

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 16, 2009

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:

James E. Prevatte **Chairman**
 Ricky Bullard, **Vice Chairman**
 Amon E. McKenzie
 Giles E. Byrd
 Edwin Russ
 Lynwood Norris
 Ronald Gore

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

Agenda Items #1, #2 and #3:

MEETING CALLED to ORDER, INVOCATION and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman James E. Prevatte called the March 16, 2009 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Edwin Russ. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Vice Chairman Bullard.

Agenda Item #4: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the March 02, 2009 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #5: PUBLIC INPUT:

Chairman Prevatte opened the floor for comments from the public.

No comments were received either orally or written.

Agenda Item #6: FAIR BLUFF - COLLECTION of SOLID WASTE FEES:

Al Leonard, Town Consultant, requested Board approval for the continuance of the collection of solid waste fees by Columbus County for the Town of Fair Bluff. Mayor Randy Britt stated the following:

1. We are all experiencing tough economic times countywide;
- 2., We ran across an opportunity with a trash collection company out of Dillon, South Carolina that can save the Town of Fair Bluff a significant amount of money; **and**
3. I will turn this discussion over to Al Leonard, Town Consultant, who can give you more details about this matter.

Mr. Leonard stated the following:

1. Historically, it has always been the practice that County Government would bill each residence for garbage collection and garbage disposal;
2. If you live inside a municipality, the procedure is that you get your County tax bill, and on that County tax bill, there is a rate that the Commissioners have set to cover garbage disposal;
3. The County collects that fee at the Tax Office and pays for the disposal;
4. If you live inside a town or municipality, there is a separate bill for collection, not disposal, and generally that shows up on the water bill;
5. Fair Bluff's collection contract with Waste Management expires June 30, 2009;
6. We began last fall looking at what the options may be for the Fair Bluff garbage customers;
7. Our current hauler has negotiated with us, in good faith, and a company that services Nichols, Lake View and Aynor, South Carolina has put together a package for us, and their proposal may be the better one for Fair Bluff, depending on if the County Government can

- continue with the billing format for disposal;
8. We have worked with staff on this matter and they have been very helpful;
 9. What we have asked the staff is as follows:
 - A. Could the County Government continue to set the rate;
 - B. Continue to put out the bills;
 - C. Continue to collect the disposal fee; **and**
 - D. Instead of paying for it to go to Sampson County, pay the Town of Fair Bluff for us to compensate the company in Horry County, South Carolina and the disposal fee at another landfill, which is not Sampson County, it will be the Dillon County Landfill;
 10. The concept we had talked about with the staff is do exactly what you do with the fire tax districts, we send out the bills, you collect the money, you keep a collection fee for the billing and the administration and so forth, then we remit the remainder to the fire department, and we want to be treated in this manner;
 11. As I understand it, the staff has looked at what that retainage should be, and that number is six (6%) percent, which would cover, as I understand it, the administration, the collection, and also the regional Convenience Center on the western side of the County;
 12. Our request, tonight, is as follows:
 - A. That the County Commissioners continue to set the rate;
 - B. Do the billing;
 - C. Do the collection;
 - D. Keep six (6%) percent retainage; **and**
 - E. Instead of paying Waste Management, pay the Town of Fair Bluff, and we would handle our bills on our end.

Commissioner Gore asked Mr. Leonard if he had received a firm rate from this company. Mr. Leonard replied stating no, we have not. They have given us a proposal, and until you get a contract, we do believe they have negotiated in good faith, and their contract numbers will be the same as their proposal numbers.

Commissioner Gore asked William S. Clark, County Manager, if the tonnage from the Town of Fair Bluff would have an impact on the guaranteed tonnage in the contract with Waste Management. Mr. Clark replied stating no this would not affect the guaranteed tonnage.

Commissioner McKenzie asked Mr. Leonard if he knew the amount of money that would be saved. Mr. Leonard replied stating the reason we know that we are going to save money is the proposals. The rates proposed by the Horry County Company are lower than the rates proposed by Waste Management. At face value, there is a savings there and how much that savings is, will be depending on the tonnage, and that is the unknown in that equation.

Vice Chairman Bullard stated he commended Mayor Britt and Consultant Leonard for trying to save money for the Town of Fair Bluff, and possibly passing this savings onto the citizens of Fair Bluff.

- Chairman Prevatte asked Mr. Leonard the following two (2) questions:
1. If we charge the citizens of Fair Bluff one hundred thirteen and 00/100 (\$113.00) dollars, and this company is charging less than this amount, would it appear to the citizens that the County Government is charging too much? Mr. Leonard replied stating we discussed this when we met with staff and our thoughts were, as we shared with the staff, is that there has got to be some uniformity with what you are charging the citizens within each town and municipality. We need to at least hold this rate for the first year to allow us to monitor the expenses.

Chairman Prevatte asked Mr. Leonard if, after the first year, he would come back and recommend a lower fee. Mr. Leonard replied stating he would if the County Commissioners felt like they wanted to have different rates for the different municipalities.

2. What are the ramifications of the Board approving this request? If we approve Fair Bluff doing this, then each town and municipality could follow pursuit, and if all the towns and municipalities did so, then it would affect our guaranteed tonnage with Waste Management. Mr. Leonard replied stating he would like to offer two (2) counterpoints to that concept as follows:
 - (i) It is my belief that the line share of your contract with Waste Management is the tonnage from outside of the municipalities; **and**
 - (ii) All you can contract for is County Government, you really cannot contract for

municipalities.

Commissioner McKenzie asked Mr. Leonard who approached who during this process. Mr. Leonard replied stating the Town of Fair Bluff sent out Request for Proposals for the best price.

Vice Chairman Bullard asked Mr. Clark how much savings this would be to Columbus County. Mr. Clark replied stating we would not be hauling the garbage to Sampson County and the savings would be approximately forty-six thousand and 00/100 (\$46,000.00) dollars per year.

William S. Clark, County Manager, stated that the question here is not whether the Town of Fair Bluff can do this or not, it is whether Columbus County is willing to do the billing for the Town of Fair Bluff.

Chairman Prevatte asked Mr. Clark if he was recommending this. Mr. Clark replied stating yes.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the continuance of the collection of solid waste fees for the Town of Fair Bluff, and honoring this at Fair Bluff's request, at the annual rate of one hundred thirteen and 00/100 (\$113.00) dollars, with a six (6%) percent retainage fee, seconded by Vice Chairman Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #7: WHITEVILLE DEPOT PLATFORM PROJECT - APPROVAL of CHAIRMAN to sign LETTER and RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LES HIGH to EXECUTE on BEHALF of the COUNTY of COLUMBUS a CONTRACT and any CHANGE ORDERS within the BUDGETED AMOUNT with TODD and ASSOCIATES, LLC, for the PROJECT known as WHITEVILLE DEPOT PLATFORM PROJECT:

Les High, Chairman, Vineland Station, Incorporated, requested Board approval of the following Resolution Authorizing Les High to Execute on Behalf of the County of Columbus a Contract and any Change Orders within the Budgeted Amount with Todd and Associates, LLC, for the Project Known as Whiteville Platform Project.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LES HIGH to EXECUTE on BEHALF of the COUNTY of COLUMBUS a CONTRACT and any CHANGE ORDERS within the BUDGETED AMOUNT with TODD and ASSOCIATES, LLC, for the PROJECT KNOWN as WHITEVILLE DEPOT PLATFORM PROJECT

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the County of Columbus entered into an Enhancement Agreement on the 11th day of January, 2001, for the restoration of the Historic Whiteville Depot, and, due to budget constraints, the rehabilitation/renovation of the depot platform was deleted from the scope of work at the request of the County; **and**

WHEREAS, Vineland Station, Incorporated has determined a need for Les High to be authorized to execute, on behalf of the County of Columbus, a contract with Todd Associates, LLC, for the project known as the Whiteville Depot Platform Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners that Les High, Vineland Station, Incorporated, is hereby authorized to execute, on behalf of the County of Columbus, a contract with Todd Associates, LLC, in the amount of one hundred ninety-five thousand and 00/100 (\$195,000.00) dollars, and any change orders within the budgeted amount for the Whiteville Depot Platform Project, pending concurrence with award by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

READ, APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 16th day of March, 2009.

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

APPROVED as to FORM:
/s/ **STEVEN W. FOWLER, County Attorney**

Mr. High stated the following:

1. We have bid the third phase of the Whiteville Depot Project which is the renovation of the platform on the east end;
2. We have received a low bid of one hundred eighty-five thousand and 00/100 (\$185,000.00) dollars, and we have a ninety-one thousand and 00/100 (\$91,000.00) dollars Federal grant;
3. If awarded, the Lloyd Batten Foundation for four hundred thirty-five thousand and 00/100 (\$435,000.00) dollars;
4. We do have some money left over to proceed;
5. What we are asking here tonight is a Resolution to proceed with this project and a request for concurrence with procedures; **and**
6. These are routine matters that we went through originally with the construction of the original phase.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Les High to Execute on Behalf of the County of Columbus a Contract and any Change Orders within the Budgeted Amount with Todd and Associates, LLC, for the Project Known as Whiteville Depot Platform Project, and a request for concurrence with procedures, seconded by Commissioner Byrd.

Chairman Prevatte stated he had two (2) concerns with the language in the Request for Concurrence in Procedures with the following two (2) paragraphs:

Fourth: “We have conducted an item-by-item review of the bids and have concluded that Todd & Associates, LLC, has properly prepared its bid with no irregularities and no questionable prices.”; **and**

Eight: “By signing this letter the County certifies that all applicable federal and state guidelines and policies were followed in the bid process.”

By signing this letter, we are verifying that the County was indeed a part of these procedures and we were not.

After a brief discussion, it was the general consensus of the Board for Steven W. Fowler, County Attorney, and Debbie Oliver Vick, North Carolina Department of Transportation, to discuss this matter with clarification in the verbiage in these two (2) paragraphs before the Chairman signs the said letter.

Commissioner McKenzie amended his motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Les High to Execute on Behalf of the County of Columbus C Contract and any Change Orders within the Budgeted Amount with Todd and Associates, LLC, for the Project Known as Whiteville Depot Platform Project, and a request for concurrence with procedures, after Steven W. Fowler, County Attorney, and Debbie Oliver Vick, North Carolina Department of Transportation, has clarified the verbiage in the above two (2) listed. paragraphs. Commissioner Byrd amended his second. The amended motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #8: CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP - APPROVAL of 2009-2010 GRANT APPLICATION and CONTRACT for TREATMENT:

Katherine Horne, Chair of the Criminal Justice Partnership Program, requested Board approval of the 2009-2010 Grant Application for Continuation of Implementation Funding and Contract for Professional Services Between Columbus County and its Criminal Justice Partnership Board and Rouse Counseling and Consulting Services (RCCS). Ms. Horne stated the following:

1. This is a grant where the Department of Corrections provides Columbus County eighty-nine thousand, eleven and 00/100 (\$89,011.00) dollars to provide intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment to offenders in Columbus County.
2. The grant application is basically the same as last year except that it reflects the small amount of increase that we received from the State last year;
3. We received additional money because Columbus County uses their money better than other counties, so we received an additional two thousand and 00/100 (\$2,000.00) dollars more;
4. The contract for a service provider is basically the same as the contract we have had before, just allowing for a small increase in the money;
5. We have a success rate of over fifty (50%) percent; **and**
6. This involves no county money.

Commissioner Byrd asked Ms. Horne why this contract singled out only one (1) provider when there are three (3), possibly five (5) providers within the area to do this same service. Ms. Horne replied stating that the bylaws provide that every three (3) years, we send out proposals, and that was done last year and we awarded the contract to Rickie Rouse because he provides counseling at thirteen and 00/100 (\$13.00) dollars an hour, where other agencies want to charge much more than that. We only use Mr. Rouse for those people who cannot afford treatment. If we have offenders that are Medicaid or Medicare eligible, or have insurance, we refer them to providers that work with that, because Rickie Rouse does not file for Medicare, Medicaid or insurance, and that is why his rates are so low. We are free at any time to change providers.

Vice Chairman Bullard made a motion to approve the 2009-2010 Grant Application for Continuation of Implementation Funding and Contract for Professional Services Between Columbus County and its Criminal Justice Partnership Board and Rouse Counseling and Consulting Services (RCCS), seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed. A copy of these two (2) documents will be marked as Exhibit "A" and Exhibit "B" and kept on kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 3, for review.

Agenda Item #9: AGING - DISCUSSION of NAMING COLUMBUS COUNTY DEPARTMENT of AGING as the LEAD AGENT for SENIOR SERVICES in COLUMBUS COUNTY:

Ed Worley, Aging Director, requested Board approval to name the Columbus County Department of Aging, on a permanent continuance, as the lead agent for Senior Services in Columbus County. No action will be taken. Mr. Worley stated the following:

1. All I am asking is for the Home Care and Community Block Grant with the Columbus County Department of Aging be named the continuing Lead Agent for Columbus County;
2. It always has been since the process started in 1987; **and**
3. This would eliminate the approach of the Board every year.

Chairman Prevatte stated the following:

1. Mr. Clark called me and indicated that Ed Worley, Aging Director, would like to bring before the Board the request to be the permanent lead agent for Columbus County;
2. The State already considers the Columbus County Department of Aging as the lead agent for Columbus County;
3. I requested that Mr. Worley get this information in writing;
4. The letter that is in the Board Packet does not state the Columbus County Department of Aging to be the lead agent; **and**
5. I listed "No Action Will Be Taken" on the Agenda for tonight's meeting merely to allow the Board time for discussion and clarification.

Mr. Worley stated the following for clarification:

1. We are dealing with two (2) different lead agencies;
2. We have the CAP DA with the State and we have been the lead agency for them since 1987;
3. The other Lead Agent is the Home Care and Community Block Grant, which is a \$500,000.00 to \$600,000.00 dollars block grant;
4. We already have a meeting planned for March 30, 2009;
5. We have had the Cape Fear Council of Governments to ask that we try to get the lead agent name prior to our meeting coming up one (1) month in advance; **and**
6. We are trying to break away from including this in the approval of the different funds we receive for this program.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve naming the Columbus County Department of Aging as the Lead Agent for Senior Services in Columbus County, on a permanent continuance, seconded by Commissioner Byrd.

After a lengthy discussion was conducted relative to clarification of the two (2) programs and the reason for the purpose of this discussion, Commissioner Norris withdrew his motion and Commissioner Byrd withdrew his second.

Commissioner Gore made a motion for this Agenda item to be tabled for a vote until the April 06, 2009 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #10: HEALTH - PRESENTATION of 2008 COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT:

Kimberly Smith, Health Director, presented the following information relative to the 2008 Community Health Assessment.

1. Every four (4) years, the Health Department must prepare a Community Health Assessment;
2. Community assessment is the foundation for improving and promoting the health of community members;
3. The role of community assessment is to identify factors that affect the health of a population and determine the availability of resources within the community to adequately address these factors;
4. Through collaborative efforts, forged among community leaders, public health agencies, businesses, hospitals, private practitioners, and academic centers, the community can begin to answer key questions, such as:
 - a. What are the strengths in our community?;
 - b. What health concerns do community members have?; **and**
 - c. What resources are available and what do we need in the community to address these concerns?;
5. Some primary data statistics is as follows:
 - 500 Surveys distributed and 330 responded;
 - Focus groups were conducted with 81% females and 19% males from ages under 25 to 75 years old;
 - Leading causes of death: Heart Disease/Stroke 49%, Cancer 19% and Diabetes 13%;
 - Biggest Health Issue of Concern: Drug/Alcohol Abuse 43%, Obesity 24% and Gang Violence 9%;
 - Why people do not seek medical treatment: Lack of insurance/unable to pay for doctor's visit 52%, No appointment available and long waits 19% and Transportation 16%;
 - Desires to improving health: Job Opportunities 30%, Wellness Screenings 21%, Safe Places to Walk/Play 20%;
 - Desired Screenings and Classes: Cholesterol/Blood Pressure/Diabetes 29%; Breast Cancer 21% and Prostrate Cancer, HIV/Syphilis and Family Planning 13%;
 - People lack funds for: Health Insurance 38%, Medicine 29% and Transportation 18%;
 - Support of Tobacco-Free Public Places and Buildings: Yes 64%, Yes, but not all public places and buildings 26% and No 10%;
 - Individual with Health Insurance: 67% have health insurance, 29% have no health insurance and 4% answered no;
6. Focus Group Suggested Improvements:
 - a. More job opportunities;
 - b. Positive activities/recreation for senior, youth and children to reduce the obesity epidemic;
 - c. More after school recreational activities;
 - d. More awareness of the need for preventive/wellness screenings for young children;
 - e. More medical specialists to include cardiologists and primary care physicians with less wait times;
 - f. Enhanced communication about available services;
 - g. Flexible day care hours for children, adults and seniors;
 - h. Increase utilization of Farmers Market;
 - I. Educational opportunities;
 - j. Few recycle opportunities and need to address roadside litter and proliferation of trash;
 - k. Need some handicapped accessible buildings and bathrooms;
 - l. Additional sidewalks as well as repair of the existing ones;
 - m. Healthier food choices at our restaurants and schools;
 - n. Grocery store chains and/or cooperation offering a healthy option in advertisement flyers;
 - o. More resources for schools;
 - p. Safe places to walk/play; **and**
 - q. Tobacco-free public places and buildings;
7. A copy of this assessment has been placed in each branch of our public libraries and in Administration for review.

Agenda Item #11: HEALTH - COMMUNITY CONTAINMENT TABLE TOP EXERCISE:

Kimberly Smith, Health Director, delivered the following description of and invitation to the Community Containment Table Top Exercise:

1. Marie Simons, who is heading this up, could not be here tonight;
2. I am here to invite you to the Community Containment Table Top Exercise on April 23, 2009, starting at 9:30 A.M. and ending at 1:30 P.M.;
3. This exercise will be dealing with infrastructure challenges; **and**
4. No one will know exactly what type of challenge until the scenarios are handed out at the meeting and you will be asked what the best way would be to handle that particular type of situation.

Agenda Item #12: PURCHASING - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Stuart Carroll, Purchasing Director, delivered the following departmental update to the Board.

1. Processed 977 Purchase Orders since July, 2008;
2. The Purchasing Department is a service to all departments;
3. I work with vendor relationships, property, liability and workers compensation insurance;
4. The Government Complex Road has been completed;
5. Handle the county-wide Copier Program, Fixed Assets;
6. Presently working on establishing a purchasing guide for “environmental preferable products”;
7. Working with two (2) Utilities Management companies to find savings in both the billing and rate area, as well as doing a Feasibility Assessment on some of our larger buildings;
8. Monitor the following programs:
 - Purchasing/Business Card Program
 - Cell Phone Program
 - Pagers
 - Fuel Card Program
 - Central Warehouse
 - Central Fleet
 - Vehicle Titles and requirements
 - ITS Land Phones
9. Oversee Safety:
 - Incidents in 2008 - 46, (2007 was 47)
 - Recordable incidents to OSHA - 11
 - Annual data and reporting to OSHA
 - Annual safety training to ALL employees
 - Defensive driving training
 - Monthly Safety Committee Meetings with safety audits
10. Other Projects:
 - County garage
 - Acoustical issue at Jail - Sheriff
 - Vending Program - county-wide.

Agenda Item #13: SINGLE FAMILY REHABILITATION PROGRAM (SFR 2007) BID OPENING - APPROVAL of LOW BIDDER for CASE 8:

Warren Wooten, The Wooten Company, requested Board approval of the low bidder for Case 8, from the following Bid Opening 4.

COLUMBUS COUNTY SFR 07 BID TABULATION SHEET - BID OPENING 4

TIME: 11:00 A.M.

DATE: 3/11/2009

LOCATION: Columbus County Administration Office

CASE NUMBER 8:**CONTRACTOR**

Ralph Pevia

BID AMOUNT

\$49,090

David Revels	\$36,705
Robert Strikland	\$36,838
Todd and Associates, LLC	\$35,791
D & A Construction	\$34,675

This is to notify of the bids opened and read aloud at the time, date and location shown above. The locality will award the contract based on the contractor qualifications, cost estimate and contractor scheduling.

Witnessed By: /s/ **NATALIE CARROLL** Opened By: /s/ **DALE M. STANSELL**

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the award of Case Number 8 to D&A Construction, at the bid amount of thirty-four thousand, six hundred seventy-five and 00/100 (\$34,675.00) dollars for Case Number 8 for the Single Family Rehabilitation Program, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

FIVE (5) MINUTE RECESS:

At 7:43 P.M., at the request of Commissioner Byrd, Chairman Prevatte declared a five (5) minute recess.

At 7:48 P.M., Chairman Prevatte called Regular Session back to order.

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

At 7:49 P.M., Commissioner Byrd 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 McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

March 02, 2009 **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 Number One for each Water District , respectively.

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to FEBRUARY MONTHLY WATER BILLS:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the February, 2009 adjustments to the monthly water bills.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number One for each Water District , respectively.

Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT IV - APPROVAL of RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY of APPLICANT:

Leo Green, Green Engineering, requested Board approval of the following Resolution By Governing Body of Applicant to apply for stimulus funds.

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

Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - DISCUSSION of SPECIAL HOOKUP FEE for WATER DISTRICTS:

Commissioner Giles Byrd requested the Board to conduct a discussion on a special hookup fee for all water districts.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number One for each Water District, respectively.

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

At 8:19 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to adjourn the **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, and resume Regular Session, seconded by Vice Chairman Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #18: APPOINTMENTS - COMMITTEE/BOARDS:

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

COMMITTEE	ZONE/ EB	PERSON(S)	EXPIR. DATE	BOARD ACTION
Whiteville Planning and Zoning Board	EB	Alan Capps, Sr.***	08/01/2010	TABLE
Nursing/Adult Care Home Joint Community Advisory Committee Motion: Norris Second: Byrd	EB	Judy Spivey Fleming	01/05/2010	APPOINT
Social Services Board Motion: Gore Second: Norris	EB	Edwin Russ	06/30/2010	APPOINT

*****NOTE: Alan Capps, Sr. does not reside in the Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction and is not eligible to serve as an ETJ member.**

Agenda Item #19: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Tax Refunds and Releases:

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

**TAX REFUNDS (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):
March 16, 2009**

Refunds Name: Duplessis, Summer Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year 008 Account # 14-00720 Bill # 55972 Total \$200.00
 Refund the user fee. Customer did not have a trash can in 2008.
 2403 Old Glade Rd. Whiteville NC 28472

Refunds Name: Hulon, Raymond Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year 008 Account # 08-03561 Bill # 65663 Total \$113.00
 Refund the user fee. Camper is in a campground that has a commercial hauler.
 7037 Pleasant Dr. Fayetteville NC 28306

Refunds Name: Lanier, Jerry Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year 008 Account # 01-05065 Bill # 68575 Total \$200.00
 Refund user fee. House is vacant and can removed in 2007.
 PO Box 61 Whiteville NC 28472

Refunds Name: Powell, Alaine Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year 008 Account # 16-03244 Bill # 76968 Total \$200.00
 Refund user fee. Customer is using a commercial hauler.
 15955 Andrew Jackson Hwy Fair Bluff NC 28439

Refunds Name: Simmons, Anthony Amount: \$202.94
 Value: \$24,900.00 Year 008 Account # 09-01513 Bill # 81365 Total \$222.86

Refund a portion of the property value, a portion of the Williams Fire (14.94) and a portion of the Columbus Rescue (4.98). The property was billed with the incorrect occupancy code.

2000 Walter Todd Rd. Clarendon NC 28432

Refunds	Name: Surles, Mildred	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year 008 Account # 03-24923 Bill # 85383	Total	\$166.70

Refund a portion of the user fee. Did not have the trash can for a full year.

PO Box 1262 Whiteville NC 28472

Refunds	Name: Walker, Ronnie	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year 008 Account # 02-01606 Bill # 87819	Total	\$200.00

Refund user fee on a mobile home that is being paid in the same name on another account number.

2001 Old Lumberton Rd. Whiteville NC 28472

TAX RELEASES (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):

March 16, 2009

Release the Property Value	in the name of Barnhill, Christopher	Amount:	\$170.34
Value:	\$20,900.00 Year: 2008 Account # 06-01353 Bill # 6686	Total	\$395.42

Release a portion of the property value, a portion of the Yam City fire (20.90) and a portion of the Columbus Rescue (4.18). The double wide partially burned in 2007.

Release the Property Value	in the name of Grice, Darlene	Amount:	\$306.44
Value:	\$37,600.00 Year: 2008 Account # 03-05319 Bill # 2142	Total	\$344.04

Release a portion of the property value, a portion of the Nakina Fire (30.08) and a portion of Columbus Rescue (7.52). Home was billed with incorrect occupancy code.

Release the Property Value	in the name of Grice, David	Amount:	\$581.10
Value:	\$71,300.00 Year: 2008 Account # 03-002345 Bill # 2143	Total	\$852.40

Release the value of a home, the Nakina Fire (57.04) and Columbus Rescue (14.26). The house is double listed in the name of Darlene B. Grice.

Release the Property Value	in the name of McDuffie, James L.	Amount:	\$611.84
Value:	\$6,392.00 Year: 1999-2 Account # 01-55596 Bill # 9999	Total	\$2,432.22

Release the value of a mobile home for 1999 through 2008. Release the Klondyke fire (56.19) and Columbus Rescue (12.16). The home is double listed the same name on a different account number.

Release the Property Value	in the name of McKenzie, Harvey	Amount:	\$1,411.60
Value:	\$47,200.00 Year: 2002-2 Account # 16-01642 Bill # 9999	Total	\$1,799.88

Release the value of a double wide home for 2002 through 2005. Release also the Columbus Rescue. The home was repossessed in 2001.

Release the Property Value	in the name of McKinzie, Harvey	Amount:	\$368.00
Value:	\$47,200.00 Year: 2002-2 Account # 16-01642 Bill # 9999	Total	\$368.00

Release the property value for 2002 through 2005 for the Town of Cerro Gordo. The double wide was repossessed in 2001.

Release the Property Value	in the name of Simmons, Sammy	Amount:	\$169.44
Value:	\$20,790.00 Year: 2008 Account # 09-26775 Bill # 1590	Total	\$204.68

Release the value of a boat, the Roseland Fire (12.47) and Columbus Rescue (4.16). The boat was sold in 2007.

Release the Property Value	in the name of Stewart, Margaret	Amount:	\$223.31
Value:	\$27,400.00 Year: 2008 Account # 01-90200 Bill # 4554	Total	\$228.79

Release a portion of the property value and a portion of the Columbus Rescue. Billing error, 40' lot is in the swamp.

Release the User Fee	in the name of Anderson, Andrew	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 05-00083 Bill # 5650	Total	\$200.00

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

Release the User Fee	in the name of Bass, Ronald	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 13-01470 Bill # 6930	Total	\$113.00

Release user fee. House is used for storage. No trash can here.

Release the User Fee	in the name of Brown, Jean	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 11-04021 Bill # 9642	Total	\$200.00

Release the user fee. House vacant and trash can removed in 2007.

Release the User Fee in the name of Colon, Edwin Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 11-03041 Bill # 3356 Total \$200.00

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

Release the User Fee in the name of Enzor, Dwayne Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 16-04112 Bill # 6802 Total \$200.00

Release the user fee. Mobile home is vacant and does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Enzor, Dwayne Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 16-00406 Bill # 6804 Total \$200.00

Release the user fee. House vacant and has no trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of George, Sharon Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 14-03348 Bill # 9869 Total \$200.00

Release the user fee. Home burned years ago.

Release the User Fee in the name of Grice, David Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 03-02345 Bill # 4204 Total \$16.91

Release a portion of the user fee. Property is double listed in the name of Darlene B. Grice.

Release the User Fee in the name of Lennon, Perry Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 12-15840 Bill # 9169 Total \$400.00

Release two user fees. Both houses are vacant and have no trash cans.

Release the User Fee in the name of McCray, Nathan Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2005-2 Account # 06-24180 Bill # 9999 Total \$570.00

Release the user fee for 2005 through 2008. House is vacant and does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Nichols, Ronald Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 11-02507 Bill # 4787 Total \$200.00

Release the user fee. House vacant with no trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Snowten, Alisha Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007-2 Account # 16-05606 Bill # 9999 Total \$393.00

Release the user fee for 2007 and 2008. There was not a trash can here for those years.

Release the User Fee in the name of Suggs, Daniel Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 01-90950 Bill # 5204 Total \$200.00

Release the user fee. House vacant with no trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Ward, Joyce Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 09-32220 Bill # 8435 Total \$200.00

Release the user fee. House vacant with no trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Woodard, James Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 09-05557 Bill # 1217 Total \$400.00

Release two user fees. Both mobile homes are unlivable and have no trash cans.

B. Budget Amendments:

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

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	10-5161-512100	FP Salaries	10,268
Revenue	10-3510-430031	FP State Grant	10,268
Expenditure	10-5900-550025	Lottery Disbursement	35,000
Revenue	10-3210-432315	Lottery Funds	35,000
Expenditure	14-4311-598000	Transfer to General Fund	1,500

Revenue	10-3431-489000	Misc Revenue Sheriff	1,500
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Agenda Item #20: COMMENTS:

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

B. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Vice Chairman Bullard:** I would like to welcome Kip McClary as our Public Utilities/Solid Waste Director.
2. **Commissioner Russ:** stated the following:
 - A. I would like to welcome Kip McClary, also;
 - B. I visited Southeastern Community College and the buildings and grounds are in bad shape and in need of repair;
 - C. I attended the Cape Fear Council of Governments Banquet with three hundred, plus, (300+), people in attendance, and Commissioner Lynwood Norris was nominated and elected as the Chairman.
3. **Commissioner Norris:** I would like to welcome Kip McClary.
4. **Chairman Prevatte:** The Clerk has been contacted by Columbus Regional Healthcare System relative to the date of April 20, 2009, as listed in the Dates to Remember, for the presentation of the audit, to be changed to May 04, 2009. I need to know what the pleasure of the Board is.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Byrd made a motion to change the date for the presentation of the Columbus Regional Healthcare System Audit to May 04, 2009, at 5:00 P.M., seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

C. County Manager (William S. Clark): stated the following:

1. We have started the Budget Process; **and**
2. We are finishing up the Personnel Handbook and should be able to present to the Board in the near future.

Agenda Item #21: ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:29 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Gore. 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, March 16, 2009

7:49 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 E. Prevatte, **Chairman**
Ricky Bullard, **Vice Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie
Giles E. (Buddy) Byrd
Edwin Russ
Lynwood Norris
Ronald Gore

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:49 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 #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

March 02, 2009 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the March 02, 2009 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to FEBRUARY MONTHLY WATER BILLS:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following February, 2009 adjustments to the monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District I.

DISTRICT I ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2009

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACCT #</u>	<u>ACCT NAME</u>	<u>ADJ AMOUNT</u>	<u>REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT</u>
2/2/2009	200470	HENRY MILLIGAN	25.00	DISCONNECT FEE
2/3/2009	603170.0097	MARANDA PUGH	-72.00	METER READ WRONG

2/6/2009	103000.0098	BOBBY STANLEY	-39976.20	METER READ WRONG
2/10/2009	600540.0096	CHRIS PANEL	29.00	CREDIT REFUNDED
2/11/2009	101545.0098	SHANNON PARKER	100.00	TAP FEE
2/12/2009	100562.0092	CHERYL TAYLOR BANKS	-40.00	METER READ WRONG
2/17/2009	206020.0098	MICHELLE LUPO	25.00	NSF DRAFT
2/17/2009	206020.0098	MICHELLE LUPO	25.00	NSF DRAFT FEE
2/19/2009	201360.0095	MELISSA MARLOWE	-42.00	BILLING ERROR
2/19/2009	201360.0095	MELISSA MARLOWE	29.00	CREDIT TRANSFERRED
2/19/2009	403530	MELISSA MARLOWE	-29.00	CREDIT TRANSFERRED
2/24/2009	101290	LORETTA HEATH	-30.00	BILLING ERROR
2/24/2009	204640	SUE ANN BUTLER	-30.00	BILLING ERROR
2/24/2009	206020	JERRY GARRELL	-30.00	CUT OFF FEE WAIVED
2/24/2009	603905	JERRY GARRELL	-26.00	POSTING ERROR
2/24/2009	603910	JERRY GARRELL	56.00	POSTING ERROR
2/24/2009	300271	KENT HARRELSON	-24.00	CUST LEAK
2/24/2009	300271	KENT HARRELSON	-30.00	CUT OFF FEE WAIVED
2/25/2009	204890	BETTY BELLAMY	-20.00	METER READ WRONG
2/25/2009	201355	CECILA AUSTIN	-30.00	CUT OFF FEE WAIVED
2/25/2009	201355	CECILA AUSTIN	-50.00	DEPOSIT APPLIED

TOTAL: (40,140.20)

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the February, 2009 adjustments to the monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District I, seconded by Vice Chairman Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - DISCUSSION of SPECIAL HOOKUP FEE for WATER DISTRICTS:

Commissioner Giles Byrd requested the Board to conduct a discussion on a special hookup fee for all water districts. Mr. McClary stated the following:

1. Presently, for a residential customer, and that is generally a 3/4" tap, our tap fee is five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars, thereabouts;
2. The hard costs for the water taps are as follows:
 - A. Residential - 3/4": two hundred fifty-one and 00/100 (\$251.00) dollars, which pays for the pipe, the meter, the connection saddle, shut-off valve, and that kind of stuff, up to the meter box;
 - B. Commercial - 1": somewhere in the neighborhood of five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars;
 - C. Commercial - 2": somewhere in the neighborhood of seven hundred fifty and 00/100 (\$750.00) dollars;
3. These hard costs do not reflect employees' salaries, equipment costs, fuel costs, transportation to and from the work site;
4. This is simply hard costs for the material;
5. It has been suggested that we do some type of discounted rate to encourage more customers to connect during the period that we are working with Water District IV;
6. As long as the Board is aware that these costs are hard costs, and if we do generate a lot of additional customers, that it could impact our operational budget because of buying additional materials for these connects, and the fuel costs associated with it;

7. I think it is a good idea to encourage people to sign up, but we need to be aware of the cost factor involved.

Commissioner Byrd asked Mr. McClary what the tap fee was for the hard costs that had been stated. Mr. McClary replied stating the following:

Residential - 3/4"	\$500.00;
Commercial - 1"	\$750.00; and
Commercial - 2"	\$1,000.00.

Commercial Byrd stated the following:

1. I think this Board needs to do something to entice other customers to tie on because that line is costing us the same amount to lie there dormant as it would be if fully used;
2. The allotment of two thousand (2,000) gallons is not enough water. We should look at allotting four thousand (4,000) gallons, as the base amount, in lieu of two thousand (2,000) gallons;
3. We need to see the figures on the number of customers who are utilizing more than two thousand (2,000) gallons per month;
4. It would be cheaper for the customers if we increased the base rate, if necessary, in lieu of charging them for additional gallons used over two thousand (2,000); **and**
5. We need to see the figures for the actual water usage, per household, to give us the proper direction.

After a lengthy discussion was conducted relative to the pros and cons of offering the special hookup fee, Commissioner Byrd made a motion to set a special hookup fee at the actual hard costs, to begin on May 01, 2009, for a period of ninety (90) days, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:19 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman Bullard. 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, March 16, 2009

7:49 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 E. Prevatte, **Chairman**
Ricky Bullard, **Vice Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie
Giles E. (Buddy) Byrd
Edwin Russ
Lynwood Norris
Ronald Gore

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:49 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 #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

March 02, 2009 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the March 02, 2009 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to FEBRUARY MONTHLY WATER BILLS:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following February, 2009 adjustments to the monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District II.

DISTRICT II ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2009

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACCT #</u>	<u>ACCT NAME</u>	<u>ADJ AMOUNT</u>	<u>REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT</u>
2/1/2009	140815.0097	UNITED COASTAL HOMES	-50.00	BILLING ERROR
2/3/2009	130170.0098	PATRICIA NEALEY	25.00	BILLING ERROR

2/3/2009	130190.0098	PATRICIA NEALEY	-25.00	BILLING ERROR
2/4/2009	121410.0094	MAMIE DAVIS	-39265.00	METER READ WRONG
2/3/2009	130190.0098	PATRICIA NEALEY	-30.00	BILLING ERROR
2/3/2009	130190.0098	PATRICIA NEALEY	-5.00	BILLING ERROR
2/4/2009	131726.0098	JOHN HAMMOND	-25.00	BILLING ERROR
2/5/2009	120836.0097	JANICE BLACKWELL	250.00	TAP FEE ERROR
2/6/2009	121390.0094	MAMIE DAVIS	-25.00	BILLING ERROR
2/6/2009	110585	DENISE ANDREWS	149.00	CREDIT REFUNDED
2/10/2009	140815.0097	UNITED COASTAL HOMES	50.00	CREDIT REFUNDED
2/11/2009	143340.0097	PAPA G'S	-25.00	BILLING ERROR
2/11/2009	143340.0097	PAPA G'S	-50.00	SECURITY DEPOSIT
2/11/2009	143340.0097	PAPA G'S	20.00	CREDIT REFUNDED
2/17/2009	142060.0098	JOHN C LENNON	25.00	NSF DRAFT
2/17/2009	142060.0098	JOHN C LENNON	25.00	NSF DRAFT FEE
2/18/2009	120080	ANNIE LAWRENCE	-74.00	CUST LEAK
2/18/2009	132610.0095	WAYNE MOODY	-50.00	CREDIT REFUNDED
2/18/2009	112167.0098	TERRI KING	-16.67	CREDIT REFUNDED
2/20/2009	112250	JAMES M. BRITT	-5.00	BILLING ERROR
TOTAL:			(39,101.67)	

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the adjustments to the February, 2009 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District II, seconded by Vice Chairman Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - DISCUSSION of SPECIAL HOOKUP FEE for WATER DISTRICTS:

Commissioner Giles Byrd requested the Board to conduct a discussion on a special hookup fee for all water districts. Mr. McClary stated the following:

1. Presently, for a residential customer, and that is generally a 3/4" tap, our tap fee is five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars, thereabouts;
2. The hard costs for the water taps are as follows:
 - A. Residential - 3/4": two hundred fifty-one and 00/100 (\$251.00) dollars, which pays for the pipe, the meter, the connection saddle, shut-off valve, and that kind of stuff, up to the meter box;
 - B. Commercial - 1": somewhere in the neighborhood of five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars;
 - C. Commercial - 2": somewhere in the neighborhood of seven hundred fifty and 00/100 (\$750.00) dollars;
3. These hard costs do not reflect employees' salaries, equipment costs, fuel costs, transportation to and from the work site;
4. This is simply hard costs for the material;
5. It has been suggested that we do some type of discounted rate to encourage more customers to connect during the period that we are working with Water District IV;
6. As long as the Board is aware that these costs are hard costs, and if we do generate a lot of additional customers, that it could impact our operational budget because of buying additional materials for these connects, and the fuel costs associated with it;
7. I think it is a good idea to encourage people to sign up, but we need to be aware of the cost

factor involved.

Commissioner Byrd asked Mr. McClary what the tap fee was for the hard costs that had been stated. Mr. McClary replied stating the following:

Residential - 3/4"	\$500.00;
Commercial - 1"	\$750.00; and
Commercial - 2"	\$1,000.00.

Commercial Byrd stated the following:

1. I think this Board needs to do something to entice other customers to tie on because that line is costing us the same amount to lie there dormant as it would be if fully used;
2. The allotment of two thousand (2,000) gallons is not enough water. We should look at allotting four thousand (4,000) gallons, for the base amount, in lieu of two thousand (2,000) gallons;
3. We need to see the figures on the number of customers who are utilizing more than two thousand (2,000) gallons per month;
4. It would be cheaper for the customers if we increased the base rate, if necessary, in lieu of charging them for additional gallons used over two thousand (2,000); **and**
5. We need to see the figures for the actual water usage, per household, to give us the proper direction.

After a lengthy discussion was conducted relative to the pros and cons of offering the special hookup fee, Commissioner Byrd made a motion to set a special hookup fee at the actual hard costs, to begin on May 01, 2009, for a period of ninety (90) days, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:19 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman Bullard. 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, March 16, 2009

7:49 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 E. Prevatte, **Chairman**
Ricky Bullard, **Vice Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie
Giles E. (Buddy) Byrd
Edwin Russ
Lynwood Norris
Ronald Gore

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:49 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 #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

March 02, 2009 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the March 02, 2009 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to FEBRUARY MONTHLY WATER BILLS:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following February, 2009 adjustments to the monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III.

DISTRICT III ADJUSTMENT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2009

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACCT #</u>	<u>NAME ON ACCT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT</u>
02/18/2009	341199.0098	Armelda Jones	11.67	Credit Refunded

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the adjustment to the February, 2009 monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III, seconded by Vice Chairman. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - DISCUSSION of SPECIAL HOOKUP FEE for WATER DISTRICTS:

Commissioner Giles Byrd requested the Board to conduct a discussion on a special hookup fee for all water districts. Mr. McClary stated the following:

1. Presently, for a residential customer, and that is generally a 3/4" tap, our tap fee is five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars, thereabouts;
2. The hard costs for the water taps are as follows:
 - A. Residential - 3/4": two hundred fifty-one and 00/100 (\$251.00) dollars, which pays for the pipe, the meter, the connection saddle, shut-off valve, and that kind of stuff, up to the meter box;
 - B. Commercial - 1": somewhere in the neighborhood of five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars;
 - C. Commercial - 2": somewhere in the neighborhood of seven hundred fifty and 00/100 (\$750.00) dollars;
3. These hard costs do not reflect employees' salaries, equipment costs, fuel costs, transportation to and from the work site;
4. This is simply hard costs for the material;
5. It has been suggested that we do some type of discounted rate to encourage more customers to connect during the period that we are working with Water District IV;
6. As long as the Board is aware that these costs are hard costs, and if we do generate a lot of additional customers, that it could impact our operational budget because of buying additional materials for these connects, and the fuel costs associated with it;
7. I think it is a good idea to encourage people to sign up, but we need to be aware of the cost factor involved.

Commissioner Byrd asked Mr. McClary what the tap fee was for the hard costs that had been stated. Mr. McClary replied stating the following:

Residential - 3/4"	\$500.00;
Commercial - 1"	\$750.00; and
Commercial - 2"	\$1,000.00.

Commercial Byrd stated the following:

1. I think this Board needs to do something to entice other customers to tie on because that line is costing us the same amount to lie there dormant as it would be if fully used;
2. The allotment of two thousand (2,000) gallons is not enough water. We should look at allotting four thousand (4,000) gallons, as the base amount, in lieu of two thousand (2,000) gallons;
3. We need to see the figures on the number of customers who are utilizing more than two thousand (2,000) gallons per month;
4. It would be cheaper for the customers if we increased the base rate, if necessary, in lieu of

- charging them for additional gallons used over two thousand (2,000); **and**
5. We need to see the figures for the actual water usage, per household, to give us the proper direction.

After a lengthy discussion was conducted relative to the pros and cons of offering the special hookup fee, Commissioner Byrd made a motion to set a special hookup fee at the actual hard costs, to begin on May 01, 2009, for a period of ninety (90) days, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:19 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman Bullard. 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, March 16, 2009

7:49 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 E. Prevatte, **Chairman**
Ricky Bullard, **Vice Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie
Giles E. (Buddy) Byrd
Edwin Russ
Lynwood Norris
Ronald Gore

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:49 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 #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

March 02, 2009 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the March 02, 2009 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT IV - APPROVAL of RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY of APPLICANT:

Leo Green, Green Engineering, requested Board approval of the following Resolution By Governing Body of Applicant to apply for stimulus funds for Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV.

RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF APPLICANT

WHEREAS, the Federal Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987 and Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 and the North Carolina Water Infrastructure Act of 2005 (NCGS 159G) have authorized the making of loans and grants to aid eligible units of government in financing the

cost of construction of wastewater or drinking water system improvements, and

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV has need for and intends to construct a water system project described as Water Supply, Elevated Storage and Distribution System Development, and

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV intends to request state (loan or grant) assistance for the project,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COLUMBUS COUNTY:

That Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV, the Applicant, will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the project, if approved for a State (loan or grant) award.

That the Applicant will adopt and place into effect on or before completion of the project a schedule of fees and charges and other available funds which will provide adequate funds for proper operation, maintenance, and administration of the system and the repayment of all principal and interest on the debt.

That the governing body of the Applicant agrees to include in the loan agreement a provision authorizing the State Treasurer, upon failure of the Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV to make scheduled repayment of the loan, to withhold from Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV any State funds that would otherwise be distributed to the local government unit in an amount sufficient to pay all sums then due and payable to the State as a repayment of the loan.

That the Applicant will provide for efficient operation and maintenance of the project on completion of construction thereof.

That William S. Clark, County Manager, the Authorized Official, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the Applicant with the State of North Carolina for a (loan or grant) to aid in the construction of the project described above.

That the Authorized Official, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the project: to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

That the Applicant has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to Federal and State grants and loans pertaining thereto.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 16th day of March, 2009 at the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, Whiteville, North Carolina.

COLUMBUS COUNTRY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ **JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**

ATTESTED BY:/s/ **JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board****CERTIFICATION BY RECORDING OFFICER**

The undersigned duly qualified Clerk of Columbus County Board of Commissioners does hereby certify:

That the attached Resolution is a true and correct copy of the Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the State of North Carolina, as regularly adopted at a legally convened meeting of Columbus County Board of Commissioners duly held on the 16th day of March, 2009; and, further, that such resolution has been fully recorded in the journal of proceedings and records in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 16th day of March, 2009.

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

Mr. Green stated the following:

1. A portion of the Federal stimulus dollars is coming into North Carolina in the form of loans and grants for a sewer system;
2. We are specifically interested tonight in talking about the funding for water systems through the State Revolving Fund Program;
3. There are about between sixty or seventy million dollars that has been allocated out of the total national funds for North Carolina water programs, that is the good news;
4. The bad news is the Letters of Intent that were sent in by all public utilities systems, local governments and what have you, Columbus County being one of them, total \$2.5 billion for sixty or seventy million dollars;
5. Columbus County has filed that Letter of Intent for \$2.6 million;
6. The handout I have distributed is a part of the loan application that we have filed on behalf of Columbus County;
7. We have incorporated into the District IV system an additional \$2.6 million project consisting of line extensions in and around the Hallsboro area;
8. That project was originally denied, four or five years ago;
9. Most of the coordinates were obtained at that time, the remainder of the coordinates are being obtained presently;
10. That is a shovel-ready project;
11. We have the environmental paperwork, we have the DOT encroachments, we have soil erosion control, that project is ready to go;
12. We felt like, in looking at the scoring, and how they typically score projects, that if we incorporated that with a bigger project, should be a significant liberal commitment, together with the \$2.6 million request, and your priority would surely be given more consideration;
13. It was initially advertised, at that time, most of this money would be grant money, but since that initial Letter of Intent went in, they have now formulated their participation, and the participation now is going to be one-half (1/2) grant, and another one-half (1/2) loan at zero (0%) percent interest;

14. You have a total project of eight million, three hundred seventy-two thousand, fifty-three and 00/100 (\$8,372,053.00) dollars, and you can look at the distribution of funding as follows:
- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cash | \$174,846.00 | County already invested - 2004 |
| General Obligation Bonds | \$4,113,000.00 | Early 2000's |
| Received Grant | \$1,501,000.00 | Rural Development |
| Sub-Total: | \$5,788,846.00 | |
15. We are going to apply for an additional two million, five hundred eighty-three thousand, two hundred seven and 00/100 (\$2,583,207.00) dollars;
16. Hopefully, the Public Hearing will be the latter part of this month on that;
17. Those grants and loans will be awarded sometime in mid April, 2009;
18. That corresponds with the status of the Water District IV project;
19. In order to do that, you file a formal application, and with that application, the Resolution needs to accompany it;
20. The bottom line of the Resolution is that you are authorizing the County Manager to sign the application, and any other supporting documents that might come along with the project, as well;
21. We have completed all the plan specifications, encroachments and what have you;
22. All the information will be submitted to the Rural Development by the end of this week;
23. We have projected that Rural Development will approve the project sometime around the first of April;
24. We have set a tentative bid date of May 14, 2008, which is four (4) days before the May 18, 2009 Board Meeting, and we hope to have bids at that time so we can make recommendations at that time; **and**
25. We are close to bidding the project and get construction on the way.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the Resolution By Governing Body of Applicant, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - DISCUSSION of SPECIAL HOOKUP FEE for WATER DISTRICTS:

Commissioner Giles Byrd requested the Board to conduct a discussion on a special hookup fee for all water districts. Mr. McClary stated the following:

1. Presently, for a residential customer, and that is generally a 3/4" tap, our tap fee is five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars, thereabouts;
2. The hard costs for the water taps are as follows:
 - A. Residential - 3/4": two hundred fifty-one and 00/100 (\$251.00) dollars, which pays for the pipe, the meter, the connection saddle, shut-off valve, and that kind of stuff, up to the meter box;
 - B. Commercial - 1": somewhere in the neighborhood of five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars;
 - C. Commercial - 2": somewhere in the neighborhood of seven hundred fifty and 00/100 (\$750.00) dollars;
3. These hard costs do not reflect employees' salaries, equipment costs, fuel costs, transportation to and from the work site;
4. This is simply hard costs for the material;

5. It has been suggested that we do some type of discounted rate to encourage more customers to connect during the period that we are working with Water District IV;
6. As long as the Board is aware that these costs are hard costs, and if we do generate a lot of additional customers, that it could impact our operational budget because of buying additional materials for these connects, and the fuel costs associated with it;
7. I think it is a good idea to encourage people to sign up, but we need to be aware of the cost factor involved.

Commissioner Byrd asked Mr. McClary what the tap fee was for the hard costs that had been stated. Mr. McClary replied stating the following:

Residential - 3/4"	\$500.00;
Commercial - 1"	\$750.00; and
Commercial - 2"	\$1,000.00.

Commercial Byrd stated the following:

1. I think this Board needs to do something to entice other customers to tie on because that line is costing us the same amount to lie there dormant as it would be if fully used;
2. The allotment of two thousand (2,000) gallons is not enough water. We should look at allotting four thousand (4,000) gallons as the base amount, in lieu of two thousand (2,000) gallons;
3. We need to see the figures on the number of customers who are utilizing more than two thousand (2,000) gallons per month;
4. It would be cheaper for the customers if we increased the base rate, if necessary, in lieu of charging them for additional gallons used over two thousand (2,000); **and**
5. We need to see the figures for the actual water usage, per household, to give us the proper direction.

After a lengthy discussion was conducted relative to the pros and cons of offering the special hookup fee, Commissioner Byrd made a motion to set a special hookup fee at the actual hard costs, to begin on May 01, 2009, for a period of ninety (90) days, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:19 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman Bullard. 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, March 16, 2009

7:49 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 E. Prevatte, **Chairman**
 Ricky Bullard, **Vice Chairman**
 Amon E. McKenzie
 Giles E. (Buddy) Byrd
 Edwin Russ
 Lynwood Norris
 Ronald Gore

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:49 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 #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

March 02, 2009 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the March 02, 2009 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - APPROVAL of ADJUSTMENTS to FEBRUARY MONTHLY WATER BILLS:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following February, 2009 adjustments to the monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District V..

DISTRICT V ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2009

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACCT #</u>	<u>ACCT NAME</u>	<u>ADJ AMOUNT</u>	<u>REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT</u>
2/1/2009	800646.0098	KENNETH HUGHES	-74.90	BILLING ERROR
2/3/2009	800440	GARY WARD	-30.00	CUT OFF FEE WAIVED

2/3/2009	703500.0098	LEIGH ANN WARD	-50.00	SECURITY DEPOSIT
2/3/2009	800505.0098	ETHEL ARMA KOVITCH	-41.00	METER READING ERROR
2/4/2009	800610.0098	GUY & BETTY GORE	-21.00	METER READING ERROR
2/4/2009	800673.0098	DANIEL BALL	-74.90	BILLING ERROR
2/4/2009	800670.0098	TOMMY WARD	-18.90	BILLING ERROR
2/4/2009	800643.0098	BARRY LEONARD	-21.00	BILLING ERROR
2/4/2009	800645.0098	NELLIE NORRIS	-21.00	BILLING ERROR
2/4/2009	709932	WAYNE & CONNIE COX	-21.00	CUST DISCONNECTED
2/4/2009	800692	ROY GORE	-77.00	BILLING ERROR
2/5/2009	709912	DANNY CHESTNUTT	-100.00	TAP FEE ADJUSTMENT
2/6/2009	800472.0098	VIOLET GORE	-21.00	BILLING ERROR
2/6/2009	800478.0098	E. MAGDALENE CRIBB	60.00	BILLING ERROR
2/6/2009	703500	LEIGH ANN WARD	8.00	CREDIT REFUNDED
2/12/2009	800144.0098	LUCILLE INMAN	-18.90	BILLING ERROR
2/12/2009	701250.0097	NC DEPT OF CORRECTION	22,530.00	MANUAL BILL
2/23/2009	709830	HENRY HEWITT	-30.00	CUST LEAK
2/25/2009	704600	GUIDEWAY SCHOOL	-5.00	PENALTY WAIVED
2/25/2009	800117	NAKINA SCHOOL	-5.00	PENALTY WAIVED
TOTAL			21,967.40	

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the February, 2009 adjustments to the monthly water bills for Columbus County Water and Sewer District V, seconded by Vice Chairman Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

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ADJOURNMENT:

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APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman