

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD RETREAT**

**Wednesday, April 25, 2018**

**5:30 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Southeastern Community College, Building T, Room 120, 4564 Chadbourn Highway, Whiteville, North Carolina, for the purpose of conducting a Board Retreat.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS in ATTENDANCE:**

Chris May, Facilitator, Cape Fear Council of Governments  
Anthony Clarke, President, Southeastern Community College  
Allen Turner, Press  
Gary Lanier, Economic/Planning Department  
Larry Hayes, Maintenance  
Kay Worley, Emergency Services  
Harold Nobles, Public Utilities/Solid Waste  
Algernon McKenzie, Social Services

**Agenda Item #1: MEETING CALLED to ORDER:**

At 5:30 P.M., Chairman Amon E. McKenzie called the April 25, 2018 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Board Retreat to order. The invocation was delivered by Chairman McKenzie. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Agenda Item #3: DINNER:**

A delicious dinner was enjoyed which was supplied by the Whiteville Woman's Civic League.

**6:00 P.M.**

**Agenda Item #4: SESSION with DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

Chairman McKenzie stated the following to the Department heads in attendance:

1. We would like to say thank you for the good job you are doing as a department head;
2. Any information you supply to the public, County Manager and Board of Commissioners needs to be accurate and up-to-date;
3. Thank you for your patience and willingness to help the citizens; **and**
4. When you look good, then you make us look good.

**Agenda Item #5: ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION with BOARD MEMBERS:**

Chairman McKenzie stated we would discuss the 2017 accomplishments, and make a bucket list for 2018-2019, and introduced Chris May with the Cape Fear Council of Governments, as our facilitator.

Chris May stated the following:

1. The last Board Retreat that I facilitated for you, the top five (5) priorities for 2015 were as follows:

<b>PRIORITY #</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>VOTES</b>
1	Increase jobs and economic development	7
2	School Cost (Building and Infrastructure)	7
3	Expand water, natural gas and sewer	8
4	Second phase of salary implementation w/tweaking	7
5	County Wellness Program and Recreation Improvements	3

2. The Department Heads have submitted a list of items that need attention, but due to the time we have allotted, there will not be enough time to go through all of the lists;
3. At a later date, we may schedule more time to do a strategic list;
4. We will now do a bucket list for 2018-2019, and then when we finish, we will vote on the top five (5) items; **and**
5. This will be an open format.

<b>BUCKET LIST FOR 2018-2019</b>
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<b>ITEM #</b>	<b>ITEM DETAILS</b>
1	School Funding (both internal and external)
2	Continue to assess merger of the two (2) school systems
3	Seek 1/4 cent sales tax
4	Continue to improve water infrastructure
5	Consider suitable sewage throughout the County for Economic Development
6	Expand natural gas (County to push for this) (Schools, hospitals, businesses *Legislative support*)
7	Complete rail to port
8	Study salaries - Create comparable salary based on regional average *Implement 2016 study and consider creating steps
9	Facility assessment -prioritize worst to the best -determine what ends to be done (first long-range plan)
10	Assess renovation of old jail
11	Control Rx - Opioid Crisis -recruit medical providers -jail diversion program
12	Seek funding for Historic Courthouse

<b>7:17 P.M. Five (5) Minute Recess</b>
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<b>7:23 P.M. BOARD RETREAT RESUMED</b>
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- 13 Ways to draw business from Highway 410 from the heavy traffic
- 14 Consider storm water swells and ditches to control water
- 15 Go paperless - use I-Pads (**Delete**)
- 16 **Receive previous retreat materials ahead of time next up**
- 17 County maintenance garage to repair vehicles and equipment

## VOTE for PRIORITIES

ITEM NUMBER	TOTAL VOTES
1	7
2 -combine with 1	---
3-combine with 1	---
4	3
5	1
6	3
7	4
8	4
9	3
10-combine with 9	---
11	4
12-combine with 9	---
13	1
14	1
15-delete	---
16	---
17	3

**TOP FIVE (5) PRIORITIES:**

PRIORITY #	ITEM	VOTES
1	School funding (both internal and external <b>-and-</b> (3) Seek 1/4 cent sales tax	7
2	Complete rail to port	4
3	Create comparable salary based on regional average	4
4	Control Rx opioid crisis -Recruit medical providers -Jail Diversion Program	4
5	<b>Vote conducted for the <u>tied</u> four (4) items with a 3 vote</b>	3

After additional discussion was conducted, the top five (5) priorities were as follows:

PRIORITY #	ITEM	ITEM #
1	School funding (both internal and external <b>-and-</b> (3) Seek 1/4 cent sales tax	1-2-3
2	County maintenance garage to repair vehicles and equipment	17
3	Complete rail to port	7
4	Create comparable salary based on regional average	8
5	Control Rx opioid crisis -Recruit medical providers -Jail Diversion Program	11

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:00 P.M., the Board Retreat was adjourned.

**APPROVED:**

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman