July 21, 2008 Meeting.**)

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

**Agenda Item #11: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT V - PRESENTATION by FRED RICHARDSON on DOTHAN ROAD SEWER PROJECT and OTHER SEWER PROJECTS:**

Fred Richardson, Executive Director of Grand Strand Water and Sewer, delivered the following presentation relative to the Dothan Road Sewer Project and other sewer projects in Columbus County.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book 1 of Columbus County Water and Sewer District V.

**ADJOURN COMBINATION MEETING of COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING and resume REGULAR SESSION**

At 8:11 P.M., Vice Chairman Memory made a motion to adjourn the Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

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

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

COMMITTEE	ZONE/ EB	PERSON(S)	EXPIR. DATE	BOARD ACTION
Columbus County Department of Aging Advisory Council	IV	Lois Yoder Dr. Melvin Powell	06-30-2008 06-30-2008	<b>Re-Appoint Re-Appoint</b>
Local Emergency Planning Committee	EB	County Commissioner	N/A	<b>Table</b>
Southeastern Economic Development Commission <b>Motion: Memory Second: Bullard</b>	EB	James Hinkle	04-01-2012	<b>Justin Smith</b>

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

**A. Budget Amendments:**

Vice Chairman Memory made a motion to approve the following Budget Amendments, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously passed.

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
<b>Expenditure</b>	10-5165-526001	CSC Departmental Supplies	\$139181
<b>Revenue</b>	10-3510-430037	CSC Revenue	\$139,181
<b>Expenditure</b>	10-5161-523900	Family Planning Drugs & Medical	(\$21,000)
<b>Revenue</b>	10-3510-430031	Family Planning State Grant	(\$21,000)
<b>Expenditure</b>	28-4334-569900	St. James Fire District	\$152
	28-4336-589900	Nakina Fire District	\$2,467
	26-4370-569905	Cerro Gordo Rescue	\$3,138
	26-4370-569903	Acme Delco Riegelwood	\$3,138

	26-4370-569904	Buckhead Rescue	\$3,137
	26-4370-569905	Chadbourn Rescue	\$3,137
	26-4370-569906	Fair Bluff Rescue	\$3,137
	26-4370-569907	Lake Waccamaw Rescue	\$3,137
	26-4370-569908	Nakina Rescue	\$3,137
	26-4370-569909	Tabor City Rescue	\$3,137
<b>Revenue</b>	28-3434-411015	St. James Fire District	\$152
	28-3434-411107	Nakina Fire District	\$2,467
	26-3436-432308	County Rescue Tax .02 Cents	\$25,098
<b>Expenditure</b>	69-7400-525105	Gas	\$33,100
	69-7400-519016	Contracted Services Fuel Surcharge	\$130,000
	69-7400-512100	Salaries & Wages Regular	\$20,310
	69-7400-518100	FICA	\$3,154
	69-7400-518910	Christmas Bonus	\$275
	69-7400-533000	Utilities	\$27,431
	69-7400-539200	Uniform & Clothing	\$280
<b>Revenue</b>	69-3725-430134		\$10,814
	69-3725-440114	Solid Waste Permit Fees	\$1,134
	69-3725-449100	Investment Earnings	\$2,602
	69-3725-489000	Misc.	\$200,000
<b>Expenditure</b>	10-4355-512100	Salaries & Wages Regular	\$5,303
	10-4355-518100	FICA	\$406
<b>Revenue</b>	10-3550-489090	School Electrical Inspector Reimburse	\$5,709
<b>Expenditure</b>	10-4313-530001		\$12
	10-4313-531100		\$785
<b>Revenue</b>	10-3440-430020		\$797

**B. August 04, 2008 Tax Refunds and Releases:**

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to approve the following Tax Releases and Refunds, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

**TAX REFUNDS (as submitted to the Governing Body Office form the Tax Office)  
August 04, 2008**

Refunds Name: Pellom, Cecile Amount: \$444.99  
Value: \$54,600.00 Year 007 Account # 15-29340 Bill # 67943 Total \$648.91  
Refund the value of a house and the Columbus Rescue. The home burned 01-18-2006. Make check payable to customer and Columbus County Tax Administration to be applied to delinquent tax.  
863 Browntown Rd. Riegelwood NC 28456

Refunds Name: Pellom, Cecile Amount: \$191.10  
Value: \$54,600.00 Year 007 Account # 15-29340 Bill # 89545 Total \$191.10  
Refund the value of a home for the Town of Sandyfield that burned 01-18-2006. Make check payable to customer and Columbus County Tax Administration to be applied to delinquent tax.  
863 Browntown Rd. Riegelwood NC 28456

**TAX RELEASES (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):  
August 04, 2008**

Release the Property Value in the name of Lane, Grady Amount: \$20.73  
Value: \$2,543.00 Year: 2007 Account # 09-03144 Bill # 0426 Total \$25.05  
Release the value of a mobile home, the Williams Fire (1.53) and the Columbus Rescue (.51). The home is double listed in the name of Graham Sellers.

Release the Property Value in the name of Lane, Grady Amount: \$21.61  
Value: \$2,825.00 Year: 2006 Account # 09-03144 Bill # 0136 Total \$219.27  
Release the value of a mobile home, the Williams Fire (1.70) and Columbus Rescue (.57). The home is double listed in the name of Graham Sellers.

Release the Property Value in the name of Lane, Grady Amount: \$20.15  
Value: \$2,760.00 Year: 2005 Account # 09-03144 Bill # 997 Total \$201.60  
Release the value of a mobile home, the Williams Fire (1.66) and Columbus Rescue (.55). The home is double listed in the name of Graham Sellers.

Release the Property Value in the name of Lane, Grady Amount: \$22.89  
Value: \$2,935.00 Year: 2004 Account # 09-03144 Bill # 043 Total \$204.76  
Release the value of a mobile home, the Williams Fire (1.76) and Columbus Rescue (.59). The home is double listed in the name of Graham Sellers.

Release the Property Value in the name of Singletary, Cornell Amount: \$414.84  
Value: \$50,900.00 Year: 2007 Account # 12-25300 Bill # 3316 Total \$713.83  
Release the value of a house, the North Whiteville Fire (50.00), the Columbus Rescue (10.18) and W2 (45.81). The home burned December 2006.

Release the User Fee in the name of Davis, Wiley L. Amount: \$0.00  
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2004 Account # 13-10100 Bill # 2319 Total \$177.00  
Release one of two user fees. One house has been vacant for years.

Release the User Fee in the name of Davis, Wiley L. Amount: \$0.00  
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2005 Account # 13-10100 Bill # 6153 Total \$177.00  
Release one of two user fees. One house has been vacant for years.

Release the User Fee in the name of Davis, Wiley L. Amount: \$0.00  
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 13-10100 Bill # 7011 Total \$193.00  
Release one of two user fees. One house has been vacant for years.

Release the User Fee in the name of Davis, Wiley L. Amount: \$0.00  
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 13-10100 Bill # 7047 Total \$193.00  
Release one of two user fees. One house has been vacant for years.

Release the User Fee in the name of Davis, Wiley L. Amount: \$0.00  
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2003 Account # 13-10100 Bill # 6139 Total \$177.00  
Release one of two user fees. One house has been vacant for years.

Release the User Fee in the name of Long, James A. Amount: \$0.00  
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 03-02015 Bill # 1768 Total \$193.00  
Release user fee at 2366 Crusoe Island Road. House is vacant and does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Long, James A. Amount: \$0.00  
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 03-02015 Bill # 1768 Total \$16.08  
Release a portion of the user fee at 2342 Crusoe Island Road. Home repossessed Nov. 2007 and trash can picked up.

Release the User Fee in the name of Mitchell, Filton Amount: \$0.00  
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2005 Account # 11-17571 Bill # 3616 Total \$177.00  
Release user fee. House is unlivable, has no trash can and no power.

Release the User Fee in the name of Mitchell, Filton Amount: \$0.00  
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2004 Account # 11-17571 Bill # 607 Total \$177.00  
Release user fee. House is unlivable, has no trash can and no power.



Release the User Fee in the name of Mitchell, Filton Amount: \$0.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2006 Account # 11-17571 Bill # 4852 Total \$193.00  
 Release user fee. House is unlivable, has no trash can and no power.

Release the User Fee in the name of Mitchell, Filton Amount: \$0.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 11-17571 Bill # 5213 Total \$193.00  
 Release user fee. House is unlivable, has no trash can and no power.

Release the User Fee in the name of Mitchell, Filton Amount: \$0.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2003 Account # 11-17571 Bill # 3352 Total \$177.00  
 Release user fee. House unlivable, no trash can and no power.

Release the User Fee in the name of Nance, Mary C. Amount: \$0.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 10-04506 Bill # 6196 Total \$193.00  
 Release user fee. House was vacant 2007. Sending trash can for 2008.

Release the User Fee in the name of Watts, Ricky B. Amount: \$0.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 02-03321 Bill # 0792 Total \$193.00  
 Release user fee. House is vacant and does not have a trash can.

**Agenda Item #14: COMMENTS:**

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

**B. Board of Commissioners:**

1. **Commissioner McKenzie:** stated the following:
  - a. I am very concerned about the 7.25% unemployment rate in Columbus County; **and**
  - b. I would like to challenge each Commissioner on this Board to see how quick and how many citizens in Columbus County they can manage to get employed.
2. **Vice Chairman Memory:** stated the following:
  - a. This Board needs to hear form the Board of Elections on what they plan to do in the November election to make sure we do not disenfranchise any voter since voting turnout is expected to be extra heavy;
  - b. The Board of Elections needs to update this Board on the situation that has been in the media, and we need to be informed of these details before reading about them in The News Reporter; **and**
  - c. In some counties, they are placing a tag on mobile homes that have been listed on the tax books, and if we do this, we could detect the ones that have not been listed, and I would like for our Tax Administrator to check into doing this.
3. **Commissioner Gore:** stated the following:
  - a. I would like to state some clarification on the issue that has been in the media relative to the allegation made about the Board's action in Closed Session;
  - b. I want the public to know that this allegation is false about the Board of Commissioners doing something illegal;
  - c. The Board did not take a vote in Closed Session, as was stated;
  - d. I would like to read orally the question and answer that has been published in David Lawrence's Open Meetings booklet. The information is as follows:  
**QUESTION:** May a local government instruct in closed session the person who is negotiating for the property or give instructions to an agent who will bid on its behalf for property being sold at auction?  
**ANSWER:** Yes. The statute specifically permits instructing the public body's agents as to its negotiating position.;
  - e. This Board did not take a vote in Closed Session.
4. **Commissioner Bullard:** stated the following:
  - a. I have been contacted by several citizens relative to the tax notices being mailed out open-faced which reveals all of the statistical information about a taxpayer;

- b. I, personally, think the tax notices need to be in an envelope.
- 5. **Commissioner Jacobs:** everyone needs to continue working together for the betterment of Columbus County.
- 6. **Chairman Prevatte:** stated the following:
  - a. The information for the CDBG Grant for which the Public Hearing was conducted prior to this meeting did not reach the Clerk’s Office in time to be placed on this Agenda;
  - b. I agree with Commissioner Bullard on the tax notices being mailed out in an envelope, and I will ask Richard Gore, Columbus County Tax Administrator, to present the details to the Board. Mr. Gore stated the following:
    - This is a new method of mailing out tax notices, which is much cheaper than using envelopes;
    - The information listed on the card is public record which is accessible to anyone who wishes to see such; **and**
    - Several counties are already using this method.Chairman Prevatte requested that Mr. Gore contact several counties on the method they are using to mail their tax notices, and a comparison of the costs involved for both methods, open-faced and envelope; **and**
  - c. I would like to reiterate what Commissioner Gore stated earlier, and that is a vote was not taken in Closed Session by this Board.
- C. **County Manager (William S. Clark):** the information on the four (4) day work week is being compiled, and I will bring this information to the Board at a later date.

**Agenda Item #15: ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:27 P.M., Vice Chairman Memory made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**

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

**Monday, August 04, 2008**

**7:23 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, IV and V Board.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

William S. Clark, **County Manager**  
 Steven W. Fowler, County Attorney  
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**  
 Bobbie Faircloth, Deputy Finance Officer

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 7:23 P.M., Chairman Prevatte called the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V **Combination** Board meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #9: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to approve the July 21, 2008 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:11 P.M., Vice Chairman Memory made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**

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

**Monday, August 04, 2008**

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**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

William S. Clark, **County Manager**  
Steven W. Fowler, County Attorney  
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**  
Bobbie Faircloth, Deputy Finance Officer

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 7:23 P.M., Chairman Prevatte called the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V **Combination** Board meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #9: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to approve the July 21, 2008 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:11 P.M., Vice Chairman Memory made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**

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

**Monday, August 04, 2008**

**7:23 P.M.**

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**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

William S. Clark, **County Manager**  
Steven W. Fowler, County Attorney  
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**  
Bobbie Faircloth, Deputy Finance Officer

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 7:23 P.M., Chairman Prevatte called the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V **Combination** Board meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #9: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to approve the July 21, 2008 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:11 P.M., Vice Chairman Memory made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**

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

**Monday, August 04, 2008**

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**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

William S. Clark, **County Manager**  
Steven W. Fowler, County Attorney  
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**  
Bobbie Faircloth, Deputy Finance Officer

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 7:23 P.M., Chairman Prevatte called the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V **Combination** Board meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #9: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to approve the July 21, 2008 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #10: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV - APPROVAL of ENGINEERING PLANS:**

Leo Green, Engineer with Green Engineering, requested Board approval of the plans presented for Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV. **(This item was tabled at the July 21, 2008 Meeting.)** Mr. Green stated the following:

1. Today, I met with William S. Clark, County Manager, and his staff, the staff from the Water Department, and representatives from Rural Development, regarding our presentation of the final plans and specifications for the District IV water;
2. You have before you the cover sheet from the distribution portion of this project showing the proposed locations of these water lines;
3. We are ready to submit the plans to the various agencies for permitting;
4. We would like to ask that you authorize Mr. Clark to sign the following documents:
  - a. applications for the Department of Transportation Encroachment Agreements;

- b. applications from the Division of Health Services;
  - c. Sedimentation Erosion Control Permit Applications; **and**
  - d. driveway permits for the tank site and booster site that need to also go to the Department of Transportation;
5. There will be application fees for the Department of Transportation Driveway Permits for \$50.00 each; and there is a Sedimentation and Erosion Control fee of \$2,500.00, and this is based on so much per acre of the disturbed area;
6. Hopefully, we will have the project ready for permitting in the next thirty to forty-five (30-45) days, and can go to bid sometime in the latter part of October;
7. If we can meet these projected dates, we are anticipating being able to start construction by the first of next year.

Chairman Prevatte asked Mr. Green if the problems with the rights-of-way had been resolved that resulted in this item being tabled at the July 21, 2008 Board Meeting. Mr. Green replied stating they were being negotiated and he thought they would be resolved.

Commissioner Gore asked Mr. Green if the problem with the donated property had been resolved that resulted in this item being tabled at the July 21, 2008 Board Meeting. Mr. Green replied stating it was being worked on, and it had to be resolved before the project goes to bid, and negotiations are ongoing for the well site.

Vice Chairman Memory asked Mr. Green about the number of signups. Leroy Sellers, Public Utilities Director, replied stating that at the present time, we had five hundred fifty (550) paid residents, and six hundred fifty (650) customers would make the system feasible. Mr. Sellers stated that staff had held a meeting recently for additional signups, and Amanda Davis, his Administrative Assistant, was in the process of calculating the number of additional signups from the last meeting.

Vice Chairman Memory made a motion to accept the engineering plans presented by Leo Green, Green Engineering, and to authorize William S. Clark, Columbus County Manager, to sign above listed applications in Item #4. (a. - c.), seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:11 P.M., Vice Chairman Memory made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**

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

**Monday, August 04, 2008**

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**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

William S. Clark, **County Manager**  
Steven W. Fowler, County Attorney  
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**  
Bobbie Faircloth, Deputy Finance Officer

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 7:23 P.M., Chairman Prevatte called the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V **Combination** Board meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #9: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to approve the July 21, 2008 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #11: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT V - PRESENTATION by FRED RICHARDSON on DOTHAN ROAD SEWER PROJECT and OTHER SEWER PROJECTS:**

Fred Richardson, Executive Director of Grand Strand Water and Sewer, delivered the following presentation relative to the Dothan Road Sewer Project and other sewer projects in Columbus County. Mr. Richardson stated the following:

1. We developed a contract with Columbus County and I have not been back since, and it is a good time for us to get together and review where we are at;
2. One of the things we did shortly after entering the agreement with Columbus County, and talking with Commissioner Lynwood Norris, I was to look at some plans in getting some



- sewer service in the area, it would attract some growth and get some economic development going in this district of the County;
3. At the same time we were entering into the agreement, we had two (2) subdivisions, just across the State line, that approached us about getting and acquiring the service and they actually prepaid their impact fee;
  4. The housing market is slow somewhat, and not proceeding rapidly, but it is moving forward;
  5. Shortly after that, we had a discussion with Commissioner Gore and the Superintendent of Education about getting sewer service to two (2) schools;
  6. We put together a project to get sewer to these two (2) schools, and it is just about in place now;
  7. I would like to show you an overall map of a preliminary plan of what we are trying to do just to get some basic infrastructure and sewer infrastructure, in this district of Columbus County;
  8. These are the projects that we plan to phase in:
    - First Project (1):** Sewer to Nakina and Guideway Schools (Ramsey Ford Road Project) a lot of this was funded with grant funding from the State of North Carolina;
    - Second Project (1A):** Old Dothan Road Project (30-35 Houses);
    - Phase 2:** Connecting Dothan Road with 904 and Ramsey Ford Road;
    - Phase 3:** Highway 905 to Highway 904 Connection;
    - Phase 4, 5 and 6:** connection to Tabor City completing a loop connection;
  9. The monthly charges will be billed to the residences and businesses, and then we will bill Columbus County for that amount, thus the charges will be passed onto the residences and businesses;
  10. That is essentially the way it will work, the work will be done if we receive the grants for those projects, and **there will be no cost to Columbus County**;
  11. We have applied for a grant from the Rural Center and from the Community Development Block Grant Funding;
  12. The grant will provide service up to the house, connect the houses, and there will be no charges, for the connection, from Grand Strand to these customers connecting on;
  13. They will pay the monthly fees to Columbus County, and then we will bill Columbus County for that amount.

### Questions/Answers/Discussion:

**Commissioner Gore:** After the system is constructed and a resident decides to hook onto the system, what will be the cost?

**Fred Richardson:** \$4,000

**Commissioner Gore:** Is the \$4,000 hookup fee the same for everyone that hooks up to the system, or is it different?

**Fred Richardson:** It is a little bit different, and the difference is in the level of service that we provide. You will have some areas, where we put these main lines in, developers will install infrastructure to serve a subdivision. That cost is then in turn passed along to the customers by buying the lot in the subdivision. The connection charges there will be somewhat less. We are installing pressure mains, and for those areas where we have to provide a pumping station to serve the customers will be an additional \$3500.

**Commissioner Gore:** Are you looking at \$7,500 with the \$4,000 and the \$3,500?

**Fred Richardson:** It's not quite that much because a \$2,000 tap fee is included in that charge and this information was previously included in a letter that was forwarded to the County, and I will go over the charges as follows:

- Existing residences connecting to the system without having to install a pump station, that connection charge will be \$4,000
- New residences connecting to the system to a force main will be \$7,187.

The difference there in the charges is, they both are getting the same service, both are getting a pump station installed, this is the way we have worked it in Horry County, and it has worked well, we have a lower monthly cost for the people who pay the higher up-front cost, and a higher monthly fee for the people who pay the lower up-front cost. The logic here is to encourage the existing residents to hook on, if their septic tank is malfunctioning. We want to allow them to hook on, at a lower cost, to get them away from their malfunctioning septic system, and they may not have the money to connect on. The new structures that are connecting on can finance that connection charge as part of their house as part of their construction charge or mortgage. Once it is broken down, it is essentially the same cost, except the new customer pays more up front, because we are not in the development business. The existing residences, on a malfunctioning septic system, will pay a lower connection charge. We have a price for the developers who are developing subdivisions of a little less than \$2,500.

**Commissioner Norris:** Did you say that Grand Strand would finance these charges for twenty (20) years?

**Fred Richardson:** Yes.

**Chairman Prevatte:** That is the same questions I had, because we have been led to believe that we would have to finance these charges.

**Fred Richardson:** **There is no cost to Columbus County.** Whatever charges that we make to a customer, the procedures were outlined to Columbus County. Columbus County will bill that amount to the customers and then forward it to Grand Strand;

**Chairman Prevatte:** If you have an existing house and need this service, you will finance this charge and finance this amount over a twenty (20) year period of time, at twelve (12%) percent?

**Fred Richardson:** Yes.

**Commissioner Gore:** My understanding of what you are saying is that everything that took place with this system, that we got down here, will be billed to Columbus County and Columbus County is responsible for collecting and paying Grand Strand. Do we have to collect that hookup fee, or will you finance the hookup fee for the customer, or is Columbus County responsible for that amount?

**Fred Richardson:** We will finance the hookup fee.

**Commissioner Gore:** Is Columbus County responsible for collecting the hookup fee that has been financed by Grand Strand from the customer?

**Fred Richardson:** Yes, Columbus County will be responsible for collecting this amount, because it will be in their monthly bill. If they don't pay their monthly bill, the water meter will be pulled, and then we will take it from there. **The intent here is not to charge Columbus County anything whatsoever.**

**Chairman Prevatte:** What happens with delinquent accounts?

**Fred Richardson:** Columbus County will pull the meter.

**Leroy Sellers:** What about the delinquent accounts, what do we do when the customer leaves with a balance due?

**Chairman Prevatte:** Do we pay Grand Strand before the customer pays us?

**Fred Richardson:** No.

**Vice Chairman Memory:** In other words, we are running a month in arrears with billing the customer, and . . .

**Chairman Prevatte:** For clarification, the way legislation and the contract have said, say that we will operate and maintain, and this is because it is written at the State level. We will act as a billing agent, and hopefully, the legislation will change, and we will get out of this billing service. We don't have to maintain any lines now, you have told us that.

**Leroy Sellers:** The agreement was that we would notify, if we get a call for anything, Grand Strand, and Fred's group would take care of maintaining all lines.

**Commissioner Bullard:** Columbus County does have to pay Grand Strand the balance due on a customer that does not pay his last bill, if we pull the meter?

**Fred Richardson:** The thing you have to look at is the entire intent is not to charge Columbus County anything. Now, obviously, if Columbus County allows a customer to go on and on using the service and we're not getting paid, we will have to sit down and talk about why we are doing such a thing like that. But, other than something like that, our intent is not to charge Columbus County.

**Commissioner Gore:** In a situation where Grand Strand has financed the amount they charge for hookup, and the customer has to leave abruptly for whatever reason, what happens about the unpaid balance owed?

**Fred Richardson:** We will place a lien on that property, we will ask Columbus County to pull that meter, and before service can be reinstated to that property, someone will have to make arrangements to assume that loan or pay that lien off. I think this will work smoothly. If the customers are not paying Columbus County, we expect the meter to be pulled promptly.

**Sammie Jacobs:** What is the alternative when someone's meter has been pulled, what position does that put them in?

**Chairman Prevatte:** They don't have any water or sewer.

**Commissioner Bullard:** Are these people required to hook on to this system?

**Fred Richardson:** No.

**Chairman Prevatte:** It is completely volunteer.

**Commissioner Gore:** These thirty (30) houses that you are fixing to run sewer to equates to approximately \$41,000, or so, for each household. Is that a pump station . . . .

**Fred Richardson:** Two (2) pump stations.

**Commissioner Gore:** Everything is going to be gravity fed to the two (2) pump stations, and there will be no pump station on site at any of these houses that we are talking about?

**Fred Richardson:** That is correct.

**Commissioner Gore:** The cost for the two (2) schools with nine (9) miles of sewer lines was \$1.25 million and the cost for the Dothan Project with only 7,200 feet is also \$1.25 million. Can you explain this?

**Fred Richardson:** The project to the two (2) schools was entirely sewer pressure main. Here, this is entirely gravity sewer system. Gravity sewer systems are much more expensive than pressure main. Pressure mains are laid flat, three (3) feet under the ground. The gravity sewer system starts at three (3) feet and may go as deep as fifteen to twenty (15' to 20') feet under the ground to the pump station. The gravity sewer system is much more expensive. We could have done this by the pressure main system and put the individual pumping units at each of these thirty (30) houses. It was the engineer's opinion since these houses were so close together, that DEHNR would prefer the gravity sewer system over the pressure main system. One (1) of the pump stations would cost \$6,000. We wouldn't be doing this except for the possibility of the Community Development Block Grant and the grant from the Rural Center.

**Vice Chairman Memory:** How does someone hook up along pressure main to make sure they get proper flow? Will they have to put a pump station in at each house?

**Fred Richardson:** Yes.

**Vice Chairman Memory:** Will they have to put a sump pump in basically, that will put pressure to that line.

**Fred Richardson:** Let me clear something up. They are not going to be doing it anyway. The customer will just be applying for service. All of the figures that have been discussed earlier is Grand Strand doing a turn-key job. They have to have plumbing outside the wall of their house.

**Vice Chairman Memory:** They got to plumb it outside of their house, and you take from that point to the line.

**Fred Richardson:** Yes.

**Vice Chairman Memory:** Would you call this an impact fee?

**Fred Richardson:** It is after construction. Part of it is an impact fee.

**Vice Chairman Memory:** How much of this is an impact fee?

**Fred Richardson:** \$2,000

**Vice Chairman Memory:** So, you're looking at a \$4,000 hookup for an existing household, and \$3,500 for . . .

**Fred Richardson:** It is going to cost more than that.

**Vice Chairman Memory:** Would you say that \$2,000 of this amount is an impact fee and the other \$1,500 is actually construction cost to cover the tap and to put the line in.

**Fred Richardson:** The pump is not covered. Remember, it will be an additional cost to their monthly bills.

**Commissioner Bullard:** If, and at some point, Columbus County wants to end the contract, what

are the fees and penalties?

**Fred Richardson:** I will have to review the contract. I think it is a thirty (30) year contract, but I think we can negotiate out. Obviously, we have made tremendous capital commitments. There were \$400,000 on the first project, and there will be \$400,000 on this project, and by the time we get all these lines in , there will be ten or fifteen (\$10 M or \$15M) million dollars of cost that we put in the system and that may be over a ten (10) year period. Anytime, you are looking at ending the contract, Columbus County will have to look at making us whole.. That is only appropriate, and we can all agree to that.

**Commissioner Gore:** At some point in time, we're hoping that Utilities Commission, and the ones at the legislative level, will change the procedure, so Columbus County can get out of the billing, etc., and it will go strictly through Grand Strand, and will that be a provision in the contract, that we have with you, that when that does legally take place, that we will do that switch over then?

**Fred Richardson:** That wasn't in the contract because we had to bring that before the staff at Utilities Commission, and that would appear that we were trying to "enron" the deal, so that is not in the contract. The original contract said that, and we have this contract, so if that happens, we will go back to the original contract. That will be an action we will have to do. It will not happen automatically, we will have to do that.

**Commissioner Gore:** That will be a must when that takes place.

**Fred Richardson:** We will have to re-establish that contract.

**Commissioner Gore:** The plat that was given to us a few weeks ago is showing the line on Dothan Road going approximately 1,500 feet beyond the last house.

**Fred Richardson:** That is not my understanding, but I will check into this for you.

**Vice Chairman Memory:** I think the best thing that could happen to Columbus County is this line going in, and the next best thing that could happen is for Grand Strand Water and Sewer to pick up the billing and maintenance.

**Commissioner Norris:** I appreciate all the work that Fred has done, and he has worked hard.

**Fred Richardson:** At any time, a sewer question comes up, I will be happy to attend the meeting and offer an explanation.

**Commissioner Gore:** I would like to bring to everyone's attention. In the contract application documents, it states that Columbus County will provide for efficient operation and maintenance of this project on completion of construction thereof. That is what is in the application process.

**Fred Richardson:** I will just add to that, we are under contract to serve as your agent to do that.

**Chairman Prevatte:** All you have to do is pick up the phone.

**Fred Richardson:** That's right. We are under contract to provide that service, and we will provide that service.

**Commissioner Bullard:** So, you are saying there will be no expense to Columbus County.

**Fred Richardson:** Yes.

Chairman Prevatte requested that Kimberly Smith, Health Director, explain how the Health Department has played a role in this process. Kimberly Smith introduced Robert Strickland,

Environmental Health Specialist, and Bill Horne, Environmental Health Director. Mr. Strickland stated the following:

1. Over the last 7 ½ years, there has been only one (1) place that has perked in that area;
2. That system has not been put in, and the reason it has not been put in is that the lady who applied has a sister with a failing sewer system that will cost between \$25,000 and \$26,000 to repair;
3. That system is failing and I don't have a solution for it and the State of North Carolina doesn't have a solution for it, and that is only one (1) house; **and**
4. There are numerous houses along that road with failing sewer systems, that we don't have any solution for.

Chairman Prevatte asked if the thirty (30) houses that were on this grant were in definite need. Mr. Strickland replied stating you could see pipes running in the ditches with sewage, and you could not see the others because you are not allowed to go on their property, and you don't know what's out there.

Commissioner Gore asked how many of these houses have failing systems. Mr. Strickland replied stating he knew of five or six (5-6), but he could not say for sure about the other houses because they were not allowed to go on the property.

Chairman Prevatte asked Leroy Sellers, Public Utilities Director, have all of the thirty (30) residences agree to pay the monthly bill. Mr. Sellers replied stating that he had asked the question of how it would affect the grant if all of the residences did not agree to go on the system, and they inform me that all it would do would be to take the amount of that residence off of what the construction cost was, and that is the only answer I could get.

Chairman Prevatte stated that if we get the grant, and construction is started, and a resident decides they do not want to hookup, but if they want to sign on later, they are agreeing to pay the monthly fee. Mr. Sellers replied stating the Rural Center is assuming there will be 100% hookup

Commissioner Gore asked what the average monthly sewer bill would be. Mr. Richardson replied stating the monthly bill would be approximately \$50.00 per month.

Commissioner Bullard asked if a resident does not hook onto the system, and they have a failing sewer system, could the Environmental Health Department close them down? Mr. Horne replied stating if the resident has a failing sewer system, they are under the obligation of repairing that failing system, and if it's not on the County sewer system, it could be quite costly. Five to ten thousand (\$5,000 - \$10,000) dollars is not out of the picture for a lot of the systems that are going in today.

**Commissioner Bullard:** If any of the thirty (30) residents did not hook on at the time, but decided to hook on at a later day, would the fee be higher?

**Mr. Richardson:** The regular tapon fee would apply for these residents.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:11 P.M., Vice Chairman Memory made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**