

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE WORKSHOP**

Monday, October 30, 2017

6:00 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, for the purpose of conducting a Columbus County Historic Courthouse Workshop.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

James E. Prevatte, **Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie, **Vice Chairman**
Giles E. Byrd (Arrived: 6:37 P.M.)
P. Edwin Russ (Arrived: 6:07 P.M.)
Trent Burroughs
Ricky Bullard
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Mike Stephens, **County Attorney /
Interim County Manager**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

WORKSHOP CALLED TO ORDER:

At 6:00 P.M., Chairman James E. Prevatte called the October 30, 2017 Columbus County Historic Courthouse Workshop to order.

INVOCATION and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:

The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Ricky Bullard. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Trent Burroughs.

DETAILS PRESENTED from PREVIOUS WORKSHOP:

Chairman Prevatte provided the following information from the previous Columbus County Historic Courthouse Workshop.

1. At the last workshop we held, we were trying to determine which direction to take with the usage of the Columbus County Historic Courthouse;
2. We asked the Interim Manager to request Larry Hayes, Maintenance Director, to measure the square footage of the Professional Building where Probation/Parole is being housed;
3. At the last workshop, we overlooked executing the Closed Session General Account which is as follows:

CLOSED SESSION GENERAL ACCOUNT:

Michael H. Stephens, County Attorney orally read the following: *“Closed Session was held in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a) (6) Personnel. The Board of Commissioners interviewed an applicant for the position of County Manager. No action was taken”.*

APPROVAL of CLOSED SESSION GENERAL ACCOUNT:

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

EXISTING SQUARE FOOTAGE in AFFECTED OPTIONS:

Probation/Parole Offices at Professional Building	3,934 Square Feet
Administration Building	8,632 Square Feet
Columbus County Historic Courthouse	24,000 Square Feet

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

1. Keep the crosswalks downstairs for originality;
2. Approximately 2,800 square feet in the crosswalks;
3. The Administrative staff downstairs and courtroom upstairs;
4. Economic Development upstairs and Administrative staff downstairs;
5. Commissioner Burroughs asked Michael H. Stephens, County Attorney/Interim County

- Manager, his opinion, from his legal and administrative perspective, what his suggestion was relative to what departments would fit well in the Historic Courthouse. Mr. Stephens replied he recommended not to mix judicial areas with Administrative staff;
6. Sheriff Hatcher stated the following:
 - I can secure the Historic Courthouse better than I can secure the courtrooms being utilized in the Annex Building downstairs;
 - The courtrooms that are over there need to be utilized for court;
 - Magistrate's Court is being held downstairs, and trouble is in the making; **and**
 - I am looking at the situation from security aspects; **and**
 7. Utilizing the existing architectural drawings we have and using local contractors for the work; **and**
 8. The possibility of asking someone from the fire departments to come and discuss the best way to finance school construction.

Vice Chairman Amon E. McKenzie requested that Larry Hayes, Maintenance Director, get the exact measurements in the Historic Courthouse, inclusive of the crosswalks.

RURAL IMPACT COUNTY CHALLENGE for COLUMBUS COUNTY:

Due to this document being needed by Friday, November 03, 2017, by consensus, the Board approved the following Rural Impact County Challenge for Columbus County.

**RURAL IMPACT COUNTY CHALLENGE
for
COLUMBUS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, small towns and rural communities are home to millions of Americans and are a vibrant part of our nation's economy; **and**

WHEREAS, in 2014, approximately 1.4 million children in rural areas were poor and over 700,000 children lived in rural families with cash incomes that fell below half of the poverty line; **and**

WHEREAS, high rates of poverty have persisted for generations, including over 300 rural counties with poverty rates of over 20 percent in every Census since 1980; **and**

WHEREAS, investing in poor children and their families not only reduces poverty in the near term, but also improves children's education, health, and earnings outcomes later in life; **and**

WHEREAS, rural and tribal communities face distinct challenges, including limited access to critical services, fewer job prospects, and in some places, relative lack of institutional capacity; **and**

WHEREAS, no matter where they live, all families aspire for the cornerstones of economic security: a well-paying job, child care, a college education, health care, a home, and retirement; **and**

WHEREAS, Columbus County and all counties recognize that a child's zip code should not determine her destiny, and that every child should have the opportunity to succeed; **and**

WHEREAS, Columbus County has developed innovative strategies to increase access to essential health and human services through access to affordable family planning, pediatric care, and also through a fully functioning dental clinic and mobile dental clinic for children up to eighteen (18) years of age; **and**

WHEREAS, through *The Rural Impact County Challenge*, the National Association of Counties and the White House Rural Council are encouraging public, private and nonprofit leaders to reduce the number of children living in poverty in rural areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT I James E. Prevatte, Chairman of the Columbus County Commissioner, do hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of children living in poverty, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in my state and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in *The Rural Impact County Challenge*. We resolve to utilize the resources available through *The Rural Impact County Challenge* to:

- Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple

agencies committed to reducing the number of children and families in rural areas living in poverty.

- Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that improves access, participation, and/or impact of evidence-based and other promising practices in one or more of the following areas: early childhood education, nutrition, workforce development, and health and human services.
- Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan.
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 30th day of October, 2017.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **JAMES E. PREVATTE**, Chairman

/s/ **GILES E. BYRD**

/s/ **TRENT BURROUGHS**

/s/ **CHARLES T. McDOWELL**

/s/ **MICHAEL H. STEPHENS**, Attorney/Interim Manager

/s/ **AMON E. MCKENZIE**, Vice Chairman

/s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS**

/s/ **RICKY BULLARD**

ATTESTED BY:

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

MEETING RECESSED:

At 7:35 P.M., Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to recess this Columbus County Historic Courthouse Workshop until November 13, 2017, at 6:00 P.M., seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.
