

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PROPOSED 2016-2017 COLUMBUS COUNTY  
OPERATING BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**Thursday, May 26, 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 the 2016-2017 Budget Workshop.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEE ABSENT:**

Mike Stephens, **County Attorney**

**COMMISSIONER ABSENT:**

P. Edwin Russ

**BUDGET WORKSHOP CALLED to ORDER:**

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman Giles E. Byrd called the Budget Workshop for the Proposed 2016-2017 Columbus County Operating Budget to order.

**INVOCATION and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:**

Commissioner Amon E. McKenzie delivered the invocation. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, which was led by Commissioner Ricky Bullard.

**DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS / COMMENTS:**

William S. Clark, County Manager, started with Page 1 of the 122 Pages of the Proposed 2016-2017 Columbus County Operating Budget by stating the expenditures and the revenues listed on each page. There were discussion on the following listed pages.

<b>PAGE #</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>CONSENSUS</b>
9	Governing Body Expenditures	Lower Travel to \$19,000	<b>-\$1,800</b>
34	Sheriff Expenditures	Add 2 Detectives and 2 additional cars	<b>Amount not available at this time</b>
39	Emergency Services Expenditures	911 Center - 18 Employees 27 Total Employees High turnover \$25,000 for Survey of EMS System in County	N/A
41	Fire Marshall Expenditures	2 Full-Time Employees Vehicles - 1 F-150 and 1 Ford F-250 Take out Salary for Part-time Employee	<b>-\$10,000</b>

81	Education Expenditures	<p><b>2014-2015 Allocations:</b>                  County - \$537,777                  City - \$130,997                  College - \$137,892</p> <p><b>2015-2016 Allocations:</b>                  County - \$750,000                  City - \$250,000                  College - \$250,000</p> <p><b>2016-2017 Allocations:</b>                  County - \$548,533                  City - \$133,617                  College - \$140,650  <b>-Added 2% on 2014-2015 Allocation</b></p>	N/A
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**FIVE (5) MINUTES BREAK:**

At 8:03 P.M., Chairman Byrd stated there would be a five (5) minutes break.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP RESUMED:**

At 8:08 P.M., Chairman Byrd stated the Budget Workshop would resume.

PAGE #	DEPARTMENT	DISCUSSION	CONSENSUS
87	Information/Care Assistance Expenditures (Aging)	Projected Salary-\$14,770 Recommended Salary-\$33,314 (Brianna Williamson hired)	N/A
99	Tabor City Senior Center Expenditures	Tabor City Equipment needs to be added (\$3,000)	Add \$3,000
101	Arts	Requested \$2,000	<b>-\$1,000</b>

**SYNOPSIS of DISCUSSION:**

Budget Total: \$74,648,382  
 Amount Saved: \$140,000 Approximately

**DISCUSSION:**

**Vice Chairman McDowell:** stated the following:

1. On the summary page for schools, we need to look at the Article 44 Sales Tax;
2. I am suggesting that we use the Columbus County Schools’ portion of \$966,759 to put in five (5) miles of water lines to Old Dock School;
3. We will have 6 miles of sewer lines and 5.1 miles of water lines;
4. They cannot install sewer lines without water lines;
5. Grand Strand will be responsible for the upkeep of the sewer lines;
6. We need to look at the Article 44 Sales Tax and decide if we want to place stipulations on how the money can be used;
7. I need a consensus from the Board to ask the County Schools if we can use their allocation of \$966,759 for water lines to Old Dock School;
8. The cost for the water lines will cost \$1.174 million, we will have \$966,759, leaving a balance of \$208,000 which we will ask the school if they will pay the \$208,000; **and**
9. The consensus of the Board was six (6) to one (1) to ask the Columbus County Schools to use the \$966,759 allocation for the water lines to Old Dock School.

**Carla Strickland, Elections Director:** stated the following:

1. I can understand the budget constraints that you have to face;
2. For the past eleven (11) years, the Board of Elections has approached the Board of Commissioners and the County Managers about the constraints that we have had to work in;

3. Basically as the years go by, safety, accessibility and health issues have arisen and have gotten worse;
4. Over the last year, safety, accessibility and health issues have come into question;
5. We are asking for these things because they are needed; **and**
6. I would like for this to be addressed.

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

1. With the \$233,000 of Article 44 Sales Tax, it has come before our board; **and**
2. Our number 1 priority is getting broadband in areas in the County that do not have broadband service.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP CLOSED:**

At 8:59 P.M., Chairman Byrd stated the Budget Workshop was closed.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**GILES E. BYRD, Chairman**