

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**Monday, February 01, 2016****6:30 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, for the purpose of conducting their regularly scheduled meeting on the first Monday, and two (2) Public Hearings.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

6:30 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING: **Economic Development Incentive Grant for Shodja Textiles:** the purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear oral and written comments.

PUBLIC HEARING CALLED to ORDER:

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman Giles E. Byrd called the Public Hearing to order and stated the purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear oral and written comments on the Economic Development Incentive Grant for Shodja Textiles. Chairman Byrd 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:

Gary Lanier, Economic Development Director: stated the following:

1. I appreciate the opportunity to have a Public Hearing today on our Economic Development Incentive Grant for Whiteville Fabrics;
2. Whiteville Fabrics has recently purchased the Conflandey Building, they have made a lot of upgrades, making a lot of repairs, installing a lot of equipment and installing a sprinkler system;
3. The process was started the middle of last year and is ongoing; **and**
4. They need an Economic Development Incentive Grant to support their efforts.

Camron Shodja, President of Whiteville Fabrics: stated the following:

1. We started our business here in July, 2002;
2. We started with two (2) employees and now we have fifty (50) employees;
3. We have extensive training programs in place;
4. Most of our employees have passed the eight (8) to ten (10) year mark;
5. We continue to expand and a lot of our customers are high-end customers;
6. We do a lot of head liner fabrics and car seat fabrics;
7. We do a lot of work with Japanese companies;
8. What we are for is an incentive grant to help with our cash flow situation as we do this expansion;
9. We have brought in Brower Brothers;
10. We have added fifteen (15) jobs in the last two (2) years; **and**
11. We are looking to add another fifteen (15) jobs.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED:

At 6:37 P.M., Commissioner Russ made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

6:37 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION

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

At 6:37 P.M., Chairman Giles E. Byrd called the February 01, 2016 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Ricky Bullard. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Edwin Russ.

Agenda Item #4: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the January 19, 2016 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #5: PUBLIC INPUT:

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

Robert Eugene Adams, 233 Mt. Calvary Road, Clarkton, NC 28433: stated the following:

1. The VFW Post 8073 will have a social for the 70th Anniversary, on Saturday, February 13, 2016, at 10:00 A.M., at the National Guard Armory;
2. We would like to invite everyone that would like to attend; **and**
3. On February 26, 2016, we will have a fund raiser with a Boston Butt sale.

Agenda #6: DOCTOR'S DIRECT HEALTHCARE - UPDATE on EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAM:

Tina Wise, RN, Senior Vice President of Operations, will present an update on the Employee Wellness Program.

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to table this Agenda Item until the February 15, 2016 Meeting due to sickness, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #7: SHERIFF - APPROVAL to SELL SURPLUS SHOTGUNS:

Sheriff Hatcher requested Board approval to sell surplus shotguns. Sheriff Hatcher stated the following:

1. I have fifty-five (55) shotguns that I have taken up;
2. At one point the choice of police work was shotguns, but now it is rifles;
3. I have contacted Rouger, the broker and Lawmans, and they are telling me they will give me forty and 00/100 (\$40.00) dollars each for these shotguns;
4. My officers that carried these guns will give one hundred and 00/100 (\$100.00) dollars each for these shotguns;
5. I am asking the Board to give me permission to sell these guns to my officers for one hundred and 00/100 (\$100.00) dollars each; **and**
6. I will take this money and replace the shotguns with Mini 14 rifles.

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to allow Sheriff Hatcher to proceed with disposing surplus property, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #8: COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS - FEASIBILITY STUDY:

William S. Clark, County Manager, requested Board approval of the remaining balance of \$19,875 for the feasibility study for Columbus County Schools. Mr. Clark stated the following:

1. With the original agreement for the feasibility study, Columbus County Schools would pay one-fourth (1/4), Whiteville City Schools would pay one-fourth (1/4) and the County would pay one-half (1/2) of the cost;
2. Whiteville City Schools do not want to be a part of the feasibility study;

3. The Columbus County Schools are requesting the County to pay nineteen thousand, eight hundred seventy-five and 00/100 (\$19,875.00) dollars of the twenty-six thousand, five hundred and 00/100 (\$26,500.00) dollars for the feasibility study; **and**
4. The funds will be taken from the Fund Balance.

After discussion was conducted relative to the initial plan for the cost of the feasibility study, Commissioner Prevatte made a motion for Columbus County to pay one-half (½) of the twenty-six thousand, five hundred and 00/100 (\$26,500.00) dollars, which equates to thirteen thousand, two hundred fifty and 00/100 (\$13,250.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #9: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - APPROVAL of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE GRANT between COLUMBUS COUNTY and SHODJA TEXTILES/WHITEVILLE FABRICS:

Gary Lanier, Economic Development Director, requested Board approval of the following Economic Development Incentive Grant between Columbus County and Shodja Textiles/Whiteville Fabrics. **(The required Public Hearing was conducted at 6:30 P.M. on this date prior to the meeting.)**

COLUMBUS COUNTY INCENTIVE GRANT

Project: Shodja Textiles / Whiteville Fabrics Expansion 2015
Jobs Added: 10 to 15
Investment: \$1,500,000 2015-2019 Year1
County Tax Rate: 0.805

| Tax Year | County Property Taxes Paid on Investment** | Percentage | Grant Amount |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| Tax Year 1 | \$12,075 | 85% | \$10,263.75 |
| Tax Year 2 | \$11,439 | 80% | \$9,151.58 |
| Tax Year 3 | \$10,804 | 75% | \$8,102.96 |
| Tax Year 4 | \$10,168 | 70% | \$7,117.90 |
| Tax Year 5 | \$9,533 | 70% | \$6,673.03 |
| Total over 5 year period | \$54,020 | 76% | \$41,309.23 |

**Includes depreciation of building and equipment on a 19 year straight line schedule as an estimated value, which affects property taxes paid and the incentive grant amount calculated each year.

This is only a proposal. All incentives must be approved by Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the Economic Development Incentive Grant between Columbus County and Shodja Textiles/Whiteville Fabrics, for forty-one thousand, three hundred nine and 23/100 (\$41,309.23) dollars, payable over five (5) years, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #11: FINANCE - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, delivered the following departmental update to the Board.

For the past two (2) fiscal years, we were able to accomplish some of our goals as follows:

- A. Re-finance water districts and that was done in September, 2015;
- B. Do away with the water district special taxes;
- C. Payoff off smaller debts - DSS Building, Farm Service Building, lease payments on vehicles;
- D. In the upcoming fiscal year, the expansion of the sales and use tax, we should see the

- revenue on that in September or October of the upcoming fiscal year; **and**
- E. Our departments are doing excellent this year with expenditures and monitoring their budgets.

OVERVIEW OF FINANCE OPERATIONS

The Finance Office is responsible for monitoring all expenses and revenues in connection with the annual operating budget. We are responsible for generating all county issued checks to include Accounts Payable, Payroll, HUD and other project funds. The Finance Director or her designee is responsible for entering all journal entries, budget amendments and/or corrections to the accounts as necessary.

During the twelve months of Fiscal Year 2014/2015, Accounts Payable issued a total of 10,853 checks for a total payment to vendor of \$52,384,413 which is an increase of 421 checks and but a decrease of \$1,684,344 in payments to vendors during the same 12 month period of the prior fiscal year. Payments for the courthouse annex project is the main difference in the decrease. Payroll processed 24 payrolls for a total amount of \$17,895,810 which is a decrease of \$68,540 from the prior fiscal year.

Journal entries (including cash receipts) are always very heavy each month; they range from 75 to 150 per month and budget amendments can range from 5 to 15 per month and are subject to increases at years end to about 25 for the remaining two months of any given fiscal year.

The Finance Office is also responsible for monitoring all Capital Projects and Grants. The Grant must be kept in accordance with the rules and regulations issued by the granting agency. At the present, we have three capital projects and at least twelve grant projects being monitored by this department. The capital projects range from Water Districts projects to the building of a courthouse annex. Grants received range from housing needs to improvements at the airport to loans for startup business.

The Finance Office also works in conjunction with the Budget Officer (County Manager) in preparing and presenting a balanced budget for adoption by the Columbus County Commissioners. For Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2016, a budget was presented and adopted by the Commissioners that included eliminating the special district taxes on Water District II and III and held most department expenditures at the Fiscal year 2014/2015 level.

The Finance Office is also responsible for recording and monitoring all fixed assets. The decision was made to centralize the monitoring of assets that do not fall within the depreciation category, which was already the responsibility of the Finance Office, but are considered to be theft sensitive items or the cost is greater than \$99.00. This responsibility has been designated to the Purchasing Office.

CHANGES IN RULES AND REGULATIONS

There is one major change in the State Statute that has increased the responsibilities of the Finance Office. We are now responsible for disbursing funds collect by DMV due to the implementation in September of the new NCVTS taxes and tags together program. Disbursements are made to the Towns/Cities/Municipalities/Rescue/Fire from this office after receiving a monthly report on funds collected at the Division of Motor Vehicles for taxes paid on motor vehicles. Another change in the General Statue now requires Counties and Cities to pay on a quarterly basis unemployment taxes based upon 1% of the total payroll for the prior quarter instead of being billed at years end 120% of the cost of unemployment paid out.

DEBT CAPACITY

Columbus County currently has outstanding debt of \$33,471,132 of which \$18,020,500 is bond debt and \$15,450,632 is installment financing. To further classify the debt \$18,438,370 is owed by the Water Districts and installment financing of \$3,957,538 is owed by the school systems and the remaining balance of the installment finance of \$14,062,962 is owed by the General Fund for the Farm Service Building, Department of Social Service building, the Detention Center project and the courthouse annex project.

By state statue, Columbus County has the ability to issue up to 8% of the assessed tax value in debt with the approval of the LGC. (\$269,135,179)

Agenda Item #12: RESOLUTION - RESOLUTION SUPPORT CONNECT NC BOND ACT:

William S. Clark, County Manager, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution Support Connect NC Bond Act.

RESOLUTION SUPPORT CONNECT NC BOND ACT

WHEREAS, Columbus County has a mutual desire to improve and enhance the quality of life for all of our citizens; **and**

WHEREAS, Columbus County is in need of new and renovated facilities to educate and prepare students and workers for the 21st century for the purpose of enhancing the economic attractiveness of the County; **and**

WHEREAS, clean water and sewer systems are essential to attract new and strengthen existing industry and to provide for the needs of the County and its growing population; **and**

WHEREAS, having parks and public facilities accessible to children and veterans with disabilities is essential to improving the quality of life for our most vulnerable citizens; **and**

WHEREAS, financing these costs through a bond is the most economical and affordable way to address these infrastructure needs; **and**

WHEREAS, the Connect NC Bond Act will provide funding for many critical needs facing Columbus County that will improve and enhance the quality of life in our county, as follows:

- \$6,861,620 Improvements at Southeastern Community College;
- \$1,506,000 Lake Waccamaw State Park; **and**
- \$2,628,750 Improving Lumber River State Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners that it does hereby express its support for the Connect NC Bond Act; **and**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is sent to all 100 counties with encouragement for each county to adopt a similar resolution; **and**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution are transmitted to the members of the General Assembly and to Governor Pat McCrory to let them know of our support for this issue.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 1st day of February, 2016 by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| /s/ GILES E. BYRD, Chairman | /s/ CHARLES T. MCDOWELL, Vice Chairman |
| /s/ AMON E. MCKENZIE | /s/ JAMES E. PREVATTE |
| /s/ P. EDWIN RUSS | /s/ TRENT BURROUGHS |
| /s/ RICKY BULLARD | |

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution Support Connect NC Bond Act, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. 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 6:50 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie 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 Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

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

January 19, 2016 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 2 for each water district respectively.

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

At 6:51 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 Board Meeting, seconded by Vice Chairman McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: CONSENT AGENDA ITEM:

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

Tax Refunds and Releases:

| | | | |
|--|------------------------|---------|------------|
| <i>Property Value</i> | | Amount: | \$1,146.32 |
| Floyd, Margaret c/o Coleman Graham | PROPERTY: 75606 | Total: | \$2,830.24 |
| Value: \$15,200.00 Year: 06-15 | Account: 12-08377 | Bill#: | 99999 |
| Release value of dwelling. House burned. Release Evergreen Fire(113.92) release Columbus Rescue(28.48) release Water II(44.52) | | | |
| <i>Property Value</i> | | Amount: | \$11.27 |
| McDowell, Patsy Lendon | PROPERTY: 9320 | Total: | \$12.95 |
| Value: \$3,300.00 Year: 2015 | Account: 04-01726 | Bill#: | 45870 |
| Release portion of acreage. Corrected. Release Bolton Fire(1.40) release Columbus Rescue(.28) | | | |
| <i>Property Value</i> | | Amount: | \$59.57 |
| Troy, McArthur(Heirs) | PROPERTY: 27267 | Total: | \$66.97 |
| Value: \$7,400.00 Year: 2015 | Account: 14-17040 | Bill#: | 61885 |
| Release portion of value on acreage. DBL Prop#27256 Release Welches Creek (5.92) release Whiteville Rescue(1.48) | | | |
| <i>Refunds</i> | | Amount: | \$0.00 |
| Graham, JJ c/o James & Roberta Mitchell | PROPERTY: 96919 | Total: | \$218.00 |
| Value: \$0.00 Year: 2015 | Account: 08-05458 | Bill#: | 34991 |
| Refund user fee. Dwelling vacant. | | | |
| <i>Refunds</i> | | Amount: | \$0.00 |
| Hinson, Larry A. | PROPERTY: 24559 | Total: | \$218.00 |
| Value: \$0.00 Year: 2014 | Account: 13-19300 | Bill#: | 77495 |
| Refund user fee. Dwelling vacant. | | | |
| <i>Refunds</i> | | Amount: | \$0.00 |
| Nobles, Jason Lee | PROPERTY: 30712 | Total: | \$218.00 |
| Value: \$0.00 Year: 2015 | Account: 16-00235 | Bill#: | 49439 |
| Refund user fee. No house or can. | | | |
| <i>Refunds</i> | | Amount: | \$0.00 |
| Tyndall, Edward Steve | PROPERTY: 64123 | Total: | \$1,095.00 |
| Value: \$0.00 Year: 11-15 | Account: 03-25473 | Bill#: | 99999 |
| Refund user fees. Home not liveable. NO can. | | | |
| <i>Refunds</i> | | Amount: | \$0.00 |
| Vereen, Jessie Hilbert & Joseph Leon | PROPERTY: 13875 | Total: | \$218.00 |
| Value: \$0.00 Year: 2015 | Account: 07-01317 | Bill#: | 62456 |
| Refund user fee. No can vacant. | | | |
| <i>Refunds</i> | | Amount: | \$0.00 |
| Vereen, Joseph | PROPERTY: 00000 | Total: | \$218.00 |
| Value: \$0.00 Year: 2015 | Account: 03-02167 | Bill#: | 62460 |
| Refund user fee. No can vacant. Can picked up 11/14/14 | | | |
| <i>User Fee</i> | | Amount: | \$0.00 |
| Boone, Marie | PROPERTY: 8535 | Total: | \$131.00 |
| Value: \$0.00 Year: 2015 | Account: 04-00970 | Bill#: | 21648 |
| Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. | | | |
| <i>User Fee</i> | | Amount: | \$0.00 |
| Cribb, Michael | PROPERTY: 27469 | Total: | \$218.00 |
| Value: \$0.00 Year: 2015 | Account: 09-05622 | Bill#: | 27469 |

Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up 1/6/10

| | | | |
|---|------------------------|---------|----------|
| <i>User Fee</i> | | Amount: | \$0.00 |
| Crocker, Woodrow & Pamela | PROPERTY: 84453 | Total: | \$218.00 |
| Value: \$0.00 Year: 2015 | Account: 15-04841 | Bill#: | 27542 |
| Release user fee. Can picked up 3/25/14 | | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|---------|----------|
| <i>User Fee</i> | | Amount: | \$0.00 |
| Hinson, Larry A. | PROPERTY: 24559 | Total: | \$218.00 |
| Value: \$0.00 Year: 2015 | Account: 13-19300 | Bill#: | 38497 |
| Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. | | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|---------|----------|
| <i>User Fee</i> | | Amount: | \$0.00 |
| Long, Jesse D. & Kathleen L. | PROPERTY: 00000 | Total: | \$218.00 |
| Value: \$0.00 Year: 2015 | Account: 07-02823 | Bill#: | 44112 |
| Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. | | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|---------|----------|
| <i>User Fee</i> | | Amount: | \$0.00 |
| McLellan, Jeanna | PROPERTY: 83137 | Total: | \$218.00 |
| Value: \$0.00 Year: 2015 | Account: 01-03131 | Bill#: | 46410 |
| Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. | | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|---------|----------|
| <i>User Fee</i> | | Amount: | \$0.00 |
| Meares, Luther Darrell | PROPERTY: 30061 | Total: | \$218.00 |
| Value: \$0.00 Year: 2015 | Account: 16-03217 | Bill#: | 47149 |
| Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. | | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|---------|----------|
| <i>User Fee</i> | | Amount: | \$0.00 |
| Mitchell, James R. & Roberta | PROPERTY: 47855 | Total: | \$218.00 |
| Value: \$0.00 Year: 2015 | Account: 08-12800 | Bill#: | 47855 |
| Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. | | | |

| | | | |
|---|------------------------|---------|----------|
| <i>User Fee</i> | | Amount: | \$0.00 |
| Spaulding, Willie | PROPERTY: 82572 | Total: | \$218.00 |
| Value: \$0.00 Year: 2015 | Account: 08-17868 | Bill#: | 58428 |
| Release user fee. Dwelling vacant. Can picked up 11/24/08 | | | |

Agenda Item #15: COMMENTS:

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

A. Department Manager:

Gary Lanier, Economic Development / Planning Director: stated the following:

1. House Bill 108 has passed the house but was not taken up in the long session;
2. This bill will help with industrial parks, long-term loans and be a help with economic development; **and**
3. I would like for you to look into this bill and support it at the county level.

B. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Commissioner McKenzie:** Gail Edwards is looking into a grant for repairing houses that are leaking due to the amount of rainfall we have experienced.
2. **Commissioner Russ:** the veterans are having a 70th Year Anniversary and it would be nice for a resolution to be done for the anniversary celebration.

MOTION:

Commissioner Russ made a motion to approve and adopt the following Proclamation of Recognition of 70th Anniversary to Columbus County Memorial Veterans for Foreign Wars Post 8073, seconded by Vice Chairman McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

PROCLAMATION of RECOGNITION of
70th ANNIVERSARY to
COLUMBUS COUNTY MEMORIAL VETERANS
of FOREIGN WARS POST 8073

WHEREAS, today is the day of a special celebration for ***Columbus County Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8073*** who will have a 70th Anniversary on February 18; **and**

WHEREAS, *Columbus County Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8073* was established on February 18, 1946; **and**

WHEREAS, *Columbus County Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8073* has provided the following to and for their fellow men and women:

- ☼ Placed their lives on the line to protect the citizens of the United States of America;
- ☼ Experienced injuries to their body during warfare in the line of duty
- ☼ Supports Veterans, active duty, and their families;
- ☼ VFW Posts have been the pillars of support in communities worldwide;
- ☼ Displayed honor and discipline to make America proud and protected; **and**
- ☼ Let it be known, that no one does more for veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that it is with great pleasure the Columbus County Board of Commissioners proudly presents this *Proclamation of Recognition of the 70th Anniversary to Columbus County Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8073*.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 1st day of February, 2016

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ GILES E. BYRD, Chairman, District III

/s/ CHARLES T. McDOWELL, Vice Chairman District VII

/s/ AMON E. MCKENZIE, District I

/s/ JAMES E. PREVATTE, District II

/s/ P. EDWIN RUSS, District IV

/s/ TRENT BURROUGHS, District V

/s/ RICKY BULLARD, District VI

3. **Commissioner Bullard:** stated the following:
 - A. At the Lumber River Trail Ride State Park, they allow their campers to ride their horses;
 - B. For some reason, the park rangers are not allowing the horses to ride in the State Park;
 - C. This is putting a damper on this area; **and**
 - D. I would like for our attorney to check into this to see if anything can be done.
4. **Vice Chairman McDowell:** with the popularity of drones, we need to ask our attorney to check and see what other counties are doing to address the issue.

RECESS REGULAR MEETING and enter into PUBLIC HEARING:

At 6:59 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

7:00 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING: **Columbus County Land Use Regulation Ordinance - Proposed Amendment:** the purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive comments from all interested citizens.

PUBLIC HEARING CALLED to ORDER:

At 7:00 P.M., Chairman Byrd called the Public Hearing to order and stated the purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive comments from all interested citizens on the Proposed Amendment to the Columbus County Land Use Regulation Ordinance.

COMMENTS:

Gary Lanier, Economic Development / Planning Director: stated the following:

1. This change was enacted because the original Ordinance was written to have seven (7) members of the Board of Adjustments, a member appointed from each district, but the way the voting members were set up was to have five (5) voting members and two (2) alternate members on voting; **and**
2. We have changed the language to be seven (7) voting members.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED:

At 7:02 P.M., Commissioner Russ made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

RESUME REGULAR SESSION:

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #10: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - AMENDMENT NUMBER 1 to the COLUMBUS COUNTY LAND USE REGULATION ORDINANCE:

Gary Lanier, Planning Director, requested Board approval of the following Amendment Number 1 to the Columbus County Land Use Regulation, on the first reading. **(The required Public Hearing was conducted on this date, at 7:00 P.M.)**

COLUMBUS COUNTY LAND USE REGULATION ORDINANCE**AMENDMENT NUMBER 1****Article III – Board of Adjustment (Page 2)****Section I. Establishment, Membership and Rules of Procedures:****Item 2:****Present Reading:**

2. The Board of Adjustment shall consist of five voting members and two alternate members.

New Reading:

2. The Board of Adjustment shall consist of seven (7) voting members.

Item 6:**Present Reading:**

6. For purposes of this section, vacant positions on the board and members who are disqualified from voting on a quasi-judicial matter shall not be considered members of the board for calculation of the requisite majority if there are no qualified alternates available to take the place of such members.

New Reading:

6. For purposes of this section, vacant positions on the board and members who are disqualified from voting on a quasi-judicial matter shall not be considered members of the board for calculation of the requisite majority.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 1st day of February, 2016.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ GILES E. BYRD
GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:
/s/ JUNE B. HALL
JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve Amendment Number 1 to the Columbus County Land Use Regulation, on the first reading, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

COMMENTS - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (RESUMED):

5. **Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:
 - A. I attended a NCACC Public Education Steering Committee Meeting;
 - B. There are three (3) bills they are supporting in the Short Session as follows:
 1. Bill that repeals the authority to the school boards which allows them to sue the County;
 2. TF-4 is to authorize local option revenue sources already given to other jurisdictions; **and**
 3. Supports legislation and funding that would preserve local options and authority, where needed, to promote community broadband systems and ensure community access to the critical broadband service;
 - C. A lady from the Lottery Commission has offered to come to Columbus County and make a presentation to the Board and the schools; **and**
 - D. A discussion was held on Eastpointe and I am not pleased with the manner they are operating in.

6. **Commissioner Burroughs:** stated the following:
 - A. The Chairman and I attended the Southeastern Partnership Meeting;
 - B. The meeting was long, but very informative;
 - C. The speaker informed us that industry was coming back to the states; **and**
 - D. I would like to ask Gary Lanier to bring all the industry he can back to Columbus County.

7. **Chairman Byrd:** stated the following:
 - A. In the discussions that Commissioner Burroughs and I have had with Carla Hollis, CEO for Columbus Regional Healthcare System, we have been told that there will be a recommendation for Home Health at the first meeting in March, 2016;
 - B. There is a group that is trying to get Federal help for farmers, and a meeting will be held at West Columbus High School, and no date or time has been set; **and**
 - C. I am deeply concerned that there are no minorities on the Board for the Veterans Memorial Park, and I think there should be.

Robert Adams: stated the following:

1. The Veterans Park Committee is voted by volunteers;
2. Some are active and some are inactive;
3. I am recommending that the inactive members excuse themselves from the committee; **and**
4. We have no respect of any person of race, sex, origin, creed, etc.

Agenda Item #16: ADJOURNMENT:

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

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, February 01, 2016
6:50 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:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 6:50 P.M., Chairman Giles E. Byrd 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:

January 19, 2016 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Russ made a motion to approve the January 19, 2016 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:51 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McDowell. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, February 01, 2016
6:50 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:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 6:50 P.M., Chairman Giles E. Byrd 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:

January 19, 2016 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Russ made a motion to approve the January 19, 2016 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:51 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McDowell. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

**\COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, February 01, 2016
6:50 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:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 6:50 P.M., Chairman Giles E. Byrd 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:

January 19, 2016 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Russ made a motion to approve the January 19, 2016 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:51 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McDowell. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, February 01, 2016
6:50 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:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 6:50 P.M., Chairman Giles E. Byrd 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:

January 19, 2016 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Russ made a motion to approve the January 19, 2016 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:51 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McDowell. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, February 01, 2016
6:50 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:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 6:50 P.M., Chairman Giles E. Byrd 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:

January 19, 2016 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Russ made a motion to approve the January 19, 2016 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:51 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McDowell. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman