

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, January 02, 2018

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, it being the first Tuesday, the first Monday being a legal holiday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

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

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman Amon E. McKenzie called the January 02, 2018 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner James E. Prevatte. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Charles T. McDowell.

Agenda Item #4: PRESENTATION - RETIREMENT PLAQUE:

The following retirement plaque was presented to Hilda J. Memory for her many years of service to the Columbus County Health Department.

PRESENTED TO***HILDA J. MEMORY******IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION
FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND LOYALTY
TO******COLUMBUS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT******10-13-1997 - 10-20-2017*****************COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS*****AGENDA ADD-ON:**

Chairman McKenzie stated that N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (3) Attorney-Client Privilege needed to be added to Closed Session.

MOTION:

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to add N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (3) Attorney-Client Privilege to Closed Session, as Agenda Item #18A, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #5: PRESENTATIONS, AS FOLLOWS:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve and adopt the following documents, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

A. Letter of Thanks to Reverend Chip Hannah, Peace Baptist Church:

January 02, 2018

Reverend Chip Hannah
Peace Baptist Church
653 Love Mill Road
Whiteville, North Carolina 28472

IN RE: *Letter of Thanks*

Dear Reverend Hannah:

Please allow this letter to serve as a **Letter of Thanks** to Peace Baptist Church for sponsoring the Whiteville Christmas Parade on December 03, 2017.

It is very rewarding to know that there are citizens in Columbus County that will carry on the long-standing traditions that we have become accustomed to.

It was evident that you invested a lot of time and effort in the planning of the parade due to the very positive feedback we have received.

We sincerely thank you for all the time, efforts and thoughtfulness you so generously gave in making this parade a success and keeping the tradition ongoing.

Sincerely,

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman**

/s/ **JAMES E. PREVATTE**

/s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS**

/s/ **CHARLES T. McDOWELL**

/s/ **MICHAEL H. STEPHENS, County Manager / Attorney**

/s/ **TRENT BURROUGHS, Vice Chairman**

/s/ **GILES E. BYRD**

/s/ **RICKY BULLARD**

ATTESTED BY:

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

B. Proclamation of Appreciation and Recognition to Lake Waccamaw Fire Department - Station Number 9:

**PROCLAMATION of APPRECIATION and RECOGNITION to
LAKE WACCAMAW FIRE DEPARTMENT - STATION NUMBER 9**

WHEREAS, within Columbus County, there are several fire and rescue units that render aid to the citizens in times of need and injury within the most prompt time within their power; **and**

WHEREAS, the **Lake Waccamaw Fire Station Number 9** was chartered many years ago and has been operating to render help since that time; **and**

WHEREAS, **Lake Waccamaw Fire Station Number 9** started working diligently to help anyone in need in a prompt time frame; **and**

WHEREAS, **Lake Waccamaw Fire Station Number 9** has dedicated members and answers multiple calls per year, and renders help to anyone in need, and in this process has saved many lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners proudly presents this **Proclamation of Appreciation and Recognition** to **Lake Waccamaw Fire Station Number 9** for their diligent and endless hours of dedication in requesting the Fire Rating to be in line with Number 4 ultimately benefitting the citizens of Lake Waccamaw and Columbus County.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 2nd day of January, 2018.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **AMON E. McKENZIE Chairman**

/s/ **JAMES E. PREVATTE**

/s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS**

/s/ **CHARLES T. McDOWELL**

/s/ **MICHAEL H. STEPHENS, Manager / Attorney**

/s/ **TRENT BURROUGHS Vice Chairman**

/s/ **GILES E. BYRD**

/s/ **RICKY BULLARD**

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ **JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to the Board**

C. Proclamation of Appreciation and Recognition to Lake Waccamaw Fire Chief Jerry

Gore:

**PROCLAMATION of APPRECIATION and RECOGNITION to
*LAKE WACCAMAW FIRE CHIEF JERRY GORE***

WHEREAS, within Columbus County, there are several fire and rescue units that render aid to the citizens in times of need and injury within the most prompt time within the supervision and guidance of **Fire Chief Jerry Gore**; **and**

WHEREAS, the **Lake Waccamaw Fire Station Number 9** was chartered many years ago and has been operating to render help since that time; **and**

WHEREAS, **Lake Waccamaw Fire Station Number 9** started working diligently to help anyone in need in a prompt time frame; **and**

WHEREAS, **Lake Waccamaw Fire Station Number 9** has dedicated members and answers multiple calls per year, and renders help to anyone in need, and in this process has saved many lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners proudly presents this **Proclamation of Appreciation and Recognition** to **Lake Waccamaw Fire Chief Jerry Gore** for his diligent and endless hours of dedication in requesting the Fire Rating to be in line with Number 4 ultimately benefitting the citizens of Lake Waccamaw and Columbus County.

APPROVED and **ADOPTED** this the 2nd day of January, 2018.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **AMON E. McKENZIE** Chairman

/s/ **JAMES E. PREVATTE**

/s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS**

/s/ **CHARLES T. McDOWELL**

/s/ **MICHAEL H. STEPHENS**, Manager / Attorney

/s/ **TRENT BURROUGHS** Vice Chairman

/s/ **GILES E. BYRD**

/s/ **RICKY BULLARD**

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ **JUNE B. HALL**, Clerk to the Board

D. Proclamation of Appreciation and Recognition to Town of Lake Waccamaw:

**PROCLAMATION of APPRECIATION and RECOGNITION to
*TOWN of LAKE WACCAMAW***

WHEREAS, within Columbus County, there are several fire and rescue units that render aid to the citizens in times of need and injury within the most prompt time possible; **and**

WHEREAS, the **Town of Lake Waccamaw's Fire Station Number 9** was chartered many years ago and has been operating to render help since that time; **and**

WHEREAS, **Lake Waccamaw Fire Station Number 9** started working diligently to help anyone in need in a prompt time frame; **and**

WHEREAS, **Lake Waccamaw Fire Station Number 9** has dedicated members and answers multiple calls per year, and renders help to anyone in need, and in this process has saved many lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners proudly presents this **Proclamation of Appreciation and Recognition** to the **Town of Lake Waccamaw** for the diligent and endless hours of dedication by the members of the **Lake Waccamaw Fire Station Number 9** in requesting the Fire Rating to be in line with Number 4, ultimately benefitting the citizens of Lake Waccamaw and Columbus County.

APPROVED and **ADOPTED** this the 2nd day of January, 2018.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **AMON E. McKENZIE** Chairman

/s/ **JAMES E. PREVATTE**

/s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS**

/s/ **TRENT BURROUGHS** Vice Chairman

/s/ **GILES E. BYRD**

/s/ **RICKY BULLARD**

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ CHARLES T. McDOWELL

/s/ JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to the Board

/s/ MICHAEL H. STEPHENS, Manager / Attorney

E. Proclamation of Appreciation and Recognition to Columbus County Fire Marshall Shannon Blackman:

**PROCLAMATION of APPRECIATION and RECOGNITION to
COLUMBUS COUNTY FIRE MARSHALL SHANNON BLACKMAN**

WHEREAS, within Columbus County, there are several fire and rescue units that render aid to the citizens in times of need and injury within the most prompt time possible; **and**

WHEREAS, Columbus County is blessed with a Fire Marshall, namely, Shannon Blackman, who is dutifully informed of the required rules and regulations that must be followed to keep the fire and rescue departments up-to-date on the information they need to know and follow; **and**

WHEREAS, **Fire Marshall Shannon Blackman** started working diligently to help anyone in need in a prompt time frame; **and**

WHEREAS, **Fire Marshall Shannon Blackman** has dedicated workers, and answers multiple calls per year, and renders help to anyone in need, and in this process has saved many lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners proudly presents this **Proclamation of Appreciation and Recognition** to **Fire Marshall Shannon Blackman** for the diligent and endless hours of dedication in the process of requesting the Fire Rating to be in line with Number 4, ultimately benefitting the citizens of Lake Waccamaw and Columbus County.

APPROVED and **ADOPTED** this the 2nd day of January, 2018.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ AMON E. McKENZIE Chairman

/s/ TRENT BURROUGHS Vice Chairman

/s/ JAMES E. PREVATTE

/s/ GILES E. BYRD

/s/ P. EDWIN RUSS

/s/ RICKY BULLARD

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ CHARLES T. McDOWELL

/s/ JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to the Board

/s/ MICHAEL H. STEPHENS, Manager / Attorney

Agenda Item #6: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Vice Chairman Burroughs made a motion to approve the December 04, 2017 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes, with one (1) correction on Page 366, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #7: PUBLIC INPUT:

Chairman McKenzie opened the floor for Public Input. No Public Input was received either orally or written.

Agenda Item #8: ADMINISTRATION / LEGAL - ESTABLISH DATE AND TIME FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

Michael H. Stephens, County Manager / Attorney, requested January 16, 2018, at 6:30 P.M., as the date and time for Public Hearing for Conveyance of former Georgia Pacific Property.

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to establish January 16, 2018, at 6:30 P.M., as the date and time for Public Hearing for Conveyance of former Georgia Pacific Property, seconded by Vice Chairman Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #9: RESOLUTION - RESOLUTION REQUESTING FUNDING for the COLUMBUS COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE:

Based on the requests made by Senator Danny Britt and Representative Brenden Jones, Michael H. Stephens, County Manager / Attorney, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution Requesting Funding for the Columbus County Historic Courthouse.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING FUNDING for the

COLUMBUS COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Historic Courthouse was completed in 1914 - 1915, and was utilized until 2015, and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979; **and**

WHEREAS, due to the age of the building, and other pertinent factors, a new Columbus County Courthouse was constructed, and occupied in 2015; **and**

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Historic Courthouse is in need of preservation to keep the history of Columbus County alive; **and**

WHEREAS, the County is seeking funding to help restore the most impressive building in the County and restore its magnitude; **and**

WHEREAS, we have spoken to our local legislators and have requested their assistance in seeking the funding for the Columbus County Historic Courthouse.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, request Senator Danny Britt and Representative Brenden Jones to seek any funding that may be available for the restoration of the Columbus County Historic Courthouse.

APPROVED and **ADOPTED** this the 2nd day of January, 2018.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ *AMON E. McKENZIE* Chairman

/s/ **TRENT BURROUGHS** Vice Chairman

/s/ *JAMES E. PREVATTE*

/s/ *GILES E. BYRD*

/s/ *P. EDWIN RUSS*

/s/ *RICKY BULLARD*

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ *CHARLES T. McDOWELL*

/s/ **JUNE B. HALL**, Clerk to the Board

/s/ *MICHAEL H. STEPHENS*, Manager / Attorney

Commissioner Russ made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution Requesting Funding for the Columbus County Historic Courthouse, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

DISCUSSION:

1. This resolution was taken care of at the December 04, 2017 Board Meeting by a directive by Commissioner Ricky Bullard; **and**
2. The Agenda item needs to be stricken off.

Agenda Item #10: SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Edward Davis, Soil and Water Conservation Director, delivered the following Departmental Update to the Board.

I have distributed the Columbus Soil and Water Conservation District Report from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, containing the following information:

Money Received from County:

Salaries and Benefits: (3 County Employees)	\$159,050
Supplies and Materials:	<u>\$ 10,613</u>
Total County Dollars Used:	\$169,663

Reimbursements:

State Technical Assistance:	\$26,675
State Grant:	<u>\$ 3,600</u>
Total Reimbursement to Columbus County: (Subtracted)	\$30,275

Total Cost to Columbus County:	\$169,663 - \$30,275 =	\$139,388
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Benefits Received Back into Columbus County

Cost Share Funds Allocated to Cost Share Plans

Environmental Quality Incentives Program	(EQIP)	\$229,874
Conservation Reserve Program	(CRP)	\$117,328

Conservation Stewardship Program	(CSP)	\$320,238
NC Agricultural Cost Share Program	(NCACSP)	\$ 53,826
Ag. Water Resources Assistance Program	(AgWRAP)	\$ 12,348
Stream Debris Removal Program	(DRP)	\$1,088,103
Total Cost Share Funded to Plans:		\$1,821,717

Support Funds (State and Federal)

Salaries of Non-County Employees (1 F.T. and 2 P.T.)		\$162,400
Computer Support (2 @ \$3,125 each)		\$ 6,250
Office Supplies		\$ 4,000
Vehicles for Non-County Employees (2 @ \$400/month)		\$ 9,600
Summary of State and Federal Support:		\$182,250

BENEFITS to COLUMBUS COUNTY: \$1,821,717 + \$182,250 = \$2,003,967

\$2,003,967 / \$163,374 = \$12.27 Returned to County for Every Dollar Spent

No-Till Drill Rental

This Program allows small farmers as well as under served landowners the opportunity to try no-till before investing \$35,000 plus in this type of equipment. The no-till drill rented to **10 landowners** totaling **381 acres** planted bringing in **\$3,126**. This rental income is used to replace the drill when it comes time to do so.

COLUMBUS COUNTY VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT (VAD) PROGRAM:

34 Applications Received and Approved Since February 5, 2010

3,377.37 Acres of Crop Land Enrolled
 3,853.52 Acres of Wood Land Enrolled
 7,230.89 Total Acres Enrolled

BEAVER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (BMAP) REPORT

Special Projects / Beaver Program (BMAP): Total in Program	\$4,000
Total Cost to Columbus County:	\$4,000

BEAVER BOUNTY PROGRAM

Total Allocated to Program	\$36,000
Number of Participating Trappers:	9
Number of Beavers Removed:	390
Number of Dams Removed:	78
Number of Landowners Served:	39
TOTAL SPENT FOR 2016-2017 PROGRAM YEAR:	\$19,986

TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET FOR 2016/2017

Total Salaries Spent (County Employees)	\$159,050
Total Departmental Supplies and Materials Spent	\$10,613
Total Spent on Beaver Programs (BMAP and BOUNTY)	\$23,986
Actual Total Spent for FY 2016/2017	\$193,649
Total Reimbursement From State	\$30,275
Actual Cost to Columbus County	\$163,374
Total Dollar Assistance From USDA-NRCS	\$182,250
Total State and Federal Program Dollars to Columbus County	\$1,821,717

CLIENTS ASSISTED BY PROGRAM

Gen. Conserv. Assistance (Walk-ins, Soils Infor., Tile Infor./Layout, Etc.)		387
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	(EQUIP)	21
Conservation Reserve Program	(CRP)	42
Conservation Stewardship Program	(CSP)	9
NC Agricultural Cost Share Program	(NCACSP)	8
Ag. Water Resources Assistance Program	(AgWRAP)	2
Columbus County Beaver Bounty Program	(CCBBP)	39
No-Till Drill		10

Some of the practices requested to be funded include nutrient management, cover crops, long-term

no-till, cropland conversion to grass, prescribed burning, tree planting, wells for irrigation or livestock watering.

The Columbus Soil and Water Conservation District would like to thank the Columbus County Board of Commissioners for their continued support.

This report prepared and delivered by Edward E. Davis, Director/District Conservation Technician.

SPECIAL NOTE: On October 11, 2017, we were notified that we received an additional \$343,115 for vegetative debris removal. This increase totals \$1,431,218 for debris removal.

Agenda Item #11: APPOINTMENTS - COMMITTEE/BOARDS:

June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, requested the following appointments/re-appointments/replacements be made to the following boards/committees.

COMMITTEE	ZONE/ EB	PERSON(S)	EXPIR. DATE	BOARD ACTION
Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee	EB	Ina Brown -5 Vacancies-	11-01-2017 -----	---
Planning Board	V	Al Leonard (Resigned)	09-30-2017	HOLD
Tourism Development Authority	V	Vacancy (Diane Ward)	12/2016	HOLD

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

At 7:03 P.M., Commissioner Byrd 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 Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

December 04, 2017 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

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

Agenda Item #13: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT V - OLD DOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WATER PROJECT:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested approval of the low bid received from Herring-Rivenbark on December 21, 2017, approval of the contract after review/approval by Manager/ Attorney Mike Stephens, **and** Notice to Proceed.

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

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT V - OLD DOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WATER PROJECT:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested approval of the Well Site Option Agreement by and between F.&E. Family Investments, LLC and Columbus County Water and Sewer District V, for the Old Dock Elementary School Water Project.

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

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT V - OLD DOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WATER PROJECT:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested approval of the low proposal for the test well for the Old Dock Water Project.

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

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

At 7:08 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #16: CONSENT AGENDA ITEM:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the following Budget Amendments, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Budget Amendments:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditures	10-4920-519000	Contracted Services	\$103,179
	10-4201-526001	Departmental Supplies	692
	10-4201-533000	Utilities	24,692
	10-4201-525101	M/R Building Grounds	4,126
Revenues	10-3991-499101	General Fund	132,689
Expenditures	10-4310-526001	Departmental Supplies	3,500
Revenues	10-3991-499115	Various Fund Balance Appropriated	3,000
	10-3431-489056	Miscellaneous Revenues Calendar Fund	500
Expenditures	10-4320-526001	Departmental Supplies - Detention	1,400
	10-4310-526001	Departmental Supplies - Sheriff	500
Revenues	10-3431-489056	Miscellaneous Revenue / Calendar Fund	1,900
Expenditures	10-5302-519945	LIEAP Expenditures	45,483
Revenues	10-3530-432515	LIEAP Expenditures	45,483
Expenditures	10-5302-519913	Child Daycare State	(169,156)
	10-5301-533001	CP&L Energy (Energy Neighbor)	1,176
Revenues	10-3530-430090	Daycare State	(169,156)
	10-3530-430076	CP&L Energy (Energy Neighbor)	1,176

Agenda Item #17: COMMENTS:

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

A. Department Managers:

- Samantha Alsup (on behalf of Gary Lanier, Economic Development/Planning Director):** stated we need to schedule a Public Hearing on January 16, 2017, at 7:00 P.M., for enacting firing range regulations in Columbus County.

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Burroughs made a motion to establish January 16, 2017, at 7:00 P.M., as the date and time for a Public Hearing to enact firing range regulations in Columbus County, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

2. **Sheriff Lewis L. Hatcher:** stated the following:
 - I would like to say Happy New Year to everyone;
 - My staff and I appreciate what you have done in 2017; **and**
 - I appreciate all the consideration that you have given my office and my staff.

B. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Commissioner Russ:** stated the following:
 - We need to fix the roof at the Historic Courthouse;
 - At the intersection of Highway 11 and Highway 87 where a four (4) way stop system was installed, they are still having many accidents and badly need a stoplight installed, and Chairman McKenzie needs to send a letter to Drew Cox and other appropriate authorities relative to this matter; **and**

MOTION:

Commissioner Russ made a motion for Chairman McKenzie to send a letter to all the appropriate authorities relative to the much needed installation of a stoplight at the intersection of Highway 11 and Highway 87, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

-We have some fire hydrants that will not work and needs attention.

2. **Vice Chairman Burroughs:** stated the following:
 - The motion I made earlier to approve the December 04, 2017 needs to be corrected with a correction on Page 366; **and**
 - The Columbus County Tax Department is doing a good job.
3. **Commissioner Charles T. McDowell:** stated the following:
 - I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, telephone calls, visits, and all acts of kindness;
 - We need to consider some stringent regulations on firing ranges; **and**
 - I would like to mirror what the Sheriff has stated about the weather.
4. **Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:
 - It is good to see everyone again and I hope you had a good holiday season; **and**
 - We have been asked again by a Congressman to send a letter of support for US 74 to become an interstate.

MOTION:

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion for Chairman McKenzie to send a Letter of Support in response to the letter we received, to our Congressman and Senator relative to US 74 to become an interstate, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

5. **Commissioner Ricky Bullard:** stated the following:
 - The fire departments are concerned about their radios being programmed in January, 2018; **and**
 - I would like for you to check into the hourly rate paid to Resource Officers for ballgames.
6. **Chairman McKenzie:** stated the following:
 - I asked for a copy of the twenty-one (21) laws released on January 01, 2018; **and**
 - You now have a copy of the by-laws for Bladen Bloomers.

- C. **County Manager / County Attorney (Michael H. Stephens):** stated the following:
 1. Mike Buchanan came by again, and has called several times about selling his building which is the old Employment Security Commission Building, at the price of \$625,000.00;
 2. The lease with the Whiteville City Schools Board of Education for the Board of

- Elections has expired and I have asked for an extension; **and**
3. I received a letter from Robert Howard who represents Dewey Hill stating the lease for the Parole Office will expire February 28, 2018.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (6) PERSONNEL and AGENDA ADD-ON (3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE:

At 7:53 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in Accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (6) Personnel, and **AGENDA ADD-ON: (3) Attorney-Client Privilege**, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #18: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A) (6) PERSONNEL:

Agenda Item #18A: AGENDA ADD-ON: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C. G.S. § 143-318.11(A) (3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE:

No official action was taken.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and RESUME REGULAR SESSION:

At 8:47 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

READING and APPROVAL of CLOSED SESSION GENERAL ACCOUNT:

Chairman McKenzie requested that Michael H. Stephens, County Manager/Attorney, orally read the Closed Session General Account. Mr. Stephens orally read the following: *“The County Attorney discussed issues with the Board of Commissioners pertaining to the Georgia Pacific property, Issue Number One, and Issue Number Two, the County Manager is recommending that Loretta Shipman to be hired as the Animal Control Manager”*.

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

Agenda Item #19: ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:49 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E. MCKENZIE, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 02, 2018
7:03 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:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Mike Stephens, **County Manager**
/ **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:03 P.M., Chairman Amon E. McKenzie called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

December 04, 2017 **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 December 04, 2017 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:08 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 02, 2018
7:03 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:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Mike Stephens, **County Manager**
/ **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:03 P.M., Chairman Amon E. McKenzie called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

December 04, 2017 **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 December 04, 2017 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:08 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 02, 2018
7:03 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:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Mike Stephens, **County Manager**
/ **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:03 P.M., Chairman Amon E. McKenzie called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

December 04, 2017 **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 December 04, 2017 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:08 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 02, 2018
7:03 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:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Mike Stephens, **County Manager**
/ **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:03 P.M., Chairman Amon E. McKenzie called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

December 04, 2017 **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 December 04, 2017 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:08 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman

COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 02, 2018
7:03 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:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Mike Stephens, **County Manager**
 / **County Attorney**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**
 Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:03 P.M., Chairman Amon E. McKenzie called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

December 04, 2017 **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 December 04, 2017 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #13: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT V - OLD DOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WATER PROJECT:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested approval of the low bid, from the following Bid Tabulation, received from Herring-Rivenbark on December 21, 2017, approval of the contract after review/approval by Manager/ Attorney Mike Stephens, **and** Notice to Proceed.

BID TABULATION

Project Owner:	Columbus County
Project Description:	Utility Improvements Old Dock Elementary School
Bid Opening Date:	December 21, 2017 @ 2:00 P.M.
Engineer:	Green Engineering, P.L.L.C.

BIDDER	TOTAL COST
Herring-Rivenbark	\$949,979.00
Temple-Grading & Construction	\$951,255.00
T & H Construction	\$1,086,956.87
Ralph Hodge Construction	\$1,194,210.00
Columbus Utilities, Inc. (Other Bidders)	\$1,051,375.00

I, E. Leo Green, Jr., P.E., hereby certify that this bid tabulation is a true and correct representation of the bids received for this project according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ E. LEO GREEN, JR. P.E. (Seal) NC Firm License No. P-0115

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the low bid from Herring-Rivenbark at the cost of nine hundred forty-nine thousand, nine hundred seventy-nine and 00/100 (\$949,979.00) dollars for the Old Dock Elementary School Water Project, the contract once reviewed/approved by County Manager/Attorney Mike Stephens, and the Notice to Proceed once the contract is approved, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed. The contract and Notice to Proceed were not available for inclusion in the Board Packet or the minutes.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT V - OLD DOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WATER PROJECT:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested approval of the Well Site Option Agreement by and between F.&E. Family Investments, LLC and Columbus County Water and Sewer District V, for the Old Dock Elementary School Water Project.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the Well Site Option Agreement by and between F.&E. Family Investments, LLC and Columbus County Water and Sewer District V, for the Old Dock Elementary School Water Project, for 1.21 acres, plus or minus, at the cost of fifteen thousand and 00/100 (\$15,000.00) dollars, with a sum of five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars to be paid to the seller once the option is approved, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed. This document will be marked as Exhibit “A”, and kept on file in Minute Book Number 6, in the Office of the Clerk to the Board, for review.

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT V - OLD DOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WATER PROJECT:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested approval of the low proposal for the test well for the Old Dock Water Project, from the following Bid Tabulation.

BID TABULATION

Project Owner: Columbus County
Project Description: Old Dock Elementary School Test Well
Bid Opening Date: December 28, 2017

