

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS****Monday, November 06, 2017****6:30 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, for the purpose of conducting their regularly scheduled meeting, it being the first Monday.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

James E. Prevatte, **Chairman**  
 Amon E. McKenzie, **Vice Chairman**  
 Giles E. Byrd  
 P. Edwin Russ  
 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**

**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 November 06, 2017 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Gregg Merritt. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Giles E. Byrd.

**ADJUSTMENTS to AGENDA:**

Chairman Prevatte stated he needed a motion to approve the following adjustments to the November 06, 2017 Agenda:

1. Move Items #7 and #13 to the December 04, 2017 Agenda; **and**
2. Add "D. Personnel" to Item #4.

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to move Items #7 and #13 to the December 04, 2017 Agenda, and add "D. Personnel" to Item #4, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

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

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the October 09, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes, as recorded, the October 16, 2017 Regular Session Minutes, as recorded, and the October 23, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes, with one (1) correction on Page 311, seconded by Vice Chairman McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #4 D. PERSONNEL (Adjustment to Agenda):**

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to hire Michael H. Stephens, Columbus County Attorney, as the Columbus County Manager, starting immediately, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

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

Chairman Prevatte opened the floor for Public Input, and requested Michael H. Stephens, County Manager/County Attorney, to orally read the policy for Public Address to the Board. Mr. Stephens orally read the policy in its entirety. The following spoke.

1. **Calvin Norton, 206 Anderson Street, Whiteville, NC 28472:** stated the following.
  - I would like to thank the admirable Board members for recognizing the valuable asset you have in Mike Stephens and hiring him as the Columbus County Manager;
  - I have reviewed the old Board of Elections building and the new location for the Board of Elections, and the new location is very suitable and I would like for you to consider that

location; **and**

-The funds being allocated to the schools need to be used for upkeep of the buildings and the education of the children and not for teachers salary.

2. **Andy Inman, 654 Inman Lake Road, Whiteville, NC 28472:** stated the following:
  - The Board of Commissioners works for the entirety of Columbus County and not for just one (1) district;
  - Accountability comes into play at the time of unity for the benefit of all citizens; **and**
  - There is a great need for a Public Forum to be held on the school merger situation.
  
3. **Jonathan Reid Medford, 120 Tucker Street, Whiteville, NC 28472:** stated the following:
  - I am here tonight to talk about the school merger situation;
  - The North Carolina General Assembly has created a Joint Task Force on Education Finance Reform;
  - This Task Force was created to study the complexities of the current education funding methodologies in our state, and to find ways to improve it;
  - We are one (1) of only seven (7) states that use categorized allotments, and there are thirty-seven (37) of them that use them for funding;
  - The Joint Task Force met last Wednesday and announced they would be recommending a weighted student formula for funding schools which combines the amount of funds per student based on the need for certain categories;
  - The committee is expected to make recommendations to the General Assembly in late 2018;
  - I think no action should be taken by this Board until the General Assembly defines the future of education funding in our state; **and**
  - I would like for each of you to delay action on this merger until you understand what the State Legislature plans to do with education funding in late 2018.
  
4. **Marlando D. Pridgen, 820 Toon Road, Whiteville, NC 28472:** stated the following:
  - Doing good for our citizens involves these meetings and a lot of outside and behind the scenes work;
  - I have talked to Representative Brenden Jones and sent a lot of e-mails to the Board members because I think what we have to look at is we got to rise above the politicized agenda of the merger;
  - What we are dealing with is the equal success for the opportunity for the education of our children;
  - What you are looking at is the cry-out from two (2) school systems that want to provide solid education for our students;
  - Both systems need to come together and discuss how this can be done in the most effectual manner;
  - Per the North Carolina General Statues, you need a plan with a merger;
  - You need to eliminate the political side; **and**
  - You need to meet with all people involved, and discover the manner needed to get the most and best funds for our children.
  
5. **Sally Jo Medford, 120 Tucker Street, Whiteville, NC 28472:** stated the following:
  - Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight;
  - I am speaking from the trenches where our students are;
  - I am interested in art and the availability of art in our schools;
  - At the last meeting, there was a no merger vote, 2 members voted no, 2 members passed and 3 voted yes, and this was not a clear vote; **and**
  - Art is valuable to all students and needs to be a priority to consider.

**Agenda Item #6:     PRESENTATION - ZIPLINE INTRODUCTION:**

Ron England, Owner, presented the following power-point on Zipline.

1. I would like to thank you for allowing us to present tonight, and for all that you do for people;
2. I am Ron England, General Managing member, for Outplay Adventures;
3. We are referenced as being Zipline, but it is actually Aerial Adventure Parks;
4. There are four (4) other members; Christopher Sherry, Courtney Linde and Christina Valvano are here and the fourth member is a premier builder of these parks;
5. What is an Aerial Adventure Park?
  - Aerial adventure parks have evolved from a simple ropes course for exercise

- purposes with the military developing a more advanced version for training purposes during and between the World Wars, and more recently, for the individual looking for adventure and recreational fun
- Combining elements of balance, coordination, strength and discipline, aerial adventure parks can offer an “American Ninja Warrior” type experience in the trees for the thrill-seekers and athletes, or perhaps an emotional experiential education for those less adventurous;
6. The Location - 1571 Neils Eddy Road, Riegelwood, NC:  
**Why did we choose the Riegelwood area?**
- Research from ACCT has indicated that the prime market for an aerial adventure park is within a two (2) hour drive to large population centers with large concentrations of upper to middle income bracket population and areas of large tourist influx
  - Large military, college populations; **and**
- Why did we choose the property?**
- An abundance of mature, healthy trees giving a “lost in the woods” feeling as well as natural shade
  - Relatively easy access from routes 74/76, 87, 17 and upon completion of 140,40 and 17 via the Mt. Misery Road, exit off 140.
7. When are we building and when will we open?
- Currently, temporary guest buildings are on site
  - Duke Energy Progress has installed underground lines, light poles and pedestals with power to be connected early November
  - Site plan to meet the County’s concerns being completed
  - Engineered plans for the construction of the actual aerial adventure course has been reviewed and accepted by NC DOI
  - Course builders on site as soon as possible
8. Our Builder:
- TreeGo is a wide brand established in France, and has built sixty-seven (67) aerial adventure parks throughout the world to include China, Dubai UAE, France, Belgium, Brazil, Canada and the United States.
  - Outplay Adventures LLC - the exclusive U.S. builders of TreeGo parks, with parks built in New York, Arizona, New Jersey, Tennessee, Florida (3), New Hampshire, Pennsylvania (2), and Idaho, as well as Wyoming for late 2018.
- How they build:**
- Outplay takes special care and concern to customize each park to blend in with its natural setting and minimize environmental impact to maximize tree health and nature’s lifecycle. To do this, Outplay Adventures employs an innovative compression system that secures TreeGo platforms to trees without damaging them in any way. Absolutely no chemically treated wood is used in our construction process.
9. Where are other aerial adventure parks located?
- Shallotte River Swamp Park - Brunswick County, NC
  - Zipquest - Cumberland County, NC
  - Go Ape - Wake County, NC, Horry County SC
  - Radical Ropes - Horry County, SC
  - Corolla Adventure Park - Currituck County, NC
  - Tree Runners - Wake County, NC
  - First Flight Adventure Park - Currituck County, NC
- Many more in the western part of North Carolina.
10. Our challenges:
- The unknown, this is a new concept for Columbus County
  - Housing our builders - 2-3 months
  - Advertising and getting the word out to schools, civic and church groups
  - Roadside signage to direct guests in, once they come off of the main roads.

**Agenda Item #7:** ~~SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE - UPDATE: Tony Clarke, President, will present an update on Southeastern Community College.~~

**Delayed until December 04, 2017 Meeting.**

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**Agenda Item #8: HEALTH - FORMAL INVITATION to COLUMBUS COUNTY LEADERSHIP FORUM on OPIOID ABUSE:**

Kimberly Smith, Health Director, delivered the following formal invitation to the Columbus County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse.

Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
3 - 6 P.M.  
Southeastern Community College Auditorium

**COLUMBUS COUNTY LEADERSHIP FORUM ON OPIOID ABUSE**

The Columbus County Health Department will be facilitating the Columbus County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse. This forum is open to the public and we strongly encourage your participation. The goal of this forum is to host a discussion among county organizations and the citizens of Columbus County to discuss the effects of the opioid epidemic in our communities and what resources are needed to deal with this epidemic. For more information please contact us at 910-640-6615, extension 7026.

**Agenda Item #9: SHERIFF - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:**

The Honorable Sheriff Lewis L. Hatcher, delivered the following Departmental Update.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE and DETENTION**

**VACANCIES:**

DIVISION	AMOUNT
Patrol	4
Civil Division	2
SROs	2
Court	3
Detective	1
Narcotics	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>13</b>
Detention	6

**PAPERS RECEIVED and SERVED (January 1, 2017 - October 31, 2017)**

Civil Papers Received 5,761  
Civil Papers Served 3,807  
  
Arrest 1,331

Pistol Permits (for purchase)	830
Concealed Handgun Permits	587
Fingerprints	361

TYPE	COUNT PER TYPE	TYPE PERCENT FOR DEPT
4 Wheeler/MC Investigations	35	.24%
Abandoned Vehicle	20	.14%
Abdominal Pain/Problems	6	.04

TYPE	COUNT PER TYPE	TYPE PERCENT FOR DEPT
Abduction/Kidnapping	9	.06
Accident Property Damage	50	.34
Accident with Injuries	100	.68
Air Truck Response	1	.01
Airplane Reported Down/Crashed	1	.01
Alarm Business	565	3.82
Alarm Residential	1,632	11.04
Alarm Vehicle	4	.03
Alcohol Violations	3	.02
Allergies (Reactions) Envenomations (Stings/Bites)	1	.01
Animal Bites/Attacks	5	.03
Animal Control Investigation	59	.40
Armed Robbery	9	.06
Arrest	400	2.71
Arson	2	.01
Assault	198	1.34
Attempt to Locate	107	.72
Back Pain (Non traumatic or Non Recent Trauma)	1	.01
BOLO-DCI Messages Broadcasted	13	.09
Bomb Threat	2	.01
Breaking and Entering	254	1.79
Breaking and Entering/Larceny	339	2.29
Breathing Problems	14	.09
C&R Vehicle	12	.08
Cardiac or Respiratory Arrest/Death	32	.22
Chase (Vehicle/Foot)	25	.17
Check Point Click It or Ticket/DWI checkpoint	5	.03
Chest Pain (Non-Traumatic)	11	.07
Child Abuse	18	.12
Child Custody	62	.42%
Citizen Assist	64	.43%
Civil Standby	102	.69
Communicating Threats	120	.81
Counterfeit	6	.04
Damage to Property	218	1.48%
DCI Information	13	.09
Death Notification	3	.02

TYPE	COUNT PER TYPE	TYPE PERCENT FOR DEPT
Diabetic Problems	5	.03
Directing Traffic	5	.03
Disturbance	630	4.26
Disturbance with Weapons	133	.90
Domestic	832	5.63
Domestic with Weapons	139	.79
DOT Calls	1	.01
Drag Racing	1	.01
DWI	4	.03
Escape-Prison/Jail Break	3	.02
Escort	79	.53%
ETOH/Drunk Pedestrian	11	.07
Eviction	63	.43
Eye Problems/Injuries	1	.01
Falls	13	.09
Fight	35	.24%
Fire Alarm-Business	9	.06
Fire Alarm-Residential	6	.04
Fire Miscellaneous (Unknown Type)	6	.04
Fireworks	9	.06
Follow Up	233	1.58
Forgery	4	.03
Fraud Obtaining Property by False Pratense/Embezz	82	.55
Funeral Escort	290	1.96
Gas Drive Off	2	.01
Gas Leak	2	.01
Grass Fire	6	.04
GSW:Stab/Gunshot/Penetrating Trauma	40	.27
Gun - Subject with a Gun	43	.29
Hangup Call 911 Hangup Call	169	1.14
Harassment	47	.32
Hasten System-Keyholder Contact Only	8	.05
Hazardous Condition	9	.06
Hazardous Condition-Power Line/Cable Down	2	.01
Hazardous Conditions-Vehicle Blocking the Rd	1	.01
Hazardous Condition-Tree Across Roadway	3	.02
Heart Problems/A.I.C.D	3	.02

TYPE	COUNT PER TYPE	TYPE PERCENT FOR DEPT
Heat/Cold Exposure	1	.01
Hemorrhage/Lacerations	6	.04
Hit and Run	1	.01
House Arrest (EHA)	33	.22
Identity Theft	7	.05
Illegal Burn	3	.02
Illegal Dumping	9	.06
Indecent Exposure	4	.03
Information Request	5	.03
Investigation	480	3.25
IVC Paperwork Being Served	6	.04
Juvenile Transport	33	.22
Larceny/Theft	586	3.97
Law Call for Service (CFS)	83	.56
Law Transport	593	4.01
LEO (Law Enforcement Officer) Training	21	.14
Littering	7	.05
Livestock on Roadway	7	.05
Lockout-Residence	4	.03
Lockout-Vehicle	11	.07
Loitering	7	.05
Loud Music	107	.72
Loud Noise Complaint	35	.24
Mail Tampering	8	.05
Medical Alarm	7	.05
Mental Patient	232	1.57
Missing Person	99	.67
Mutual Aid/Assist Other Agency	105	.71
Narcotics	87	.59
Overdose/Poisoning (Injection)	72	.49
Papers / Serving Papers	164	1.11
Parking Violaton	3	.02
Pedestrian Struck	9	.06
Property-Found or Recovered	63	.43
Property-Lost	5	.03
Prowler	135	.91
Riot	1	.01

TYPE	COUNT PER TYPE	TYPE PERCENT FOR DEPT
Robbery	1	.01
Security Check	123	.83
Seizures/Convulsions	13	.09
Sexual Assault	36	.24
Shoplifter	12	.08
Shots Fired or Heard	158	1.07
Sick Person (Specific Diagnosis)	37	.25
Solicitation	16	.11
Stalking	3	.02
Standby	32	.22
Standby-Fair	5	.03
Standby-Festival	3	.02
Standby-Fire and Rescue	1	.01
Standby Game	106	.72
Standby-Parade/Festival	5	.03
Standby-Store Closing	1	.01
Standby Store Security	88	.60
Stolen License Plate	17	.12
Stolen Vehicle	127	.86
Stranded/Disabled Motorist	118	.80
Stroke (CVA)	2	.01
Structure Fire	23	.16
Suicide (Psychiatric/Abnormal Behavior/Suicide ATT)	193	1.31
Suspicious Person	280	1.89
Suspicious Vehicle	385	2.61
Test Call	5	.03
Traffic Stop	838	5.67
Transfer-Phone Transfer to Another Agency	126	.85
Traumatic Injuries (Specific)	3	.02
Trespassing	171	1.16
Truancy	2	.01
Unauthorized Use Motor Vehicle	53	.36
Unconscious/Fainting (Near)	29	.20
Unknown Problem (Man Down)	23	.16
Unsecure Premises	22	.15
Vandalism	19	.13
Vehicle Fire	18	.12



TYPE	COUNT PER TYPE	TYPE PERCENT FOR DEPT
Warrant Service	921	6.23%
Weapon on Campus	1	.01
Welfare Check	247	1.67
Woods Fire	5	.03
Worthless/Bad Checks	1	.01
Wrecker Call	8	.05
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>14,776</b>	

**Agenda Item #10: PLANNING - AMENDMENT and CONSISTENCY STATEMENT to COLUMBUS COUNTY CODE of ORDINANCES:**

Gary Lanier/Samantha Alsup, Planning Department, requested Board approval of the following Ordinance so entitled “An Ordinance to Amend the Land Use Regulations Ordinance of Columbus County, NC, Article VI., Section 4; Also Known as Chapter 10, Part 2, Article 7, Section 4 of The Code of Ordinances to Add Provisions for Solar Energy Facilities and Article 9, Standard A to Add Additional Emergency Provisions for Solar Farms” and the following Consistency Statement.

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LAND USE REGULATIONS ORDINANCE OF COLUMBUS COUNTY, NC, ARTICLE VI., SECTION 4; ALSO KNOWN AS CHAPTER 10, PART 2, ARTICLE 7, SECTION 4 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADD PROVISIONS FOR SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES AND ARTICLE 9, STANDARD A TO ADD ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY PROVISIONS FOR SOLAR FARMS.**

**WHEREAS** the Board of Commissioners wishes to amend the Land Use Regulations Ordinance of the County and the Code of Ordinances to provide for the provision of solar energy facilities; and

**WHEREAS** the Planning Board has recommended the following standards and conditions deemed important to the construction of solar energy facilities; and

**WHEREAS** statements of both consistency and reasonableness of these provisions with the intent of future development as stated in the adopted comprehensive land use plan are approved by separate motion;

**THEREFORE** Article 7, Section 4. IND-I Industrial District of said Ordinance and the Code of Ordinances are hereby amended to add the following subsection as follows:

- “4.5 Permitted Uses with Standards and Conditions.
- A. Any uses permitted with standards and conditions in the above permitted uses.
  - B. Solar Energy Facilities

All applications for a solar energy facility must include a full site plan showing that the project meets the requirements appearing in Chapter 10, Part 2, Article IX, Standard A – Minimum Solar Farm Requirements.”

**AND THEREFORE** Article 9, Standard A of said Ordinance and the Code of Ordinances are hereby amended to add the following subsection as follows:

“e. Signage must be placed on project fence at the entrance gate and shall include a 911 property address. The address and emergency contact information must be of reflective lettering with a minimal height of 6 inches. Signage must be posted at the entrance gate and highly visible from the street. If the fence at the entrance gate is not by the roadway, then you must post the 911 property address by the roadway. (Code reference North Carolina State Fire Prevention Code 2012Chapter 5 Section 505).

f. A fire apparatus access road shall be provided as required by North Carolina State Fire

Prevention Code 2012 Chapter 5 section 503 and shown on any submitted site plans by the applicant.”

This amendment shall become effective upon adoption. Adopted this 6th day of November, 2017.

/s/ James E. Prevatte, Chairman  
Columbus County Board of Commissioners

Approved as to Form:  
/s/ Michael Stephens, Columbus County Attorney

Attest:  
/s/ June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board

**Board of County Commissioners  
Consistency Statement  
November 6, 2017**

On November 6, 2017, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, the Board voted unanimously to amend the Columbus County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10, Part 2, Article 7, Section 4, by adding the new permitted use of “Solar Energy Facilities” to the Industrial District of the Southeastern Community College Zoning Area and that this use comes with Standards and Conditions stating that applications for solar energy facilities must include a full site plan showing that the project meets the requirements appearing in Chapter 10, Part 2, Article IX , Standard A - Minimum Solar Farm Requirements.

The Board reviewed the proposed Ordinance to Amend the Land Use Regulations Ordinance of Columbus County, NC, Article VI, Section 4; Also Known As Chapter 10, Part 2, Article 7, Section 4 of the Code of Ordinances submitted by the Planning Department along with the Columbus County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, after which the Board approved and adopted the following written consistency statement:

- NCGS 153A-341 mandates that a County’s planning board consider whether or not a text amendment is consistent with a county’s comprehensive land use plan and whether or not the amendment is reasonable.
- The proposed text amendment would add language, to wit: a permitted use of “Solar Energy Facilities” to the existing list of permitted uses in the Industrial District of the Southeastern Community College (SCC) Zoning Area and that this new use must meet the requirements that appear elsewhere in the Code for solar energy facilities in the General Use Zoning Area. That list already includes “public utilities” but the addition of “solar energy facilities” would be more specific and give clarity to what is allowed in the Industrial sector of the SCC Zoning Area.
- The SCC Zoning Area lies within the Community Service Area sector of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This is a sector where most urban services and urban scale development is currently concentrated and within which such development should generally be concentrated.
- Already in this SCC Zoning Area, particularly the Industrial District, solar farms exist as a public utility, which is a permitted use.
- It is reasonable to amend by clarifying the zoning regulations in the Code in Chapter 10, Part 2, Article 7, Section 4, by adding the proposed language in the text amendment, so that it is consistent with the comprehensive plan.
- That the proposed text amendment also includes language amending Article 9, Standard A, by adding subsection “e” and “f”. This amendment is consistent with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan in that the Plan recommends that project designs should incorporate safety features. A solar farm or energy system is a project design.
- Finally, review of the plan and the proposed text amendment fulfills the mandate of the plan to review the County’s existing land use related regulatory ordinances (in this case, Chapter 10, Part 2 of the Columbus County Code of Ordinances, adopted 9/18/2017) to ensure their consistency with the recommendations of this plan and the evolving nature of the County.

Approved and adopted this the 6th day of November, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ James E. Prevatte

Chairman, Columbus County Board of Commissioners

Approved as to Form:  
/s/ Michael Stephens, Attorney  
Columbus County Attorney

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the Ordinance so entitled “An Ordinance to Amend the Land Use Regulations Ordinance of Columbus County, NC, Article VI, Section 4; Also Known as Chapter 10, Part 2, Article 7, Section 4 of The Code of Ordinances to Add Provisions for Solar Energy Facilities and Article 9, Standard A to Add Additional Emergency Provisions for Solar Farms” and the following Consistency Statement, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #11:** **PLANNING - WRITTEN CONSISTENCY STATEMENT:** Gary Lanier/Samantha Alsup requested Board approval of the following Written Consistency Statement for a map amendment - re-zoning of parcel #25550 on October 16, 2017.

**Columbus County Board of Commissioners**  
**Consistency Statement**  
**October 16, 2017**

On October 16, 2017, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, the Board considered the request of the Petitioner Cooperative Solar, LLC to rezone parcel #25550 from Residential Agricultural to Industrial-1 (Light Industrial). This parcel lies in the Southeastern Community College Zoning Area (See Columbus County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10, Part 2, Article 7).

After a public hearing, the petitioner requested a zoning map amendment. The Board reviewed the Columbus County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and found that the requested map amendment was consistent with the Columbus County Comprehensive Land Use Plan and approved the following statement:

The Board agreed that rezoning parcel #25550, so that the entire parcel is zoned Industrial-1, would be consistent with the Columbus County Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the following reasons:

- The parcel is split between two zoning districts with the southern portion zoned Industrial-1 and the northern portion zoned Residential-Agriculture.
- The property lies in a Community Service Area land use sector (pg. 75-76 of Plan).
- Per the Land Use Plan, a Community Service Area sector should contain virtually all existing and future industrial development and be the focus of future economic activities.
- The proposed use of a solar farm is an economic development activity (pg. 76).
- The property would be segregated from other uses (pg. 75).
- The property will be separated from other uses by property setbacks, by vegetative buffers, and by an existing floodplain, as well as be off the main road which is Business 74-76 and NC Hwy 130.
- Vegetative buffers would be used to ensure compatibility with surrounding areas including a natural vegetative buffer between the property and a residential property (pg. 83).
- The property’s proposed use wouldn’t emit noxious fumes or produce hazardous materials (pg. 75).
- The proposed use would be a commercial development that is in keeping with the surrounding community, which includes an adjacent solar farm and a water treatment facility (pg. 76).
- The proposed use would be accessible by a road that is developed to urban standards (pg. 76).
- The property, if zoned entirely Industrial (Ind-1), would be located on land that is physically suitable for industrial use and would have unique locational advantages for industry. For instance, there is an existing solar farm on an adjacent property which would suggest existing infrastructure to support that industry (pg. 83).
- Finally, rezoning would be reasonable and in the public interest in that many other properties in the Southeastern Community College Zoning are currently zoned Industrial, including the adjacent property, which is partially zoned Industrial and used as a solar farm. Allowing facilities that produce clean energy in an area that is close to industrial zoned properties

would be a benefit to future economic development and therefore in the public interest.

THEREFORE, THE COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVES THE ABOVE WRITTEN CONSISTENCY STATEMENT IN REGARD TO THE REZONING (MAP AMENDMENT) OF PARCEL # 25550 FROM RESIDENTIAL AGRICULTURE TO INDUSTRIAL-1 MAKING THE ENTIRE PARCEL INDUSTRIAL-1 FOR THE REASONS STATED ABOVE.

This the 6th day of November, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ James E. Prevatte, Chairman  
Columbus County Board of Commissioners

Approved as to form:  
/s/ Michael Stephens  
County Attorney

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the Written Consistency Statement for a map amendment - re-zoning of parcel #25550 on October 16, 2017, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #12: PLANNING - ESTABLISH DATE AND TIME FOR PUBLIC HEARING:**

Gary Lanier/John Ganus requested the Board to establish November 20, 2017, at 6:30 P.M., for the following proposed ordinances regulating public nuisances and abandoned and junked vehicles:

1. An Ordinance Affecting the Regulation of Sanitation, Health and Public Nuisances; Enacting Chapter 8, Part 3, Article I, The Code of Ordinances of the County of Columbus; **and**
2. An Ordinance Affecting the Regulation of Abandoned, Nuisance and Junked Motor Vehicles; Enacting Chapter 8, Part 3, Article 2, The Code of Ordinances of the County of Columbus.

Commissioner Russ made a motion to establish November 20, 2017, at 6:30 P.M., for the following proposed ordinances regulating public nuisances and abandoned and junked vehicles:

1. An Ordinance Affecting the Regulation of Sanitation, Health and Public Nuisances; Enacting Chapter 8, Part 3, Article I, The Code of Ordinances of the County of Columbus; **and**
2. An Ordinance Affecting the Regulation of Abandoned, Nuisance and Junked Motor Vehicles; Enacting Chapter 8, Part 3, Article 2, The Code of Ordinances of the County of Columbus.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #13: ~~PLANNING - USE OF SALES TAX SOURCED FUNDS:~~** Gary Lanier, Planning Director, is requesting Board approval to use sales tax sourced funds for fiberoptic cable to International Logistics and Mid-Atlantic Industrial Parks.

**DELAYED UNTIL DECEMBER 04, 2017 MEETING.**

**Agenda Item #14: PLANNING - INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOARDMAN AND COLUMBUS COUNTY:**

Samantha Alsup, Planning Tech, requested Board approval for the following Interlocal Agreement between Boardman and Columbus County.

**Interlocal Agreement Between  
Columbus County and the Town of Boardman**

This resolution/agreement, made and entered into this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017, by and between the Town of Boardman, a municipal corporation organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of North Carolina, Party of the First Part and hereinafter referred to as the TOWN and Columbus County, a political subdivision of the State of North Carolina established and operating pursuant to the laws of the State of North Carolina, Party of the Second Part and

hereinafter referred to as the COUNTY:

**WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, the TOWN and the COUNTY, pursuant to the authority granted by the North Carolina General Statutes 1670A-461, hereby covenant and agree as follows:

1. That the TOWN hereby contracts with the COUNTY to use the services of the Inspections and Planning Departments of the COUNTY to administer the TOWN'S Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance within the corporate limits and extra-territorial jurisdiction of the TOWN.
2. That the services of Columbus County Inspections and Planning Departments shall be performed at no cost to the TOWN. However, should any claims arise out of the services provided by the COUNTY under this agreement, the TOWN agrees to indemnify and hold the COUNTY, its employees, agents and contractors harmless from any and all claims for liability, loss, injury, damages to persons or property, costs or attorney's fees resulting from any action brought against Columbus County, its employees, agents, contractors and Commissioners arising as a result of these services performed on behalf of the TOWN that are the subject matter of this Agreement.
3. That all fees and charges associated with administering the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance as adopted the Board of County Commissioners, shall be collected by the COUNTY, shall be the sole property of the COUNTY, and no part thereof shall be payable to the TOWN.
4. That all development to take place within the TOWN'S corporate limits or extra-territorial jurisdiction shall be subject to the rules and regulations set forth in the aforementioned Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. No building permits shall be issued for any property until the flood zone is determined and the necessary building standard are met. If the property is located within the Special Flood Hazard Area and if the structure is to be constructed within the flood hazard area, preliminary and final elevation certificates will be required.
5. That the Columbus County Inspections and Planning Departments will use every effort to enforce the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, except that if any civil or criminal action becomes necessary, the TOWN shall bring any legal action as may be required to effectively enforce said Ordinance, upon written notice from the Columbus County Inspections and Planning Departments of such violations.
6. That this Agreement shall continue until such time as either the TOWN or COUNTY resolves to discontinue the Agreement and presents six (6) months written notice to the other party of said termination or upon mutual agreement of both parties.
7. This Agreement may only be modified in writing and executed by both parties.
8. That the effective date of this Interlocal Agreement shall be 11-07-2017.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Town of Boardman has caused this Agreement to be signed in its name by its Mayor, attested by its Clerk, and its Official Seal to be hereunto affixed, and Columbus County has caused this agreement to be signed in its name by the Chair of the Board of Commissioners and attested by the Clerk of its Board and its Official Seal to be hereunto affixed, the day and year first above written.

**TOWN OF BOARDMAN**

By: /s/ **RANDY WILLIAMSON, Mayor**

ATTEST: /s/ **CRYSTAL WILLIAMSON, Clerk**

(SEAL)

**COLUMBUS COUNTY**

By: /s/ **JAMES E. PREVETTE, Chair**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

ATTEST: /s/ **JUNE B. HALL Clerk**

(SEAL)

Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement Between Boardman and Columbus County, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #15: FINANCE - MAXIMUS CONTRACT FOR INDIRECT COST PLAN FOR 3 YEARS:**

Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, requested Board approval of Agreement to Provide Professional Consulting Services for Indirect Cost Plan with Maximus Professional Consulting

Services in the amount of five thousand, eight hundred, seventy-five (\$5,875.00) dollars for fiscal years 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the Agreement to Provide Professional Consulting Services for Indirect Cost Plan with Maximus Professional Consulting Services in the amount of five thousand, eight hundred, seventy-five (\$5,875.00) dollars for fiscal years 2017, 2018 and 2019, seconded by Vice Chairman Amon E. McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #16: LEGAL - INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT for MECHANICAL INSPECTIONS:**

Mike Stephens, County Attorney/Interim County Manager, requested Board approval of the following Interlocal Agreement Mechanical Inspections with the City of Whiteville.

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT  
MECHANICAL INSPECTIONS**

This Agreement made and entered into this 6th day of November 2017, by and between the CITY OF WHITEVILLE, a municipal corporation having charter granted by the State of North Carolina (hereinafter referred to as "Municipality"), and COLUMBUS COUNTY, a body politic and a subdivision of the State of North Carolina (hereinafter referred to as "County");

WHEREAS, the County is desirous of having the Municipality provide mechanical inspections and have enforcement authority within said County's jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, the Municipality, in accordance with and under the auspices of N.C. General Statute 160A-461, will enter into an interlocal agreement for the purpose of conducting mechanical inspections; and

WHEREAS, under 160A-360, a municipality and county may, by agreement, cede its territory to the other for the purpose of enforcement of select ordinances and regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and mutual covenants and agreements of the parties, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Term. The term of this Interlocal Agreement is from October 31, 2017 through November 30, 2017, and shall renew for an additional thirty days upon mutual agreement of the parties unless terminated as provided herein.
2. Responsibilities
  - A. County. The County agrees to:
    - a. provide any pre-permit reviews of any applicable County ordinances or regulations;
    - b. provide certification (when necessary) that said plans are in accordance with County regulations, plans and other documentation needed for review under applicable zoning codes;
    - c. not hold Municipality responsible for enforcement of any other County ordinance or regulations, unless specifically contracted for.
  - B. Municipality. The Municipality agrees to:
    - a. provide all applicable inspections regarding mechanical in accordance with the North Carolina Building Codes;
    - b. issue all mechanical permits under the ordinance;
    - c. perform site inspections as necessary;
3. Compensation
  - A. County. County agrees to compensate Municipality \$2,000.00 a month for one trade plus reimbursement for mileage at the current IRS rate. All funds would run through Municipality accounts.
4. Termination. This Agreement may be terminated upon five (5) days' prior written notice and upon mutual agreement by and between the County and Municipality.
5. Entire Agreement. This Agreement is the only agreement between the parties and contains

all the terms agreed upon.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed in duplicate originals by the respective parties, all duly authorized by the respective governing boards and the authority duly given to their respective officials, all duly given the day and year first above written.

COUNTY OF COLUMBUS  
 /s/ James E. Prevatte, Chairman  
 Columbus County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:  
 /s/ June B. Hall  
 Clerk to the Board

CITY OF WHITEVILLE  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mayor

ATTEST:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clerk to the Board

Approved as to form

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Columbus County Attorney

This instrument has been preaudited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Contract Act.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Columbus County Finance Officer\

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement Mechanical Inspections with the City of Whiteville, with the County Attorney having the authority to do negotiations with the cost, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #17: APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS/REPLACEMENTS:**

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

COMMITTEE	NAME	EXPIRATION DATE	BOARD ACTION
Airport Authority	I Ronell Williams	10-20-2017	<b>Re-Appoint</b> <b>Re-Appoint</b> <b>Re-Appoint</b>
	III Jesse L. Malpass	10-20-2017	
	VI Frank Horne	10-20-2017	
Community Advisory Committee	EB Ina Brown	11-01-2017	<b>HOLD</b>
	EB 5 Vacancies	---	
Planning Board	V Vacant	09-30-2017	<b>HOLD</b> <b>HOLD</b> <b>Re-Appoint</b>
	VI Dale Ward	04-17-2020	
	VII Daryl Hardwick	09-30-2017	

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

At 7:52 P.M., Commissioner Russ 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 Water District Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V - APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

October 16, 2017 **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 2 for each Water District,

respectively.

**Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT V - CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE:**

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Water and Sewer District V - Old Dock Elementary School Water and Sewer Project, Capital Project Ordinance.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 2 for Columbus County Water and Sewer District V.

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

At 7:54 P.M., Commissioner Bullard 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 Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #20: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

**A. Budget Amendments:**

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditures	10-4310-535300	M&R Vehicles (2015 Ford Taurus Repairs)	201
Revenues	10-3431-489000	Miscellaneous Revenue	201
Expenditures	10-4265-535110	M&R Bldg/Grounds	14,532
	10-4160-525101	M&R Bldg/Grounds	1,327
	10-4261-535200	Maint & Repair - Equipment	1,863
	10-4263-535110	M&R Bldg/Grounds	2,850
Revenues	10-3991-499101	Fund Balance Appropriated	20,572
Expenditures	10-4201-548010	Incubator Project	13,047
Revenues	10-3485-498055	Golden Leaf Foundation	13,047
Expenditures	10-4317-560160	Grant Exp Account	14,872
Revenues	10-3991-499115	Various Fund Balance Appropriated	14,872

**B. Tax Refunds and Releases:**

*Property Value* Amount: \$94.91

George, Garfield(Heirs) **PROPERTY:** 77957 Total: \$320.37  
 Value: \$11,790.00 Year: 2017 Account: 14-05544 Bill#: 63128  
 Release. Repoed in 2016. Release Welches Creek(9.43) release Whiteville Rescue(2.36)

*Property Value* Amount: \$2.04

Hinson, Elisha J **PROPERTY:** 00000 Total: \$2.09  
 Value: \$253.00 Year: 2017 Account: 06-08921 Bill#: 68395  
 Release value of business equipment. Owner died. Release Columbus Rescue(.05)

*Property Value* Amount: \$172.27

Lewis, Cecilia(ETAL) **PROPERTY:** 26757 Total: \$1,748.68  
 Value: \$21,400.00 Year: 13-16 Account: 14-00918 Bill#: 99999  
 Release value sold at tax sale. Release Welches Creek(17.12) release Whiteville Rescue(4.28)

*Property Value* Amount: \$1,631.74

Roby, Richard W (Sr) **PROPERTY:** 14293 Total: \$1,788.28



Value: \$218,000.00	Year: 2017	Account: 08-04323	Bill#: 84406
Release value of house. Burned 2016 Release Columbus Rescue(40.54)			Amount: \$231.20
<i>Property Value</i>			Total: \$265.66
Strickland, Jerry Ray		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 30645	Bill#: 90403
Value: \$28,720.00	Year: 2017	Account: 16-00007	
Release portion of value. Billed at regular value and shb at Land Use value. Release Cole Service(28.72) release Columbus Rescue(5.74)			Amount: \$56.99
<i>Property Value</i>			Total: \$269.91
Wallace, Jerry Walker		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 00000	Bill#: 93474
Value: \$7,080.00	Year: 2017	Account: 15-05083	
Release value. DBL Release Acme Delco(8.50) release Columbus Rescue(1.42)			Amount: \$8.05
<i>Property Value</i>			Total: \$211.25
Wright, Albert C (Jr)		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 00000	Bill#: 97416
Value: \$1,000.00	Year: 2017	Account: 06-01837	
Release value of S/W sold in 2015 with land. Release Columbus Rescue(.20)			Amount: \$0.00
<i>Refunds</i>			Total: \$152.24
Alivo, Michael Edward		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 93092	Bill#: 47811
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 07-05917	
Refund portion of user fee. Did not have can portion of the year.			Amount: \$0.00
<i>Refunds</i>			Total: \$406.00
Brackley, Daniel		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 26203	Bill#: 51614
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 14-03548	
Refund user fees. Never had 2 cans bldg. is vacant.			Amount: \$0.00
<i>Refunds</i>			Total: \$84.58
Cribb, Benjamin Perry		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 91381	Bill#: 79754
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 09-02232	
Refund portion of user fee. Did not have can Jan-Jun			Amount: \$131.22
<i>Refunds</i>			Total: \$162.27
Soles, Christopher Eugene		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 00000	Bill#: 88206
Value: \$16,300.00	Year: 2017	Account: 01-08346	
Refund portion of value on boat. Listed in Wayne County. Refund North Whiteville(13.04) refund Whiteville Rescue(3.26)			Amount: \$0.00
<i>Refunds</i>			Total: \$203.00
Stout, Kimberly L.		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 1311	Bill#: 90149
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 01-07871	
Refund user fee. Only has one can.			Amount: \$16.10
<i>Refunds</i>			Total: \$442.50
Wright, Albert C (Jr)		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 00000	Bill#: 99999
Value: \$1,000.00	Year: 15-16	Account: 06-01837	
Refund value of S/W sold in 2015 with land. Refund Columbus Rescue(.40)			Amount: \$0.00
<i>User Fee</i>			Total: \$203.00
Cartrette, Delinda		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 91399	Bill#: 54814
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 09-02064	
Release user fee. Vacant.			Amount: \$0.00
<i>User Fee</i>			Total: \$203.00
Cartrette, Ferrill P & Ethel		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 15455	Bill#: 54836
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 09-03200	
Release user fee. Vacant.			Amount: \$0.00
<i>User Fee</i>			Total: \$203.00
Fowler, Frances Williamson		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 13459	Bill#: 61800
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 07-04416	
Release user fee. Home taken off for 2017.			Amount: \$0.00
<i>User Fee</i>			Total: \$203.00
Hall, Kyle (ETAL)		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 00000	Bill#: 65930
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 16-06921	
Release user fee. Single Wide vacant.			Amount: \$0.00
<i>User Fee</i>			Total: \$203.00
Hayes, A L & Martha		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 86619	Bill#: 67037
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 16-05957	
Release user fee. Vacant.			

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<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Hayes, A L & Martha		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 29864	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 16-03904	Bill#:	67039
Release user fee. Vacant.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Horne, Karen M.		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 3230	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 02-01636	Bill#:	69089
Release user fee. Vacant.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Lambert, Paul & Terry Alane		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 95245	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 03-02350	Bill#:	72660
Release user fee. Only has 1 can.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Lavin, Alfred Stanley		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 28779	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 15-23260	Bill#:	72891
Release user fee. Vacant.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Lewis, Betty J.		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 00000	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 11-03921	Bill#:	73555
Release user fee. S/W vacant.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Lyons, A B (Heirs)		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 21630	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 12-16560	Bill#:	74781
Release user fee. Vacant.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Pinero, Kathy Leverne		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 25283	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 13-32655	Bill#:	81659
Release user fee. Vacant.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Poole, Vestal B		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 92480	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 12-02612	Bill#:	81817
Release user fee. Vacant.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Prince, Hurshel & Shirley Ann		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 5468	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 01-74060	Bill#:	82910
Release user fee. Vacant.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Ray, Ervin Woodrow		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 16679	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 09-03564	Bill#:	83341
Release user fee. Vacant.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Rodriguez, Everardo Torres(ETAL)		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 92609	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 01-07263	Bill#:	84436
Release user fee. Vacant.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Smith, John Braddie & Ruth		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 4924	Total:	\$116.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 01-85520	Bill#:	87725
Release user fee. Vacant.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Spivey, Garrett Jason		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 00000	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 12-03703	Bill#:	89000
Release user fee. Vacant.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Todd, Regina S & Windell A		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 30578	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 16-01755	Bill#:	92127
Release user fee. Only 1 can.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Vereen, Joseph		<b>PROPERTY:</b> 00000	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 03-02167	Bill#:	92998

Release user fee. Vacant.

User Fee

Amount: \$0.00

Webber, Peggy

PROPERTY: 90485

Total: \$203.00

Value: \$0.00

Year: 2017

Account: 09-00630

Bill#: 95167

Release user fee. Pool house doesn't have a can.

**Agenda Item #21: COMMENTS:**

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

**B. Board of Commissioners:**

1. **Commissioner Trent Burroughs:** stated the following:

The events of the past several weeks, the last two in particular, have caused me to take considerable time reflecting on how I think the county should move forward with regards to the issue of merging the City and County School Systems. Some say this is not the right time to discuss and this may be true, but unfortunately this issue has come to the forefront and I feel that we have no choice now, but to address. I want to take a minute tonight to do that and to also discuss actions taken in our last regular Board Meeting.

It was my belief going into our last regular Board Meeting, that we as a board, had a good chance to be nonpartisan on the school issue, send it to the Legislature and allow us to hopefully obtain more complete information on how to address the issue of merger. I believed that we had passed a motion that attempted to do that. However, out of the blue, apparently to appease the predominately Whiteville crowd in attendance, another motion was made and the discussion went in a different direction. I don't know what purpose passing apparently conflicting motions served the public. It certainly did not provide any clarity to this emotional and passionate issue. This action, obviously, caught me off guard, as I was under the impression that we, the Board, were committed to move forward on the original motion. Maybe that was the plan, unbeknownst to me. At any rate, I could not support either side of the later motion as presented.

You must know that this is not about doing away with Whiteville City Schools, in particular, Whiteville High School. This is about consolidating the administrative unit of all the schools in the county, under one umbrella, to hopefully create efficiencies and unity among all people in the county.

The motion that I referred to was "to not consolidate the two systems".

To vote yes on this motion was to vote no to merge the two systems. This sounds simple, but it's not.

If this motion passed, this issue would not be resolved, even though the argument at the time was that it would be, tension would remain and ultimately it would be "kicked down the road again" as someone in the audience stated. I could not support or vote for that, because I believed that in the long term, if a merger was done at the right time, in the right way, for the right reasons, it could be beneficial to the county. And there needed to be finality to this issue.

To vote no on this motion was to vote for merger of the two systems. This sounds simple too, but again, it's not.

This would have meant that the county would attempt to force a merger. If this scenario passed, I have been advised by some attorneys at the School of Government, that it could take up to five (5) years and cost the county much in lost revenue and expenses while trying to accomplish. And, at the end of that period, the results of the timely and costly required study, paid for by the County, would be presented to the State Board of Education and our request could be approved or denied. To me, this was not an acceptable option either, as the County could certainly not afford the monetary expense, or just as importantly, the expense of

continued turmoil over this issue, for the up to five year duration, in trying to accomplish.

In retrospect, what I would have preferred, was to have had a formal request made to our Legislature and more specifically to our Senator Danny Britt, our Representative Brendon Jones and to our County's local son, Senator Bill Rabon, to merge the two school systems, provided that they performed an in depth study on the issue and that the findings of that study were favorable, in their opinion, to merge the two school systems. In this scenario, there would be no monetary expense to the county and the General Assembly could make it happen fairly quickly and decisively.

What we currently have are "facts" that each side of the issue references that appear to only support each side's predisposed position on the issue. For instance, it has been stated that 20 to 30 jobs would be lost in a merger, by the "not to merge" side, but in conversations with our former County Manager, when he asked the Marion County School Superintendent how the merger of the three school systems in Marion County, S.C. went, he stated "well". And when asked how many jobs were lost, he replied that he was, "not aware of any". Things there seemed to be handled through retirement and attrition, which is certainly understandable when an organization has several hundred employees. Every year someone retires, others transfer and still others move on. On the issue of funding, there may very well be somewhat less available funding; but on the other hand, there would also be considerable savings.

This formal request would hopefully force a sincere delve into the issue and bring us the unbiased facts so that an informed decision could be made and bring resolution to what has been a divisive issue for many years. This process however should in no way stop the hard fought progress we have made thus far in trying to build new schools. New school construction is needed in both the City and County systems currently and obligations to accomplish new construction have been made to both Boards and those obligations should be kept. Regardless of whether there are one or two school systems in Columbus County, new school construction is needed throughout the County, including the City of Whiteville.

For me, that formal request would have been the prudent way to move forward, and get to the bottom of this issue. The Legislature could provide the resource that we desperately need, as they have the time, expertise and funding, to fully investigate and return to us an unbiased finding. With this information, we would be an informed public. If the finding was favorable for a merger, I would fully support it. However, if the finding was not favorable for a merger, I would support that finding as well. Either way, we would have finality to this issue once and for all.

2. **Commissioner Edwin Russ:** stated the following:
  - I have discovered a plaque at the Columbus County Historic Courthouse listing many names of soldiers who have died in wars protecting our country;
  - On this plaque, there are eight (8) names listed on the bottom as being colored;
  - I would like for us to have this plaque re-done with the names of all soldiers listed in alphabetical order; **and**
  - The Shriner s will have fish plates in Riegelwood on Thursday, and in Whiteville on Friday, at \$8.00 a plate, and please come out and support us.
3. **Commissioner Giles E. Byrd:** stated the following:
  - The plaque referenced to by Commissioner Russ will find a home in a County building;
  - I will make a motion to rescind the motion made by Commissioner Edwin Russ at the October 16, 2017 Board Meeting to not merge the two (2) Columbus County School Systems.

#### **MOTION:**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to rescind the motion made by Commissioner Edwin Russ at the October 16, 2017 Board Meeting to not merge the two (2) Columbus County School Systems, seconded by Commissioner Bullard.

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

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

The motion passes on a four (4) to three (3) vote.

4. **Vice Chairman McKenzie:** stated the following:
1. There is a lot of furniture being dumped on Georgia Pacific Road;
  2. The water meters on Georgia Pacific road are located in one (1) spot, and the residents were promised the water meters would be moved to each individual location, but have not been moved, there is a water leak occurring due to the high water bills, but the determination cannot be made as to who the water leak belongs to;
  3. On Dothan Road, a resident wants to install a septic tank but the land will not perk, but her neighbor's land will perk; **and**
  4. Gail, are there any funds available to remove trees from a resident's yard? Gail replied stating no.
5. **Commissioner Ricky Bullard:** stated the following:
1. I congratulate you on your new position, and look forward to working with you, and will help you all that I can; **and**
  2. I would like to make the following motion.

**MOTION:**

The Board of Commissioners to offer a formal request to the Legislators, Senator Danny Britt, Representative Brenden Jones, Senator Bill Rabon and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to take the necessary actions to merge Columbus County School System and the Whiteville City School System into one (1). Each person take an in-depth study on the issue, and if such findings are favorable, they could move forward with the merge, seconded by Vice Chairman McKenzie.

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

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

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

6. **Commissioner Charles T. McDowell:** stated the following:
1. I would like to encourage anyone that can to attend the Opioid Workshop;
  2. I would like to thank everyone that attended the Nakina Veterans Day Parade;
  3. I would like to thank the Board for moving forward with the Old Dock Water and Sewer Project;
  4. I spoke to both of our representatives Thursday night, Saturday and Sunday at parades, and there appears to be a possibility that they may look at this plan, and the staff's responsibility is that we will have a plan if they ask to see that plan, and they stated that we will need to move forward with many things; **and**
  5. It appears to be that we need to wait and find out what the most beneficial step we need to take is.
7. **Chairman James E. Prevatte:** stated I would like for someone to make a motion to move forward with the funding for the school systems.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Russ made a motion to move forward with the funding for the school systems. The motion received no second, and the motion dies.

- C. **County Attorney/County Manager (Michael H. Stephens):** stated the following:
1. Something needs to be done about the financing of the funds for the school systems;  
**and**

- 2. I am humble about you appointing me as County Manager, and we work good together, and I appreciate the confidence you have placed in me..

**RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE and (6) PERSONNEL:**

At 8:37 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (3) Attorney-Client Privilege and (6) Personnel, after a five (5) minute recess, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #22: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE and (6) PERSONNEL:**

No official action was taken.

**ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and RESUME REGULAR SESSION:**

At 8:59 P.M., Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

**READING and APPROVAL of CLOSED SESSION GENERAL ACCOUNT:**

Chairman Prevatte requested that Michael H. Stephens, County Manager/County Attorney, orally read the Closed Session General Account. Mr. Stephens orally read the following: *“The County Manager/County Attorney discussed the lawsuit with Group III, and the closing of the Georgia Pacific site. The Personnel issue was not addressed”*.

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

**Agenda Item #23: ADJOURNMENT:**

At 9:00 P.M., Commissioner Russ made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs, The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V  
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING  
Monday, November 06 2017  
7:52 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

James E. Prevatte, **Chairman**  
Amon E. McKenzie, **Vice-Chairman**  
Giles E. Byrd  
Edwin Russ  
Trent Burroughs  
Ricky Bullard  
Charles T. McDowell

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 7:52 P.M., Chairman James E. Prevatte called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

October 16, 2017 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to approve the October 16, 2017 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:54 P.M., Commissioner Bullard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V  
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING  
Monday, November 06 2017  
7:52 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

James E. Prevatte, **Chairman**  
Amon E. McKenzie, **Vice-Chairman**  
Giles E. Byrd  
Edwin Russ  
Trent Burroughs  
Ricky Bullard  
Charles T. McDowell

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 7:52 P.M., Chairman James E. Prevatte called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

October 16, 2017 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to approve the October 16, 2017 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:54 P.M., Commissioner Bullard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**


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


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**JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**



**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V  
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING  
Monday, November 06 2017  
7:52 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

James E. Prevatte, **Chairman**  
Amon E. McKenzie, **Vice-Chairman**  
Giles E. Byrd  
Edwin Russ  
Trent Burroughs  
Ricky Bullard  
Charles T. McDowell

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 7:52 P.M., Chairman James E. Prevatte called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

October 16, 2017 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to approve the October 16, 2017 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:54 P.M., Commissioner Bullard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**


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


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**JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V  
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING  
Monday, November 06 2017  
7:52 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

James E. Prevatte, **Chairman**  
Amon E. McKenzie, **Vice-Chairman**  
Giles E. Byrd  
Edwin Russ  
Trent Burroughs  
Ricky Bullard  
Charles T. McDowell

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 7:52 P.M., Chairman James E. Prevatte called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

October 16, 2017 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to approve the October 16, 2017 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:54 P.M., Commissioner Bullard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V**  
**COMBINATION BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday, November 06 2017**  
**7:52 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

James E. Prevatte, **Chairman**  
Amon E. McKenzie, **Vice-Chairman**  
Giles E. Byrd  
Edwin Russ  
Trent Burroughs  
Ricky Bullard  
Charles T. McDowell

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 7:52 P.M., Chairman James E. Prevatte called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

October 16, 2017 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Vice Chairman McKenzie made a motion to approve the October 16, 2017 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT V - CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE:**

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Water and Sewer District V - Old Dock Elementary School Water and Sewer Project, Capital Project Ordinance.

**Water and Sewer District V-Old Dock Elementary School Water and Sewer Project**  
**CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus, North Carolina, that pursuant to Section 159-13.2 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following Grant Project Ordinance is **HEREBY ADOPTED**:

**SECTION 1.** The project authorized is for the Water District V Old Dock Elementary School Project.

**SECTION 2.** The project director is hereby directed to proceed with the water portion of the project.

**SECTION 3.** The project will be executed during fiscal years 2017/2019.

**SECTION 4.** The following revenues are anticipated to be available to the District to complete the project:

<b>ACCOUNT #</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
36-3320-432325	Columbus County Schools & County Appropriation to Water	\$1,176,759 Article 44 Sale Tax 2016
36-3320-432325	Article 44 Sales Tax 2017	\$124,092 (81,938 Sewer \$ 42,154 water)
36-3320-432011	CDBG-I School Grant Funds Requested (Application submitted October 30, 2017)	\$1,000,000
36-3320-480010	Golden Leaf Grant Funds Requested - Application submitted September 25, 2017	\$536,952
36-3320-498070	Water & Sewer District Appropriation for Well	\$312,250 (270,000 well, 20,000 land & 22,250 design)
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$3,150,053</b>

**SECTION 5.** The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

<b>ACCOUNT #</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
36-7130-5191061	Preliminary Design-Water, Well & Sewer	\$174,758 (\$92,820 water & \$81,938 sewer)
36-7130-519048	Inspection – Water, Well & Sewer	\$120,000 (\$60,000 each)
36-7130-519049	Contract 2-Well Estimate	\$270,000
36-7130-557000	Land for Well	\$20,000
36-7130-519030	Contract I-Water Construction	\$1,018,898
36-7130-519040	Contract 3-Sewer Construction Estimate	\$1,304,240
36-7130-519044	Easement Surveys-Water & Sewer	\$7,500 (\$3750 each)
36-7130-534910	GIS As Built Drawings-Water & Sewer	\$15,000 (\$7500 each)
36-7130-548001	Administration Water & Sewer	\$60,000 (CDBG)
36-7130-548015	Permits/Applications	\$30,000
36-7130-599100	Contingency Water Project	\$64,445

36-7130-549956	Contingency Sewer Project	\$65,212
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$3,150,053</b>

**SECTION 6:** The Finance Officer is directed to report quarterly on the financial status of this project. She shall keep the Governing Body informed at each regular meeting of any unusual occurrences.

**SECTION 7:** Copies of the Grant Project Ordinance shall be made available to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out this project.

**ADOPTED** this the 6th day of November 2017.

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

**ATTESTED BY:**  
**JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to the Board**

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the Water and Sewer District V-Old Dock Elementary School Water and Sewer Project Capital Project Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:54 P.M., Commissioner Bullard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman**