

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 02, 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 first 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 02, 2009 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session 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 Ricky Bullard.

Agenda Item #4: PRESENTATION - RETIREMENT PLAQUE for JACQUELINE D. ROSEBORO:

Chairman Prevatte presented the following retirement plaque to Jacqueline D. Roseboro, Cooperative Extension Director.

**PRESENTED TO
JACQUELINE D. ROSEBORO
IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION
FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND LOYALTY**

TO

**COLUMBUS COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
02-01-1974 - 02-28-2009**

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COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Ms. Roseboro stated that it had been a pleasure to serve the citizens of Columbus County for the past thirty-five (35) years. The Board members stated the following.

Commissioner McKenzie: stated the following:

1. It has been a pleasure to work with you;
2. Your tenure for this length of time speaks for itself;
3. You have displayed professionalism in your position;
4. You have supervised and controlled your people in a business manner; **and**
5. You have been an exemplary employee.

Commissioner Russ: It is evident you have served your position well and I know you will give good advice to the next person who fills this position.

Commissioner Norris: You have done a super job and I truly appreciate all the help you have rendered to the people of Columbus County during your tenure.

Commissioner Byrd: You have done a fine job and we will truly miss you.

Vice Chairman Bullard: You have done an exceptionally good job any your light will be shining

for many years to come.

Commissioner Gore: stated the following:

1. The thirty-five (35) years of employment speaks highly of your dedication to your job;
2. You have truly bettered yourself and the lives of many Columbus County citizens;
3. I wish you well and much success in whatever endeavor you may choose in life; **and**
4. I appreciate all the many years of service you gave to Columbus County.

Chairman Prevatte: stated the following:

1. I have known this lady for many years;
2. She is one that you can always depend on; **and**
3. It has been a pleasure to work with her and I wish her well.

Agenda Item #5: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the February 16, 2009 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #6: PUBLIC INPUT:

Chairman Prevatte opened the floor for public input. The following spoke.

1. **Robert Adams (private citizen):** stated the following:
 - A. I would like to speak on the potential one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$ ¢) cent Sales Tax;
 - B. If this tax should materialize, I think we need to see that the elderly and the handicapped in this county is took care of;
 - C. The elderly and the handicapped should be the number one priority for County government; **and**
 - D. Our Aging Department is in bad need of a larger building to be able to carry on the beneficial services they deliver.
2. **Lofton Cox (private citizen):** stated the following:
 - A. Two (2) weeks ago, I attended a Community Meeting held at Guideway Elementary School that was conducted by the Sheriff's Department;
 - B. My question to this Board is "Does the Sheriff's Department have the capabilities they need to communicate with each other?";
 - C. I would like to know if there is adequate communication from the Riegelwood area to the Fair Bluff;
 - D. With only six (6) deputies patrolling this large county, it is very crucial that they have the means for solid communication with each other;
 - E. This problem with communication came up several years ago and newer was addressed or improved greatly;
 - F. This problem needs to be handled because it has been put off long enough; **and**
 - G. I would like to see something done about this.
3. **Gene Soles (County Employee):** stated the following:
 - A. I would like to know where my job stands;
 - B. I have heard a lot of rumors; **and**
 - C. I would like to know the straight of my position with the County.

Chairman Prevatte replied stating you need to check with William S. Clark, County Manager, for this information.

Item #7: CDBG # 08-C-1819 SCATTERED SITE PROGRAM - APPROVAL of AGREEMENT for 2008 CDBG ADMINISTRATIVE and HOUSING SERVICES between COUNTY of COLUMBUS and THE ADAMS COMPANY, INCORPORATED:

William S. Clark, County Manager, requested Board approval of the Agreement for the 2008 CDBG Administrative and Housing Services between the County of Columbus and The Adams Company, Incorporated. Chairman Prevatte stated the following:

1. At the May 19, 2008 Board Meeting, the Board approved The Adams Company,

- Incorporated, to be the administrator of the 2008 Scattered Site CDBG Program in the amount of \$400,000, contingent upon receiving official award;
2. I was told that this Agreement had been approved and I have already signed this document on behalf of the Board;
 3. It was brought to my attention by the Clerk that this Agreement needed to be brought to the Board for approval; **and**
 4. I need to know what the pleasure of the Board is on the approval of this Agreement, and whether any future agreements, of this type, need to come before the Board after the Board has previously approved the award of the Administrator.

After a brief discussion among the Board members, it was the general consensus of the Board for the Chairman to sign any future agreements, of this type, after the Board has previously approved the award of the Administrator.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the Agreement for the 2008 CDBG Administrative and Housing Services between the County of Columbus and The Adams Company, Incorporated, seconded by Commissioner Russ. 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 3, for review.

Agenda Item #8: SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE - APPROVAL of POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL \$120,643 CURRENT EXPENSE FUNDS for NEW APPLIED TECHNOLOGIES BUILDING:

Dr. Kathy Matlock, President of Southeastern Community College, requested Board approval for possible additional Current Expense Funds to be utilized for a new Applied Technologies Building.

The Honorable Spruell R. Britt, Chairman of the Southeastern Community College Board of Trustees, stated the following:

1. In 2007 - 2008, the State appropriated \$8 million for the Community College System for capital improvement for long-range planning;
2. We are asking the Governing Body's support on **long-range planning**;
3. The college received \$35,000 for a Facilities Master Plan which was done by an architectural firm out of Raleigh;
4. In that plan, they identified, using quite a number of criteria, the various things that were important to the college and how best to serve the college's needs and the needs of the community;
5. Through their analysis, they came up with a list of projects;
6. Number one, on their list, was an Applied Technology Building which refers to vocational education;
7. Their plan was, the best way to spend the money, if some did become available, would be to do the Applied Technology Building, and then to work on these other things after that;
8. A number of things would be moved to that building;
9. What we are asking you tonight, is to sign on in support of that;
10. We have some estimated costs to operate that building in the sum of \$120,000, on an annual basis, if the money did become available, and we would get a bond referendum and float it; **and**
11. If the possibility does arise, and they find the money somehow, and we have the opportunity of that building, we would certainly come back before the Board asking for some type of support;

Chairman Prevatte stated that after talking with Rhone Sasser, discovery was made that this **is not an automatic obligation on our part**. Mr. Sasser stated that if they did get the money to build the building, that we will seek funding, and if we can't obtain the necessary funding, there would be no need to build the building.

Commissioner McKenzie asked if this is part of what is required to seek this funding. Mr. Britt replied stating the signature on the application is needed to get \$90,000 to start the design on this first project. This \$90,000 will not even get us through the design stage. This is for the additional money that has been appropriated to come to us. On the application we have to have, you might say, the support of the Governing Body of Columbus County.

Commissioner Gore asked if this is Phase One, what is Phase Two, Phase Three, etc.? Mr. Britt replied stating it would be renovations and various other things. Phase One is starting on the building project to get it going and try to get a certain amount of design, and I will turn it over to Betty Jo Sanders Ramsey that can provide you with more technical details. Ms. Ramsey stated the following:

1. This project spans a six (6) year time frame for the facility master plan;
2. Phase One includes the new Applied Technology Building and additions and renovations to other buildings;
3. Phase Two includes an addition to our Building G, our Student Activity Center, to bring a more comprehensive activity center and gym area, etc.;
4. Phase Three includes additions and renovations to Buildings C and T, our Science Building, to get more space needed for our science projects, and Building T, more space for our industrial type training;
5. Phase Four, which is way out in the future, we are talking about an additional storage building for maintenance supplies, equipment, etc.;
6. Last on the list would be a new Fine Arts Building; **and**
7. On Phase One, with the new Applied Technology Building, our architect saw that it was sometimes more cost saving to build a new building first to be able to create the domino effect to get your students into the state-of-the-art building first, and then have the other buildings where you could renovate and they would be better suited for other needs as opposed to some of the new high technology that is required in today's economy and training.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion for the Columbus County Board of Commissioners to support the application being submitted by Southeastern Community College to the North Carolina Community college System, Tentative Approval for Capital Improvement, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #9: **FAMILIES FIRST - APPROVAL of LEASE RENEWAL:** Vickie Pait, Executive Director, requested Board approval of the renewal of the following Lease Agreement for the Families First property, for an additional ten (10) years.

**NORTH CAROLINA
COLUMBUS COUNTY**

LEASE AGREEMENT

THIS LEASE AGREEMENT, entered into by and between the COUNTY OF COLUMBUS, a North Carolina political subdivision, hereinafter called "LESSOR," and FAMILIES FIRST, INCORPORATED, a nonprofit private corporation associated with Columbus County, hereinafter called "LESSEE."

W I T N E S S E T H :

WHEREAS, subject to the terms and conditions herein set out, LESSOR does hereby let and lease unto LESSEE, and LESSEE does hereby accept as a tenant of LESSOR the following described property:

The west outer wing of the building formerly known as the "County Home," located at 809 Washington Street, Whiteville, NC 28472.

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

1. **Term of Lease.** The term of this Lease Agreement shall be for a period of ten (10) years from the date of signing by LESSOR (hereinafter "Start Date"), subject to prior termination pursuant to this Lease Agreement.
2. **LESSEE's Responsibilities.**
 - a. LESSEE shall ensure that the rental property will be used solely and exclusively for the specific purpose of a Domestic Violence Shelter and programs related thereto.
 - b. LESSEE will be responsible for reasonable maintenance, including housekeeping, of the rental property necessary to maintain the rental property in its present condition, ordinary wear and tear excepted. No alterations or changes shall be made without the prior written consent of LESSOR.

LESSOR and LESSEE will negotiate major maintenance and renovation needs, as exclusively determined by LESSOR.

- c. LESSEE shall pay all utility bills including, but not limited to, electricity, telephone and gas, incurred in connection with the use of the rental property during the term and any automatic renewal term of this Lease Agreement.
- d. Upon termination of this Lease Agreement, LESSEE shall remove all items of goods and/or equipment purchased by LESSEE.

3. **Payment.** LESSEE shall pay LESSOR the sum of One and 00/100 Dollar (\$1.00) annually, to be paid on the first day of each new calendar year.

4. **Indemnity.** LESSEE shall indemnify and hold LESSOR, its agents and employees, harmless against any loss and all claims, demands, causes of actions, or other liability, including attorneys fees, on account of property damages arising out of or relating to the rental property, resulting from the negligence of or the willful act or omission of LESSEE, its agents, employees and assigns.

LESSOR hereby agrees it shall indemnify and hold LESSEE harmless from all claims, demands causes of actions, or other liability, including attorney's fees, resulting from or on account of property damages arising out of or relating to the services to be performed by LESSOR's employees hereunder, resulting from the negligence of LESSOR's employees.

5. **Binding Effect.** This Lease Agreement shall be binding upon the parties hereto, and their heirs, successors, executors, administrators and assigns.

6. **Governing Law.** All of the terms and conditions contained herein shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina.

7. **Notices.** All notice required hereunder to be sent to either party shall be sent to the following designated addresses, or to such other address or addresses as may hereafter be designated by either party by mailing of written notice of such change of address, by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested:

To LESSOR:

Columbus County Administration
Attention: William Clark
111 Washington Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

To LESSEE:

Families First, Incorporated
Attention: Director
P.O. Box 1776
Whiteville, NC 28472

8. **Assignability.** It is mutually agreed by the parties hereto that this Lease Agreement is not transferable and shall not be assigned by either party without the written consent of the other party to this Lease Agreement.

9. **Amendments.** This Lease Agreement shall not be modified or otherwise amended except in writing signed by the parties.

10. **Termination.**

- a. This Lease Agreement may be terminated at any time by either party, without penalty, provided that written notice of such termination is furnished to the other party at least sixty (60) calendar days prior to termination.
- b. Should LESSEE cease to exist or disband, then all rights to the use of the rental property will cease and this Lease Agreement will be terminated.

11. **Entire Agreement.** This Lease Agreement constitutes the entire understanding between the parties and supersedes all prior and independent agreements between the parties covering the subject matter hereof. Any change or modification of this Lease Agreement must be

in writing signed by both parties.

12. **Full Disclosure**

- a. It is hereby understood by each and every party to this Lease Agreement that this Lease Agreement and its terms are fair and reasonable to the parties here undersigned and are fully disclosed and transmitted, in writing, to each party to this Lease Agreement in a manner that should reasonably be, or have been, understood by each party; and
- b. It is hereby understood by each and every party to this Lease Agreement are each advised by this section, in writing, that each party may seek the advice of an independent Attorney at Law of their own autonomous choice and each party is hereby given reasonable opportunity and time to seek said advice; and
- c. It is hereby understood, that each party to this Lease Agreement hereby consents, in writing, to the terms of this Lease Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused the execution of the foregoing instrument, by authority duly given and in duplicate originals.

LESSOR
 COLUMBUS COUNTY
 /s/ **JAMES E. PREVATTE**
Chairman, Columbus County Board of Commissioners
March 02, 2009

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

LESSEE
 FAMILIES FIRST, INCORPORATED
 By: _____

 Printed Name

 Title

 Date Signed

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS

I, Paulette A. Varnam, a Notary Public of Brunswick County, North Carolina, hereby certify that James E. Prevatte personally came before me this day and acknowledged that he is the Chairman of the Board of Columbus County Commissioners, Columbus County, North Carolina, a North Carolina political subdivision, and that he as Chairman of the Board of Columbus County Commissioners, Columbus County, North Carolina, being authorized to do so, executed the foregoing instrument on behalf of said County.

WITNESS my hand and official seal or stamp, this the 2nd day of March, 2009.

/s/ **PAULETTE A. VARNAM**
 Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 08/18/2012.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS

I, _____, a Notary Public of _____ County, North Carolina, certify that _____ personally came before me this day and acknowledged that he is the _____ of Families First, Incorporated, a nonprofit private corporation associated with Columbus County, and that he as the _____ of Families First, Incorporated, being authorized to do so, executed the foregoing instrument on behalf of the company.

WITNESS my hand and official seal or stamp, this the _____ day of _____, 2009.

 Notary Public
 My commission expires: _____

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the Lease Agreement for the Families First property, for an additional ten (10) years, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #10: REGISTER of DEEDS - APPROVAL of PROPOSAL for RESTORATION of DEED BOOKS:

The Honorable Kandance Whitehead, Columbus County Registrar, requested Board approval of a proposal from Joseph J. Mariotti Company, Incorporated, for \$175,000.00 for the restoration of Deed Books. Registrar Whitehead stated the following:

1. We have one hundred thirty-eight (138) Deed Books alone that are in poor condition as you have witnessed by the book I have shown to you; **and**
2. I would like to take funds from the Automation Preservation Fund which we have available now and I would like to start a restoration project.

Chairman Prevatte asked what is the Automation Preservation Fund and where does the money come from. Registrar Whitehead replied stating the following:

1. This bill was actually passed in 2001 and I came before the Board and explained how that came about;
2. This bill increased the fees the Register of Deeds actually took in;
3. Made the recording standards different;
4. In that bill, also, was the Automation Preservation Fund;
5. Ten (10%) percent of the recordation fees goes into this fund, and at this time, we have one hundred seventy thousand and 00/100 (\$170,000.00) dollars, plus, and by the end of July, 2009, we should have the remainder of the funds that we need;
6. There is no contract involved, only a purchase order and invoice;
7. In the new proposal, this company will come down and pick the books up, and returns the books with his own personal transportation;
8. He will do a free digitization of all one hundred thirty-eight (138) volumes;
9. We have scanned images of the books now, but when they were scanned back in the early nineties, some of the pages are not completely scanned, and the resolution is much better today, and we can incorporate this information into the computers we have today.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the proposal for the restoration of deed books from Joseph J. Mariotti Company, Incorporated, in the amount of one hundred seventy-five thousand and 00/100 (\$175,000.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #11: FINANCE - APPROVAL of AWARDDING AUDIT CONTRACT:

Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, requested Board approval to award the audit contract to Thompson, Price, Scott, Adam and Associates. Ms. Faircloth stated the following:

1. This was advertised twice and placed on the County Website;
2. I only received one (1) bid and that bid is from Thompson, Price, Scott, Adam and Associates;
3. This is a three (3) year contract at the cost of \$36,100 for 2009, \$37,100 for 2010, and \$37,100 for 2011;
4. I have spoken to this firm today and they have agreed to come down to \$35,000 for the first year and negotiate the price for the next two (2) years; **and**
5. This firm has agreed to do the AFIR, which is a very complex report that must be done annually.

Vice Chairman Bullard made a motion to approve the awarding of the three (3) year audit contract to Thompson, Price, Scott, Adam and Associates for fiscal year ending 2009, in the amount of thirty-five thousand and 00/100 (\$35,000.00) dollars, and the price for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 to be negotiated, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #12: GOVERNING BODY - AMENDMENT to JANUARY 22, 2009 REGULAR SESSION BOARD MINUTES:

June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, requested Board approval of an amendment to the January 22, 2009 Regular Session Board Minutes. Ms. Hall stated the following:

1. In the process of indexing the January 22, 2009 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes, discovery was made that a motion was not included in the minutes;
2. On Agenda Item #7, the roll-call vote was listed, but the motion was not listed; **and**
3. This needs to be amended to include the following motion:
 “Commissioner Russ made a motion to approve the Landfill Gas Collection and Control Services Agreement, with the recommended changes, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie”.

Commissioner Gore made a motion to approve the amendment to the January 22, 2009 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

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

At 7:23 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 Vice Chairman Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #13: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

February 16, 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 1 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 7:27 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie 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 Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: 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 Motion: Byrd Second: Vice Chairman Bullard	EB	Alan Capps, Sr.***	08/01/2010	HOLD
Nursing/Adult Care Home Joint Community Advisory Committee Motion: Byrd Second: Gore	EB	Jollye Shaw -VACANT-	01/05/2010	Appoint
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council	IV	Nancy Sigmon (Replaces JoAnn Rhodes)	06/30/2009	Appoint

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

DISCUSSION of ATTENDANCE at BOARD/COMMITTEE/COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Chairman Prevatte stated the following:

1. Each Commissioner needs to review the attendance of their appointee to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council;
2. This Council meets the first Wednesday of every month at 12:00 Noon;
3. Columbus County receives two hundred thousand and 00/100 (\$200,000.00) dollars for the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Program; **and**
4. This Council is having problems with getting a quorum at the meetings to transact the necessary business needed to spend this money.

Vice Chairman Bullard stated he has contacted his appointee, Willis Nealy, and he wishes to continue to serve, and we need to ask Mr. Worthington to notify us if our appointee misses three (3) meetings with unexcused absences.

Commissioner Gore stated that the appointees to these committees/boards/councils needed to have some type reminder when these meetings will occur.

After a brief discussion, it was the general consensus of the Board for the Chairperson of the committees/boards/councils to notify the Clerk or the Commissioner when their appointee misses three (3) consecutive meetings with unexcused absences.

APPOINTMENT to COLUMBUS COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD:

Chairman Prevatte stated that Commissioner Ronald Gore has tendered his resignation from the Columbus County Social Services Board, effective March 01, 2009, and we need to appoint someone for this position.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to table this appointment until a later meeting, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

RESIGNATION FROM and APPOINTMENT to BRUNSWICK-COLUMBUS INTERNATIONAL PARK, INCORPORATED BOARD of DIRECTORS:

Chairman Prevatte stated that a letter had been received from Brunswick County that stated they rejected the appointment of Giles E. "Buddy" Byrd to the Brunswick-Columbus International Park, Incorporated Board of Directors.

Commissioner Byrd stated the following, "I originally stated that if this was a problem, I would resign, and I will officially tender my resignation from the Brunswick-Columbus International Park, Incorporated Board of Directors".

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to accept the resignation of Commissioner Giles E. (Buddy) Byrd from the Brunswick-Columbus International Park, Incorporated Board of Directors, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Commissioner Byrd nominated Gene McNeil to serve on the Brunswick-Columbus International Park, Incorporated Board of Directors.

Commissioner Russ nominated Ricky Benton, II to serve on the Brunswick-Columbus International Park, Incorporated Board of Directors.

A roll-call vote was taken on the nomination of Gene McNeil with the following results:

AYES: Commissioners McKenzie and Byrd; **and**
NAYS: Chairman Prevatte, Vice Chairman Bullard, Commissioners Russ, Norris and Gore.

The nomination fails on a two (2) to five (5) vote.

A roll-call vote was taken on the nomination of Ricky Benton, II with the following results:

AYES: Chairman Prevatte, Vice Chairman Bullard, Commissioners Russ, Norris and Gore;
and

NAYS: Commissioners McKenzie and Byrd.

The nomination passes on a five (5) to two (2) vote.

Chairman Prevatte requested that William S. Clark, County Manager, notify Brunswick County of this appointment.

Agenda Item #15: CONSENT AGENDA ITEM - 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 02, 2009**

Refunds	Name: Eastbrook Investments LLC	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year 007/2 Account # 14-05507 Bill # 99999	Total	\$393.00

Refund the user fees for 2007 & 2008. The house is vacant and the trash can was removed in 2005.
PO Box 1526 Shallotte NC 28470

Refunds	Name: Jackson, Glenwood	Amount:	\$205.82
Value:	\$5,800.00 Year 004/2 Account # 15-19527 Bill # 99999	Total	\$242.71

Refund a portion of the property value for 2004 through 2008, a portion of the Acme Delco Fire (31.62) and a portion of the Columbus Rescue (5.27). The customer was billed with incorrect acres.
PO Box 280 Delco NC 28436

**TAX RELEASES (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):
March 02, 2009**

Release the Property Value	in the name of Davis, Wiley	Amount:	\$721.22
Value:	\$5,640.00 Year: 1999/2 Account # 13-10100 Bill # 9999	Total	\$3,132.76

Release the remaining property value, the Klondyke Fire (63.78), Columbus Rescue (11.07) and W2 (32.57). The property was sold at tax foreclosure. Sale price did not exceed taxes due.

Release the Property Value	in the name of Hooper, Francis	Amount:	\$30.39
Value:	\$1,344.00 Year: 2005/2 Account # 15-18760 Bill # 9999	Total	\$35.85

Release a portion of the property value for 2005 through 2008, a portion of the Acme Delco Fire (4.68) and a portion of the Columbus Rescue (.78). Customer was billed with incorrect acres.

Release the Property Value	in the name of Red Mountain Timber Co.	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 03-00955 Bill # 8509	Total	\$4,292.40

Release the Old Dock Fire fee. This property is not located in this fire district.

Release the Property Value	in the name of Vareen, Sabrina	Amount:	\$535.50
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2002/2 Account # 14-00916 Bill # 9999	Total	\$1,958.63

Release the value of a mobile home home, the Welches Creek (54.97) and the Columbus Rescue (13.74). The home is double listed in the same name on a different account number.

Release the Property Value	in the name of Vereen, Sabrina	Amount:	\$142.84
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2004/2 Account # 01-00159 Bill # 9999	Total	\$581.03

Release the value of a mobile home, the North Whiteville Fire (50.00), the Whiteville Rescue (3.78) and W3 (22.62). The home was repossessed in 2003.

Release the User Fee	in the name of Bordeaux, Willie	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 01-01909 Bill # 8637	Total	\$200.00

Release user fee. House vacant with no trash can.

Release the User Fee	in the name of Branyon, Otis	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 09-00149 Bill # 9015	Total	\$200.00

Release the user fee. Mobile home has not been set up yet. There is no trash can here.

Release the User Fee	in the name of Evans, Dorene	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 08-04935 Bill # 7056	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 Freeman, Clayton Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007/2 Account # 04-04938 Bill # 9999 Total \$219.00
 Release the user fee for 2007 and 2008. The house is vacant and does not have a trash can.

Release the User Fee in the name of Gordon, Earl Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 13-15480 Bill # 0482 Total \$400.00
 Release two user fees. Both houses are vacant and do not have trash cans.

Release the User Fee in the name of Gore, Danny Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 03--02009 Bill # 0594 Total \$200.00
 Release the user fee. House vacant and can picked up.

Release the User Fee in the name of Perritte, Angela Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 09-03702 Bill # 6279 Total \$200.00
 Release the user fee. House vacant and can removed in 2006.

Release the User Fee in the name of Thomas, Eddie Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 06-04053 Bill # 7545 Total \$106.00
 Release the user fee that is double listed in the same name on a different account number.

Release the User Fee in the name of Thomas, Eddie Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2007 Account # 06-05948 Bill # 7547 Total \$106.00
 Release the user fee that is double listed in the same name on a different account number.

Release the User Fee in the name of Tyson, Terra Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2008 Account # 13-00863 Bill # 7129 Total \$87.00
 Release a portion of the user fee. The home is inside the town limits of Chadbourn.

Agenda Item #16: COMMENTS:

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

INTRODUCTION of HOWARD WALLACE as INTERIM COUNTY EXTENSION DIRECTOR:

Jacquelyn D. Roseboro, retired County Extension Director, stated she would like to introduce Howard Wallace, Agriculture Extension Agent, as the Interim County Extension Director until her replacement was made.

B. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Commissioner McKenzie:** I am receiving complaints about coyotes killing livestock in Columbus County. We need to check into this matter and see what can be done about this.
2. **Commissioner Byrd:** stated the following:
 - A. I would like for the Board to look at dividing the Water-Solid Waste-Maintenance Department up and consider the people we already have on board as being the directors;
 - B. I think we should give the employees already on board the benefit of the doubt; **and**
 - C. We have three (3) employees on board that need to be given consideration for the director of these departments.
3. **Chairman Prevatte:** stated the following:
 - A. I hope that each one of you has had the opportunity to review the talking points of the Stimulus Package that I sent to you; **and**
 - B. In this information, the North Carolina Department of Transportation will be utilizing their dollars for new road construction and bridge replacements.

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

At 7:57 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (6) Personnel, after a five (5) minute recess, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously passed.

Item #17: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (6) PERSONNEL:

No official action was taken.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:

At 8:29 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVAL of CLOSED SESSION GENERAL ACCOUNT:

Chairman Prevatte requested Steven W. Fowler, County Attorney, to read orally the Closed Session General Account. Mr. Fowler stated the following.

Discussion was conducted on the position of the Public Utilities Director.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the Closed Session General Account, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

HUMAN RESOURCES - EMPLOYMENT of KIP McCLARY as PUBLIC UTILITIES and SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR:

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to hire Kip McClary as the Public Utilities and Solid Waste Director, at the starting annual salary of fifty thousand and 00/100 (\$50,000.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Russ.

A roll-call vote was taken with the following results:

AYES: Chairman Prevatte, Vice Chairman Bullard, Commissioners McKenzie, Russ, Norris and Gore; **and**
NAYS: Commissioner Byrd.

The motion passes on a six (6) to one (1) vote.

Agenda Item #18: ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:31 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. 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 02, 2009
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 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 7:23 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 #13: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

February 16, 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 February 16, 2009 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, seconded Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

DISCUSSION of REDUCED HOOK-UP FEES:

Commissioner Byrd stated the following:

1. I have checked with Danny Fowler at the Public Utilities Department and he has informed me the actual cost for the water hookup is approximately two hundred fifty-one and 46/100 (\$251.46) dollars for a 3/4" water line;
2. I think we should run a special for the amount of the actual cost for a hookup for those who cannot afford the five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars hookup, in the new areas where we are trying to get enough signups; **and**
3. I think we should run this same special to get members to hook up to the old lines too.

Vice Chairman Bullard stated that this special should be done in every district to help to eliminate the additional tax that is being charged.

After additional discussion was conducted relative to the advantages and disadvantages of this reduced hookup fee, and the fact that commercial and residential hookups would be at different amounts, Chairman Prevatte stated he wanted this matter to be placed on the March 16, 2009 Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:27 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman

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