COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, March 19, 2018
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 third Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:  APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Amon E. McKenzie, Chairman  Mike Stephens, County Attorney /
Trent Burroughs, Vice Chairman County Manager
James E. Prevatte
Giles E. Byrd
P. Edwin Russ
Ricky Bullard
Charles T. McDowell
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 Amon E. McKenzie opened the March 19, 2018 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Charles T. McDowell. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Ricky Bullard.

Agenda Item #4: PRESENTATION - RETIREMENT PLAQUE:

Chairman McKenzie presented the following retirement plaque to Joseph L. Small for his many years of service to the Columbus County Health Department.

PRESENTED TO

JOSEPH L. SMALL

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION
FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND LOYALTY
TO
COLUMBUS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

07-02-1990 - 04-30-2017

* * * * * *

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:

Chairman McKenzie stated for the sake of time, Agenda Item #12 needs to be moved to Agenda Item #7.

MOTION:

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to move Agenda Item #12 to Agenda Item #7, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #5: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Russ made a motion to approve the March 05, 2018 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #6: PUBLIC INPUT:

Chairman McKenzie opened the floor for Public Input. The following spoke.
1. JaShawna Bellamy, P.O. Box 782, Tabor City, NC 28463: stated the following:
   - This is a followup on a discussion of employees’ pay and morale at the Department of Social Services;
   - I am not here to represent the entire Department of Social Services, as a whole, but as a group;
   - In 2012, according to the news media, the Commissioners entertained a pay study that showed employees were underpaid especially in the Department of Social Services, Sheriff’s Department and the 911 Department;
   - There are approximately 146 employees at Social Services and 106 of these employees live in Columbus County;
   - In accordance with the audit report, there are $27,317,000.00 in rainy day funds, and a sizable increase in the salaries for the Social Services employees would not make a large dent in the funds; and
   - We need to know a number for the salary increases or a timeline for the increases.

2. Johnny D. Edge, 470 Happy Home Road, Nakina, NC 28455: stated the following:
   - There is a problem in the Columbus County Inspections Department; and
   - There is trouble in getting a response from the Inspections Department.

Agenda Item #7: PROCLAMATION - VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2018 PROCLAMATION:

Mike Creen and Anita Adams, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Vietnam Veterans Day 2018 Proclamation.

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2018 PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on January 12, 1962, United States Army pilots lifted more than one thousand (1,000) South Vietnamese service members over jungle and underbrush to capture a National Liberation Front stronghold near Saigon; and

WHEREAS, fifty (50) years after that fateful mission, we honor the more than three (3) million Americans who served, we pay tribute to those we have laid to rest, and we re-affirm our dedication to showing a generation of veterans the respect and support of a grateful nation; and

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War is a story of service members of different backgrounds, colors and creeds who came together to complete a daunting mission; and

WHEREAS, it is a story of patriots who braved the line of fire, who cast themselves into harm’s way to save a friend, who fought hour after hour, day after day to preserve the liberties we hold dear, and eleven (11) years of combat left their imprint on a generation; and

WHEREAS, thousands of soldiers returned home bearing shrapnel and scars, still more were burdened by the invisible wounds of post-traumatic stress, of Agent Orange, of memories that would never fade, and more than fifty-eight thousand (58,000) soldiers laid down their lives in service to our Nation; and

WHEREAS, now and forever, their names are etched into faces of black granite, a lasting memorial to those who bore conflict’s greatest cost; and

WHEREAS, our veterans answered our country’s call and served with honor, and on March 29, 1973, the last of our troops left Vietnam, ... yet..., in one (1) of the war’s most profound tragedies, many of these men and women came home to be shunned or neglected - - face treatment unbefitting their courage and a welcome unworthy of their example - - - WE MUST NEVER LET THIS HAPPEN AGAIN - - - Columbus County had twenty-three (23) men who gave their lives defending our country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners proclaim that March 29, 2018 is Vietnam Veterans Day and every March 29 thereafter will be Vietnam Veterans Day in Columbus County.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 19th day of March, 2018.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman, D-I
/s/ JAMES E. PREVATTE, D-II
/s/ P. EDWIN RUSS, D-IV
/s/ CHARLES T. McDOWELL, D-VII

/s/ TRENT BURROUGHS, D-V, Vice Chairman
/s/ GILES E. BYRD, D-III
/s/ RICKY BULLARD, D-VI

ATTESTED BY:
Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve and adopt the Vietnam Veterans Day 2018 Proclamation, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #8: EMS COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT - JVC KENWOOD:

Ron Runyan, JVC Kenwood, requested the balance of payment for services rendered.

After lengthy and in-depth discussion was conducted, discovery was made that all aspects of the contract had not been executed. Commissioner Bullard made a motion to place this request on hold until all of the work had been finished, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #9: LAKE WACCAMAW BOYS and GIRLS HOME - DISCUSSION of PROJECT:

Bill Thompson presented the following discussion of a proposed project at the Lake Waccamaw Boys and Girls Home.

1. Historically, the horse arena at Lake Waccamaw was built by the Lions Club which ultimately gave the arena to the Boys and Girls Home;
2. Fifty (50) stalls have been added to the existing fifty (50) stalls;
3. Over the years, the facility has deteriorated;
4. Surrounding competition has developed in surrounding counties;
5. We need to add fifty (50) more stalls to our facility, and we are trying to locate anyone who is interested in participating in the development which would be mutually beneficial; and
6. After an impact study was conducted, I discovered that we need $139,000.00, and we have approximately $40,000.00.

MOTION:

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to instruct the County Manager to take this request into consideration, and to see what we can do as we go through the budget process.

After further discussion, Commissioner Prevatte withdrew his motion. No second was made.

MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to send this issue back to Economic Development and Tourism, and request Representative Brenden Jones and Senator Danny Britt to seek funding for this project, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #10: JUVENILE CRIME and PREVENTION COUNCIL - APPROVAL of CERTIFICATION and MEMBERSHIP:

Nicole Hopkins requested Board approval of the following certification and membership roster.

**NC DPS - Community Programs - County Funding Plan (2018-2019)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Columbus County JCPC Administrative</td>
<td>$12,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador’s Program</td>
<td>$34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbus County Schools and Family Counseling Program</td>
<td>$46,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbus County Teen Court/Restitution Program</td>
<td>$60,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Haven Afterschool Program</td>
<td>$45,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$198,917</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**JCPC MEMBERSHIP LIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIFIED MEMBERS</th>
<th>NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Superintendent or Designee</td>
<td>Alan Faulk, Dr. Heather Wing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief of Police</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Sheriff or Designee</td>
<td>Lewis Hatcher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vice Chairman Burroughs made a motion to approve the certification of funding and the membership roster for the Juvenile Crime and Prevention Council, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #11**: RESOLUTION - RESOLUTION to REQUEST REINSTATEMENT of SENIORS’ HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION PROGRAM (SHIIP):

Patsy Eason requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution to Request Reinstatement of Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP), for the benefit of our senior citizens.

**RESOLUTION to REQUEST REINSTATEMENT of SENIORS’ HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION PROGRAM (SHIIP)**

WHEREAS, the information we received relative to the cut in funding for State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP), which ultimately would have a devastating impact on North Carolina Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program NCSHIIP, was very disturbing; **and**

WHEREAS, this decision arrives at a time when the number of people eligible for Medicare is growing, and the Medicare program is becoming increasingly complex; **and**

WHEREAS, the elimination of this funding may eliminate the best and most reliable free and local resource that Medicare beneficiaries have in North Carolina; **and**

WHEREAS, the NCSHIIP Program is unique, effective, cost-efficient and dependable for the high volume of Medicare beneficiaries in Columbus County, North Carolina; **and**
WHEREAS, with the elimination of the federal funding, NCSHIIP would be severely impacted and would not be able to provide the same high level of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, request the funding for the Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) be reinstated in the Federal budget.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 19th day of March, 2018.

/s/ AMON E. McKENZIE Chairman  /s/ TRENT BURROUGHS Vice Chairman
/s/ JAMES E. PREVATTE  /s/ GILES E. BYRD
/s/ P. EDWIN RUSS  /s/ RICKY BULLARD
/s/ CHARLES T. McDOWELL
/s/ JAMES E. PREVATTE
/s/ GILES E. BYRD
/s/ TRENT BURROUGHS Vice Chairman
/s/ P. EDWIN RUSS
/s/ RICKY BULLARD
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/s/ AMON E. McKENZIE Chairman
/s/ JAMES E. PREVATTE
/s/ P. EDWIN RUSS
/s/ CHARLES T. McDOWELL
/s/ JAMES E. PREVATTE
/s/ GILES E. BYRD

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution to Request Reinstatement of Seniors’ Health insurance Information Program (SHIIP), seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #12: CITY OF WHITEVILLE - WHITEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE:

Darren Currie, City Manager, requested approval for the Whiteville Fire Department to respond to emergency medical calls as first responders in the city limits of Whiteville.

Mr. Currie stated the following:
1. The Governing Body approved an EMS Plan inclusive of first responders; and
2. We want the Whiteville Fire Department to be included in the EMS Plan as first responders.

Commissioner Russ made a motion to approve the Whiteville Fire Department to respond to emergency medical calls as first responders in the city limits of Whiteville, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #13: AIRPORT - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Phil Edwards, Airport Manager, delivered the following Departmental Update.
1. Due to your support, Columbus County Airport continues to thrive and progress;
2. We had over 5,600 operations and welcomed over 15,000 people to the airport in 2017;
3. Airports are a critical part of the North Carolina Transportation System and our county infrastructure;
4. Our airport plays a vital role in providing access for medical transport, law enforcement, the military, corporate and business executives, the North Carolina Forestry Service, the agricultural community, as well as for people both for business and pleasure travel;
5. We have been privileged to serve all types of aircraft from large corporate G-4’s to small experimental airplanes;
6. The Hangar Project was completed in October and all of the hangars are leased generating additional revenue. They were very much needed and they are a valuable asset for our county.;
7. We will be starting on the Runway Project in April. This $3,300,000.00 runway and apron rehabilitation project with new LED lighting is vital in keeping our infrastructure up to par;
8. We have a ten year progress plan and are in hopes that our next project will enable us to construct a new more serviceable terminal building comparable with those of surrounding counties. Studies show that airports play an important role in attracting and retaining business in local communities. They are often the first impression a business owner has when searching for a new location. It is important that we stay competitive if Columbus County is to grow.;
9. I am very proud of the progress we are making at our airport and with you continued support we will continue to work toward making Columbus County Airport one of the best general aviation airports in the southeast; and
10. I sincerely thank you for your support and for your time tonight.

Agenda Item #14: SOCIAL SERVICES - MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE:

Algernon McKenzie, Social Services Director, delivered the following Monthly Administrative Update.
On February 8, 2018 I attended our monthly Director’s Executive Board meeting. During this meeting, we were advised by the Child Development Staff, that the overpayments made to providers by NCFAST were being worked on; however, local county staff will be responsible for reaching out to providers to collect payments. The Directors felt this should not be put on county staff; as this was not a county error. The Division is still identifying the providers and the amount of overpayments made to providers. There have been at least $600,000 in overpayments statewide. There will be more information provided later.

We had a discussion about P4 Child Welfare moving into NCFAST with the Assistant and Deputy Secretary. They acknowledged there are still issues that need to be fixed; and agreed there is still a need for training at the state and county level. Assistant Secretary, Perry Manning stated there needs to be an additional delay with further rollout of Project 4; and wants to work on a schedule that will work for all. There needs to be changes made to address human error; meaning the system would highlight information not entered before moving forward. This will be a work in progress and the state will continue to work with the NCFAST Team and the local county DSS agencies to identify needed changes or fixes to the system.

Our President, Ms. Fayko informed us the Attorney General’s office has sent out a draft of what the written county agreement will look like; which will require all 100 North Carolina counties to sign. There was much discussion and many concerns that some of the expected performance measures are beyond our control and will make it hard for counties to meet the measures. There was also concern the problems with NCFAST will hinder counties from meeting performance and cause more work on staff. The Director’s Association is also concerned about the lack of state accountability and support in the agreement as it is presently written. Therefore, we are requesting there be some changes made and our concerns be addressed before the agreement is finalized and signed. This is a requirement that resulted from HB630; which is calling for a reform of the state’s Social Services programs.

We also discussed Medicaid paybacks for county errors made in Medicaid Eligibility Determination. Counties will be required, as a result of legislation, to repay Medicaid benefits received by a recipient, whose case was approved in error by the county. This is concerning to Directors given the complexity of the Medicaid eligibility determination process; and the amount of information that must be gathered and calculated on each case. This could be an issue for a county’s budget; especially if the individual is in a nursing facility or has multiple health issues.

On February 12 and 13, 2018 we had a Foster Care IV-E Medicaid review with the state representative. Ten cases were pulled and reviewed. All of the cases were found to be correct with no errors and paybacks. The review found all need documentation for these cases to draw down federal funding to the county. This was due to the hard work of the Foster Care Supervisor and Unit.

On February 21-23, 2018 I attended an Adult Protective Services training for Directors and the Eastern Regional Director’s meeting in Beaufort, North Carolina. During this session, we were given an overview of the Adult Services policy and our responsibility as Directors in protecting adults. We talked about the North Carolina General Statutes and participated in a group exercise. This was a very informative training.

During the Eastern Regional meeting, we received an update from Sampson County’s Director on Child Welfare in NCFAST. Sampson County is one of the five pilot counties working in NCFAST with the new Child Welfare system. There are still issues that have not been fixed. There are over 300 job aids for workers to view while trying to enter case information; and the Foster Care board payments and reconciliation are not correct.

Angela Taylor, with the NCFAST team, informed us they have been working with DHHS and there would be a new go live date schedule coming out soon. This will allow them time to work on the fixes needed to the system before more counties are put into NCFAST. They are still working on Project 12; which is a statewide storage system for counties to scan all documents into NCFAST; which will be required.

During this session, we were given some updates on Medicaid Transformation or Managed Care; which is mandated through legislation. The goal is to integrate medical and behavioral health. It is estimated about 20 million people may be affected by this new way of enrolling for Medicaid benefits, which will be done through an enrollment broker beginning July 2019. We were told this could also change the way non-emergency Medicaid Transportation is handled as well. There are concerns about this managed care system and how it would affect counties and recipients of the services. The state will contract with a vendor to provide this service.
Lastly, we had a session from the state fiscal staff on the things we should include in our 2018-19 county budgets. This year, there will be some new costs associated with criminal background checks for Child Support Agents and new policy for paternity tests for non-custodial parents who will be able to request tests be done at DSS agencies now. We were also told the state budget estimates were out.

On February 27, 2018 I met with the Social Work Program Manager, Child Welfare Supervisors and all Child Welfare Social Workers. During this meeting, I reminded them of our responsibility to protect children and follow policy. I also reviewed some of the areas we were cited on in our review and talked about the progress we have made on our Program Development Plan. I discussed some information about HB630 and its requirements for all county agency programs. Staff were reminded about the online training they must complete prior to our go live date in NCFAST for Child Welfare.

At the end of the meeting, staff shared some ideas and concerns about getting their work done as needed; which we will work on. For example; technology, parenting classes at DSS and getting information and medical records from some community partners quicker.

On February 27, 2018 I met with all Program Supervisors to talk to them about HB630 and the required agreements; which will cover all Social Service programs. During the meeting, each supervisor was given a copy of the draft program with specific performance measures for their program area; and asked to review it. We also talked about budget requests for 2018-19.

I informed them of some upcoming personnel training that will be conducted by our consultant at the agency. We will also have some training on Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the near future.

On February 28, 2018 the Social Work Program Manager and I attended a meeting in Rocky Mount, North Carolina; sponsored by the County Commissioners Association. It was entitled, “100 Counties Helping Our Children Thrive”. The purpose of the session was for County Commissioners, County Managers and DSS management to get together and talk about Child Welfare in North Carolina, HB630 and the work of the Working Group, established by HB630. During the session, we talked about issues and the work associated with Child Welfare. We also briefly discussed the 100 county written agreements that are going to be required of all counties in July 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>STATISTICS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Food & Nutrition** | Applications Taken: 244  
Applications Approved: 187  
Active Cases: 5,716  
Benefits Issued: $1,337,558  
Participants Served: 12,076 |
| **Adult Medicaid** | Applications Taken: 124  
Cases Terminated: 55  
Redeterminations: 392  
Applications Processed: 194 |
| **Family & Children’s Medicaid** | Applications Taken: 103  
Applications Processed: 97  
Redeterminations: 616  
Total Medicaid Cases: 13,934  
Total Individuals Receiving: 23,374 |
| **Child Support** | Absent Parents Located: 60  
Orders Enforced: 789  
Active Cases: 4,008  
Collections: $464,079.77 |

February 2018
Human Services
## PROGRAM STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>STATISTICS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adult Services (APS)</strong></td>
<td>APS Reports Accepted: 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>County Wards: 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Payee Cases: 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adults Served APS: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: 576</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amount Requested for Reimbursement: $4,841.20</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Children’s Protective Services (CPS)</strong></td>
<td>Reports Accepted: 35</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reports Screened Out: 23</td>
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<td>Families Receiving In-Home Services: 30</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Children Served: 61</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Contacts with Families Monthly: 303</td>
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<td>Assessments: 33</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Foster Care</strong></td>
<td>Foster Children in Foster Homes: 59</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children Placed Outside County: 18</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Agency Adoptions: 2</td>
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<td>Pending Adoptions: 2</td>
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<td>Total Foster Homes Licensed: 5</td>
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<td>Total Children in Foster Care: 61</td>
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<td><strong>Work First Employment (TANF)</strong></td>
<td>Applications Taken: 21</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Applications Approved: 16</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individuals Receiving Benefits: 296</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Entered Employment: 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Program Integrity</strong></td>
<td>Collections for Fraud: $5,144.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Referrals: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cases Established: 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Day Care</strong></td>
<td>Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children on the Waiting List: 651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amount Spent on Day Care Services: $154,019.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Economic Services Program Narrative

**Child Support/Paralegal and Work First Cash/Medicaid Transportation/Maintenance and Housekeeping**

**Food and Nutrition and Family and Children’s Medicaid**

**Adult Medicaid/Rest Home and Nursing Home/Community Alternatives Program (CAP)**

Submitted by Cyndi Hammonds, Income Maintenance Administrator

**Reporting Month:** February 2018

**News/Updates/Vacancies**

**Child Support and Paralegal:**

The number of court days for Child Support has decreased to 2 days per month due to staffing issues with Judges. We anticipate our days going back to 3 or 4 days per month later this year. This may affect our compliance timeframes with the State office however we will continue to strive to work harder to stay within those timeframes. They prepared 535 cases for court. Our paralegal prepared 227 order and reviewed 54 that the Attorney completed. Four applicants have been chosen for the vacancies and the new staff will begin in March. This would have made this team fully staffed however we have a long time employee who will be retiring in March which will create 1 last vacancy. We are looking forward to this team being fully staffed and fully trained.

**Adult and Family & Children’s Medicaid:**

We continue to meet our compliance thresholds for both Medicaid programs. Our Medicaid Representative has agreed to come and complete some requested training for caseworkers within the next few months. This will help all Medicaid workers make sure the changing of policy is equally understood.
NCFAST will be implementing Document Management this year which is a very vital part of the Medicaid programs. All documents pertaining to the eligibility of each case must be attached in the NCFAST system. Once this is implemented, all cases that are pulled for any audit, monitoring or quality control in 2019 and after will be read via the computer and not the paper record. Up to date scanners must be used in all departments in order for us to successfully accomplish this step.

Food and Nutrition:

Food and Nutrition continues to be a high demand benefit everybody is in need of. The Intake/Processing team had a 100% timeliness rate for 1 week in February. We must stay at 95% each month and our overall score for February was 96.97%. We have hired 1 of the 4 vacancies on this team and are interviewing shortly for the other 3 positions. Participants continue to have to work, volunteer or go to school at least 20 hours per week in order to remain eligible for their benefits.

Work First Cash/Medicaid Transportation/Interpreter/Maintenance and Housekeeping/Deputy:

- WorkFirst continues to meet their compliance timeframes.
- Medicaid Transportation continues to work well in the NCTracks system
- The Interpreter, Maintenance and Housekeeping continue to remain busy.
- We continue to remain well pleased with Deputy Best for the security of our staff.

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD REPORT

Melinda H. Lane, Program Manager

Vacancies/Updates/News for February 2018

Intake/Investigation/Assessment:
The Intake/Investigation/Assessment Unit continues to be fully staffed and busy! All staff have busy caseloads and are continuing to get updated training. Child Welfare go-live for NCFAST for Columbus County has been moved to June 2018. Staff are preparing for a state monitoring in March.

In-Home Services:
The In-Home Services Unit continues to be short-staffed. Initial interviews have been completed. However, more interviews are being discussed. Child Welfare go-live for NCFAST for Columbus County has been moved to June 2018. Staff are preparing for a state monitoring in March.

Foster Care/Adoptions:
The Foster Care/Adoptions Unit is now fully staff and new staff are completing the initial required training (Pre-Service). Staff have been moved around to accommodate the new workers. Child Welfare go-live for Columbus County has been moved to June 2018. Staff are preparing for a state monitoring in March.

Transitional Unit:
The new transitional unit is busy building caseloads and planning events for LINKs and Foster/Adoptive Parent Recruitment. Staff in this Unit have moved into a conference room for office space to accommodate new staff. Child Welfare go-live for Columbus County has been moved to June 2018. Staff are preparing for a state monitoring in March.

Adult Services:
The Adult Services Unit continues to be fully staffed and very busy. Cases are becoming more complex with more issues. Many members of this Unit are in training and cross-training in order to work together more efficiently.

Work First Employment:
The Work First Employment Unit continues to work within the NCFAST system with daily issues. This Unit continues to assist with 200% and with CPS Intake coverage only when needed.

Child Day Care:
The Child Day Care Unit continues to be fully staffed. This Unit continues to work within the NCFAST system dealing with daily issues and updates. Currently there are concerns with how NCFAST manages the waiting list and funding.
Program Integrity:

Program Integrity continues to work hard to get caught up with program integrity duties and cases. Only one temporary worker is currently taking Crisis Intervention Program applications. This is due to the decrease in the amount of applicants, but funding continuing to be available for Crisis Intervention. In February 78 applications were taken for CIP with 76 approvals and 2 denials. 296 applications were taken for LIEAP with 238 approvals and 58 denials. It appears these programs will continue to have funding through the most of the month of March.

Agenda Item #15: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT RESOLUTION:

Gary Lanier, Economic Development Director, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Infrastructure Grant Resolution for the wastewater grant from the Utility Fund at the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT RESOLUTION
Columbus County Board of Commissioners

BE IT RESOLVED, that a grant from the Department of Commerce Industrial Development Fund through the County of Columbus be made to assist in the extension of wastewater service for the International Logistics Park project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Columbus County will administer this grant in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Department of Commerce; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County will administer this grant through the County Finance Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the grant will be monitored quarterly to assure compliance with this proposal and the Department of Commerce regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the amount of the grant application will be two million, one hundred twenty thousand, nine hundred thirty-eight and 00/100 ($2,120,938.00) dollars.

ADOPTED this 19th day of March, 2018.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman 
/s/ TRENT BURROUGHS, Vice Chairman
/s/ JAMES E. PREVATTE 
/s/ GILES E. BYRD
/s/ P. EDWIN RUSS 
/s/ RICKY BULLARD

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ CHARLES T. MCDOWELL 
/s/ JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to the Board
/s/ MICHAEL H. STEPHENS, County Manager / Attorney

Commissioner Russ made a motion to approve and adopt the Infrastructure Grant Resolution for the wastewater grant from the Utility Fund at the North Carolina Department of Commerce, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #16: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - PUBLIC HEARING for PROJECT DRY INCENTIVE GRANT:

Gary Lanier, Economic Development Director, requested the establishment of April 02, 2018, at 6:30 P.M., as the date and time for a Public Hearing for Project Dry Incentive Grant.

Vice Chairman Burroughs made a motion to establish April 02, 2018, at 6:30 P.M., as the date and time for a Public Hearing for Project Dry Incentive Grant, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. 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 8:01 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into a combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.
Agenda Item 17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

March 05, 2018 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.

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

At 8:02 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #18: CONSENT AGENDA ITEM:

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Item.

Tax Refunds and Releases:

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Bill#: 86699  
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**Property Value**  
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Strickland, Terry Robert  
**PROPERTY:** 00000  
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Bill#: 90572  
Release value of boat. Sold. Release Whiteville Rescue,(13) release late list (.54)  
**Refunds**  
Amount: $0.00  
Value: $0.00  
Year: 2017  
Account: 09-05723  
Bill#: 15627  
Refund user fee. House vacant.  
**Refunds**  
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Year: 2017  
Account: 15-27425  
Bill#: 78148  
Refund user fee. Not liveable.  
**Refunds**  
Amount: $362.25  
Value: $0.00  
Year: 2017  
Account: 13-05616  
Bill#: 87463  
Refund portion of value. SHB partially exempt. Release Klondyke Fire(31.50) release Columbus Rescue(9.00)  
**User Fee**  
Amount: $0.00  
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Year: 2017  
Account: 09-03166  
Bill#: 47961  
Release user fee. House is vacant.  
**User Fee**  
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Value: $0.00  
Year: 2017  
Account: 11-04021  
Bill#: 52344  
Release user fee. House is vacant.  
**User Fee**  
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Value: $0.00  
Year: 2017  
Account: 13-00610  
Bill#: 52749  
Release user fee. House is vacant.  
**User Fee**  
Amount: $0.00  
Value: $0.00  
Year: 2017  
Account: 16-00406  
Bill#: 60023  
Release user fee. House is vacant.  
**User Fee**  
Amount: $0.00  
Value: $0.00  
Year: 2017  
Account: 10-3233  
Bill#: 60022  
Release user fee. Vacant.  
**User Fee**  
Amount: $0.00  
Value: $0.00  
Year: 2017  
Account: 10-05658  
Bill#: 61419  
Release user fee. House is vacant.  
**User Fee**  
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Year: 2017  
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Bill#: 63677
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</table>
Chairman McKenzie opened the floor for comments. The following spoke.

A. Department Managers:

1. Larry Hayes, Maintenance Director: stated the following:
   - BOE/HUD Facility possible uses Update:
     - get the building cleaned up including some painting, and some new lights, then move the HUD operation back to their original location;
     - one of the rooms on the BOE side to a handicap restroom
     - store janitorial supplies;
     - storage facility for vital records;
     - new business incubator through Economic Development; and
     - a fitness room for county employees;
   - Historical Courthouse Upgrade:
     - move forward with Phase 2; and
     - requesting $200,000.

2. Edward Davis, Soil and Water Conservation Director: stated the following:
   - The Soil and Water Conservation Board met in January, 2018, and discussed the trash in Columbus County;
   - The trash program by North Carolina Department of Transportation started many years ago has not been effective in the last several years; and
   - We need to start a campaign in Columbus County relative to cleaning up our roads, main and secondary roads.

3. Sheriff Lewis L. Hatcher: we need to develop an incentive to the citizens to clean Columbus County roads.

B. Board of Commissioners:

1. Vice Chairman Trent Burroughs: stated the following:
   - The trip to the White House last week was the most impressive meeting I have attended during my tenure as a Commissioner;
   - They wanted feedback from the Board;
   - There were 120 County Commissioners from North Carolina;
   - The best thing we could do would be to pass a resolution in support of the Presidents’ Infrastructure Program; and
   - The Broadband project in Wilkes County is a large part of the President’s Infrastructure Bill.

2. Commissioner P. Edwin Russ: stated the following:
   - I would like to echo what Vice Chairman Burroughs stated about our trip to the White House;
   - Larry, have you received an estimate on the roof at the Courthouse?; and
   - Larry, I would like for you to get an estimate on replacing the windows.

3. Giles Byrd: stated the following:
   - I would like to thank Allen Turner for the good coverage in The News Reporter relative to the condition of drainage in Columbus County; and
   - We need to check into and look at utilizing retired military and law officers for the School Resource Officers needed at our schools.

4. Commissioner Prevattte: stated the following:
   - I was contacted by Mr. Stanley Wayman about an original painting he done in 1992 of the old Columbus County Courthouse Square; and
   - Mr. Wayman stated he would like to donate this painting to Columbus County to be displayed in the Columbus County Historic Courthouse.

5. Commissioner Charles T. McDowell: stated the following:
-Relative to large items of trash along our roads, we need to instruct the Maintenance and Public Utilities personnel, in their daily tasks of traveling, to stop and pick the items up, and this will help with the unsightly trash;
-Gary, the vegetative barriers around solar panels in the Old Dock area need to be erected;
-The update on the water project along Highway 905 and 130 in Old Dock, they have installed the smaller water lines; and
-The update on the application for the sewer project in Old Dock, we could be receiving some grants in the spring.

6. Commissioner Ricky Bullard: stated the following:
-I have a question about the pressurized sewer pipe that runs from Cerro Gordo to Fair Bluff to Boardman that carries the sewer to Fairmont;
-Can anyone in the County hook up to the pressurized sewer line?; and

Discussion:
-Must be a step down;
-Possible $5,000 fee;
-Must have a holding tank and pressure pump to inject; and
-3” - 4” pipe must have grinder pumps all the way down.

-I need to know if a business that comes to Columbus County can hook up to the pressurized sewer line, what is the impact fee and the requirements.

7. Chairman Amon E. McKenzie: stated the following:
-We did hold the School Merger Ad Hoc Committee Meeting, and the Chairman is Monty Herring, and the Vice Chairman is Coleman Barbour;
-We are going to set some criteria at the next scheduled meeting; and
-The Veterans Dinner will be held on Friday, March 30, 2019, at 12:00 Noon at the Veterans Park, and the coffee and donuts will be held on Thursday, March 29, 2018.

C. County Manager/County Attorney (Michael H. Stephens): stated the following:
1. On Saturday, the Animal Shelter is having a free Rabies Clinic, from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon;
2. I have went to the Sheriff’s Department to observe some issues he is having with the building, and I recommend that each Commissioner go and tour the conditions he is experiencing; and
3. I caution that we be careful in what we do to the Columbus County Historic Courthouse.

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

At 9:01 P.M., Commissioner Bullard made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (6) Personnel, after a five (5) minute recess, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #20: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (6) PERSONNEL:

No official action was taken.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:

At 9:27 P.M., Commissioner McDowell 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 McKenzie requested Michael H. Stephens, County Manager/Attorney, to orally read the Closed Session General Account. Mr. Stephens orally read the following: “The County Manager/Attorney discussed personnel issues with the Board of Commissioners. This
discussion included the vacancy in the County Attorney position and the Building Inspections Department. No action was taken”.

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

Agenda Item #21: **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 9:29 P.M., Commissioner Bullard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

____________________________             ______________________________

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board             AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman
COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 19, 2018
8:01 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:  
Amon E. McKenzie, Chairman  
Trent Burroughs, Vice-Chairman  
James E. Prevatte  
Giles E. Byrd  
Edwin Russ  
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 8:01 P.M., Chairman Amon E. McKenzie called the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #17:  
COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

March 05, 2018 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the March 05, 2018 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:02 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

_____________________________  ___________________________________
JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board             AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman
COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 19, 2018
8:01 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:
Amon E. McKenzie, Chairman
Trent Burroughs, Vice-Chairman
James E. Prevatte
Giles E. Byrd
Edwin Russ
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 8:01 P.M., Chairman Amon E. McKenzie called the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

March 05, 2018 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the March 05, 2018 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:02 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

_____________________________  ___________________________________
JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board             AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman
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:  APPOINTEES PRESENT:

  Amon E. McKenzie, **Chairman**  Mike Stephens, **County Manager**
  Trent Burroughs, **Vice-Chairman** / **County Attorney**
  James E. Prevatte  June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**
  Giles E. Byrd  Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**
  Edwin Russ
  Ricky Bullard
  Charles T. McDowell

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 8:01 P.M., Chairman Amon E. McKenzie called the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #17:**  **COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

March 05, 2018 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the March 05, 2018 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:02 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board     AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman
COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 19, 2018
8:01 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:
Amon E. McKenzie, Chairman
Trent Burroughs, Vice-Chairman
James E. Prevatte
Giles E. Byrd
Edwin Russ
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 8:01 P.M., Chairman Amon E. McKenzie called the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:
March 05, 2018 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the March 05, 2018 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:
At 8:02 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman
COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 19, 2018
8:01 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:  
Amon E. McKenzie, Chairman
Trent Burroughs, Vice-Chairman
James E. Prevatte
Giles E. Byrd
Edwin Russ
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 8:01 P.M., Chairman Amon E. McKenzie called the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

March 05, 2018 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the March 05, 2018 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:02 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

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JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board             AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman