

## COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, March 7, 2022

5:00 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and time at the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose of conducting the Regular Session.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**  
 Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**  
 Lavern Coleman  
 Brent Watts  
 Charles T. McDowell  
 Giles E. Byrd  
 Chris Smith

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**  
 Boyd Worley, **Board Attorney**  
 Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney/Clerk to Board**  
 Jay Leatherman, **Finance Director**

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

At 5:00 P.M. Chairman Ricky Bullard called the Monday, March 7, 2022 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order.

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

At 5:05 P.M., Commissioner Coleman 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 Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #2: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A)(3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE:**

No official action was taken.

**RECESS CLOSED SESSION:**

At 6:00 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to recess Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Items #3 AND #4: INVOCATION and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:**

The invocation was delivered by Commissioner McDowell. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Brent Watts.

**Agenda Item #5: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:**

- A. February 15, 2022 Budget Retreat
- B. February 21, 2022 Regular Session

**MOTION:**

Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to approve the Board Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #6: APPROVAL of March 7, 2022 AGENDA:**

- A. Tax Refunds and Releases

## Tax Refunds and Releases

<i>Refunds</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Butler, Carl E & Hilda W	<b>PROPERTY:</b> 696	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2021	Account: 01-11120	Bill#: 57495
Refund user fee. Double billed to owner and escrow.			

<i>Refunds</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Gray, Derevia	<b>PROPERTY:</b> 90661	Total:	\$200.00

Value: \$0.00      Year: 2021      Account: 11-04142      Bill#: 92564  
 Refund user fee. Vacant Land

**MOTION:**

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the agenda and tax refunds and releases, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

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

Chairman Bullard opened the floor for Public Comment.  
 Boyd Worley, Board Attorney, provided instructions on process and decorum.

**Ervin Kreutter, 101 Oxford Village, Tabor City, NC 28463**, stated the following:

- The brief that I present to the Board tonight starts with a peace model.
- It's very timely for the time we're in.
- It's an extremely powerful peace model.
- There may be no explanation for the political plane from far left to far right.
- In fact, we've done a much poorer job preparing for peace than we've done preparing for war.
- There's not time to get into that tonight but I think there's plenty of evidence of that.
- We need to employ a lot more talent to studying the means to secure peace, it's something we don't do well.
- I list a bunch of models, games, discoveries that I've made on page 12 of the brief you were left with.
- None of them are widely published and I don't have time to get into any of them specifically except for the world beater.
- There's a website, the worldbeater.com, it's the laid out graphics in the model, there are three presentations.
- They start verbally and then they become more mathematical.
- The last and most mathematical has some terms you've never seen before.
- Some double squiggles, that's in the denominator to simply say it's very hard to get to zero.
- And that's all it means, and the ones before that are easy to follow.
- If you reduce the denominator the numerator gets larger.
- Communism puts people over capital and destroys capital.
- This is hard but bear with me.
- Capitalism puts capital over people and destroys people.
- We're building machines that are replacing people today.
- A lot of capital is involved.
- The machines don't consume a thing.
- It's not about producing wealth, it's about power.
- Liberty is the right capital and it's in the center.
- We believe in liberty; we also believe in free markets.
- Free markets lead to liberty; and we believe in freedom.
- Communism destroys freedom; democracy secures freedom.
- So, the model covers that entire spectrum.
- That part of your paper is easy; it gets harder.
- Seventy-three percent of the American people oppose Biden's selection for the Supreme Court.
- I voted for him, only because I thought Donald Trump did things that in the long term would be very damaging.
- In addition to the other things he did.
- By the way, we wouldn't have this crisis in Ukraine today if Donald Trump were president and I state all this in the paper.
- I thought we would be better able to stand up to Biden than we would Donald Trump if we didn't catch up to the big things and it's clear we didn't catch up to them under Biden.
- There's a whole lot more I could say; I hope you don't get dragged down by the end of this brief.
- It gets into the toughest domestic problem we face today.
- I thank you for your time.

**Terry Mann, 203 Elm St, Whiteville NC 28472**, stated the following:

- I am the mayor of Whiteville, but I don't come to you tonight speaking as the mayor, although I just decided this afternoon to come up here tonight.
- The council members didn't even know I was coming, and they're probably going to agree with just about everything I say but I'm not speaking for them.
- I just wanted to come and thank you all for what you are doing in the county.
- Congratulations on this facility and the investment downtown.
- When these buildings were vacated, I was really concerned about who would occupy them.
- And my fear was that they would stay vacant for years and years and years and the image it would put out to people coming into town.
- With a lot of forethought and good leadership our County Manager, and you all backing him, you have made a tremendous investment in Whiteville and downtown and it's going to help all of us.

-I was thinking back and I remember maybe 12 years ago or so there was talk about building the courthouse outside of the city limits and I was concerned about what that might do to the business community at the courthouse.

-Well, low and behold, you've kept that viable, you're restoring the courthouse and you're coming downtown to help the downtown area.

-It's just a win-win for all of us.

-We've got a County Manager now with extensive experience in local government and I'm telling you, I think the county's moving in the right direction, in my opinion, for the first time in a long time.

-There's so much more collaboration between your staff and our staff.

-More so, than we've had in the last 10 to 12 years I've been involved with government, so thank you for what you're doing and if we can help in the city of Whiteville, please call on us.

**Agenda Item #8: PROCLAMATION – APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR NORTH CAROLINA STATE TROOPER T. K. BRYAN:**

The Commissioners wished to thank Trooper Bryan for his heroism.

**PROCLAMATION of APPRECIATION for TROOPER T. K. BRYAN**

**WHEREAS**, The North Carolina State Highway Patrol's primary mission is to reduce collisions, protect North Carolina's motoring public, and make the highways of North Carolina as safe as possible; **and**

**WHEREAS**, The State Highway Patrol has more than 1,600 troopers serving our communities with honor, courage, commitment, loyalty, integrity and professionalism; these officers cover nearly 80,000 miles of North Carolina roadways, more than any other state except Texas; **and**

**WHEREAS**, State Troopers endure weeks of rigorous physical and academic training in preparation to handle various situations; **and**

**WHEREAS**, on Friday, February 25, 2022, Trooper T. K. Bryan was dispatched to an accident on Braswell Road near Princess Ann Road, and responded to a vehicle wrecked in a ditch; **and**

**WHEREAS**, upon arrival Trooper Bryan, assessed the situation, and unable to find a way to successfully retrieve the driver from the car, used both his training and instincts to climb into the wrecked vehicle to aid his fellow citizen; **and**

**WHEREAS**, discovering the driver was in the midst of a medical emergency begin administering CPR to the victim until rescue units arrived on scene.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, we the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, wish to thank Trooper Bryan for his quick thinking and decisive actions in service to the citizens of Columbus County.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

/s/ **RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

/s/ **CHRIS SMITH**

/s/ **LAVERN COLEMAN**

/s/ **CHARLES T. MCDOWELL**

/s/ **BOYD WORLEY, Board Attorney**

/s/ **LATOYA WILLIAMS, Deputy Clerk**

/s/ **JEROME MCMILLIAN, Vice Chairman**

/s/ **GILES E. BYRD**

/s/ **BRENT WATTS**

/s/ **EDWIN H. MADDEN, Jr., Manager**

/s/ **AMANDA B. PRINCE, Staff Attorney/Clerk to the Board**

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #9: EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT – SABRINA EVANS:**

County Manager Eddie Madden will spotlight Columbus County Department of Aging Administrative Assistant II, Ms. Sabrina Evans.

**County Manager Eddie Madden** stated the following:

-I have the pleasure to introduce this evening's Employee Spotlight, Ms. Sabrina Evans.

-Ms. Evans has worked for Columbus County for over 24 years.

-She was nominated for tonight's recognition by Kristie Massey, Aging Director, who is also here this evening.

-Ms. Evans is valued because of her strong work ethic and dedication to her job.

- She stays over and works late and is the first to volunteer when it is needed.
- She interacts well with her coworkers, is reliable and is known to be a prayer warrior for the people she is around.
- She maintains a positive attitude and is loved by everyone.
- She is also a trusted advisor, providing guidance to Ms. Massey whenever there is a tough decision to make.
- According to Ms. Massey the Department of Aging would truly not be the same without Ms. Evans.
- So, please help me recognize Ms. Sabrina Evans as tonight's employee spotlight recipient.

**Agenda Item #10: PROCLAMATION – APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR DUKE PROGRESS ENERGY, INC.:**

The Commissioners presented a proclamation to Mr. John Elliott, Director of Government and Community Relations, to thank Duke Progress Energy for expediting the tower replacement in Fair Bluff.

**PROCLAMATION of APPRECIATION for DUKE PROGRESS ENERGY**

**WHEREAS**, Duke Progress Energy is one of the largest electric power companies in the United States and an industry leader in sustainable innovation, powering solutions to help their customers and communities thrive and grow; **and**

**WHEREAS**, Duke Progress Energy has been an invaluable partner to Columbus County over the years, working hand-in-hand with local officials to safeguard our community and provide essential information as it relates to hurricanes and other inclement weather; **and**

**WHEREAS**, in service to Columbus County, Duke Progress Energy has expedited the replacement of their radio tower at Hinson's Crossroads in Fair Bluff, providing an opportunity for the county to expand communication capabilities and strengthen the emergency response system; **and**

**WHEREAS**, Duke Progress Energy's generosity will allow for the installation of county radio equipment that will provide coverage for the statewide Highway Patrol Viper network and the county paging system, helping to ensure the safety of the county's emergency first responders and citizens.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, we the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, wish to thank Duke Progress Energy for their partnership and investment in Columbus County.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

/s/ RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

/s/ CHRIS SMITH

/s/ LAVERN COLEMAN

/s/ CHARLES T. MCDOWELL

/s/ BOYD WORLEY, Board Attorney

/s/ LATOYA WILLIAMS, Deputy Clerk

/s/ JEROME MCMILLIAN, Vice Chairman

/s/ GILES E. BYRD

/s/ BRENT WATTS

/s/ EDWIN H. MADDEN, Jr., Manager

/s/AMANDA B. PRINCE, Staff Attorney/Clerk to the Board

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to Approve the Proclamation, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #11: ADR FIRE – DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to make this item #15a, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS – NBPSCF GRANT APPLICATION:**

Jonathan Williams, Associate Superintendent, requested Board Approval.

# Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund

## 2021 Grant Application

**Application Deadline: March 15, 2022**

Rev. 12/17/2021

**NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND****2021 GRANT APPLICATION****PROGRAM CRITERIA**Date: **March 15, 2022****BACKGROUND**

The Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund was established to assist counties with their critical public school building capital needs. Grants from the NBPSCF are funded with revenue from the NC Education Lottery. Grant funds are available to eligible counties for construction of new school buildings and additions, repairs, and renovations of existing school facilities.

**APPLICATION TIMELINE**

- Guidance Issued December 17, 2021
- Application Deadline March 15, 2022
- Award Announcements April 12, 2022 (anticipated)

**ELIGIBILITY**

Counties with an adjusted market value of taxable real property of less than \$40 billion are eligible to apply for a grant under the NBPSCF program. The list of eligible counties is published by DPI annually prior to the NBPSCF application period. The list of eligible counties for FY2021-22 is available here:

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/school-planning/capital-funding>

Grant funds must be used only for construction of new school buildings and additions, repairs, and renovations. Grant funds cannot be used for real property acquisition or for capital improvements to administrative buildings.

**PROGRAM FUNDING**

Funding available for the NBPSCF grant awards totals \$395 million for FY2021-22.

**MATCHING FUNDS**

Counties receiving a grant are required to provide local matching funds from county funds, other non-state funds, or a combination of these sources, in accordance with G.S. 115C-546.11. Local matching fund requirements range from 0% to 35% of the grant amount, and are published by DPI annually prior to the NBPSCF application period. The local match requirement applicable to the project is the published local match requirement in effect at the time of the grant award. Local matching requirements for FY2021-22 grant applicants are available here: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/school-planning/capital-funding>

**NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND****2021 GRANT APPLICATION****PROGRAM CRITERIA**Date: March 15, 2022**MAXIMUM AWARD**

Grant award maximums are as follows:

- Up to \$30 million for an Elementary School
- Up to \$40 million for a Middle School
- Up to \$50 million for a High School

Applications will be reviewed in the context of projected enrollment to evaluate the reasonableness of project size and scope.

**REPORTING**

Grant recipients are required to submit a report by April 1 of each year, with each grant funds distribution request, and upon completion of the project, detailing: the use of grant funds, progress on the project, and impact of the project on the county's school capital plan.

Grant funds will be disbursed in a series of payments based on the progress of the project. To receive a distribution, the grant recipient must submit a request for distribution, along with documentation of the expenditures for which the distribution is requested, and evidence that the matching requirement has been met. DPI will provide grant recipients with Reporting and Distribution Request forms following announcement of awards.

**AGREEMENT**

A county receiving Needs-Based grant funds is required to enter into an agreement with the Department of Public Instruction detailing the use of grant funds, in accordance with G.S. 115C-546.12. DPI will provide grant recipients with Agreement Forms following announcement of awards. Signed Agreements are due within 60 days of award announcement.

**NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND**

**2021 GRANT APPLICATION**

**PROGRAM CRITERIA**

Date: **March 15, 2022**

**EVALUATION**

Applications are evaluated on critical needs, budget detail, and the following criteria per G.S. 115C-546.10:

<b>Prioritization</b>	<b>Definition/Calculation/Data Source</b>
Prior Recipient	Counties previously awarded grant funds from the NBPSCF that have not yet started construction of the project may apply to increase the grant award. [SL 2021-180, 4.4.(b)]
Tier Designation	Counties designated as development tier one areas.
Ability to Generate Tax Revenue	Total revenue generated by a one-cent per \$100 valuation increase in the county property tax rate.  (NC State Treasurer, Analysis of Debt of North Carolina Counties 6-30-2020)
Ratio of Debt to Tax Revenue	<u>Debt</u> : Sum of County Debt from [General Obligation Bonds, Installment Purchase Debt, Special Obligation Bonds, QZABs and QSCBs, Certificates of Participation]  (NC State Treasurer, Analysis of Debt of North Carolina Counties 6-30-2020)  <u>Revenue</u> : Sum of County Revenues from Property Taxes, Other Taxes, and Sales Tax, FY 2019-20  (NC Department of Revenue, Statistical Abstract of North Carolina Taxes 2020)
Critical Deficiency	The extent to which a project will address critical deficiencies in adequately serving the current and future student population.
Facility Construction	Projects with new construction or complete renovation of existing facilities.
Facility Replacement	Projects that will consolidate two or more schools into one new facility.
Applicant Status	Counties that have not received a grant in the previous three years.



**NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND****2021 GRANT APPLICATION****CONTACT INFORMATION**Date: March 15, 2022

SUBMIT ONE APPLICATION PER SCHOOL CAMPUS – A PROJECT MAY INCLUDE MULTIPLE BUILDINGS

County: Columbus County

Primary Contact: Eddie Madden

Title: County Manager

Address: 127 West Webster St, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472

Phone: 910-640-6630

email: emadden@columbusco.org

School Unit: Columbus County Schools

Primary Contact: Dr. Deanne Meadows

Title: Superintendent

Address: 817 Washington St, Whiteville, North Carolina, 28472

Phone: 910-642-5168

email: deannemeadows@columbus.k12.nc.us

**APPLICATION SUBMITTAL**

Submit completed applications and supporting materials by Tuesday, March 15, 2022 via email to:

Nathan Maune | School Planning Section Chief | 984-236-2919 | [nathan.maune@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:nathan.maune@dpi.nc.gov)

**SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST – SUBMIT ALL FILES IN PDF FORMAT**

- Contact Information
- Application Form
- Project Narrative
- Budget Estimate
- Additional Documentation (as appropriate)
- Signed Assurance Page

**NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND****2021 GRANT APPLICATION****PROJECT INFORMATION**Date: March 15, 2022

Project Title:

East Columbus PreK-8 School

Location:

Eastern Columbus County on a site currently under negotiations

Type of Facility:

PreK-8 School

Short Description of Proposed School Construction Project:

Columbus County Schools plans to construct a new PreK-8 facility which would consolidate two current schools, Acme-Delco Elementary and Hallsboro-Artesia Elementary on a site in eastern Columbus County which is under negotiations. This new facility would replace buildings that were constructed as early as 1950. The new facility will serve approximately 900 students.

Describe the critical need this project addresses and the impact on student outcomes:

In 2016, the Columbus County Board of Education and Board of Commissioners jointly secured a firm to conduct a study of school facilities. It was evident that school buildings were profoundly deficient in structural integrity, instructional space, and general safety. Compounding these issues was the fact that parts of the county were experiencing a decline in student enrollment, a condition that has continued to the present. In 2019, the Columbus County School Board made a decision to close Hallsboro Middle School and Acme-Delco Middle School and relocate the students and staff to East Columbus High School. In reality, the newly constructed school could possibly house students and staff who were originally placed at four separate campuses. The facilities study concluded that the renovations of the four campuses would greatly exceed the cost of a new consolidated facility. Columbus County is a Tier-One county where resources are limited which has led to a perennial condition where staffing personnel (counselors, resource officers, and nurses) are shared among schools that are located over 25 miles apart. Moreover, staff members such as elective teachers, therapists, and instructional coaches must spend valuable time traveling between these schools as well. A newly constructed school will consolidate all of these critical services and have a tremendous impact of efficiency of operations. Students will benefit from more course offerings, greater social-emotional support, and vastly improved safety and security conditions in a modern energy-efficient building. Teachers will be able to collaborate more effectively to provide students the educational opportunities that they presently cannot due to small student/staff numbers, outdated, and unsafe buildings.

*(please attach additional information as necessary)*

NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND

2021 GRANT APPLICATION

PROJECT INFORMATION

Date: March 15, 2022

Has this project received a previous NBPSCF grant?  YES  NO

If YES, provide date and dollar amount of previous award(s):

Was this project identified in the 5-year plan in the 2020-21 Facility Needs Survey?  YES  NO

If not, provide explanation and attach equivalent information:

Will this project replace any existing facilities?  YES  NO

If YES, which school(s): Acme-Delco Elementary School, PreK-6, 311 students (close)  
Hallsboro-Artesia Elementary School, PreK-6, 380 students (close)

\* Students in 7th and 8th grades (204) currently served at East Columbus High School

How many students will be served by this project? 900-950 Students

Has Advanced Planning been done for this project?  YES  NO

We are replicating an existing plan that is being used at two PreK through 8 schools which are under construction at the time of this grant request submission.

Have Construction Documents been completed for this project?  YES  NO

Anticipated or Actual Bid Date: March, 2023

Estimated Start Date of Construction: June, 2023

Estimated Completion Date of Construction: December, 2024

**NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND 2021 GRANT APPLICATION**

**PROJECT BUDGET**

Date: March 15, 2022

Estimated Project Costs	Local (non-State)	NBPSCF Grant Funds	Total
Planning	\$ 100,781.70	\$ 1,914,852.23	\$ 2,015,633.93
Construction	\$ 1,695,633.93	\$ 32,217,044.64	\$ 33,912,678.57
Other Costs*	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 2,280,000.00	\$ 2,400,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,916,415.63</b>	<b>\$ 36,411,896.87</b>	<b>\$ 38,328,312.50</b>

\*Project costs normally categorized as 'owner's direct costs' on a construction project – may include items such as site surveys, materials testing, site utilities, geotechnical reports, etc. Land acquisition costs are not eligible.

**Source(s) of required Local Matching Funds:**

Columbus County Schools Capital Outlay Funding  
 Additional funding provided by the Columbus County Commissioners

Have any of the Local Matching Funds been expended at the time of application?  YES  NO

If YES, provide amount expended: \_\_\_\_\_

If YES, provide description of work: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Project Expenditures by Fiscal Year (show estimated period over which funds will be spent by Fiscal Year)

Total Expenditures	2021-22 or earlier	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 or later	Total
Local Match (Non-State Funds)	\$ 100,781.70	\$ 605,211.31	\$ 605,211.31	\$ 605,211.31	\$ 1,916,415.63
Requested NBPSCF Grant Funds*	\$ _____	\$ 12,137,298.82	\$ 12,137,298.82	\$ 12,137,298.83	\$ 36,411,896.87
	\$ 100,781.70	\$ 12,742,510.13	\$ 12,742,510.13	\$ 12,742,510.14	\$ 38,328,312.50

\*Total requested grant funding cannot exceed maximum allowed under G.S. 115C-546.11(c).

**NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND****2021 GRANT APPLICATION****ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**Date: March 15, 2022

Any project funded with a grant from the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund must follow the same review process as any other LEA capital project.

- A registered Architect and/or registered Engineer shall prepare the drawings and specifications in accordance with G.S. 133-1 through 133-4.1, as applicable.
- School Planning design review is required. Design documents must be submitted at appropriate intervals during design – SD, DD, and CD. Neither the LEA nor the County shall invest any funds in construction of the project until the review process is completed.
- Transmittal of drawings and specifications to School Planning must include the form at: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/media/581/download>
- Design of the project should be in compliance with DPI School Planning Guidelines: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/school-planning>
- DPI Facility Design Guidelines can be found at: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/media/569/download>
- DPI School Science Facility Requirements can be found at: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/media/570/download>  
<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/media/571/download>
- For projects involving the closing of an existing school, the LEA must follow these procedures: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/media/13311/download>
- For projects involving the demolition of an existing school building, the LEA must follow the closing procedure noted above and must submit a Feasibility and Cost Analysis: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/media/544/download>

**NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND**

**2021 GRANT APPLICATION**


**ASSURANCE PAGE**

Date: March 15, 2022


By signing below, we assure the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction that we are officials of our respective organizations and we are authorized to submit this application on behalf of these organizations.

We certify the following:

- The information provided in this proposal is correct and complete.
- The project described in the application is within the parameters of the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund as required in Article 38B of G.S. 115C-546, and that all of the required local funding is available and designated as a match for this project.
- All Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant proceeds and the required Local Matching funds will be used for the construction project described in the application.
- We will work cooperatively with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in monitoring and evaluating the progress of the project to meet statutory reporting requirements. We will report on project status and State and local funds expended by April 1 of each year, at the time of each distribution request, and within 90 days of project completion.
- Upon receiving a Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant award, we will enter into an agreement with the Department of Public Instruction detailing the use of grant funds, in accordance with G.S. 115C-546.12.
- All applicable federal and state laws will be adhered to, including promotion of equal opportunity without regard to race, color, religion, gender, age, disability, political affiliation, or national origin.
- Generally accepted fiscal control and accounting procedures will be followed to ensure proper disbursement and accounting of funds from the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant proceeds and required Local Matching funds.

 \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

(Signature – Chair, County Commissioners)

 \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

(Signature – Chair, Board of Education)

**MOTION:**

Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to approve the grant request for \$36,411,896.87, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item #13: AIRPORT – APPROVAL OF STATE GRANT CERTIFICATION AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY:**

Phil Edwards, Director, requested Board Approval.

**County of Columbus****Conflict of Interest Policy**

The purpose of the following policy and procedures is to prevent the personal interest of staff members, officers, and directors of County of Columbus from interfering with the performance of their duties to County of Columbus, or resulting in personal financial, professional, and/or political gain on the part of such persons at the expense of County of Columbus.

**Definitions:** Conflict of Interest (also Conflict) means a conflict, or the appearance of a conflict between the private interests and official responsibilities of a person in a position of trust. Persons in a position of trust include staff members, officers, and directors of County of Columbus. Governing Board (also board) means the board of directors. Director means an individual member of the board of directors. Staff member means a person who receives all or part of his/her income from the payroll of County of Columbus.

**Policy:**

1. Full disclosure, by notice in writing, shall be made by the interested parties to the full Board of Directors in all conflicts of interest, including but not limited to the following:
  - a) A director is related to another director.
  - b) A director is related to a staff member.
  - c) A director is also a staff member.
  - d) A staff member in a supervisory capacity is related to another staff member whom he/she supervises.
  - e) A director or staff member receives payment from County of Columbus for any contract, subcontract, goods, or services other than as part of his/her regular job responsibilities or as reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred as provided in the bylaws and board policy.
  - f) A director or staff member is a member of the governing body of a contributor to County of Columbus.
  - g) A director or staff member may have personal, financial, professional, or political gain at the expense of County of Columbus.
  - h) A director or staff member engages in activities that may cause a loss of public credibility in County of Columbus or create a public impression of impropriety.
2. Following full disclosure of a possible conflict of interest or any condition listed above, the board of directors shall determine whether a conflict of interest exists and, if so, the board shall vote to authorize or reject the transaction and/or condition. Both votes shall be by a majority vote without counting the vote of any interested director, even if the disinterested directors are less than a quorum, provided that at least one consenting director is disinterested.
3. An interested director, officer, or staff member shall not participate in any discussion or debate of the board of directors, or of any committee thereof, in which the subject of discussion is a contract, transaction, or situation in which there may be a conflict of interest.
4. No director, officer, or staff member shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a procurement transaction in which federal or state funds are used, where to his/her knowledge, any of the following has a financial interest in that transaction: (1) the staff member, officer, or director; (2) any member of his/her immediate family; (3) his/her partner; (4) an organization in which any of the above is an officer, director, or employee; or (5) a person or organization with whom any of the above is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment.
5. Existence of any of the above-listed conditions shall render a contract or a transaction voidable unless full disclosure of personal interest is made in writing to the board of directors and such transaction was approved by the board in full knowledge of such interest.
6. The disinterested directors are authorized to impose by majority vote other reasonable sanctions as necessary to recover associated costs against a director, officer, or staff member for failure to disclose a conflict of interest as described in Paragraph 1 or for any appearance of a conflict.
7. Appeal from sanctions imposed pursuant to Paragraph 5 and 6 above shall be prescribed by law in those courts of the State of North Carolina with jurisdiction over both the parties and the subject matter of the appeal.
8. In the event that County of Columbus has incurred costs or attorney fees as a result of legal action, litigation, or appeal brought by or on behalf of an interested director or staff member due to a conflict of interest and consequent

sanctions and in the event that County of Columbus prevails in such legal action, litigation, or appeal, County of Columbus shall be entitled to recover all of its costs and attorney fees from the unsuccessful party.

- 9. A copy of this policy shall be given to all directors, officers, and staff members upon commencement of such person's relationship with County of Columbus. Each board member, officer, and staff member shall sign and date the policy at the beginning of his or her term of service or employment and each year thereafter. Failure to sign does not nullify the policy.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

*To ensure the policy is being regularly enforced and monitored for compliance, the Executive Director shall remind board and staff members of the policy annually by email and shall require board and staff members to disclose annually any interests that may give rise to conflict.*

**Use the section below to disclose any interests that may give rise to conflict:**

ARTICLE I State Grant Certification – No Overdue Tax Debts



03/07/2022

**Certification:**

**We certify that the County of Columbus does not have any overdue tax debts, as defined by N.C.G.S. 105-243.1, at the federal, State, or local level. We further understand that any person who makes a false statement in violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143C-6-23(c) is guilty of a criminal offense punishable as provided therein.**

**Sworn Statement:**

Ricky Bullard and Jerome McMillian being duly sworn, say that we are the Chairman Vice Chairman, respectively, of the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County in the State of North Carolina; and that the foregoing certification is true, accurate and complete to the best of our knowledge and was made and subscribed by us. We also acknowledge and understand that any misuse of State funds will be reported to the appropriate authorities for further action.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Vice Chair

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the day of the date of said certification.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Signature and Seal)

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

**If there are any questions, please contact the state agency that provided your grant. If needed, you may contact the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management: [NCGrants@osbm.nc.gov](mailto:NCGrants@osbm.nc.gov) - (919) 807-4795**

**MOTION:**

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the state grant certification and conflict of interest policy documents, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.



**Agenda Item #14: HEALTH – APPROVAL OF INCREASED FEES:**

Kim Smith, Director, requested an increase in Health Department charges due to the increase in Medicaid payments.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the increase in fees, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #15: FINANCE – APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCES:**

Jay Leatherman, Director, requested Board approval of Budget Amendments, and Amendments to the Capital Project Ordinances for the American Rescue Plan Project and for the Viper Radio and Paging System Project.

<b>COLUMBUS COUNTY</b>			
<b>Budget Amendment</b>			
<b>March 7, 2022</b>			
		<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>DECREASE</b>
<b>Health Department</b>			
1	<b>Expenditures</b>		
	17-4213-512100	Salaries	150,000
	17-4213-512700	Longevity	3,000
	17-4213-518100	FICA	15,000
	17-4213-518300	Insurance	25,000
	17-4213-518200	Retirement	10,000
	17-4213-526001	Departmental Supplies	66,111
	<b>Revenues</b>		
	17-3581-430172	COVID-19 Grant	269,111
	Receipt of "COVID-19 Vaccination Program 716" grant from the State.		
2	<b>Expenditures</b>		
	10-5170-526007	WIC Misc Support C/S	18,441
	<b>Revenues</b>		
	10-3510-430055	WIC	
	Receipt of additional federal funding for WIC program.		
3	<b>Expenditures</b>		
	10-5116-512100	Coll. Learning Salaries	2,440
	10-5116-518100	Coll. Learning FICA	187
	10-5116-518200	Coll. Learning Retirement	42
	10-5116-518300	Coll. Learning Insurance	74
	10-5116-526001	Coll. Learning Dept. Supplies	1,766
	10-5116-550010	Coll. Learning Dept. Non Capital	1,000
	<b>Revenues</b>		
	10-3517-530171	Coll. Learning Revenue	5,509
	Additional Grant money provided by UNCW Grant.		
4	<b>Expenditures</b>		
	10-5112-519090	Coop. Health Contracted - School Nurse	168,551
	<b>Revenues</b>		
	10-3510-430046	School Nurse Fund	168,551
	Additional School Nurse Educator Funding provided.		
5	<b>Expenditures</b>		
	10-5302-519946	Low Income water assistance (LIHWAP)	173,726
	<b>Revenues</b>		
	10-3530-430087	LIHWAP	173,726
	Receipt of Low Income Household Water Assistance from the State.		

COLUMBUS COUNTY			
Budget Amendment			
March 7, 2022			
		INCREASE	DECREASE
6	<i>Expenditures</i>		
	68-4315-526001 CARES grant expenditures	235,183	
	<i>Revenues</i>		
	68-3450-350000 CARES grant revenue	235,183	
	NCDOT provided additional CARES funding for Transportation.		
7	<i>Expenditures</i>		
	68-9600-560061 Rural Gen Public DOT Grant		6,745
	68-9600-560066 DSS-Work 1st/ Empl Transportation		777
	68-9600-560070 CCT EDTAP		5,891
	<i>Revenues</i>		
	68-3452-430116 NCDOT-Rural Operating Asst. Pgr.		13,413
	To adjust budget according to changes made by NCDOT in ROAP funding.		

**COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**  
**Ordinance amending appropriations to the Capital Project**  
**Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina as follows:

**Section 1:** The following revisions are hereby made to the **American Rescue Plan Project** pursuant to G.S. 159 -13.2 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.

		Original Budget	Revised Budget
<b>Project Appropriations</b>			
93-4972-512100	Salaries & Wages – regular	800,000	31,798
93-4972-518100	FICA	-0-	2,425
93-4972-518200	Retirement Contributions	-0-	3,393
93-4972-523920	Personal Protective Equipment	175,000	20,000
93-4972-545505	Revenue Replenishment	1,990,435	-0-
93-4972-550013	Viper Radio Infrastructure	1,050,000	500,000-
93-4972-558000	Buildings, Construction & Imp.	50,000	-0-
93-4972-549900	Miscellaneous Expense	-0-	63,755
93-4972-558015	Airport Infrastructure – Hanger	1,200,000	-0-
93-4972-558025	Airport Infrastructure – Terminal	2,000,000	-0-
93-4972-558035	Water Infrastructure – Dist. I	2,000,000	583,808
93-4972-558036	Water Infrastructure – Dist. II	-0-	1,203,882
93-4972-558037	Water Infrastructure – Dist. III	-0-	314,743
93-4972-558038	Water Infrastructure – Dist. IV	-0-	5,626,888
93-4972-558039	Water Infrastructure – Dist. V	-0-	914,743
93-4972-558045	Fiber Infrastructure	<u>1,500,000</u>	<u>1,500,000</u>
	<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<u><b>10,765,435</b></u>	<u><b>10,765,435</b></u>
<b>Source of Revenue</b>			
93-3429-423033	American Rescue Plan Revenue	<u>10,765,435</u>	<u>10,765,435</u>
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u><b>10,765,435</b></u>	<u><b>10,765,435</b></u>

**Section 2:** The project undertaken pursuant to this ordinance is in accordance with the Recommended Budget .

**Section 3:** The Finance Director is hereby directed to maintain within the Capital Project Fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy all applicable regulations. The terms of any financing agreement also shall be met.

**Section 4:** The County desires to expend its own funds for the purpose of paying certain costs of various projects, for which expenditures the County reasonably expects to reimburse itself from the proceeds of debt to be incurred by the County.

**Section 5:** All expenditures relating to obtaining any bond referendum and or installment purchase will be reimbursed from bond proceeds and installment purchase proceeds in accordance with the requirements of the United States Treasury Regulations Section 1.150 -2.

**Section 6:** This declaration of official intent is made pursuant to Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations to expressly declare the official intent of the County to reimburse itself from the proceeds of debt to be hereinafter incurred by the County for certain expenditures paid by the County on or after the

date which is sixty (60) days prior to the date hereof.

**Section 7:** The County intends to seek Federal, State, and/or other grant funding to reduce the amount of loan proceeds. The adoption of this ordinance authorizes the County Manager and/or his representative to apply for and accept such funding if awarded.

**Section 8:** This project ordinance shall be entered in the minutes of the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County. Within five days hereof, copies of this ordinance shall be filed with the finance office in Columbus County, and with the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County.

Capital Project amendment shall become effective on March 7, 2022.

ADOPTED, this 7th day of March, 2022.

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**COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**  
**Ordinance amending appropriations to the Capital Project**  
**Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021**

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BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina as follows:

**Section 1:** The following amounts are hereby made to the **Viper and Paging System Project** pursuant to G.S. 159 -13.2 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.

		Original Budget	Revised Budget
<b>Project Appropriations</b>			
55-4322-519056	Engineering Design/Administration	857,586	857,586
55-4322-519931	Motorola Paging	261,100	261,100
55-4322-519332	Contracts	113,972	113,972
55-4322-519933	Motorola Viper	717,712	717,712
55-4322-519934	Motorola Consoles	251,538	251,538
55-4322-519936	Motorola Responders	2,785,213	3,285,213
55-4322-999910	Contingency	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Total Appropriations		<u>5,007,121</u>	<u>5,507,121</u>
<b>Source of Revenue</b>			
55-3437-422030	NC 911 Appropriations	574,572	574,572
55-3437-422040	Paging Project Funds	390,000	390,000
55-3437-431020	County Appropriation	4,042,549	4,042,549
93-4972-550013	ARP – Viper Radio Infrastructure	<u>-0-</u>	<u>500,000</u>
Total Revenue		<u>5,007,121</u>	<u>5,507,121</u>

**Section 2:** The project undertaken pursuant to this ordinance is in accordance with the Recommended Budget .

**Section 3:** The Finance Director is hereby directed to maintain within the Capital Project Fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy all applicable regulations. The terms of any financing agreement also shall be met.

**Section 4:** The County desires to expend its own funds for the purpose of paying certain costs of various projects, for which expenditures the County reasonably expects to reimburse itself from the proceeds of debt to be incurred by the County.

**Section 5:** All expenditures relating to obtaining any bond referendum and or installment purchase will be reimbursed from bond proceeds and installment purchase proceeds in accordance with the requirements of the United States Treasury Regulations Section 1.150 -2.

**Section 6:** This declaration of official intent is made pursuant to Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations to expressly declare the official intent of the County to reimburse itself from the proceeds of debt to be hereinafter incurred by the County for certain expenditures paid by the County on or after the date which is sixty (60) days prior to the date hereof.

**Section 7:** The County intends to seek Federal, State, and/or other grant funding to reduce the amount of loan proceeds. The adoption of this ordinance authorizes the County Manager and/or his representative to apply for and accept such funding if awarded.

**Section 8:** This project ordinance shall be entered in the minutes of the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County. Within five days hereof, copies of this ordinance shall be filed with the finance office in Columbus County, and with the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County.

Capital Project amendment shall become effective on March 7, 2022.

ADOPTED, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March , 2022.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #15a: ADR – DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Chief Steve Camlin, ADR Fire Chief, provided an update to the Board. ADR Fire will be contracting Fire Department Services to Bladen County for the East Arcadia area.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDING AGREEMENT  
AND AUTOMATIC AID AGREEMENT**

BLADEN COUNTY )

**THIS AGREEMENT**, made and entered this 1st day of March, 2022, by and between **BLADEN COUNTY**, a political subdivision of the State of North Carolina, hereinafter referred to as "County"; and **Acme-Delco-Riegelwood Fire-Rescue Inc.**, a North Carolina nonprofit corporation, having its principal office in Columbus County, North Carolina, hereinafter referred to as "ADR". ADR is a NCGS 69-25.8 Group Fire District, with 3 stations in their current district in Columbus County.

W I T N E S S E T H:

**WHEREAS**, ADR has agreed to provide continuing fire protection service within the New District (as defined below) and within other areas on the basis of mutual aid contracts with other County Fire Departments for the benefit of the citizens of Bladen County; and

**WHEREAS**, County has agreed to fund the services provided by ADR as described herein by collecting and distributing a fire service district tax of .12 per one hundred dollar evaluation to ADR (hereinafter referred to as the "Fire Service District Tax"); and

**WHEREAS**, G.S. 153A-11, 153A-13, and 153A-305 authorize Bladen County to provide ADR with financial support for the above-described services;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual benefits inuring to the parties hereto, and based upon the mutual covenants contained herein and the considerations stated therein, the parties do hereby covenant and agree as follows:

**I. Assignment of New District, Funding, and Responsibilities**

A. Assignment of New District - Pursuant to Chapter 153A of the North Carolina General Statutes, Bladen County hereby contracts and assigns to ADR a portion of the former "East Arcadia Fire District" developed by Bladen County under NCGS 153A ("New District") for ADR to provide the services outlined herein. ADR is located in Columbus County, NC, and this agreement in no way will affect the current district ADR serves in Columbus County, NC.

B. Description of the New District - The New District is delineated in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by referenced as "Acme-Delco Fire District-Bladen Extension". The New District is a portion of the former East Arcadia Fire District.

C. Services Provided by ADR

(1) ADR shall provide continuing fire protection service consistent with the levels of equipment, personnel, and training required by the North Carolina Department of Insurance to all citizens of the New District; shall respond to all wrecks, car fires, woods fires, house fires, structure fires, commercial fires and hazardous conditions; shall maintain through the Office of State Fire Marshal at least a 9E/9S rating for the insurance district, whether 5-mile or 6-mile, covered by the department; and shall respond to automatic and mutual aid calls when requested. For purpose of this Agreement, "Mutual Aid" is defined as requests for assistance when a requesting fire department has exhausted all of its available resources and the department called for mutual assistance has available resources to send, as determined by the incident commander of the department from which mutual aid is requested. ADR will work with NCFs, BCEM, BCFM and other county and state agencies to provide services to the New District.

(2) Upon the initial call of a structure fire with the neighboring department in which the Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD) has identified ADR as the automatic aid department, ADR will respond with the proper equipment outlined by OSFM Rating Guidelines or such other equipment and personnel requested by the primary agency and agreed-upon by ADR to send in response.

(3) ADR will assist the County during technical and natural disasters in the clearance of debris on roadways within the New District.

D. County Provision of Communication System. The County shall operate a communication system sufficient to alert ADR and other agencies of fires that occur in the County. The County shall utilize active 911 and texting to alert ADR representatives of fires that occur in the County. In the event of failure of County's communication system at any time, the County shall call Columbus County's central dispatch to alert ADR of fires in the New District. The maintenance of ADR-owned communications equipment is the responsibility of ADR. The County Central Dispatch shall be responsible for the dispatch of the fire departments through alert tones, active 911, and/or text alerts with their primary, automatic, and mutual aid areas of coverage. Pager test and other

communication test requests shall be done by central communications staff at the request of ADR's chief or his designee.

E. Term of Agreement - The term of this agreement shall be from the date of this Agreement through December 31, 2027, unless terminated earlier by either party. After December 31, 2027, this Agreement shall be extended under the same terms and conditions for successive periods of one year, unless terminated.

F. Initial Payment. Bladen County agrees to pay to ADR the sum of Twenty Four Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$24,000.00) no later than thirty (30) days from the date of this Agreement. Among other things, this payment covers services provided prior to June 30, 2022.

G. Monthly Payment - Beginning July 2022, Bladen County agrees to pay ADR each month no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month via electronic funds transfer or mailed check a sum equivalent to the full amount of the Fire Service District Tax collected by the County during the preceding month. The County, upon request, shall furnish to the Department by October 1st of each year an accounting of all Fire Service District Tax collected and collection rates during the preceding fiscal year.

H. Maintenance of Revenues – Should a revaluation of the real property in the New District result in negative growth value of the district such that revenues received by ADR would place an unnecessarily hardship on ADR in performing its duties under this agreement, the County agrees to give good faith consideration to adjusting the tax rate for the New District to maintain ADR's revenue levels under this Agreement.

I. Assets Should Department Dissolve - Should ADR voluntarily disband, dissolve or otherwise become unable to provide fire protection service for the New District, the Bladen County Emergency Service Director will consult with the Fire District Board and the Fire Chief in making a recommendation regarding future payment of the Fire Service District Tax beyond the termination date of this Agreement. The recommendation will be presented to the Bladen County Commissioners within 30 days following dissolution of ADR.

J. Ownership of Equipment. Any and all equipment and other assets of ADR shall remain assets of ADR without the County having any claim, lien or other right of recourse against the assets of ADR at any time, regardless of whether such equipment was acquired by the use of Fire Service District Tax funding (in whole or in part). Upon the termination of this Agreement for any reason, the assets of ADR shall remain with **Acme-Delco-Riegelwood Fire-Rescue Inc.**

K. Hydrant Usage. ADR shall have the right of connecting its fire-fighting equipment to all available water points, including hydrants, within the County as a source of supply for providing fire suppression services, and County agrees to keep such sources as currently in place available and functioning. ADR also shall have the right of connecting its fire-fighting equipment to all available water points, including hydrants, within the County for training purposes, and to make tests as necessary to measure the reliability and adequacy of the water system serving the New District.

L. County-Owned Fire Truck Usage. ADR shall use, maintain, repair, and control without restriction or interference from the County the fire truck currently owned by the County bearing VIN number \_\_\_\_\_ . The County represents and warrants that it is not in default, arrears, or otherwise in violation of any of terms or conditions of any loan, debt, obligation or encumbrance on or against the fire truck. The fire truck shall be used by ADR in its provision of fire suppression services in the New District and outside of the New District. ADR will re-letter the truck with ADR's logo and name, but the truck also will be lettered to show it is owned by the County. Prior to ADR's use of the fire truck, but no later than ninety (90) days from the date of this Agreement, County will replace the six (6) tires on the fire truck with new tires of like quality, size, composition, and projected usable life as the tires being replaced and which new tires are acceptable to ADR, with such acceptance not being unreasonably withheld. To the extent the engine on the fire truck can be reasonably insured, ADR will maintain a policy of insurance that insures the fire truck's engine at replacement cost, and County agrees that, upon a claim being paid by the insurance company, the County will purchase and install a new replacement engine suitable for the fire truck at the County's expense, with the insurance proceeds on the engine being payable or delivered to the County.

M. Future Lease of Building. ADR and County have discussed a possible future lease of a County-owned building located at 1741 East Arcadia Road, Riegelwood, in the New District to assist ADR with providing services under this Agreement, but the parties agree that no lease is created by this Agreement. If such a lease is entered into between ADR and County, the parties agree that the consideration of ADR providing services contemplated by this Agreement also will form part of the consideration for the lease agreement to be entered into by the parties. The parties agree that the following terms will be terms of any such lease:

(1) The lease will be memorialized in a written agreement signed by both parties.

(2) The lease term and termination provisions will mirror the terms in this Agreement.

(3) The lease agreement will provide that ADR will be responsible for payment of all propane expenses for the leased property and that County will be responsible for all electrical utility, water, and sewer/septic expenses for the leased property. These terms on utility, water, and gas payments will be consistent with ADR's contract with the Town of Sandyfield.

(4) ADR will be authorized to erect and utilize an audible siren at the leased property to alert community members of fires only.

(5) Prior to or contemporaneously with the lease of the property, the County will clean the property, which cleaning will include removal of all inoperable equipment and all equipment and vehicles that ADR does not choose to retain for ADR's use.

(6) ADR and County will agree on a cost-sharing mechanism for the shared cost of maintenance of the grounds and building on the property.

N. Insurance Reimbursement. ADR shall maintain insurance coverage generally in the form and scope currently held by ADR as of the date of this Agreement covering ADR's activities, equipment and employees, as long as ADR determines it is commercially reasonable and appropriate for ADR. The County agrees to reimburse ADR for its workers compensation insurance premium (up to \$65.00 per person) upon receipt of the paid invoice by the Bladen County Emergency Services Office.

## II. Minimum Standards

- A. Staffing on Scene – ADR shall maintain standard operating guidelines, which shall be available for review by the Fire Marshal upon request, that address adequate staffing to operate safely on all types of incidents and, as applicable, to emergency response services.
- B. BCFFA – ADR shall use reasonable efforts to ensure the presence of a representative at all of the scheduled meetings of Bladen County Firefighters Association and Bladen County Fire Chiefs.
- C. NIMS – ADR shall operate under the NIMS guidelines for all incidents.
- D. Reporting – ADR shall participate in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (“NFIRS”).
- E. Pre-Incident Surveys – ADR shall endeavor to develop, and annually update, pre-fire incident surveys for all commercial buildings within the Fire Department District.
- F. Fire Investigation – The ADR officer in charge shall attempt to determine the origin and cause of each fire. If the officer is unable to determine the origin and cause of the fire, if the cause is suspected to be incendiary in nature, or if there is any injury and/or death from the fire requiring treatment by and transport to a medical facility, the officer shall request the assistance of a representative of the Bladen County Fire Marshal to provide reasonable assistance thereto.
- G. Administration – ADR shall provide annually to Bladen County Emergency Services a current copy of the department's by-laws, list of the board of directors, and a fire department roster. In the event that ADR decides to make a capital investment, such as purchasing a fire suppression apparatus, to service the New District, the parties understand that ADR will seek a longer term contract from the County in order to pay for this capital investment, the terms of which contract will be negotiated in the future.
- H. Water Supply Testing – ADR shall maintain standard operating guidelines related to static water point and fire hydrant testing. All fire hydrant testing shall be performed with approval and coordination of the Bladen County Water Department as outlined in the Bladen County Hydrant Maintenance and Inspections Plan. If any hydrants are damaged or in of need maintenance, notification should be made to the Bladen County Emergency Services Director or his/her designee within seventy-two (72) hours. The Bladen County Emergency Services Director or his/her designee shall notify the Bladen County Water Department, and the County shall complete hydrant repair or required maintenance within thirty (30) days.

## III. Termination of Agreement

Each party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement for any reason by giving the other party sixty (60) days written notice of termination. In the event of termination, ADR shall only be entitled to a pro rata share of the fire district tax collected during the fiscal year based on the length of time that the contract was in effect. In

the event of dissolution of ADR, the contract shall terminate sixty (60) days after the date of dissolution unless otherwise agreed upon by the parties.

#### **IV. Department Financial Reporting Requirements**

A. Annual Report – Each year prior to the end of the Department’s fiscal year, ADR shall provide the County with a “Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements” from a recognized CPA firm.

B. Financial Records - ADR shall establish fiscal control and accounting procedures in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The procedures shall account for all funds paid by Bladen County to ADR, and ADR shall maintain such records for seven (7) years after the date of termination of the contract.

C. County Access to Financial Records – When requested in good faith by the Bladen County Emergency Services Director, ADR shall provide an accounting of funds paid to ADR by the County.

D. Notification of Purchases Requiring Loans/Lease – Information about any asset purchased by ADR through a loan or lease process with a financial institution shall be submitted to the Bladen County Emergency Services Director for notification purposes only. Bladen County shall not be held liable for any loan/lease agreements entered into by ADR, except for any lease with the County.

E. Annual Training Cooperation - ADR agrees to support and work jointly and cooperatively with the Bladen County Emergency Services Office in development of and participation in one or more annual training sessions and in ongoing evaluations of emergency scene performance.

#### **VI. Independent Contractor**

ADR understands and agrees that, in entering into this Agreement and providing services, it is acting as an independent contractor. Neither ADR, nor its employees, members, or personnel shall be deemed or construed to be employees of Bladen County. ADR shall remain in complete operational control of its vehicles, program, volunteers, assistants and employees. ADR shall be responsible for any on the job injuries to its agents, volunteers, or employees. ADR shall control the hours, manner, and methods of providing fire suppression coverage by its volunteers, employees and all other persons acting in its behalf.

#### **VII. Indemnity Agreement**

The Department shall indemnify and save harmless Bladen County from any and all liability and expenses, including attorney’s fees, court costs, and other costs incurred by Bladen County as a result of the negligence of the Department, its agents and employees in the performance of this contract. Notwithstanding any other terms of this Agreement, the parties expressly state and affirm that nothing herein is designed to eliminate or impair any immunity held by County or ADR.

#### **VIII. Entire Agreement**

This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding of the parties and contains all of the terms agreed upon with respect to the subject matter hereof. No modification or rescission of this Agreement shall be effective unless evidenced by a writing signed by both parties to this Agreement.

[SIGNATURE PAGES FOLLOW]

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals, by authority duly given, on the date first above written.

**BLADEN COUNTY**  
(CORPORATE SEAL)

ATTEST:

BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ray Britt, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, certify that personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged that she is Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Bladen County, and that by authority duly given and as the act of the Board, the foregoing instrument was signed in its name by its Chairman, sealed with its official seal and attested by herself as its Clerk.

WITNESS my hand and official seal, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

**Acme-Delco-Riegelwood Fire-Rescue Inc.**  
(CORPORATE SEAL)

ATTEST:

BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Directors

BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, certify that \_\_\_\_\_ personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged that (s)he is Secretary of Acme-Delco-Riegelwood Fire-Rescue, Inc., a non-profit corporation and that by authority duly given and as the act of the corporation, the foregoing instrument was signed in its name by its President and attested by him/herself as its Secretary.

WITNESS my hand and official seal, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

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

At 7:17 P.M., Commissioner McDowell 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 Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV, AND V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

A. February 21, 2022

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #17: WATER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V – APPROVAL OF CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS:**

Harold Nobles, Director, requested Board Approval. These projects are funded under the American Rescue Plan Project Ordinance, approved under Agenda Item #15 in Regular Session.

<b><u>Water District I</u></b>	
To complete well at South Columbus	\$ 300,000.00
Meters	\$ 26,400.00
Automatic Flushers for Dead Ends	\$ 20,000.00
Contingency	\$ 82,993.00
Tablets	\$ 350.00
Strategic Plan	\$ 10,000.00
Balance of AMR Meter Installs	\$ 144,065.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 583,808.00</b>



<b><u>Water District II</u></b>	
Silver Spoon Road extension	\$ 742,300.00
Brick City Road extension	\$ 146,839.00
Meters	\$ 26,400.00
Automatic Flushers for Dead Ends	\$ 20,000.00
Contingency	\$ 82,993.00
Tablets	\$ 350.00
Strategic Plan	\$ 10,000.00
Interconnect at Old Lumberton & Research Road	\$ 75,000.00
Complete loops	\$ 100,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,203,882.00</b>

<b><u>Water Districts III</u></b>	
Meters	\$ 26,400.00
Automatic Flushers for Dead Ends	\$ 20,000.00
Contingency	\$ 82,993.00
Tablets	\$ 350.00
Strategic Plan	\$ 10,000.00
Interconnect at Old Lumberton & Research Road	\$ 75,000.00
Complete loops	\$ 100,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 314,743.00</b>

<b><u>Water District IV</u></b>	
Meter change out at West Frasier	\$ 60,000.00
AMI Project	\$ 827,145.00
Water Line Extensions with EDA Funding	\$ 4,600,000.00
Meters	\$ 26,400.00
Automatic Flushers for Dead Ends	\$ 20,000.00
Contingency	\$ 82,993.00
Tablets	\$ 350.00
Strategic Plan	\$ 10,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,626,888.00</b>

<b><u>Water District V</u></b>	
Well for Southern End	\$ 775,000.00
Meters	\$ 26,400.00
Automatic Flushers for Dead Ends	\$ 20,000.00
Contingency	\$ 82,993.00
Tablets	\$ 350.00
Strategic Plan	\$ 10,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 914,743.00</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$ 8,644,064.00</b>

**MOTION:**

Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to approve the capital projects, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

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

At 7:21 P.M., Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to adjourn the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #18: COMMENTS:**

Chairman Bullard opened the floor for comments. The following spoke:

**A. Board of Commissioners:**

1. **Commissioner Coleman** stated the following:
  - I would like to thank everybody, especially in the Eastern End, and ADR Fire for what they're taking on to help the citizens there.
  - I visited the satellite station that the Sheriff is putting in down there and it's beginning to take shape and it's really looking good.
  - People are really excited about it and they really believe something good is going to come out of it and they wanted me to express a thank you for that.
  - I appreciate the vote of confidence our people give us and I know water and sewer is coming our way, and I know I keep harping on that, but it's coming.
  - I would like to thank the Board for their help also.
  
2. **Commissioner McDowell** stated the following:
  - Just one thing Mr. Chairman, the gentleman representing Motorola about our service contract was supposed to get back with us if I remember correctly, and I was wondering if he had.

**Assistant County Manager Nick West** stated the following:

  - Yes sir, he requested a meeting with me and the attorneys for Wednesday or Thursday of this week.
  
3. **Commissioner Chris Smith** stated the following:
  - I was listening to Mr. Madden's interview downtown with Jefferson about the relocation of our offices and I think when we get everything settled we just need to put a big ad in the paper to let our citizens know where to go or they're going to be lost.
  - I've been approached about downtown development.
  - If we could work it out with the City of Whiteville and just consider a little tax cut for a year or two for anyone willing to renovate one of the old buildings.
  - I think it would give people an incentive to fix up the buildings.
  - Mr. Madden, what is our long-term plan for Probation and Parole?

**County Manager Eddie Madden** stated the following:

  - Presently we have them located on the North Campus property on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.
  - We opened the doors to probation and parole a little over a month ago.
  - It was a pretty massive undertaking to move them out there.
  - I believe we had to create about 18 different offices on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Building B.
  - The AOC folks out of Raleigh have coordinated putting all of the internet required for their purposes.
  - We made an offer to Mike Frazier and the Probation and Parole office to relocate downtown closer to the courthouse and he declined.
  - I know initially, Commissioner Smith, there was some apprehension on their part about moving out to the North Campus.
  - They moved from a rentable space, that this Board was paying rent on, to a much improved situation financially, even if we did have to make some renovations to the new building.
  - I would say in the future, we may want to revisit where they are located, and if we can ultimately move them closer to the courthouse we would certainly consider that.

**Commissioner Chris Smith** stated the following:

  - I've just had some phone calls, saying they were in a residential area, and that's where this is stemming from.

**County Manager Eddie Madden** stated the following:

  - Not to rebut that, but where they were located before was downtown Whiteville, in a predominantly residential area, and I know the city heard some push back from that, so hopefully this will work out.
  - If it doesn't we'll revisit it.
  
4. **Commissioner Watts** stated the following:
  - I don't have much to say tonight.
  - I just want to thank everybody for helping to move us in this building.
  - I think we have a very nice Commissioner's Chambers.
  - It was fine before, but thanks to the moving staff, Stuart, and everyone who has worked so hard to do all these moves, I appreciate it.
  - And, like the Mayor said tonight, we're helping the town and everybody's winning off of these new buildings.
  
5. **Commissioner Byrd** stated the following:

-I was contacted by some members of the Buckhead Fire Department, and Mr. West they were asking to increase their fee, I think it's 7 cents or 8 cents now, up to maybe 12 cents.

-And, I would like to ask you to work with them to find out what the community wants and what the fire department needs.

-I would like to ask Mr. Madden, is the tax office staying with the Register of Deeds Office or moving here?

-My reason for asking that is after that in the paper with the Register of Deeds staying, the Tax Office and the Register of Deeds Office go hand in hand.

-Under the present system and what's been in place for years, if you had a deed or document pertaining to real estate, you had to go in the Tax Office and they put a stamp on it.

-You would then walk over to the Register of Deeds Office and record it.

-It's been the plan to get everything together but if the Tax Office comes down here and the Register of Deeds Office stays up there, then that would be dividing those two departments that really go hand in hand.

**County Manager Eddie Madden** stated the following:

-To answer your question simply, the answer is yes, they are moving.

-The renovations on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor are set to begin tomorrow.

-We considered the dynamics of splitting the Register of Deeds and the Tax Office.

-We dealt specifically with the question about the stamp you referred to that is affixed to maps and other instruments before they are recorded.

-What we concluded was that, statutorily, we're not obligated to go through that process.

-In fact, Needom Hughes, who is not here this evening, researched the matter, and that affixing of the stamp to those instruments was never approved by this Board, and because it was never approved it is not required.

-It is an option, but it is not required.

-Needom has indicated to our staff that they checked instruments that are recorded daily and it is not necessary for that process to continue.

-That will cut down greatly on the foot traffic between the departments and he still feels like moving here is an improved environment for his department.

**Commissioner Byrd** stated the following:

-As far back as I can remember we've had to do it that way whether it was required or not.

-I know after the workshop, I've had several calls and conversations with individuals from Tabor City, Mr. Chairman, after you brought up the County trying to sell the prison water.

-I think we need to do our homework because I don't think we can just pull it and do it.

**Chairman Bullard** stated the following:

-I've dropped it.

-It was a thought we had at the retreat and sometimes you don't know the history behind something until you discuss it and out of that discussion, the Town of Tabor City benefits from it and Commissioner Watts was also concerned about it.

-And, to keep everybody working together, and that is one of the intentions of this Board, we want to leave it as it is.

6. **Vice Chairman McMillian** stated the following:

-I'd like to thank everybody for being here tonight.

-First of all, and I think he's gone already, I'd like to thank Dr. Williams for looking into all this grant money that's out here just floating around and bringing it to Columbus County.

-It makes it a lot easier on our tax payers when we can find this type of money and we don't have that much of a match to put towards it.

-Also, and I think Mayor Terry Mann is gone, but I really appreciate the words he had to say about what we can accomplish when we work together.

-I really appreciate his words and I really think that's what this Board is about, working together and working for the citizens of our county.

-I don't think he mentioned one time about the Democratic Party or the Republican Party, he just said thank you for the work that this Board is showing him.

-I have to thank my County Manager Mr. Eddie Madden for being the leader that we hired him to be.

-I appreciate you for not wilting when you get these little threats and things about this and that, but we just appreciate you for doing what you told us you would do.

-That as long as we didn't micromanage you, you would come here and do the job and take us to where we wanted to be.

-I just want to thank you again and I appreciate you here tonight.

-And, again, I think our motto is working together and I like that.

7. **Chairman Bullard** stated the following:

-I don't think there's a whole lot left for me to say except that I'm happy tonight.

-We're making a lot of progress; things are going good.

-I'm very thankful for the building that the county has purchased with the Commissioners and County Manager Mr. Eddie Madden helping us to acquire.

-I think we will all benefit from it.

**B. County Manager Eddie Madden** stated the following:

-I do have a number of things to go over with you and I apologize in advance.

-I, too, want to say congratulations to the Board on this facility.

-If you look around you see a much improved work environment for this Board to conduct its business.

-I do want to express my appreciation to the maintenance department, the housekeeping department, and our office for all the hard work that's been undertaken over the last few months to get the building in the condition that it's in now.

-Our housekeeping staff was in this space today with Old English, polishing the walls and touching up things, paying attention to the smallest of details.

-So, we're proud of this building and we are committed to taking care of it for you.

-But, we want to express our appreciation to you for allowing this to occur.

-We are planning to begin renovations on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, beginning as early as tomorrow.

-In addition to that, on the first floor, our plans are to still move the Building Inspections Office, Environmental Health, Addressing, Fire Marshal, and Emergency Management Office in the next couple of weeks.

-All of that is contingent upon the installation of fiber/high speed internet to this building.

-FOCUS Broadband has been working these last two weeks to make that final connection and we hope that will happen in the next few days.

-As soon as that happens, Mr. West and all those various departments will start that transition to the first floor.

-I do want to restate that if you have a water bill to pay or a tax bill to pay, the place to do that is at 810 Pinckney Street, the former BB&T Branch there at the Courthouse Square.

-There's a drive-thru option for those who do not want to come inside, there are two lanes open for the convenience of the Public.

-We've transitioned a number of staff members from the Tax Office already to help in that collection process and streamline the process for our citizens and customers to pay their water and tax bills.

-That seems to be going very well.

-Commissioner Smith, I'm glad you mentioned the podcast, it's my first time ever being on Spotify.

-I appreciated Jefferson Weaver's invitation for me to participate in the interview, it was almost 30 minutes and it went over all the building relocations, the Park and Recreation Study underway, among all of the other things going on in the county.

-So, please listen to that it will be very informative.

-We are in the process of going through the Recreation Master Plan, that study has now been released to the public, we've been collecting data and gathering public input for that.

-There has now been a second opinion survey that has been made available for everyone to complete.

-We're encouraging everyone to fill out that survey, it takes just a few minutes.

-No costs associated to do it but hopefully the results will pay dividends for the county for many years to come as we address the deficiencies in parks and recreation.

-I do want to clarify one thing, and I know the newspaper reported, that the study recommended the reorganization of our parks.

-As you all know, and the study explains this, the county has 21 parks in the system, we own 4 of those sites, 17 are under maintenance but are not under ownership by the county.

-All of this is being maintained and operated by a staff of 5 plus a director.

-As we move forward with a long-term manageable recreation program, we're going to have to have some hard conversations about how we continue to maintain 21 parks, some of which are in city limits and under municipal ownership.

-As I explained in the podcast, we're not putting chains on gates, or putting up no trespassing signs, or walking away at this point.

-We didn't get into this situation overnight and it will not be remedied overnight, but we will have to have conversations going forward as to how we continue to maintain our parks and move to the next level.

-We're hoping to bring our parks and recreation program into the current century and beyond, and I hope everyone will appreciate the work going into this study.

-As a reminder, you all will be meeting with the Boards of Education on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 P.M., and on March 29<sup>th</sup> with Southeastern Community College's trustees and its president to discuss their budget requests, so please put that on your calendar.

-As a highlight, the Alligator Polar Plunge was this past Saturday, and I'm pleased to announce that with the help of our terrific employees and all of our contributors, that we raised a little over \$6,000 and took home the prize for most money raised and votes received for that effort, and we were glad to be a part of it.

-The water was very cold, as you can tell by my face and Mayor Wilson's face in the newspaper from that event, but it was a very good day.

-There was a total of over \$16,000 raised for the event.

-I know we have Closed Session on the agenda for Personnel, we will not need that this evening.

**Commissioner McDowell** stated the following:

-Mr. Madden, when is the deadline for the second survey?

**County Manager Eddie Madden** stated the following:

-It will be open for approximately 30 days.

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

Chairman Bullard requested Boyd Worley, Board Attorney, to orally read the Closed Session General Account. Mr. Worley orally stated the following: "The County Commissioners discussed potential litigation and pending litigations with attorneys and Real Estate property acquisition with the County Manager and attorneys. No action was taken by the Board."

**MOTION:**

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

**Commissioner Byrd** stated the following:

-When the Tax Office mailed out the late notices for tax payments a lot of people received those notices, including me, even though we'd already paid those taxes.

-I think we need to double check what has been paid or hasn't been paid before we print out thousands of notices telling people they're late with payment when they've already paid.

-I've had several people talk to me about that.

**Agenda Item #20: ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:43 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed. These minutes were recorded and typed by LaToya Williams.

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**LATOYA WILLIAMS, Deputy Clerk**

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**RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

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**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV, and V  
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING  
Monday, March 7, 2022  
7:17 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and time at the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose of acting as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**  
Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**  
Lavern Coleman  
Brent Watts  
Charles T. McDowell  
Giles E. Byrd  
Chris Smith

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**  
Boyd Worley, **Board Attorney**  
Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney/Clerk to Board**  
Jay Leatherman, **Finance Director**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 7:17 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT I BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

A. February 21, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the February 21, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #17: WATER DISTRICT I – APPROVAL OF CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS:**

Harold Nobles, Director, requested Board Approval. These projects are funded under the American Rescue Plan Project Ordinance, approved under Agenda Item #15 in Regular Session.

<b><u>Water District I</u></b>	
To complete well at South Columbus	\$ 300,000.00
Meters	\$ 26,400.00
Automatic Flushers for Dead Ends	\$ 20,000.00
Contingency	\$ 82,993.00
Tablets	\$ 350.00
Strategic Plan	\$ 10,000.00
Balance of AMR Meter Installs	\$ 144,065.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 583,808.00</b>

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:21 P.M., Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

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**LATOYA WILLIAMS, Deputy Clerk**

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**RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**



**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV, and V  
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING  
Monday, March 7, 2022  
7:17 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and time at the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose of acting as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**  
Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**  
Lavern Coleman  
Brent Watts  
Charles T. McDowell  
Giles E. Byrd  
Chris Smith

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**  
Boyd Worley, **Board Attorney**  
Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney/Clerk to Board**  
Jay Leatherman, **Finance Director**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 7:17 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT II BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

A. February 21, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the February 21, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #17: WATER DISTRICT II – APPROVAL OF CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS:**

Harold Nobles, Director, requested Board Approval. These projects are funded under the American Rescue Plan Project Ordinance, approved under Agenda Item #15 in Regular Session.

<b><u>Water District II</u></b>	
Silver Spoon Road extension	\$ 742,300.00
Brick City Road extension	\$ 146,839.00
Meters	\$ 26,400.00
Automatic Flushers for Dead Ends	\$ 20,000.00
Contingency	\$ 82,993.00
Tablets	\$ 350.00
Strategic Plan	\$ 10,000.00
Interconnect at Old Lumberton & Research Road	\$ 75,000.00
Complete loops	\$ 100,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,203,882.00</b>

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:21 P.M., Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

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**LATOYA WILLIAMS, Deputy Clerk**

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**RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV, and V  
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING  
Monday, March 7, 2022  
7:17 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and time at the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose of acting as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**  
Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**  
Lavern Coleman  
Brent Watts  
Charles T. McDowell  
Giles E. Byrd  
Chris Smith

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**  
Boyd Worley, **Board Attorney**  
Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney/Clerk to Board**  
Jay Leatherman, **Finance Director**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 7:17 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT III BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

A. February 21, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the February 21, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #17: WATER DISTRICT III – APPROVAL OF CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS:**

Harold Nobles, Director, requested Board Approval. These projects are funded under the American Rescue Plan Project Ordinance, approved under Agenda Item #15 in Regular Session.

<b><u>Water Districts III</u></b>	
Meters	\$ 26,400.00
Automatic Flushers for Dead Ends	\$ 20,000.00
Contingency	\$ 82,993.00
Tablets	\$ 350.00
Strategic Plan	\$ 10,000.00
Interconnect at Old Lumberton & Research Road	\$ 75,000.00
Complete loops	\$ 100,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 314,743.00</b>

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:21 P.M., Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

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**LATOYA WILLIAMS, Deputy Clerk**

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**RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV, and V  
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING  
Monday, March 7, 2022  
7:17 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and time at the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose of acting as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**  
Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**  
Lavern Coleman  
Brent Watts  
Charles T. McDowell  
Giles E. Byrd  
Chris Smith

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**  
Boyd Worley, **Board Attorney**  
Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney/Clerk to Board**  
Jay Leatherman, **Finance Director**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 7:17 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

A. February 21, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the February 21, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #17: WATER DISTRICT IV – APPROVAL OF CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS:**

Harold Nobles, Director, requested Board Approval. These projects are funded under the American Rescue Plan Project Ordinance, approved under Agenda Item #15 in Regular Session.

<b><u>Water District IV</u></b>	
Meter change out at West Frasier	\$ 60,000.00
AMI Project	\$ 827,145.00
Water Line Extensions with EDA Funding	\$ 4,600,000.00
Meters	\$ 26,400.00
Automatic Flushers for Dead Ends	\$ 20,000.00
Contingency	\$ 82,993.00
Tablets	\$ 350.00
Strategic Plan	\$ 10,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,626,888.00</b>

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:21 P.M., Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

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**LATOYA WILLIAMS, Deputy Clerk**

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**RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV, and V**  
**COMBINATION BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday, March 7, 2022**  
**7:17 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and time at the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose of acting as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**  
 Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**  
 Lavern Coleman  
 Brent Watts  
 Charles T. McDowell  
 Giles E. Byrd  
 Chris Smith

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**  
 Boyd Worley, **Board Attorney**  
 Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney/Clerk to Board**  
 Jay Leatherman, **Finance Director**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 7:17 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #22: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

A. February 21, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the February 21, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #17: WATER DISTRICT V – APPROVAL OF CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS:**

Harold Nobles, Director, requested Board Approval. These projects are funded under the American Rescue Plan Project Ordinance, approved under Agenda Item #15 in Regular Session.

<b><u>Water District V</u></b>	
Well for Southern End	\$ 775,000.00
Meters	\$ 26,400.00
Automatic Flushers for Dead Ends	\$ 20,000.00
Contingency	\$ 82,993.00
Tablets	\$ 350.00
Strategic Plan	\$ 10,000.00
	<b>Total</b>
	\$ 914,743.00
	<b>Total Funds</b>
	\$ 8,644,064.00

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:21 P.M., Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

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**LATOYA WILLIAMS, Deputy Clerk**

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**RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**