COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, February 03, 2020
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 first Monday.

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:
Mike Stephens, County Manager
Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney
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 P. Edwin Russ called the February 03, 2020 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Pastor Teresa McClelland with the St. Paul Holiness Church in Chadbourn. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States which was led by Commissioner Giles E. Byrd.

Agenda Item #4: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to approve the January 21, 2020 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #5: Presentation - Retirement Plaque, and Recognition and Acknowledgment to Norman D. Barnes.

Vice Chairman Jerome McMillian presented a retirement plaque to Norman D. Barnes for his many years of employment with the Columbus County Sheriff’s Department.

PRESENTED TO
NORMAN D. BARNES
IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION
FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND LOYALTY
TO
COLUMBUS COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT
01-08-1990 - 01-31-2020
COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Ricky Bullard presented the following document entitled “Recognition and Appreciation to Norman D. Barnes”.

RECOGNITION and APPRECIATION
to
NORMAN D. BARNES
WHEREAS, in life, we do encounter people with strong determination to be their best at all levels of employment; and this person is continuously striving to improve life, aiding people who are struggling with problems or weakness, and always searching to find avenues to help someone, and is considered to be very rare and is indeed precious; and

WHEREAS, Columbus County was blessed to have an employee who possesses the above listed qualities, namely, NORMAN D. BARNES; and

WHEREAS, NORMAN D. BARNES started employment with the Columbus County Sheriff’s Department on January 08, 1990 as a Detention Officer, soon hired as a full-time Deputy and was promoted to a Lieutenant on June 21, 2014; and

WHEREAS, MR. BARNES has been heavily involved in the following avenues of service and help at the Sheriff’s Department:

- Started work with the DARE Program in February, 1998, and has worked with students in all County Schools and the Christian Academy;
- Received Advanced Certification from the North Carolina Sheriff’s Training and Standards;
- Certified Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Instructor;
- Instructor of G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training Program);
- In Service on record; and
- Dedicated and loyal employee for thirty (30) years.

WHEREAS, employees that dedicate their talent and time to help people in need will be held in honor and remembrance with their superiors and co-workers for many years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners resolve to recognize and acknowledge the outstanding willingness and dedication of NORMAN D. BARNES.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 3rd day of February, 2020.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

ATTESTED BY:
/s/ JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board
/s/ MICHAEL H. STEPHENS, County Manager /s/ AMANDA B. PRINCE, County Attorney

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve and adopt the Recognition and Appreciation to Norman D. Barnes, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #6: FIRE and RESCUE - INCREASE IN RESCUE SERVICES: Randy Guyton, President of the Fire and Rescue Association, will discuss a two ($0.02) cent increase for rescue services.

1. I am Randy Guyton, Chief of Klondyke and Chadbourn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, and President of the Columbus County Fire and Rescue Association;
2. I am here on behalf of all nine (9) rescue departments in the County;
3. One of the biggest issues we are facing now is keeping enough personnel on board to keep the calls answered;
4. At present we have operating volunteers that are part-time and full time, paid personnel who are part-time and full-time;
5. We do not have enough volunteers;
6. The training that is required is as follows:
   - EMT Test (basic Level) - 288 hours
   - Intermediate Level - 400 hours class time
   - Paramedic Class - 1150 hours by itself
   - State Test - 1438 hours in class
7. After each call is made, there are lots of paperwork to be done, which could range from 15 minutes to 1 hour;
8. The State Medical Board may require a two (2) years Associate’s Degree for the Paramedic Level;
9. The part-time paid personnel and the full-time paid personnel are going to other counties for more pay;
10. In 2001, a two ($ .02) cents rescue tax was voted in for the eight (8) rescue departments, excluding Whiteville because they already had a two ($ .02) cents rescue tax;
11. We have not had an increase since then;
12. Currently, the departments get an average of $70,000 per year from the tax;
13. In the last two (2) years, Medicaid has cut down on what they will pay us for a call, and some of the services they will pay for has been eliminated, and the amount they will pay has been decreased;
14. If you increase the rescue tax by two ($ .02) cents, that will give each department approximately $70,000 to operate on;
15. We have a good EMS System in Columbus County and one that I am proud of;
16. If we have to go to a paid EMS system, it would cost us a lot more;
17. We are struggling and we need help, and we need to keep the EMS system operating; and
18. We are asking you to help us and give us a two ($ .02) sales tax increase.

Chairman Russ stated this matter would be taken under advisement.

ADJUSTMENT to AGENDA:

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to move Agenda Item #16 to Agenda Item #7A, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #7: NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT of TRANSPORTATION - REQUEST for ADDITION to STATE MAINTAINED SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM:

Kenneth L. Clark, PE, District Engineer, requested Board Approval to add Maple Drive, Maple Court, Silver Lane and Scarlet Lane to the State Maintained Secondary Road system by adoption of the following Resolution.

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Division of Highways
Request for Addition to State Maintained Secondary Road System

North Carolina
County: Columbus
Road Description: Addition of Maple Drive, Maple Court, Silver Lane and Scarlet Lane in the Maplewood Subdivision

WHEREAS, the attached petition has been filed with the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Columbus requesting that the above described road, the location of which has been indicated in red on the attached map, be added to the Secondary Road System; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is of the opinion that the above described road should be added to the Secondary Road System, if the road meets minimum standards and criteria established by the Division of Highways of the Department of Transportation for the addition of roads to the System.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Columbus that the Division of Highways is hereby requested to review the above described road, and to take over the road for maintenance if it meets established standards and criteria

CERTIFICATE

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus at a meeting on the 3rd day of February, 2020.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this the 3rd day of February, 2020.

(Official Seal) Clerk, Board of Commissioners
County: Columbus
Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to approve the Request for Addition to State Maintained Secondary Road System, by Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #7A: PUBLIC INPUT:**

Chairman Russ opened the floor for Public Input, and requested Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney, orally read the policy on Public Address to the Board. Ms. Prince read the policy in its entirety. The following spoke.

1. **Douglas George Smith, 1680 Dock Road, Whiteville, NC 28472:** stated the following:
   - I have been traveling to different locations and talking to sheriffs and chiefs;
   - I have traveled to Virginia and they are forming militias to keep the sheriff in place; and
   - A gun is a state of mind, and if used properly can be very advantageous.

2. **David B. Scott, 1004 Lakeshore Drive, Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450:** stated the following:
   - I am here to voice my opposition on the gun resolution;
   - I am a gun owner and a hunter;
   - I do realize the more guns you have, the more violence you could have if not used wisely;
   - I also realize the damage this resolution could have to Columbus County’s reputation and its image, especially we are actually trying to recruit industry, people and jobs;
   - The number of guns will send the opposite message we are trying to convey to the public; and
   - You were sent a letter with multiple signatures that are in opposition to this resolution.

3. **Robert Hanson White, 83 Mt. Olive Road, Whiteville, NC 28472:** stated the following:
   - The Second Amendment is the most important amendment that we have;
   - It is unlawful for any elected official to say anything that is contrary to their oath of office; and
   - The Second Amendment gives you a stance; and
   - A militia and freedom to bear arms are two (2) different issues.

4. **Pamela Diane Ward, 137 Cedar Street, Cerro Gordo, NC:** stated the following:
   - On November 17, 2019, my son was taken to the Emergency Room at Columbus Regional Healthcare System;
   - He lay on a cot for two (2) months and one (1) week, had no television;
   - He was fed cheeseburgers and frenchfries;
   - On January 27, 2020, my son was transferred to Outward Bound in Greensboro;
   - We need a community-based service;
   - My son is 41 years old and does not qualify for many programs; and
   - I contacted a worker at the Department of Social Services and she was very rude to me, and one lady was very helpful.

5. **Mazie Swindell Smith, 284 Sutton Pl. Drive, Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450:** stated the following:
   - I am a constituent here tonight to express my opposition to the Columbus County Second Amendment Sanctuary Resolution; and
   - My concerns are many, and we do not need this resolution which could discourage people from moving to Columbus County.

**Agenda Item #8: SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION - RESOLUTION of the COMMISSIONERS of COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA SUPPORTING the REGIONAL WACCAMAW RIVER WATERSHED STUDY GRANT PROPOSAL:**

Edward E. Davis, Soil and Water Conservation Director, requested Board approval of the following Resolution of the Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina Supporting the Regional Waccamaw River Watershed Study Grant Proposal.

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA SUPPORTING THE REGIONAL WACCAMAW RIVER WATERSHED STUDY GRANT PROPOSAL:**

WHEREAS, the mission of the Waccamaw River Watershed Study is to seek ways of
reducing flooding in the watershed from its beginning in Horry County, SC around the Conway, SC area and continuing upstream through Brunswick County, NC; Columbus County, NC; and to the upper reaches of the watershed in Bladen County, NC; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Waccamaw River Watershed Study is to develop a strategic plan that will identify the flooding issues in the Waccamaw River Watershed; develop benchmarks for problem areas; prioritize capital improvements; and reduce economic vulnerabilities; and

WHEREAS, the strategic planning process will engage the proper agencies in developing a long-range plan for addressing identified issues and seek ways of funding corrective actions and long-term maintenance of installed best management practices to protect public health and human safety; create more resilient communities; and encourage enhanced economic development opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the total funds sought to complete the study shall be $415,000; requiring a cash match from Horry County, SC; Brunswick County, NC; Columbus, NC; and Bladen County, NC of $20,750 each; and

WHEREAS, each county’s participation is essential to the regional partnership, shared matching funds, and ensuing collaborative study.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina support the Waccamaw River Watershed Study and commit to the required $20,750 in cash match in order to secure the necessary grant funds.

Adopted this 3rd day of February, 2020.

/s/ P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman
County Commissioner

Attest:
/s/ JUNE B. HALL, Clerk
Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution of the Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina Supporting the Regional Waccamaw River Watershed Study Grant Proposal, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION for SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

Agenda Item #9: RESOLUTION - COLUMBUS COUNTY SECOND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY RESOLUTION:

Mike Stephens, County Manager, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Columbus County Resolution for Second Amendment Rights.

Columbus County Resolution for Second Amendment Rights

Whereas, it is acknowledged that the right of individuals to keep and bear arms is under attack in the United States of America by elected officials from many levels of Government; and,

Whereas, it is further recognized that the Constitution of the United States of America is the supreme law of the land, and the Second Amendment to the Constitution guarantees individuals have the right to keep and bear arms in a manner that shall not be infringed; and,

Whereas, the Supreme Court of the United States has, through multiple rulings, upheld an individual's right to keep and bear arms when federal, state, and local laws have sought to restrict this right; and,

Whereas, the right to bear arms is necessary for self-defense, the defense of others including family members, the protection of individual liberty, and for the preservation of our United States Constitution; and,

Whereas, according to the Declaration of Independence, we are afforded the “God-given” rights of personal security, personal liberty and private property, and should we ever allow this
foundation to be eroded and lose faith that these rights are a gift directly from God to each individual, then we lose the basis of the greatness of the miracle of America; and,

Whereas, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners wishes to express its deep commitment to protecting Columbus County Citizens’ Second Amendment Rights; and,

Whereas, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners wishes to express opposition to any law, regulation, or other act that would infringe on the Second Amendment Rights of Columbus County Citizens; and,

Whereas, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners expresses its intent for Columbus County to stand as a Constitutional Rights Protection County for Second Amendment Rights by opposing any efforts by any entity to restrict these Rights. Opposition will include any means available under the U.S. Constitution and the laws of North Carolina including the withholding of funds, direction of County employees, legal action, and other means as deemed necessary and legal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners declares Columbus County a Second Amendment Constitutional Rights Protection County and declares that Columbus County Government will respect and defend the Second Amendment Rights of County Citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners implores the North Carolina Legislature and the United States Congress to preserve, uphold, and protect the rights of all citizens to keep and bear arms under the United States Constitution and further implores the North Carolina Legislature and the United States Congress to reject any provision, law, or regulation that may infringe, have the tendency to infringe, or place any additional burdens on the right of law-abiding citizens to bear arms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Columbus County Government will utilize all legal means necessary to protect the Second Amendment Rights of Columbus County citizens including, but not limited to, legal action.

Adopted this the 3rd day of February, 2020.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ P. EDWIN RUSS, Vice Chairman    /s/ JEROME McMILLIAN
/s/ JAMES E. PREVATTE    /s/ GILES E. BYRD
/s/ TRENT BURROUGHS    /s/ RICKY BULLARD
/s/ CHARLES T. McDOWELL
/s/ MICHAEL H. STEPHENS, County Manager

ATTESTED BY:
/s/ JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to the Board
/s/ AMANDA B. PRINCE, County Attorney

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to approve and adopt the Columbus County Resolution for Second Amendment Rights, 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 7:47 P.M., Commissioner Bullard made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into 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 #10: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

January 21, 2020 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 #11: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLING ADJUSTMENTS:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the November and December, 2019 Monthly Billing Adjustments.

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 and V - APPROVAL of WATER SYSTEM EXTENSION PROJECTS, and APPROVAL of GREEN ENGINEERING CONTRACT:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of Water Systems extensions contingent upon signups to make projects feasible, and approval of Green Engineering Contract.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 2 for each Water District, respectively.

Agenda Item #13: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV - APPROVAL of SUBMISSION of LOAN and GRANT APPLICATION to USDA - RD, and APPROVAL of GREEN ENGINEERING CONTRACT for PER AND EA:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval to submit an USDA Rural Development Application for loan and grant funds for the WD-IV Project, and approval of the contract with Green Engineering for the Preliminary Engineering Report and Environmental Assessment.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 2 for Water District IV.

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

At 7:57 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: CONSENT AGENDA ITEM:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the following Tax Refunds and Releases, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>Account #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount Released</th>
<th>Property Value</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Bill#</th>
<th>Property % User Fee</th>
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<td>C W Graham Trucking Inc</td>
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<td>2/3/2020</td>
<td>$2,082.87</td>
<td>$258,742.00</td>
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<td>618 Shaw Road Riegelwood, NC 28456</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>99999</td>
<td>00000</td>
<td>00000</td>
<td>00000</td>
<td>00000</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Tax Refunds and Releases.

Agenda Item #15: COMMENTS:

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

A. Department Managers:
1. **Dalton Dockery, Cooperative Extension Director**: stated the following:
   - Relative to the Complete Census Committee, we have set up the next meeting for February 20, 2020;
   - We have set up dates at the libraries to help people fill out their census as follows:
     - March 30, 2020 3:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
     - March 31, 2020 3:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.;
   - Our Federal funding is based on the census count;
   - I distributed information on Unify Columbus which will be held on February 22, 2020, 11:00 A.M., at Bowers Auditorium; and
   - We need everyone that will to attend this event.

2. **Gary Lanier, Economic Development Director**: stated the following:
   - We have been working with International Paper Company relative to refinancing of bonds;
   - They did this last year and has another bond they want to refinance;
   - According to the legal requirements, this has to be approved by the Industrial Facilities Pollution Control Financing Authority, but I do not have enough time to schedule a meeting; and
   - I will ask that we set a public hearing for March 02, 2020, at 6:30 P.M. to consider the approval of refinancing a bond for International Paper Company contingent upon the approval of the Industrial Facilities Pollution Control Financing Authority.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to establish March 02, 2020, at 6:30 P.M. as the date and time for a Public Hearing on the refinancing of a bond for International Paper Company, contingent on the approval of the Industrial Facilities Pollution Control Financing Authority, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

3. **Kimberly Smith, Health Director**: stated the following:
   - I would like to discuss the 2019 Novel Coronavirus;
   - There is an expanding outbreak centered in China;
   - The virus is spreading from person to person in China;
   - If anyone has traveled to China in the past fourteen (14) days, they must be quarantined for fourteen (14) days;
   - The situation is rapidly changing, and the situation is evolving;
   - There are twenty-seven (27) international locations who are dealing with this virus;
   - There are eleven (11) infections reported in the United States, but none in North Carolina;
   - The risk is low at this time; and
   - In mainland China, there have been 17,000 deaths.

B. **Board of Commissioners:**

1. **Vice Chairman Jerome McMillian**: stated the following:
   - The elevator at the Health Department does not work;
   - I am glad to see that Gary Lanier is back at work; and
   - My constituents are asking for three (3) things as follows: jobs, safety and schools.

2. **Commissioner Burroughs**: stated the following:
   - The college has formed a Search Committee for the new president;
   - I would like to thank Harold at the Water Department, the Water Board and Leo Greene for the new projects for water extensions; and
   - Relative to Social Media - use your words wisely and do unto others like you would have them do unto you.

3. **Commissioner Byrd**: stated the following:
   - The County needs its own garage; and
   - We need spare parts available.
4. **Commissioner McDowell:** stated the following:
   - I want to thank Harold Nobles and Mr. Greene for their work in adding an additional 1,000 water hookups, and this is a major step forward;
   - Getting funding for the Waccamaw Watershed Study, and this is a major step forward;
   - We had public expressing their opinions, and I appreciate that; and
   - I agree with Commissioner Burroughs on social media.

5. **Commissioner Bullard:** stated the following:
   - I would like to thank Harold Nobles for all of the work he has done;
   - Last week we had a drowning in the Lumber River in Fair Bluff; and
   - The drowned victim could not be found until the Sheriff’s Department used the helicopter and that was a relief to the family, and the helicopter will be an asset.

6. **Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:
   - Over the last four (4) years, we have increased four hundred (400) new jobs with the help of Gary Lanier;
   - We will go back to the drawing Board, and find out if there is anything on jobs that we can help with;
   - I would like to thank you Harold for the work you have done to get additional tap-ons for County water; and
   - I concur with Commissioner Byrd relative to a County garage.

7. **Chairman Russ:** stated the following:
   - Several weeks ago, myself, Vice Chairman McMillian, County Manager, County Attorney and Bobbie met with the Columbus County School Board to discuss their needs;
   - The school board recommended that we meet with them twice a year;
   - We need the 1/4 cent sales tax to be put on the ballot next November;
   - I attended a civic function in New Bern and met David Farmer, the guy that’s over all of this military stuff that the Sheriff’s Department has been receiving; and
   - I would like to thank Harold Nobles for all that he is doing with the water.

C. **County Manager (Michael H. Stephens):** stated I will pay my own attorney fees.

**Agenda Item #16: PUBLIC INPUT:**

Moved to Agenda Item #7A.

**Gentlemen (St. James Community):** stated the following:
- If I understood correctly, there will be a meeting in the St. James Community on March 12, 2020, at 6:00 P.M., to discuss County water, and also high-speed internet.

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

At 8:43 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in Accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (3) Attorney-Client Privilege, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #17: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(A) (3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE:**

No official action was taken.

**ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:**

At 9:16 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.
READING and APPROVAL of CLOSED SESSION GENERAL ACCOUNT:

Chairman Russ requested that Amanda B. Prince, Columbus County Attorney, orally read the Closed Session General Account. Ms. Prince orally read the following: “The County Commissioners discussed possible future litigation and pending litigation with the County Attorney. No action was taken.”

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

Agenda Item #18: ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:17 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

____________________________ ___________________________________
JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board          P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman
COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, February 03, 2020
7:47 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: APPOINTEES PRESENT:
P. Edwin Russ, Chairman Mike Stephens, County Manager
Jerome McMillian, Vice-Chairman Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney
James E. Prevatte June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board
Giles E. Byrd Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Officer
Trent Burroughs
Ricky Bullard
Charles T. McDowell

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:47 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #10: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

January 21, 2020 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the January 21, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, 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 MONTHLY BILLING ADJUSTMENTS:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the November and December, 2019 Monthly Billing Adjustments.

DISTRICT I ADJUSTMENTS FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACCT #</th>
<th>ACCT NAME</th>
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<th>REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT</th>
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<td>11/1/2019</td>
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<td>WILLIAM JON GORE</td>
<td>$(104.26)</td>
<td>LEAK ADJUSTMENT</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the November and December, 2019 Monthly Billing Adjustments, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - APPROVAL OF WATER SYSTEM EXTENSION PROJECTS, and APPROVAL OF GREEN ENGINEERING CONTRACT:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of Water Systems extensions contingent upon signups to make projects feasible, and approval of Green Engineering Contract.

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the Water System Extension Projects for Columbus County Water and Sewer District I, as presented, and the contract with Green Engineering, PLLC, in the amount of four hundred ninety-eight thousand, ninety and 00/100 ($498,090.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed. The insert for Water Districts I, II, III and V will be labeled as Exhibit “A”, and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 6, in the Office of the Clerk to the Board, and in the Water Department, for review.
ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:57 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, 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 II Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
P. Edwin Russ, Chairman
Jerome McMillian, Vice-Chairman
James E. Prevatte
Giles E. Byrd
Trent Burroughs
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 7:47 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #10: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

January 21, 2020 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the January 21, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, 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 MONTHLY BILLING ADJUSTMENTS:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the November and December, 2019 Monthly Billing Adjustments.

### DISTRICT II ADJUSTMENTS FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACCT #</th>
<th>ACCT NAME</th>
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<th>REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT</th>
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<td>REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT</td>
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</table>

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the November and December, 2019 Monthly Billing Adjustments, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #12:** COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - APPROVAL of WATER SYSTEM EXTENSION PROJECTS, and APPROVAL of GREEN ENGINEERING CONTRACT:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of Water Systems extensions contingent upon signups to make projects feasible, and approval of Green Engineering
Contract.

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the Water System Extension Projects for Columbus County Water and Sewer District II, as presented, and the contract with Green Engineering, PLLC, in the amount of four hundred ninety-eight thousand, ninety and 00/100 ($498,090.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed. The insert for Water Districts I, II, III and V will be labeled as Exhibit “A”, and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 6, in the Office of the Clerk to the Board, and in the Water Department, for review.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:57 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

____________________________ _________________
JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board     P. EDWIN RUSS, 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:  
P. Edwin Russ, Chairman  
Jerome McMillian, Vice-Chairman  
James E. Prevatte  
Giles E. Byrd  
Trent Burroughs  
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 7:47 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #10: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

January 21, 2020 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the January 21, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, 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 MONTHLY BILLING ADJUSTMENTS:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the November and December, 2019 Monthly Billing Adjustments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACCT #</th>
<th>ACCT NAME</th>
<th>ADJ AMT</th>
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<td>DATE</td>
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<td>ACCT NAME</td>
<td>ADJ AMT</td>
<td>REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT</td>
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</table>

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the November and December, 2019 Monthly Billing Adjustments, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #12:**  
**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - APPROVAL of WATER SYSTEM EXTENSION PROJECTS, and APPROVAL of GREEN ENGINEERING CONTRACT:**

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of Water Systems extensions contingent upon signups to make projects feasible, and approval of Green Engineering Contract.

Commissioner Prevatt made a motion to approve the Water System Extension Projects for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III, as presented, and the contract with Green Engineering, PLLC, in the amount of four hundred ninety-eight thousand, ninety and 00/100 ($498,090.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed. The insert for Water Districts I, II, III and V will be labeled as Exhibit “A”, and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 6, in the Office of the Clerk to the Board, and in the Water Department, for review.
ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:57 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

____________________________ ______________________________
JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board     P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman
COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

P. Edwin Russ, Chairman
Jerome McMillian, Vice-Chairman
James E. Prevatte
Giles E. Byrd
Trent Burroughs
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 7:47 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #10: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

January 21, 2020 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the January 21, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, 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 MONTHLY BILLING ADJUSTMENTS:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the November and December, 2019 Monthly Billing Adjustments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACCT #</th>
<th>ACCT NAME</th>
<th>ADJ AMT</th>
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</table>
Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the November and December, 2019 Monthly Billing Adjustments, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #13: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV - APPROVAL of SUBMISSION of LOAN and GRANT APPLICATION to USDA - RD, and APPROVAL of GREEN ENGINEERING CONTRACT for PER AND EA:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval to submit an USDA Rural Development Application for loan and grant funds for the WD-IV Project, and approval of the contract with Green Engineering for the Preliminary Engineering Report and Environmental Assessment.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the contract with Green Engineering, PLLC, at the cost of forty-four thousand, one hundred eighty-four and 00/100 ($44,184.00) dollars for the Preliminary Engineering Report and the Environmental Report for Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed. The insert will be labeled as Exhibit “B”, and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 6, in the Office of the Clerk to the Board, and in the Water Department, for review.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:57 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman
COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:  
P. Edwin Russ, Chairman  
Jerome McMillian, Vice-Chairman  
James E. Prevatte  
Giles E. Byrd  
Trent Burroughs  
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 7:47 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #10:  COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

January 21, 2020 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the January 21, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, 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 MONTHLY BILLING ADJUSTMENTS:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the November and December, 2019 Monthly Billing Adjustments.

DISTRICT V ADJUSTMENTS FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2019

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<th>DATE</th>
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<td>ACCT NAME</td>
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<td>REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT</td>
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<td>FRANCES TURNER HARDEE</td>
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Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the November and December, 2019 Monthly Billing Adjustments, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - APPROVAL of WATER SYSTEM EXTENSION PROJECTS, and APPROVAL of GREEN ENGINEERING CONTRACT:**

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of Water Systems extensions contingent upon signups to make projects feasible, and approval of Green Engineering Contract.

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the Water System Extension Projects for Columbus County Water and Sewer District V, as presented, and the contract with Green Engineering, PLLC, in the amount of four hundred ninety-eight thousand, ninety and 00/100 ($498,090.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed. The insert for Water Districts I, II, III and V will be labeled as Exhibit “A”, and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 6, in the Office of the Clerk to the Board, and in the Water Department, for review.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:57 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman