

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**Monday, June 01, 2015****6:00 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, for the purpose of holding a Public Hearing and conducting their regularly scheduled meeting on the first Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

6:00 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING - Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016: the purpose of this Public Hearing is to receive written and oral comments from any interested party.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED::

At 6:01 P.M., Chairman Burroughs opened the Public Hearing and stated the purpose of this Public Hearing is to receive written and oral comments from any interested party on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016. Chairman Burroughs requested that Michael H. Stephens, County Attorney, orally read the Policy on Comments at Public Hearings. Mr. Stephens orally read the policy in its entirety.

COMMENTS:

Chairman Burroughs opened the floor for comments. No oral or written comments were received.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED:

At 6:04 P.M., Vice Chairman Bullard made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

6:30 P.M.**REGULAR SESSION****Agenda Items #1, #2 and #3:****MEETING CALLED to ORDER, INVOCATION and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:**

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman Trent Burroughs called the June 01, 2015 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Charles T. McDowell. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Giles E. Byrd.

Agenda Item #4:**PRESENTATION - PLAQUE from the DEPARTMENT of DEFENSE to the SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:**

Ronald Vogle, a retired Superior Court Judge, of the Employment Support of the Guard Reserve, presented the following Freedom Award to Sheriff Lewis L. Hatcher and the Columbus County Sheriff's Department.

**Freedom Award
 2015 Finalist**

EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

HONORS
COLUMBUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

IN RECOGNITION OF EXEMPLARY SUPPORT OF NATIONAL GUARD AND
RESERVE MEMBER EMPLOYEES

/s/ **M. ALEX BAIRD**
Principal Deputy
Family and Employer Programs and Policy

/s/ **PAUL E. MOCK**
National Chair
**Employer Support of the Guard
and Reserve**

The Sheriff and the Sheriff's Department has received the Pro Patria Award, and this was one (1) among the final thirty (30) awards that were presented.

This recognition is the result of his cooperation and support of Kenneth Aaron Smith's deployment to southwest Asia.

Agenda Item #5: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the May 18, 2015 Regular Session Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #6: PUBLIC INPUT:

Chairman Burroughs opened the floor for Public Input. Chairman Burroughs requested that Michael H. Stephens, Columbus County Attorney, orally read the policy for Public Address to the Board. The following spoke.

1. **Calvin T. Norton, 204 Anderson Street, Whiteville, NC 28472:** stated the following:
 - I am here on several issues involving the Animal Shelter here in Columbus County;
 - Several thousands of tax dollars have been spent on behalf of Rossie Hayes, Director, who has been accused of alleged animal cruelty, abuse and neglect;
 - In my checking the records at the Animal Shelter, I have found several discrepancies;
 - On March 31, 2015, I witnessed a pit bull dog being killed in violation of the 72 hour rule;
 - Mr. Hayes forged Herring's signature on two (2) documents;
 - You have got several problems; **and**
 - You have got a few days to get this straightened out.

2. **Lisa T. Clewis, 2719 Waccamaw Shores Road, Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450:** stated the following:
 - I am here on the behalf of Home Health;
 - I will read several statements from our patients that have been obtained from our patient study report;
 - I will read a statement from a physician's faculty member;
 - I have been with the Columbus County Home Health for four (4) years; **and**
 - The citizens of Columbus County need the Home Health, and I hope that you rely on spiritual guidance to make your decision.

2. **Paula Edge, 1355 Pameter Road, Hallsboro, NC 28442:** stated the following:
 - I am a contract nurse for Columbus County Home Health since 1991;
 - We would like to express our gratitude for your support of Home Health, for expressing your concerns for the healthcare of the people of Columbus County;
 - We understand that a department cannot continue to operate with no profit, and we think the right promotion of this service would allow us to continue; **and**
 - We thank you for your help.

4. **Teresa Simmons, 745 Woodrow Noble Road, Chadbourn, NC 28431:** stated the following:
 - I have worked for Columbus County Home Health for thirty-two (32) years;
 - I am a registered nurse under contract;
 - I am not only a contract worker, I am part owner of Home Care Plus which is one of the contract services that have been doing business with Home Health for twenty-five (25)

years;

-There is no private business that is willing to take on the care of Columbus County’s indigent patients;

-The indigent patients are not going away; **and**

-Please give the Columbus County’s Home Health a chance to survive.

5. **Jennifer R. McPherson, 315 Jimmy–Hoyt McPherson Drive, Clarendon, NC 28432:** stated the following:

-I would like to speak as a citizen and as a care giver;

-If it was not for Home Health, I would have to quit my job and take care of my Mother;

-Some of these co-workers have took care of my mother for seven (7) years;

-The citizens of the county would not get the care and compassion they are getting now; **and**

-I would like for you to try and get the Home Health turned around and be productive.

6. **Janet Hinson, 219 East Clay Street, Whiteville, NC 28472:** stated the following:

-I am here tonight to talk about Columbus County Animal Control

-On May 19, 2015, Rossie Hayes put down a dog that had already been paid for, someone had adopted that dog;

-The next day, the person that paid for the dog that had been put down requested to get the dog that she could have cremated, and Rossie refused for her to get the dog, and he took the dog to the Landfill to bury it;

-They are selling pit bulls for \$25.00 each, and a lot of them;

-The Columbus County Humane Society get all of the feral cats from the Animal Shelter, have them spayed or neutered, give them a rabies shot, and we find homes for these cats

-Columbus County has to pay \$10.00 for each feral cat, and we are the only county that has to do this, and we should be able to get these cats at no cost; **and**

-It is time for Rossie Hayes to go.

7. **Brittany May Ward, 511 Charles Smith Road, Whiteville, NC 28472:** stated the following:

-I am here about the Columbus County Animal Shelter;

-I have lived here for eight (8) years;

-I have tried to volunteer at the Animal Shelter and Rossie Hayes will not let me;

-Me and my husband rescue dogs, and dogs have been dying on the concrete floors because of injuries, and they are not allowed to be taken to the vet;

-My aunt was there and she has got evidence of neglect and abuse;

-This county does not really care about animals;

-There are dog fighting rings in Columbus County; **and**

-Something has got to change.

Agenda Item #7: JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL - FUNDING PRESENTATION:

Lance Britt is requesting the following State funding for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council..

Program Requesting Funding	FY 15/16 Funding Recommendation
Columbus County Teen Court & Restitution (District Attorney’s Office)	\$59,000
Youth & Family Counseling (Columbus County Public Schools)	\$46,800
Safe Haven After School Tutoring Program (Dream Center)	\$43,000
Ambassadors’ Program (Parenting) Men & Women United for Youth and Families	\$34,000
JCPC Administration	\$11,917
Unallocated Funds (From Court Psychologist Component of Youth and Family Counseling)	\$4,200
TOTAL:	\$198,917

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the funding for the Columbus County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, in the amount of one hundred ninety-eight thousand, nine hundred seventeen and 00/100 (\$198,917.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjust the Agenda by adding to the Closed Session N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (a) (3) Attorney-Client Privilege, seconded by Vice Chairman Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #8: HEALTH - REVIEW of HOME HEALTH FINANCIALS:

Kimberly Smith, Health Director, requested the Board to consider the following plan of action for the direction of Columbus County Home Health.

Ms. Smith stated the following:

1. I have been in touch with Carla Hollis, CEO of the hospital, and it is difficult to get all the people needed in the same room with her on this matter, but she is working on this;
2. We have reduced medical and office supplies;
3. We have had a reduction in force, and we are not replacing employees when they leave or retire;
4. When compared, it is less expensive to use contract employees;
5. The hospital patients have been low and this does affect Home Health;
6. The Windcare Center of the hospital opened about a year and a half ago and took some of those patients;
7. Over the last four (4) years, the Medicare patients have dropped 29%;
8. The overall patient volume has dropped 36.9%;
9. We are in a very competitive environment where larger private agencies have multi-county providers, and are also able to have staff in the larger hospitals;
10. I have been in discussion with Wilson, Craven, Albermarle District, and all have experienced a decrease in patient volume, and a decrease in Medicare revenues;
11. Craven County and Albermarle District have sold their Home Health, and Wilson has decided to hang on for one (1) more year;
12. We meet with our CPA's twice a year and the Home Health staff, along with me and Charlene, are sitting in the room, and they have been hearing the numbers;
13. Home Health is not a mandated service by the State; **and**
14. There are several private agencies that cover Columbus County.

DISCUSSION:

Vice Chairman Burroughs: I have two (2) questions as follows: What is the main reason for the number of the Home Health care down, and will the patients get the same care with the private agencies that they are getting now?

Kimberly Smith: I think it has already been answered behind me. Yes, I do, because we are audited by the state just like the private agencies are. We have the state agencies come in and audit our accounts. Every year we get a Need of Assessment. There are counties who do not have public agencies.

Commissioner Prevatte: stated the following:

1. In my conversations with Wilson County, I have discovered they are doing good;
2. Could we recruit good personal relations to keep our Home Health up and going;
3. I don't think if our Home Health goes to the private agencies we will get the same level of care;
4. I understand that the salary of our Health Director is derived from the Home Health;
5. Columbus County has a poverty rate of 20-25 %; **and**
6. I hope all the offers have been exhausted to keep the Home Health up and going.

Commissioner McKenzie: stated the following:

1. We need more time than 1-2 weeks to decide this;
2. What is your opinion of what to do with Home Health; **and**
3. We need to take care of our home folks first, and find the facts for saving the Home Health;

Kimberly Smith: replied stating the following:

1. In our Escrow Account, we have \$2.8 million dollars of tax payers’ citizens money’;
2. I am here to give you the facts and decide;
3. The State of North Carolina has a bill in front of them to do away with the Certificate of Need, when that bill goes into effect, it is suppose to go into effect in January, 2017, we will not have anything to sell, it will be a close instead of a sell;
- 4, Business wise, I think we should sell; **and**
5. My job is to come here and give you the facts.

Commissioner Byrd: stated we should explore every option that is available to us to keep the Home Health open.

Commissioner McDowell: stated the following:

1. I serve on the Board of Health.
2. We understand that there are 465 patients in Wilson County and they are going good at this time; **and**
3. We need to check every avenue available to use before we make our decision to sell or keep.

Commissioner Russ: stated we need to get a survey done or get a consultant in here to find out what needs to be done.

Vice Chairman Bullard: We need a strong plan of action presented at the next meeting.

Agenda Item #9: PLANNING - COLUMBUS COUNTY REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:

Gary Lanier, Planning Director, requested the Board to establish June 15, 2015, at 6:15 P.M., as the date and time for a Public Hearing.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to establish June 15, 2015, at 6:30 P.M., as the date and time for a Public Hearing on the Columbus County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, seconded by Vice Chairman Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #10: PUBLIC UTILITIES - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, delivered the following departmental update to the Board.

INFOR	WD-I	WD-II	WD-III	WD-IV	WD-V	TOTALS
New Customers Added:	12	27	9	5	10	63
Total Number of Customers	1,199	1,635	1,048	788	502	5,172
Total Gallons Pumped (MG)	50.0	75.4	65.0	52.2	107.3	350
Total Gallons Sold (MG)	43.9	69.4	57.3	39.8	101.0	311
Total Revenue for Fiscal Year	\$488,429	\$617,940	\$410,975	\$329,785	\$519,766	\$2,366,895
Total Number of Penalties	2,996	3,548	1,951	2,040	1,051	11,586
Total Number of Cut Offs	870	940	482	821	374	3,487

Total Revenues Received for Penalty and Cut-Off Fees Charges in all Water Districts: \$145,165

Total Meter Tampering Fees	17	23	6	4	1	51
Total Customer Leaks	12	24	16	4	2	58

Total Processed Work Orders: Average 440 per month 4.4
02

Total Utility Locate Requests: Requests for NCDOT, Electrical/Telephone Cable Companies: 843

Chlorine Residuals: Sampled at Each Well and Distribution System Daily
Gallons Pumped: Logged at Each Well Daily
Water Quality: Distribution Systems are Flushed Daily to Maintain Water Quality
Estimated Revenue for Fiscal Year 2014/2015: \$2,840,274

The new customers in Water District II does no include the 20 customers in the Prison Camp Road Project

All figures are based on a 10 month period

Agenda Item #11: VOTING DELEGATE - NACO ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

William S. Clark, County Manager, requested the appointment of a voting delegate for 2015 NACo Annual Conference to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to appoint Chairman Trent Burroughs as the voting delegate for the 2015 NACo Annual Conference, seconded by Vice Chairman Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #12: TAX - RE-APPOINTMENT of DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR:

Needom Hughes, Columbus County Tax Administrator, requested the Board to re-appoint Doug Ward as the Deputy Tax Collector.

Vice Chairman Bullard made a motion to re-appoint Doug Ward as the Deputy Tax Collector, seconded by Commissioner Russ, as a four (4) year term, with term expiring June, 2019. The motion unanimously passed.

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

At 7:57 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, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #13: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

May 18, 2015 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 2 for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, IV and V, and Minute Book Number 1 for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - RE-FINANCING DEBT:

Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, requested Board approval of First Tryon to work on re-financing the debt for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III and V from the following Financial Advisor RFPO Comparison, March 27, 2015.

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV - HALLSBORO PROJECT:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval for William S. Clark, County Manager, to execute Change Order Number 1.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 2 for Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV.

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

At 8:03 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #16: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Budget Amendments:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditures	10-4380-540030	Contracted Services - Vet Care	1,000
Revenues	10-3438-484020	Donations for Animal Control	1,000
Expenditures	10-4201-512107	Salaries/Wages - COLA	(40,000)
	10-4265-550000	Capital Outlay	40,000
Expenditures	65-7110-535100	Maintenance Repair - Vehicles	6,873
Revenues	65-3718-489000	Miscellaneous Revenues	6,873

B. Tax Releases:

Property Value Amount: \$49.91

Adams, Robert E. **PROPERTY:** 9599 Total: \$59.52
 Value: \$2,100.00 Year: 2014 Account: 05-00021 Bill#: 57507

Release portion of value on dwelling. House burned in August 2013. House value should have been \$1500. Release North Whiteville(4.96) release Columbus Rescue(1.24) release Water 3(3.41)

Property Value Amount: \$21.74

Coleman, Michelle **PROPERTY:** 00000 Total: \$242.98
 Value: \$2,700.00 Year: 2014 Account: 12-00018 Bill#: 65526

Release value of S/W.. DBL and in wrong name. Release Cerro Gordo Fire(2.70) release Columbus Rescue(.54)

Property Value Amount: \$292.54

Hemingway, Danny James (Heirs) **PROPERTY:** 10180 Total: \$299.74
 Value: \$4,500.00 Year: 07-14 Account: 06-00024 Bill#: 99999

Release value of dwelling. DBL with prop#90022 Keisha Wilson. Release Columbus Rescue(7.20)

Property Value Amount: \$4.93

Kays Beauty Shop **PROPERTY:** 00000 Total: \$5.56
 Value: \$612.00 Year: 2014 Account: 03-12513 Bill#: 80727

Release value of business equipment. Owner deceased. Release Columbus Rescue(.12) release late list(.51)

Property Value Amount: \$480.82

Lee, Kathy Fowler & John C Lee **PROPERTY:** 10717 Total: \$626.30
 Value: \$72,400.00 Year: 2014 Account: 06-01142 Bill#: 81948

Release value of dwelling. Sold at tax sale for less than total due. Release Columbus Rescue(14.48)

Property Value Amount: \$528.75

M & M Service LLC **PROPERTY:** 00000 Total: \$595.94
 Value: \$5,000.00 Year: 07-14 Account: 03-02921 Bill#: 99999

Release entire value. Insolvent. Release Columbus Rescue(13.00) release late list(54.19)

Property Value Amount: \$278.16

Stephens, Claude **PROPERTY:** 00000 Total: \$2,361.68
 Value: \$2,590.00 Year: 05-14 Account: 12-26400 Bill#: 99999

Release value of S/W Condemned per Coburn Powell. Not liveable. Release Evergreen Fire(156.81) release Columbus Rescue(7.02) release Water II(25.74) release late list(21.95)

User Fee Amount: \$0.00

Andrews, John **PROPERTY:** 4777 Total: \$131.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014 Account: 01-00843 Bill#: 57935

Release user fee. House is vacant.

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Bellamy, Anthony Tyrone	PROPERTY: 77764	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 01-04323	Bill#: 59644

Release user fee. DW vacant.

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Davis, Daniel Jeff & Teresa Jackson	PROPERTY: 5312	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 01-04285	Bill#: 67212

Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Elliott, William	PROPERTY: 13702	Total:	\$654.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 07-05145	Bill#: 69175

Release user fees. House and 2 mobile homes are vacant.

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Etheridge, Carolyn Harrelson	PROPERTY: 60439	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 03-01534	Bill#: 69501

Release user fee. D/w is vacant.

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Grady, Marcella S.	PROPERTY: 85881	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 09-03717	Bill#: 73848

Release user fee. Uses a commercial hauler.

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Jackson, Isabelle Hill & Jasper	PROPERTY: 2733	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 01-46680	Bill#: 79012

Release user fee. S/W vacant.

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Pigford, Barbara L.	PROPERTY: 81692	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2014	Account: 08-14956	Bill#: 90126

Release user fee. DW vacant.

Agenda Item #17: COMMENTS:

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

A. Department Manager:

1. **Honorable Sheriff L. Hatcher:** stated the following:

- A. I would like to say thank you to the Board of Commissioner for signing this Proclamation, and for the members of the armed forces that serve, and for the young man that is employed at our Office and is serving; **and**
- B. I accept this plaque for everyone and for their support.

2. **Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director:** stated the following:

- A. The men at the Methodist Church at Lake Waccamaw has gotten in touch with me and would like to make you aware about the tornado that tore the house down on Highway 74-76;
- B. They would like to clean that house up and asked me if we could donate the tipping fee for us to clean the house up; **and**
- C. The church would like to donate a trailer.

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Bullard made a motion to donate the tipping fees for debris as a result from the debris resulted from the tornado that touched down, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

B. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Commissioner Byrd:** stated the following:

- A. I would like to thank Sheriff Hatcher for receiving the Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve, and I am proud to be a part of this;

- B. Our new Courthouse does not need to be called Courthouse Annex; **and**
- C. I will help in any way that I can with the tornado debris cleanup.

MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to new the new Courthouse the “Columbus County Courthouse”, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

- 2. **Commissioner McKenzie:** stated the following:
 - A. I feel good about our meeting tonight;
 - B. I have received numbers of call regarding the Animal Shelter; **and**
 - C. We will do what it takes to provide for the animals.
- 3. **Commissioner Russ:** I would like for a flag to be flown at the new Columbus County Courthouse.

MOTION:

Commissioner Russ made a motion to have a flag to be flown at the new Columbus County Courthouse, seconded by Commissioner Byrd.

After discussion was conducted, it was determined to table the motion until the location was determined to place the flag.

- 4. **Commissioner Prevatte:** We need some options for Home Health before we make any decisions.
- 5. **Commissioner McDowell:** stated the following:
 - A. I would like to congratulate the Sheriff; **and**
 - B. I would like for Needom Hughes, Tax Administrator, to give us an update on the collection rate.

Needom Hughes reported the following:

-Up to this date, the collection rate is 96.19%; **and**

-Last year, at the end of June, it was at 96.1, and we still got a month to go.

- 6. **Chairman Burroughs:** stated the following:
 - A. I would like to thank the Sheriff for the job he does and the award he won;
 - B. I received a letter about EMS and I will forward;
 - C. We need to make sure our dues at NCACC are paid;
 - D. Mr. Clark, have we responded to the letter from Waste Management; **and**
 - E. Have we responded to the letter from Kathy Graham about security at the courthouse?
- C. **County Manager (William S. Clark):** stated the following:
 - 1. I called Darren Currie, City of Whiteville, about the Silver Striders (Skippers) and he checked with his Parks and Recreation, and they were not aware of it, and he will check into this;
 - 2. We will have our Budget Workshop tomorrow night, at 5:30 P.M.; **and**
 - 3. The hospital audit will be presented on June 15, 2015, at 4:30 P.M.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (a) (4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and (3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE:

At 8:25 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-319/11 (a) (4) Economic Development and (3) Attorney-Client Privilege, after a five (5) minute recess, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #18: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (a) (4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and (3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE:

No official was taken.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:

At 9:25 P.M., Commissioner Russ made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, The motion unanimously passed.

READING and APPROVAL of CLOSED SESSION GENERAL ACCOUNT:

Chairman Burroughs requested that Michael H. Stephens, Columbus County Attorney, orally read the Closed Session General Account. Mr. Stephens orally read the following “Gary Lanier, Economic Development Director, discussed Economic Development issues with the Board of Commissioners. No action was taken. The Columbus County Attorney informed the Board of Commissioners of the lawsuit filed involving Columbus County employees”.

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

Agenda Item #19: ADJOURNMENT:

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

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to the Board

TRENT BURROUGHS, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, June 01, 2015
7:57 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, County Manager
Mike Stephens, County Attorney
Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Officer
June B. Hall, Clerk to Board

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:57 P.M., Chairman Trent Burroughs called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #13: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

May 18, 2015 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the May 18, 2015 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - RE-FINANCING DEBT:

Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, requested Board approval of First Tryon to work on re-financing the debt for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III and V from the following Financial Advisor RFPO Comparison, March 27, 2015.

**County of Columbus
Financial Advisory RFP Comparison
27-Apri-15**

COMPANY	GOV'T EXPERIENCE IN NC	YEARS IN BUSINESS	COST	LOCATION
First Tryon	Pitt Co, Union Co, Rowan Co., Iredell Co., Caldwell Co., UNC Pembroke, Etc.	19	Public Sale-\$35,000, plus out of Pocket expenses- travel, meals, lodging, printing/copying, etc.	Charlotte, NC
The PFM Group	Union, Co., City of Norfolk, VA	40	Flat fee per GO Bond issue (new money) \$15,000, Out-of-pocket fees estimated \$500. Non- Transaction/Financial Planing Services, Managing Direct \$300, Senior Manager \$250, Consultant \$190, Associate \$195, plus the cost of traveling, meals, lodging, computer, communications, reproductions, graphics,, express mail, legal fees, etc.	Winston-Salem, NC
FirstSouthwest	Mecklenburg Co., State of NC, Fay., Wilkes Co., Gastonia, Pender Co.,, Rowan, Sanford, Shelby, etc.		Public Sale - 0.1% of the financed amount, \$25,000 minimum, \$50,000 maximum	Charlotte, NC
Davenport & Company	Bertie Co., Beaufort Co., Davie Co., Moore Co.,, Orange Co., Pender Co., etc.	150	Flat not to exceed fee of \$85,000, plus out of pocket expenses, plus a fee of 4% of the fee amount for indirect expenses- conference calls, printing, binding, etc.	Raleigh, NC

WYERIVER	NC Housing Finance Agency, Brunswick Co., City of Durham, LCFWSA, Winston-Salem, Durham, Greensboro, Etc.	16	Hourly rate: Lead Advisory \$350, Co-Advisory \$300, Finance & Investment Advisory \$300, Competitive Solicitations & Derivate Analysis \$300, Quantitative Analysis \$200. Research & Communications \$200, plus out of pocket expenses, Blended Hourly Rate \$275 - Estimated Total Fee \$37,400	Advance, NC
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Bobbie Faircloth stated the following:

1. I am asking the Board to enter into a contract with the financial advisor to go into a process of getting re-rated since it has been since 2003 since we have been rated. This is for putting together a closing packet to issue limited obligation bonds, and re-financing of all Water Districts except for Water District IV, and the \$345,000 bond that we just did;
2. We are looking at a possible savings of \$1.4 million savings;
3. We are looking at an interest rate of 4.75% , four (4) of the loans, and 4.37%% for the other loans, with a true interest rate of 3.7%;
4. It will take approximately ninety (90) days; **and**
5. This will be cutting the debit back to 4-5 years.

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

At 8:03 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:03 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

TRENT BURROUGHS, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, June 01, 2015
7:57 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, County Manager
Mike Stephens, County Attorney
Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Officer
June B. Hall, Clerk to Board

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:57 P.M., Chairman Trent Burroughs called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #13: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

May 18, 2015 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the May 18, 2015 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - RE-FINANCING DEBT:

Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, requested Board approval of First Tryon to work on re-financing the debt for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III and V from the following Financial Advisor RFPO Comparison, March 27, 2015.

**County of Columbus
Financial Advisory RFP Comparison
27-Apri-15**

COMPANY	GOV'T EXPERIENCE IN NC	YEARS IN BUSINESS	COST	LOCATION
First Tryon	Pitt Co, Union Co, Rowan Co., Iredell Co., Caldwell Co., UNC Pembroke, Etc.	19	Public Sale-\$35,000, plus out of Pocket expenses- travel, meals, lodging, printing/copying, etc.	Charlotte, NC
The PFM Group	Union, Co., City of Norfolk, VA	40	Flat fee per GO Bond issue (new money) \$15,000, Out-of-pocket fees estimated \$500. Non- Transaction/Financial Planing Services, Managing Direct \$300, Senior Manager \$250, Consultant \$190, Associate \$195, plus the cost of traveling, meals, lodging, computer, communications, reproductions, graphics,, express mail, legal fees, etc.	Winston-Salem, NC
FirstSouthwest	Mecklenburg Co., State of NC, Fay., Wilkes Co., Gastonia, Pender Co.,, Rowan, Sanford, Shelby, etc.		Public Sale - 0.1% of the financed amount, \$25,000 minimum, \$50,000 maximum	Charlotte, NC
Davenport & Company	Bertie Co., Beaufort Co., Davie Co., Moore Co.,, Orange Co., Pender Co., etc.	150	Flat not to exceed fee of \$85,000, plus out of pocket expenses, plus a fee of 4% of the fee amount for indirect expenses- conference calls, printing, binding, etc.	Raleigh, NC

WYERIVER	NC Housing Finance Agency, Brunswick Co., City of Durham, LCFWSA, Winston-Salem, Durham, Greensboro, Etc.	16	Hourly rate: Lead Advisory \$350, Co-Advisory \$300, Finance & Investment Advisory \$300, Competitive Solicitations & Derivate Analysis \$300, Quantitative Analysis \$200. Research & Communications \$200, plus out of pocket expenses, Blended Hourly Rate \$275 - Estimated Total Fee \$37,400	Advance, NC
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Bobbie Faircloth stated the following:

1. I am asking the Board to enter into a contract with the financial advisor to go into a process of getting re-rated since it has been since 2003 since we have been rated. This is for putting together a closing packet to issue limited obligation bonds, and re-financing of all Water Districts except for Water District IV, and the \$345,000 bond that we just did;
2. We are looking at a possible savings of \$1.4 million savings;
3. We are looking at an interest rate of 4.75% , four (4) of the loans, and 4.37%% for the other loans, with a true interest rate of 3.7%;
4. It will take approximately ninety (90) days; **and**
5. This will be cutting the debit back to 4-5 years.

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

At 8:03 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:03 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

TRENT BURROUGHS, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, June 01, 2015
7:57 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, County Manager
Mike Stephens, County Attorney
Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Officer
June B. Hall, Clerk to Board

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:57 P.M., Chairman Trent Burroughs called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #13: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

May 18, 2015 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the May 18, 2015 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - RE-FINANCING DEBT:

Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, requested Board approval of First Tryon to work on re-financing the debt for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III and V from the following Financial Advisor RFPO Comparison, March 27, 2015.

**County of Columbus
Financial Advisory RFP Comparison
27-April-15**

COMPANY	GOV'T EXPERIENCE IN NC	YEARS IN BUSINESS	COST	LOCATION
First Tryon	Pitt Co, Union Co, Rowan Co., Iredell Co., Caldwell Co., UNC Pembroke, Etc.	19	Public Sale-\$35,000, plus out of Pocket expenses- travel, meals, lodging, printing/copying, etc.	Charlotte, NC
The PFM Group	Union, Co., City of Norfolk, VA	40	Flat fee per GO Bond issue (new money) \$15,000, Out-of-pocket fees estimated \$500. Non- Transaction/Financial Planing Services, Managing Direct \$300, Senior Manager \$250, Consultant \$190, Associate \$195, plus the cost of traveling, meals, lodging, computer, communications, reproductions, graphics,, express mail, legal fees, etc.	Winston-Salem, NC
FirstSouthwest	Mecklenburg Co., State of NC, Fay., Wilkes Co., Gastonia, Pender Co.,, Rowan, Sanford, Shelby, etc.		Public Sale - 0.1% of the financed amount, \$25,000 minimum, \$50,000 maximum	Charlotte, NC
Davenport & Company	Bertie Co., Beaufort Co., Davie Co., Moore Co.,, Orange Co., Pender Co., etc.	150	Flat not to exceed fee of \$85,000, plus out of pocket expenses, plus a fee of 4% of the fee amount for indirect expenses- conference calls, printing, binding, etc.	Raleigh, NC

WYERIVER	NC Housing Finance Agency, Brunswick Co., City of Durham, LCFWSA, Winston-Salem, Durham, Greensboro, Etc.	16	Hourly rate: Lead Advisory \$350, Co-Advisory \$300, Finance & Investment Advisory \$300, Competitive Solicitations & Derivate Analysis \$300, Quantitative Analysis \$200. Research & Communications \$200, plus out of pocket expenses, Blended Hourly Rate \$275 - Estimated Total Fee \$37,400	Advance, NC
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Bobbie Faircloth stated the following:

1. I am asking the Board to enter into a contract with the financial advisor to go into a process of getting re-rated since it has been since 2003 since we have been rated. This is for putting together a closing packet to issue limited obligation bonds, and re-financing of all Water Districts except for Water District IV, and the \$345,000 bond that we just did;
2. We are looking at a possible savings of \$1.4 million savings;
3. We are looking at an interest rate of 4.75% , four (4) of the loans, and 4.37%% for the other loans, with a true interest rate of 3.7%;
4. It will take approximately ninety (90) days; **and**
5. This will be cutting the debit back to 4-5 years.

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

At 8:03 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:03 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

TRENT BURROUGHS, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, June 01, 2015
7:57 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, County Manager
Mike Stephens, County Attorney
Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Officer
June B. Hall, Clerk to Board

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:57 P.M., Chairman Trent Burroughs called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #13: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

May 18, 2015 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the May 18, 2015 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV - HALLSBORO PROJECT:

Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval for William S. Clark, County Manager, to execute Change Order Number 1, at the cost of twenty-four thousand, eight hundred twenty-seven and 00/100 (\$24,827.00) dollars.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve William S. Clark, County Manager, to execute Change Order Number 1, at the cost of twenty-four thousand, eight hundred twenty-seven and 00/100 (\$24,827.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed. A copy of this Change Order will be kept in the Administration Office and the Water Office for review.

COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, June 01, 2015
7:57 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, County Manager
 Mike Stephens, County Attorney
 Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Officer
 June B. Hall, Clerk to Board

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:57 P.M., Chairman Trent Burroughs called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #13: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

May 18, 2015 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the May 18, 2015 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - RE-FINANCING DEBT:

Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, requested Board approval of First Tryon to work on re-financing the debt for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III and V from the following Financial Advisor RFPO Comparison, March 27, 2015.

County of Columbus
Financial Advisory RFP Comparison
27-April-15

6

COMPANY	GOV'T EXPERIENCE IN NC	YEARS IN BUSINESS	COST	LOCATION
First Tryon	Pitt Co, Union Co, Rowan Co., Iredell Co., Caldwell Co., UNC Pembroke, Etc.	19	Public Sale-\$35,000, plus out of Pocket expenses- travel, meals, lodging, printing/copying, etc.	Charlotte, NC
The PFM Group	Union, Co., City of Norfolk, VA	40	Flat fee per GO Bond issue (new money) \$15,000, Out-of-pocket fees estimated \$500. Non- Transaction/Financial Planing Services, Managing Direct \$300, Senior Manager \$250, Consultant \$190, Associate \$195, plus the cost of traveling, meals, lodging, computer, communications, reproductions, graphics,, express mail, legal fees, etc.	Winston-Salem, NC
FirstSouthwest	Mecklenburg Co., State of NC, Fay., Wilkes Co., Gastonia, Pender Co.,, Rowan, Sanford, Shelby, etc.		Public Sale - 0.1% of the financed amount, \$25,000 minimum, \$50,000 maximum	Charlotte, NC
Davenport & Company	Bertie Co., Beaufort Co., Davie Co., Moore Co.,, Orange Co., Pender Co., etc.	150	Flat not to exceed fee of \$85,000, plus out of pocket expenses, plus a fee of 4% of the fee amount for indirect expenses- conference calls, printing, binding, etc.	Raleigh, NC

WYERIVER	NC Housing Finance Agency, Brunswick Co., City of Durham, LCFWSA, Winston-Salem, Durham, Greensboro, Etc.	16	Hourly rate: Lead Advisory \$350, Co-Advisory \$300, Finance & Investment Advisory \$300, Competitive Solicitations & Derivate Analysis \$300, Quantitative Analysis \$200. Research & Communications \$200, plus out of pocket expenses, Blended Hourly Rate \$275 - Estimated Total Fee \$37,400	Advance, NC
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Bobbie Faircloth stated the following:

1. I am asking the Board to enter into a contract with the financial advisor to go into a process of getting re-rated since it has been since 2003 since we have been rated. This is for putting together a closing packet to issue limited obligation bonds, and re-financing of all Water Districts except for Water District IV, and the \$345,000 bond that we just did;
2. We are looking at a possible savings of \$1.4 million savings;
3. We are looking at an interest rate of 4.75% , four (4) of the loans, and 4.37%% for the other loans, with a true interest rate of 3.7%;
4. It will take approximately ninety (90) days; **and**
5. This will be cutting the debit back to 4-5 years.

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

At 8:03 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:03 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

TRENT BURROUGHS, Chairman