COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, November 18, 2019
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 the regularly scheduled meeting, it being the third Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:  APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Trent Burroughs, Chairman  Mike Stephens, County Manager
P. Edwin Russ, Vice Chairman  Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney
Jerome McMillian
James E. Prevatte
Giles E. Byrd
Ricky Bullard
Charles T. McDowell

Agenda Items #1, #2 and #3:  MEETING CALLED to ORDER, INVOCATION and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman Trent Burroughs called the November 18, 2019 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Toni Vereene, Associate Minister of Mitchell Sea Missionary Baptist Church. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Charles T. McDowell.

Agenda Item #4:  BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the November 04, 2019 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #5:  PRESENTATIONS - 1ST ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL CUP:

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the following high schools for their participation in the 1st Annual Professional Cup:
- South Columbus High School - Overall Champions;
- West Columbus High School;
- East Columbus High School; and
- Whiteville High School.

Agenda Item #6:  ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - CONSTRUCTION BIDS for SEWER COMPLETION PROJECT:

Gary Lanier, Economic Development Director, requested Board approval to proceed with acceptance of construction bids received for the sewer infrastructure completion for the International Logistics Park and the Mid-Atlantic Industrial Park.

Vice Chairman Russ made a motion to award the bid to Burnette Enterprises, Incorporated, in the amount of one million, three hundred nineteen, six hundred and 00/100 ($1,319,600.00) dollars for the sewer infrastructure completion for the International Logistics Park and the Mid-Atlantic Industrial Park, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

After lengthy discussion was conducted relative to the results of the IT Project, the following motion was made.

MOTION:

Commissioner Bullard made a motion for the County Manager and the County Attorney to compile a letter to our four (4) representatives and ask for their help in preparing a good incentive package for our future business clients, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously
Agenda Item #7: SOCIAL SERVICES - MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE:

Algernon Mc Kenzie, Social Services Manager, delivered the Monthly Administrative Update.

On October 2, 2019 our agency staff meeting was held. Staff was recognized for their service during Hurricane Dorian. I relayed the message of thanks given by the County Manager and the Board of County Commissioners at the September 23, 2019 meeting.

During the meeting, I reminded staff they need to use flex time wisely. If staff does not arrive on time or take leave when they are late; then they will not be allowed to continue to flex. When staff abuses their work time, it causes problems within the agency for those who use it properly. Program Managers and Supervisors need to monitor their staff’s work schedules to ensure they are using their time properly and taking leave when they are late as flex time is a privilege that can be taken away.

Staff was reminded they should not be in the building prior or after work without approval from their Supervisor. Staff should be out of the building five minutes after time is called at 5pm or 5:30pm; unless they are assisting a client or taking an application.

Staff was also given an update on Medicaid Managed Care; which will begin October 14, 2019 for phase two counties and will end on December 13, 2019.

Lastly, I informed staff of the dates for the annual safety training for all county employees.

On October 9th and 10th, 2019 I attended the Economic Services Committee and Director’s Executive Board meetings in Raleigh, North Carolina. We learned there are some policy changes in the Crisis Intervention Program this year that will now require county staff to verify the applicant’s income. Some of the policy is unclear and the State is working on some clarification to assist counties in processing applications for the Crisis Intervention Program. We were informed the State has funds left over from 2018 for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). Therefore, the amount of assistance applicants can receive; if eligible, will increase by $100 in each category. This program will start December 1, 2019 for those individuals who are 60 or older; or receiving SSI/SSA/VA and Services through the Division of Aging and Adult Services.

We were informed the Day Care Subsidy spending statewide has decreased from 119% to 98%. The Division of Child Development and Early Education hope to lift the freeze soon on spending; which will allow counties to pull children from their waiting list.

We received an update on Medicaid Transformation. The State is sending out about 50,000 packets to individuals a day for open enrollment. Only a small number of hospitals have signed contracts with the Enrollment Broker; however, the State is having conversations with many of them.

The State has discovered an issue with some of the case data in NCFAST and the case heads of some Medicaid cases are incorrect. Therefore, the local DSS workers are having to clean-up these system errors.

During this meeting, we learned counties in phase 2 would have an Outreach Enrollment Specialist in the local office for 40 hours a week to help individuals choose a health plan. We were told the staff should not be enrolling individuals.

We were also informed four more counties have stopped using Child Welfare P-4 Intake and Assessment due to issues. There are eleven counties remaining in the pilot for NCFAST.

On October 14, 2019 our Outreach Enrollment Specialist started assisting individuals with enrolling in Medicaid Managed Care. Mrs. Sarah Stocks will be in our office five days a week from 8:30am until 5pm. As of October 31, 2019 she has assisted 70 individuals with enrolling in Medicaid Managed Care.

On October 28, 2019 we had a visit from our county liaison with DHHS; Christy Nash-Frinks. She discussed the 100 County MOU’s and the Program Development Plans. We talked about agency turnover and how it impacts the work in the agency. During her visit, we voiced concerns about the
lack of support to counties in Medicaid from the State, access to training for staff and the many policy changes we have to implement at the same time. She has offered to assist us in any way possible.

Lastly, on October 30, 2019 Mrs. Debra Farrington, Chief of Staff with North Carolina Medicaid; came to DSS and talked with some representatives from several community agencies; along with some Supervisors and Social Work staff from DSS about Medicaid Managed Care and the enrolment process. We were fortunate to have representatives from four of the health plans in attendance at this meeting. This event was coordinated by Mrs. Cyndi Hammonds, Program Administrator for Economic Services. This was a very informative meeting for those in attendance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October 2019</th>
<th>Economic Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAM</strong></td>
<td><strong>STATISTICS</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Food & Nutrition | Applications Taken: 184  
Applications Approved: 209  
Active Cases: 5,395  
Benefits Issued: $1,248,532.00  
Participants Served: 11,300 |
| Adult Medicaid | Applications Taken: 171  
Cases Terminated: 58  
Redeterminations: 272  
Applications Processed: 170 |
| Family & Children’s Medicaid | Applications Taken: 119  
Applications Processed: 118  
Redeterminations: 611  
Total Medicaid Cases: 13,656  
Total Individuals Receiving: 17,935 |
| Child Support | Absent Parents Located: 43  
Orders Enforced: 971  
Active Cases: 3,919  
Collections: $481,105.40 |

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<tr>
<th>October 2019</th>
<th>Human Services</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAM</strong></td>
<td><strong>STATISTICS</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Adult Services (APS) | APS Reports Accepted: 11  
County Wards: 26  
Number of Payee Cases: 21  
Adults Served APS: 3  
Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: 1,800  
Amount Requested for Reimbursement: $32,804.10 |
| Children’s Protective Services (CPS) | Reports Accepted: 39  
Reports Screened Out: 16  
Families Receiving In-Home Services: 47  
Children Served: 109  
Contacts with Families Monthly: 485  
Assessments: 25 |
| Foster Care | Foster Children in Foster Homes: 58  
Children Placed Outside County: 12  
Agency Adoptions: 0  
Pending Adoptions: 2  
Total Foster Homes Licensed: 9  
Total Children in Foster Care: 60 |
Work First Employment (TANF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications Taken: 40</th>
<th>Applications Approved: 32</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals receiving Benefits: 245</td>
<td>Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Program Integrity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collections for Fraud: $7,032.02</th>
<th>New Referrals: 14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases Established: 6</td>
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Day Care

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<tr>
<th>Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 356</th>
<th>Children on the Waiting List: 464</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount Spent on Day Care Services: $150,417.00</td>
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</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: October 2019

News/Updates/Vacancies

Adult and Family & Children’s Medicaid:
We failed a category on our Report Card for the Adult Program for October due to staff training on the Long Term Care Team. Both Adult and Family & Children’s Medicaid Teams are still training for the upcoming Medicaid Transformation. We had a partner agency meeting with a State Staff representative for Medicaid Transformation; representatives from all 5 Health Plans and someone from the Enrollment broker to briefly meet and for agency partners to ask questions. The meeting went well. Family & Children’s Team members are learning new procedures concerning “straight thru processing”. This feature will save time for caseworkers. NCFAST will systematically perform many of the tedious actions that workers are used to spending much of their time completing. Once an application has been submitted thru EPASS, NCFAST will immediately begin performing online data verifications and will then send the application through a series of stages (or checks) in an attempt to systematically authorize the application. If an application reaches a stage and does not meet established requirements based on NC Medicaid policy and procedures, the application falls out of the process and is assigned to a caseworker thru a queue in NCFAST for manual intervention. This process is scheduled to begin in December 2019. We continue to have cases pulled by the State office for auditing purposes. Thus far, we have not had any errors. We still currently have 2 vacancies on the Adult Team.

Child Support and Paralegal:
Child Support is struggling to keep goals met with the new procedures implemented by our Judge which do not coincide with our Child Support Policy. We are consulting with the State office to try to see how to resolve issues we are experiencing so we can meet the set State goals. They prepared 377 cases to be presented in court. Our paralegal prepared 430 orders and reviewed 44 orders that the attorney prepared.

Food and Nutrition:
Food and Nutrition was monitored with a follow up from our Management Evaluation from the State office and out of 25 cases that were read 5 cases did not pass; 2 being incorrectly coded for the review of method of receipt, 1 case was not coded for work registration and 2 cases had incorrect reasons for benefits being issued. No cases for ineligibility however we remain under corrective action for minor issues. With this staff having 5 vacancies during the period they reviewed, I commend them for the correctness of these cases. This team is fully staffed but still have 4 that are still in training. FNS Cost of Living Adjustment cases affected some cases with clients that receive SSI by decreasing their benefits.

Work First Cash/Medicaid Transportation/Interpreter/Maintenance and Housekeeping/Deputy:
• WorkFirst/Cash continues to meet their compliance timeframes.
• Medicaid Transportation continues to remain busy sending referrals for medical transportation with 1 vacancy on this team and will be interviewing soon. We interviewed and chose an applicant and she would never respond to our calls. We then went to our second choice and offered her the position and she had already taken another job so we are back to square one and will be interviewing again soon.
• Maintenance and Housekeeping continue to keep our facility clean. We had one air conditioner that was down and the other one needing repairs on the east end of the building. County maintenance received the parts for one air conditioner recently and repaired it; however, the second one has to be replaced.
• Our deputy continues to do a great job with security.

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD REPORT
Melinda H. Lane, Program Manager
Vacancies/Updates/News for October 2019

Intake/Investigation/Assessment:
The Intake/Investigation/Assessment Unit continues to be fully staffed, but the Supervisor is currently on FMLA. With the ever-changing policy, the increased demands on workers, the limited support provided from the state, and the growing caseloads with growing complexities, workers occasionally demonstrate symptoms of burnout which can affect our productivity and ability to meet state standards. This Unit is attempting to assist the other Units of Child Welfare in areas needed as much as possible due to vacancies, although their numbers continue to be up.

In-Home Services:
The In-Home Services Unit now has three vacancies. Interviews have been conducted, but qualified applicants are limited so the position, along with the new vacancy has been re-advertised. Interviews are scheduled. With the ever-changing policy, the increased demands on workers, the limited support provided from the state, and the growing caseloads with growing complexities, workers occasionally demonstrate symptoms of burnout which can affect our productivity and ability to meet state standards. This Unit has been attempting to assist the other Units of Child Welfare in areas needed due to their vacancies, but due to vacancies within the Unit they now need assistance.

Foster Care:
The Foster Care/Adoptions Unit continues to have two vacancies. A new social worker has recently completed Pre-Service training and will able to begin being assigned a caseload. Vacancies have been re-advertised, but the lack of applicants and the lack of qualified applicants is creating a problem in filling these positions. Interviews are scheduled. With the ever-changing policy, the increased demands on workers, the limited support provided from the state, and the growing caseloads with growing complexities, workers occasionally demonstrate symptoms of burnout which can affect our productivity and ability to meet state standards. This Unit has been receiving assistance from other Child Welfare Units due to the vacancies to ensure state mandated visits with children in foster care are met.

Transitional Unit:
The Transitional unit now has three vacancies, due to a recent termination, and the Supervisor is on FMLA. Interviews were recently conducted, but qualified applicants are limited so the positions were re-advertised and interviews are scheduled. With the ever-changing policy, the increased demands on workers, the limited support provided from the state, and the growing caseloads with growing complexities, workers occasionally demonstrate symptoms of burnout which can affect our productivity and ability to meet state standards. This Unit has been very busy assisting the other Child Welfare Units with courtesy visits, etc., but due to vacancies within this Unit they now are in need of assistance.

Adult Services:
The Adult Services Unit is now fully staffed. This Unit continues to encounter more and more issues with homeless adults and adults with mental health issues which creates other problems because of the slow response time of mental health agencies. A tremendous amount of time is being dedicated to assisting those adults with mental health issues that are unable to be independent and unable to manage their own funds, etc. The addition of another position in this Unit may be a future request to help with client needs. This Unit is attempting to assist Child Welfare with covering Intake and making some contacts as appropriate.
345

Work First Employment:

This Unit continues to be fully staffed and this Unit now has a new Supervisor who was hired from within the agency and an adjoining Unit. The Work First Employment Unit continues to work within the NCFAST system with daily issues. This Unit continues to assist with 200% and Emergency Assistance for those eligible. Participation rates are becoming a hot topic again which will require staff to make more contacts out in the community. Two of the staff members will begin assisting with screening the Crisis Intervention Program applicants beginning November 4. The other two staff members will assist in other areas as needed, primarily with Intake at this time.

Child Day Care:

The Child Day Care Unit now has one vacancy due to the promotion of a worker to the Supervisor’s position. This Unit continues to work within the NCFAST system dealing with daily issues and updates. The waiting list continues to grow which is a concern for staff, but this Unit continues to monitor the list and occasionally works the list in an attempt to decrease the list by small amounts. Caseloads are being examined to determine the best use of the vacant position.

Program Integrity:

Program Integrity continues to work hard to get caught up with program integrity duties and cases. Program Integrity continues to work within NCFAST with issues with regarding data that correctly reflects the actual work of staff. Numbers continue to be reported as incorrect on reports for all counties Live in NCFAST. The Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) continues in earnest for the 2019-2010 year. In October 80 applications were completed with 75 approvals. We expanded to five Temporary workers in the office five days a week the last week of October to work with the busy heating season of CIP (Crisis Intervention Program), which is going on now, and LIIEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program), which begins in December.

Agenda Item #8: EMERGENCY SERVICES - UPDATE RADIO SYSTEM PROJECT:

Deuce Niven, Chair of Communication Committee, requested approval/disapproval of Motorola proposal on the Radio System Project.

Earlier this year you charged the Communications Committee with researching options for the county’s radio communications system used primarily by law enforcement, fire and EMS.

That request followed frustrations you have heard, and shared, with the existing Kenwood radio system installed seven years ago. That system, and an upgrade you funded about a year later, cost about $1.8 million.

Kenwood, earlier this year, proposed additional improvements to its system at a cost exceeding $1.8 million.

Your instruction to the committee, we believe, was to find out how to abandon the Kenwood system, with a preference toward joining North Carolina’s VIPER statewide radio system.

Our committee has met with representatives of Motorola, which built the VIPER system; the North Carolina Highway Patrol, which owns and maintains the system; and finally last week with chiefs from the law enforcement, fire and EMS agencies in Columbus County whose missions, and lives, depend on dependable radio communications.

Some important findings that steered our unanimous recommendation for you tonight include:

• Interoperability – VIPER will not only allow seamless communications between agencies inside Columbus County, it will also allow that flexibility outside the county, even statewide during an emergency that warrants that level of communication. That’s among the most critical factors for our law enforcement partners, a fact Sheriff Greene and his staff has told us, and has told you.

Also, although VIPER is North Carolina’s radio system, it is compatible with South Carolina’s Palmetto 800 system, and Sheriff Greene tells us his agency has already been in talks with law enforcement leaders in Horry County and have a plan in place to allow their agencies to communicate on their compatible 800 MHZ radio system.

• Maintenance – Some of the equipment necessary to be part of the VIPER system, including consoles at the 911 center and the individual radios used by our public safety agencies, will belong...
to the county or those agencies, with the cost of maintenance left with those agencies.

However, VIPER’s infrastructure, the backbone of its service, belongs to the state. Not only does that make the state responsible for maintenance, it means the state and its resources are available in times of emergency. We’ve seen examples of the state deploying maintenance teams by helicopter, when necessary, to restore VIPER service disrupted by hurricanes. Those are resources we simply don’t have in Columbus County.

- Paging – Our proposal tonight goes beyond VIPER and radios, it also addresses a critical paging issue that greatly impacts our fire and EMS agencies. Unlike law enforcement, these agencies rely greatly on volunteers, men and women who leave their daily routines to answer the emergency calls of our neighbors. They rely on, and state agencies require, radio paging to alert them of their calls.

Our paging system has essentially failed for reasons beyond our control. Technical changes forced on our transmitters by the FCC, as it makes room on the radio spectrum for those cell phones we all carry, have made our radios less efficient. So, the single paging site near Whiteville that served the bulk of Columbus County for decades, simply can’t reliably deliver those messages anymore.

We are proposing a five-site paging system that will be largely stand-alone, but will piggy-back partially on the VIPER system. If VIPER goes down, the paging system will function independently.

Areas of concern

In-building coverage maps provided by Motorola show two areas of potential concern for the paging, one nearly due-north of Whiteville near Bladen County, the other centered in the downtown Tabor City area.

Motorola representatives tell us they believe, but cannot guarantee, that pagers in most buildings in these areas will activate with the five-site paging system as proposed.

We have asked Motorola to tell us what it will cost to improve pager coverage in those areas. Their response, described as a “Rough Order of Magnitude,” tells us that addressing one of those areas could cost roughly from $250,000 to $630,000 depending on the availability of a building at an existing site for equipment and other factors.

Finally

The majority of the expense in this proposal is for radios going to our first responder agencies. That includes base stations for every agency, 184 mobile radios for law enforcement, 148 mobile radios for fire and EMS, 259 portable radios for fire and EMS, 227 portables for law enforcement, and 15 portables for the jail.

That means every law enforcement vehicle, fire, rescue and ambulance will have a VIPER radio, and every sworn law enforcement officer at every agency in the county will have a portable radio assigned to them.

It also provides 12 portable radios for each fire or EMS Department, 16 for the combined fire/EMS departments in our county. While that is less than optimal, it’s a start. Most of our fire and EMS departments have been able to obtain some VIPER radios through grants and other means, and will be working to secure more in the future. All of our fire and EMS chiefs meeting with us last week, said they support this proposal, though they need more radios for members.

We realize that the costs involved here are significant.

We ask that you recognize the life-and-death importance of this equipment for all of our public safety agencies and their personnel, both career and volunteer.

I’ll turn this over to the Motorola representatives.

Discussion:

A detailed and lengthy discussion was conducted between three (3) Motorola representatives, Board members and staff relative to the following;
1. The importance of having an interoperability system for the safety of workers and citizens;
2. Interoperability is huge on grant funding;
3. The parts of the system that will be maintained by VIPER and the parts that will be maintained with County funds;
4. VIPER means **Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders**;
5. P25 Radio System is statewide;
6. The need for a total price inclusive of all that is needed to be operable;
7. The lifetime of this system and the upgrade increments;
8. VIPER does not maintain consoles and this will be County money;
9. The options available for the payment and the option of utilizing a lease;
10. Sending a letter to our representatives and requesting their aid in avenues to seek the funding we need;
11. All departments looking at any grant money that may be available to apply for that will help with the money needed;
12. The deadline is December 15, 2019 for the present interest rate;
13. The system will take twelve (12) to eighteen (18) months to be up and running, and could be less than a year;
14. There is an AFG Grant available for fire departments to apply for;
15. There may be some CDBG grants that may apply for this cause; and
16. The importance of everyone working together to locate the funds that are needed for this project.

After a lengthy discussion, Chairman Burroughs stated it was the general consensus of the Board to take this matter under advisement until the December 02, 2019 Meeting.

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

Morris Pridgen, Library Manager, delivered the following departmental update on the Library’s departmental activities.

This report will point out the county library’s history, overview of services, locations, and notable library group’s contributions.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY FACTS**

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Columbus County Public Library System is to provide access to informational, educational, cultural, and recreational library materials and services in a variety of formats and technologies.

It is our goal to be responsive to the public library needs of the community, and uphold the public’s freedom of access to information.

**History:** Public Library Service began in Columbus County in 1921 when the city of Whiteville formed the Whiteville Library Association. Columbus County Library developed from bookmobile service that began in 1946. Whiteville City Library and Columbus County Library shared quarters until 1958 when the county built what is now the Senior Center. In 1966, Whiteville built what is currently the Police Department for the town library. The two libraries merged in 1978 to form Columbus County Library System, housed in the Whiteville City Building. In 1986, the county traded buildings with the Production Credit Association/Federal Land Bank. The following year, this building was dedicated as a library. A federal Library Services and Construction Act Grant provided half the building costs.

**Services:** The Columbus County Library System serves the citizens of Columbus County, North Carolina with six locations, a bookmobile and outreach programs. The Main Library is located in Whiteville and contains the most comprehensive collections and services. It serves as a resource center for the bookmobile and all five branches.

Columbus County Library provides books, e-Books, audio books, DVDs, magazines, newspapers, computers, Wi-Fi service, special programming, telephone reference, and reader’s advisory service for children and adults. Staff can provide specialized assistance with North Carolina historical and genealogical research. Interlibrary loan service from other libraries is available when materials are unavailable locally.

- Carolyn T. High Memorial Library in Whiteville is open Monday through Saturday for a
total of 56.5 hours. It offers 16 Internet computers for adults, 10 Internet computers for children, and a teen computer lab with 11 computers, as well as free Wi-Fi service. The computer lab may also be used by outside community groups for classes and presentations. AARP offers a free weekly income tax service in the computer lab annually from January-April.

- Library staff is available to attend community organization meetings and school events to promote and inform citizens about library services. The library helps to sponsor county blood drives and the Columbus County Literacy Council.

- Children’s services’ visits day care centers and Head Start facilities for weekly story programs. A weekly story-time is also offered in the library. A four week summer reading program is offered at the Main Library that includes stories and games.

- Branch libraries are open five days a week for a total of 32 hours per branch. The branches are located in Riegelwood (East Columbus Library), Fair Bluff, Tabor City, Lake Waccamaw (Rube McCray Memorial Library), and Chadbourn. They provide public access computers, a weekly story time, summer reading program, and a collection of books, e-Books, magazines and DVD’s. Circulation materials can be sent from one library to another using our courier service. All borrowed library materials may be returned to any branch in the Columbus County System.

- Each branch library has a ‘Friends of the Library’ group and a Library Board, both of which meet regularly. Each branch’s Friends Association is responsible for providing the library building and maintenance, insurance, furniture and equipment. The county provides all library materials, the library automated system, computers, supplies, personnel, telephone, and utilities.

- Homebound services are available for elderly and disabled patrons in homes, senior centers and nursing care facilities.

Statistics: The library system has 43,518 registered users who checked out 133,397 items last year (2018-2019). The system holds a total of 141,850 books, 2,366 audio books, 8,089 Video Format and 104,647 e-Books that can be downloaded to patron’s tablets and computers.

The library system receives 80% of its operating funds from the county. Twenty percent of the funds come from State Aid to Public Libraries, grants, gifts, fines and fees. Eighty percent of the budget is spent for salaries and benefits, nine percent for materials and eleven percent for other operating costs.

Columbus County Library System has a staff of twenty four full-time and two part-time employees. This includes one professional librarian with a Master’s Degree. The library is governed by the County Administrator and the Board of Columbus County Commissioners. Additionally, there is a nine-member advisory Library Board of Trustees appointed by the County Commissioners, one of whom is a County Commissioner.

Stats for FY 2018-2019

- Total Registered Users: 43,518
- New Patrons added to system current year (2018-2019) 1,117
- Total Door Count: 72,529
- Total Current Circulation (Books, DVD’s, Audio Tapes) 133,397
- Total E-Book Circulation 4,956
- Total Computer Users: 30,837
- Total Wi-Fi Users 21,911
- Total Reference questions for staff 33,301
- Online Reference 8,106
- *Outreach Services 1,015

*Outreach Services – This is the number of sites visited. It includes children’s daycares, nursing homes, and shut-in patrons.

Highlights of Columbus County Public Library System for Fiscal Year 2018-2019
• Collaborated with AARP to offer free tax preparation to Columbus County citizens.
• Fair Bluff Community Library’s Renovation Project will start in December 2019 with the $200,000 State Grant Monies received.
• Collaborate with North Carolina Central University to offer a Virtual Justice Program to all citizens of Columbus County.
• Provide services to local festivals, schools, daycares, rest homes, and our many patrons of Columbus County

Agenda Item #10: ADMINISTRATION - EARLY DISTRIBUTION for DECEMBER PAYCHECKS:

Michael H. Stephens, County Manager, requested Board approval to distribute payroll checks and Christmas bonuses on December 20, 2019.

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve to distribute employee payroll checks and Christmas bonuses on December 20, 2019, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

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

At 8:27 P.M., Commissioner Byrd 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 Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #11: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

November 04, 2019 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 #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLING ADJUSTMENTS for SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER, 2019:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the monthly billing adjustments for September and October, 2019.

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 and resume REGULAR SESSION:

At 8:28 P.M., Commissioner Mc Dowell a motion to adjourn the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #13: PUBLIC INPUT:

Chairman Burroughs opened the floor for Public Input. The following spoke.

Alex Hamilton Williams, Jr.: stated the following:

1. My concerns and statements will be about a Special Use Permit issued to Big D Recycling Center in Delco;
2. This permit was issued on September, 18, 2018, and was placed in my hand on or about October 22, 2019 by Samantha Alsup, Columbus County Planner;
3. Under the law, Columbus County has the authority to issue a Special Use Permit under the Land Use Special Use Permit Ordinances;
4. However, Columbus County does not have the authority to issue a Land Use Special Permit for recycling;
5. That has to come from the State of North Carolina;
6. That is why the Big D Recycling was shut down on around or about September 20, 2019 by the State of North Carolina;
7. Big D will not start backup unless he gets the permit from the State of North Carolina and may not start back up;
8. According to Donnie Wayne Grainger, he states he has been operating since 2006;
9. Donnie Wayne Grainger stated he would erect the required fencing, and pour a required cement slab;
10. The Special Use Permit was issued before the requirements were done;
11. This needs to be licensed by the State;
12. According to Samantha Alsup, she did not review the site before the permit was issued and not after;
13. According to Samantha Alsup, the Special Use Permit was issued on September 18, 2018, and Whiteville was under water on that date; and
14. There is inconsistencies and misinformation in the documents that were provided to me.

Agenda Item #14: COMMENTS:
Chairman Burroughs opened the floor for comments. The following spoke.

A. Department Manager:

Edward Davis, Soil and Water Conservation: stated the following:
-I would like to thank Commissioner McDowell, Vice Chairman Russ and Mike Stephens for attending the meeting last Wednesday for the Waccamaw River Watershed Committee discussion;
-The meeting was very fruitful;
-I have some materials I will share with you;
-We plan to have another meeting in December to discuss with Horry County, as well as Brunswick County; and
-I will keep you posted on the activity.

B. Board of Commissioners:

1. Commissioner Byrd: stated the following:
   -Relative to the radio system- it is very important to improve the radio system that we have now; and
   -We need to look at a fair way to pay for the system.

2. Chairman P. Edwin Russ: stated the following:
   -I agree totally with Commissioner Byrd on the radios; and
   -We need to agree to a fair way to pay for the radio system for all of the citizens.

3. Commissioner McMillian: stated the following:
   -I agree with the previous Commissioners relative to the radio system;
   -We do need a radio system that will work;
   -Bobbie, have you found out about the lease for vehicles with the Sheriff’s Department? Bobbie replied they had been unsuccessful in meeting to discuss this.;
   -I have received complaints on G.P. Road relative to water; and
   -What is the length of time once petitions have been turned in for County water? Gail Edwards replied stating we are waiting on Leo Greene Engineering who is working on this.

4. Commissioner Prevatte: stated the following:
   -I fully endorse the new radio system, and we need to find a way to pay for it, and we need to find a fair way to pay for this;
   -We need to decide on an agreement;
   -Can we operate the old system and use it for Public Transportation and Public Utilities?; and
   -I would like to appoint Tyler Hyatt, 3689 Smyrna Road, Whiteville, NC 28472, Telephone: (910) 625-0999, to the Beaver Management Program Committee.

5. Commissioner McDowell: stated the following:
-I would like for Mike Stephens, County Manager, and Amanda Prince, County Attorney, to prepare the letter for help with the funds for the new radio system;  
-I would like to thank the Communications Committee for what they did in the process of discussing the great need for a new radio system; and  
-I would like to thank everyone that attended the Veterans Day Parade at Nakina.

6. **Chairman Burroughs**: stated the following:
- I would like to thank the members of the Communications Committee for all of their hard work;  
- Kay, if we pursue the five (5) years lease on the new radio system, what will the payments be? Kay replied stating the down payment will be $886,682, and there will be 5 (five) additional payments of $859,917; and  
- Look at the Dates To Remember, and attend all of the events that your schedule will allow you to.

C. **County Manager (Michael H. Stephens)**: stated the following:
- I fully support the new radio system, and all the members of the committee have worked hard;  
- Amanda Harrelson, Department of Aging Director, is retiring on December 20, 2019; and  
- I wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Agenda Item #15: ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:07 P.M., Commissioner Bullard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

_______________________________ _______________________________
JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to the Board  TRENT BURROUGHS, Chairman
COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:  
Trent Burroughs, Chairman  
P. Edwin Russ, Vice-Chairman  
Jerome McMillian  
James E. Prevatte  
Giles E. Byrd  
Ricky Bullard  
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:  
Mike Stephens, County Manager  
Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney  
June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board  
Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Officer

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:27 P.M., Chairman Trent Burroughs called the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #11: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

November 04, 2019 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the November 04, 2019 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLING ADJUSTMENTS for SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER, 2019:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following Monthly Billing Adjustments for September and October, 2019 for Columbus County Water and Sewer District I.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACCT #</th>
<th>ACCT</th>
<th>ADJ AMT</th>
<th>REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT</th>
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<td>9/3/2019</td>
<td>404370.00 97</td>
<td>CODY GRIFFIN</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Amount</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>9/19/2019</td>
<td>201360.00</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>9/19/2019</td>
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<td>J C GASKINS</td>
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<td>10/15/2019</td>
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</table>

Vice Chairman Russ made a motion to approve the monthly billing adjustments for September and October, 2019 for Columbus County Water and Sewer District I, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:28 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

TRENT BURROUGHS, Chairman
COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:  APPOINTEES PRESENT:
Trent Burroughs, Chairman  Mike Stephens, County Manager
P. Edwin Russ, Vice-Chairman  Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney
Jerome McMillian  June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board
James E. Prevatte  Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Officer
Giles E. Byrd
Ricky Bullard
Charles T. McDowell

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:27 P.M., Chairman Trent Burroughs called the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #11: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

November 04, 2019 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the November 04, 2019 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLING ADJUSTMENTS for SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER, 2019:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following Monthly Billing Adjustments for September and October, 2019 for Columbus County Water and Sewer District II.

DISTRICT II ADJUSTMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACCT #</th>
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<td>9/9/2019</td>
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<td>DALE REAVES</td>
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</table>
Vice Chairman Russ made a motion to approve the monthly billing adjustments for September and October, 2019 for Columbus County Water and Sewer District II, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:28 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>132080.00</td>
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<td>96 SHONTA MCKOY</td>
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<td>9/19/2019</td>
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<td>98 DOROTHY PAIGE</td>
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<td>9/19/2019</td>
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<td>10/15/2019</td>
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<td>10/31/2019</td>
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<td>98 ALICE LEE</td>
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</table>

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

**TRENT BURROUGHS, Chairman**
COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, November 18, 2019
8:27 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:
Trent Burroughs, Chairman
P. Edwin Russ, Vice-Chairman
Jerome McMillian
James E. Prevatte
Giles E. Byrd
Ricky Bullard
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:
Mike Stephens, County Manager
Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney
June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board
Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Officer

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:27 P.M., Chairman Trent Burroughs called the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #11: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

November 04, 2019 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the November 04, 2019 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLING ADJUSTMENTS for SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER, 2019:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following Monthly Billing Adjustments for September and October, 2019 for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III.

DISTRICT III ADJUSTMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2019

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACCT #</th>
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<th>ADJ AMT</th>
<th>REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT</th>
</tr>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>9/3/2019</td>
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<td>10/15/2019</td>
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Vice Chairman Russ made a motion to approve the monthly billing adjustments for September and October, 2019 for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:28 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

____________________________ ______________________________
JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board    TRENT BURROUGHS, Chairman
COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, November 18, 2019
8:27 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:

Trent Burroughs, Chairman
P. Edwin Russ, Vice-Chairman
Jerome McMillian
James E. Prevatte
Giles E. Byrd
Ricky Bullard
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:27 P.M., Chairman Trent Burroughs called the combination meeting of Columbus
County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #11: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV
and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

November 04, 2019 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts
I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the November 04, 2019 Columbus
County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by
Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV
and V - APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLING ADJUSTMENTS for SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER, 2019:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following Monthly
Billing Adjustments for September and October, 2019 for Columbus County Water and Sewer
District IV.

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACCT #</th>
<th>ACCT NAME</th>
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<td>Amount</td>
<td>Reason</td>
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<td>9/9/2019</td>
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<td>$7,667.40</td>
<td>BILLING ERROR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/31/2019</td>
<td>411801.0 98</td>
<td>EVON BOREN</td>
<td>$(317.87)</td>
<td>LEAK ADJUSTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/31/2019</td>
<td>430421.00 96</td>
<td>JEFFERY BASS</td>
<td>$(54.21)</td>
<td>LEAK ADJUSTMENT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vice Chairman Russ made a motion to approve the monthly billing adjustments for September and October, 2019 for Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:28 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

____________________________ ______________________________
JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board   TRENT BURROUGHS, 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 V Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:  
Trent Burroughs, Chairman  
P. Edwin Russ, Vice-Chairman  
Jerome McMillian  
James E. Prevattte  
Giles E. Byrd  
Ricky Bullard  
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:  
Mike Stephens, County Manager  
Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney  
June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board  
Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Officer

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:27 P.M., Chairman Trent Burroughs called the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #11: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:  
November 04, 2019 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the November 04, 2019 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLING ADJUSTMENTS for SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER, 2019:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following Monthly Billing Adjustments for September and October, 2019 for Columbus County Water and Sewer District V.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACCT #</th>
<th>ACCT NAME</th>
<th>ADJ AMT</th>
<th>REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/3/2019</td>
<td>800465.10 98</td>
<td>TINA CHESTNUTT</td>
<td>$(38.67)</td>
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Vice Chairman Russ made a motion to approve the monthly billing adjustments for September and October, 2019 for Columbus County Water and Sewer District V, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:28 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

____________________________ ______________________________
JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board   TRENT BURROUGHS, Chairman