

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**Monday, February 19, 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 second Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Amon E. McKenzie, **Chairman**
Trent Burroughs, **Vice Chairman**
James E. Prevatte
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**

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Giles E. Byrd

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 February 19, 2018 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 Charles T. McDowell, in the absence of Commissioner Giles E. Byrd.

Agenda Item #4: PRESENTATION - PROCLAMATION of APPRECIATION and RECOGNITION to KLONDYKE-CHADBOURN VOLUNTEER FIRE and RESCUE DEPARTMENT:

Chairman Amon E. McKenzie, Commissioner James E. Prevatte and Commissioner Ricky Bullard presented a Proclamation of Appreciation and Recognition to Klondyke-Chadbourn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department that was approved and adopted at the February 05, 2018 Board Meeting, to Fire Chief Randy Guyton.

Agenda Item #5: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the February 05, 2018 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #6: PUBLIC INPUT:

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

1. **Patricia Thor, 6847 Seven Creeks Highway, Nakina, NC 28455:** stated the following:
 - Thank you very much for hearing me;
 - I have recently moved here, and I raise dogs and I train dogs;
 - I have security dogs on my premises and I looked up your Ordinances and Rules and Regulations of having these dogs and printed out a copy of your Ordinance relative to dogs and printed out a copy of Chapter 3, Section 26, Section 2, and I looked up to see who was in charge regarding that;
 - I found out that would be Loretta Shipman, Animal Control Director, and I went to town to get a permit;
 - When I met with Loretta Shipman, she stated she did not know anything relative to this;
 - I talked to Paulette Varnam, Paralegal, Mike Stephens, County Manager/Attorney, and June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, and could not obtain the permit I needed, as stated in the Ordinance;
 - I am requesting you to revise the Ordinance, and enforce it; **and**

-I am asking you to place in your records that I have asked for the permit, but was not provided with the permit required, as stated in the Ordinance.

2. **Anthony Guy Buck, 15260 Seven Creeks Highway, Tabor City, NC 28463:** stated the following:

-I am here tonight to see what has been done relative to the firing range in the area where I live;

-The shooting has not slowed down;

-The concern is still there; **and**

-Is anything being done or do you plan to let it lay?

3. **Johnny Edge, 470 Happy Home Road, Nakina, NC 28455:** stated the following:

-I apologize for the last meeting;

-The Commissioners have a responsibility to the citizens and need to keep them informed;

-There are two (2) sides to every situation; **and**

-We need to have better communication.

Agenda Item #7: PIREWAY FIRING RANGE - CONCERNED CITIZENS COMMENTS:

The citizens of the Pireway Community delivered the following comments on a commercial firing range.

Rodney Register: stated the following:

1. I am from Nakina and I would like to thank you for allowing me to speak tonight concerning the dangers associated with the shooting range that has been a big discussion in the Pireway Community;
2. I am a shooter, outdoors man and a gunman;
3. A person from New Hampshire has come to Columbus County and opened the Low Country Shooting Range in the Pireway area of Columbus County at a dead-end row at Indigo Flats;
4. The noise is disturbing people for several miles, automatic weapons are being utilized and stray bullets are penetrating vehicles, houses and trees within the surrounding areas;
5. This activity is causing fear by the people who reside in the surrounding areas and creates a significant safety issue;
6. After a requested investigation was conducted, the following remarks were made on their social media page:
 Don't complain, it only gets worse;
 If you don't like the shooting, move;
7. A guy called Ramboo (Will Rankin) has been taped as riding in the back of a truck shooting a mounted machine gun;
8. Did this gentleman go to the Planning Board and get the required permits?;
9. A 50 caliber gun is guaranteed for accuracy for 100 yards, and these guns are being used;
10. Does this company have the necessary liability insurance if any of the bullets injure anyone, and if he does not, each Board member could be involved in a lawsuit;
11. They are starting a shooting range on Highway 905 behind Nakina Middle School;
12. The Low Country Preserves Shooting Range is projected toward residential areas;
13. What has been witnessed is \$4 million of automatic weapons laying on the ground;
14. These videos that I have displayed were extracted from their website;
15. There is a need to lock the gate until the necessary permits and other required documentation have been obtained; **and**
16. Safety for our citizens is the number one issue here.

James Todd Dawkins(owner of Low Country Preserves): stated the following:

1. I have been in the community since 1985, member of the National Guard from 1987-2000, joined the Coast Guard and served from 2000 to 2006 and was a weapon instructor, ran ranges for Fort Bragg for the Army National Guard, ran rifle ranges on Camp LeJeune for the Coast Guard with all types of weapons;
2. When the window was shot out two (2) years ago was an example of someone not following instructions;
3. Safety is a major concern;
4. A proper septic tank has been installed;
5. On a turnout day of thirty (30) people, we have four (4) instructors available;
6. The golf course people are the highest number of people;
7. I am a full-time firefighter EMT with Horry County Fire and Rescue;

8. My address is 466 Indigo Flats, Tabor City, North Carolina 28463, and telephone number is: (910) 443-1000 (cell); **and**
9. My manager's name is Roger Grimes, telephone number: (910) 540-9273 (cell).

Agenda Item #8: LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE - APPROVAL of MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE and ANNUAL REPORT:

David McPherson, Chairman, requested approval of the following membership committee, and delivered the following annual report.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Membership for approval:

Timothy Ward	Bobby Worley	Dana Mauldin	Les High
David McPherson	Mark Cox	Deuce Niven	Stephanie Kriner
Edwin Russ	Dalton Dockery	Tony Miller	Chris Cook
Kay Worley	David Ransom	Shannon Blackman	Aaron Sulava
Kim Smith	Michael Oppenheim	Allen Johnson	Harold Nobles
Larry Hayes	Tom Buller	Hal Lowder	Brandon Sproles
William Sellers	Adam Boyles	Gina Ward	

Commissioner Russ made a motion to approve the Local Emergency Planning Committee Membership, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

To: Board of Commissioners
 From: David McPherson, Chairman
 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
 Subject: Annual Report for 2017

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Columbus County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Article IX, Section 1, the following report is submitted:

1. Officers for 2017 were as follows:
 Chairman: David McPherson
 Vice Chair: Deuce Niven
 Secretary: Kay Worley
2. Annual public notices of dates for the LEPC meetings for 2017 were announced in the News Reporter.
3. Rope Rescue Team
 - Training is ongoing and team continues to move forward.
 - County Commissioners approved \$10,000 in 2017/2018 budget year to assist in the purchasing of needed equipment.
 - In 2018/2019 budget year will need funding again to be able to purchase needed equipment.
4. Water Rescue Team
 - Team is being developed after the need was determined after Hurricane Matthew.
 - Working to develop protocols, and SOP's for the team.
 - County Commissioners approved \$10,000 in 2017/2018 budget year to assist in the purchasing of needed equipment.
 - In 2018/2019 budget year will need funding again to be able to purchase needed equipment.
 - Training was offered in May 2017.
 - LEPC and the team has been exploring different grants and working with legislature to obtain additional funding for equipment.
 - 4 teams will be developed in the county: Acme Delco Riegelwood Fire & Rescue, Fair Bluff Fire & Rescue, Old Dock Fire Dept and Whiteville Rescue. These teams will be provided necessary equipment to respond to calls when needed throughout the county.
 - Several responders took certification training held in Robeson County.
5. Safety
 - Columbus County Emergency Services held Disaster Preparedness Workshop at Southeastern Community College in July 2017.
 - All school inspections have been completed by the Fire Marshal's Office.
 - Town of Lake Waccamaw Fire Dept had DOI Inspection and was able to lower their fire rating.

- Klondyke/Chadbourn Fire Dept also had DOI Inspection and was able to lower their fire rating.
 - House Bill 666 passed allowing fire departments to reduce manpower from 20 people to 15 people per dept. Departments are not required to lower the numbers of manpower but it is an option.
 - Emergency Responder training such as initial and continuing education is coordinated with Southeastern Community College.
 - Fire Marshal Office issued 17 citations for illegal burning totaling \$2,300; 101 fire investigations performed; 12 suspects arrested for arson; 218 businesses inspected; 5 fire related deaths in the county.
6. Emergency Operations Plan
 - Being reviewed by County Departments.
 7. Tier II reports
 - Industry is required to submit their Tier II reports to E-Plan, electronic web based reporting system.
 - Tier II reports for 2017 year have been filed with E-Plan currently the county has 58 agencies that report their information. 2017 E-Plan reports are due by March 31 of each year.

DISCUSSION:

1. Mr. McPherson stated the need for additional funding to purchase rough water Boat Number 3 for the Acme Delco area being five thousand, five hundred and 00/100 (\$5,500.00) dollars;
2. Mr. McPherson stated fourteen thousand and 00/100 (\$14,000.00) dollars needed to be placed in the 2018/2019 Budget for the purchase of rough water Boat Number 4 for the Fair Bluff area; **and**
3. This will give us good coverage for rough water rescue in Columbus County.

MOTION:

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve five thousand, five hundred and 00/100 (\$5,500.00) dollars, taken from Fund Balance, for the boat needed for ADR Rescue Squad, and fourteen thousand and 00/100 (\$14,000.00) dollars in the 2018/2019 Budget to purchase the boat needed for Fair Bluff, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

MOTION:

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to prepare and send a resolution to request a permanent full-time Red Cross person in Columbus County, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #9: AIRPORT - GRANT AGREEMENTS #36237.53.13.1 and #36244.18.6.1:

Phil Edwards, Airport Manager, requested Board approval of the following two (2) grants, Grant Number: 36237.53.13.1 and Grant Number: 36244.18.6.1, by Resolution, with no county match.

RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Trent Burroughs, Vice Chairman, and seconded by Commissioner James E. Prevatte for the adoption of the following resolution, and upon being put to a vote was duly accepted:

WHEREAS, a Grant in the amount of \$494,460 has been approved by the Department based on total estimated cost of \$494,460; **and**

WHEREAS, an amount equal to or greater than **zero percent (0%)** of the total estimated project cost has been appropriated by the Sponsor for this Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Chairman of the Sponsor be and he hereby is authorized and empowered to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Department, thereby binding the Sponsor to the fulfillment of its obligation incurred under this Grant Agreement or any mutually agreed upon modification thereof.

I, June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of an excerpt from the minutes of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners of a meeting duly and regularly held on the 19th day of February, 2018.

This, the 20th day of February, 2018.

SPONSOR SEAL

Signed: /s/ **JUNE B. HALL**
Title: Clerk to the Board
Of The: Columbus County Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Trent Burroughs, Vice Chairman, and seconded by Commissioner James E. Prevatte for the adoption of the following resolution, and upon being put to a vote was duly accepted:

WHEREAS, a Grant in the amount of \$2,848,922 has been approved by the Department based on total estimated cost of \$2,848,922; **and**

WHEREAS, an amount equal to or greater than **zero percent (0%)** of the total estimated project cost has been appropriated by the Sponsor for this Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Chairman of the Sponsor be and he hereby is authorized and empowered to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Department, thereby binding the Sponsor to the fulfillment of its obligation incurred under this Grant Agreement or any mutually agreed upon modification thereof.

I, June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of an excerpt from the minutes of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners of a meeting duly and regularly held on the 19th day of February, 2018.

This, the 20th day of February, 2018.

SPONSOR SEAL

Signed: /s/ **JUNE B. HALL**
Title: Clerk to the Board
Of The: Columbus County Board of Commissioners

Vice Chairman Burroughs made a motion to approve Grant Number: 36237.53.13.1 and Grant Number: 36244.18.6.1, by the above listed Resolutions, with no county match, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #10: SOCIAL SERVICES - CHILD CARE POLICY:

Algernon W. McKenzie, Social Services Director, requested Board approval of the updated Child Care Policy.

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the updated Child Care Policy, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed. A copy of this document will be marked as Exhibit "A", and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 6, in the Office of the Clerk to the Board, for review.

Agenda Item #11: SOCIAL SERVICES - MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE:

Algernon W. McKenzie, Social Services Director, delivered the following Monthly Administrative Update.

On January 3, 2018 I met with the Supervisors to discuss some safety concerns that were brought to my attention. I asked Supervisors to remind staff that all visitors should be coming through the front entrance; even family members. We need to know who is in the building. Staff should not be giving out any personal information about co-worker's locations. This will help us keep everyone

safe in the event there is a domestic violence situation going on.

Supervisors were told to remind workers that no doors should be propped open with bricks, sticks or any other objects. This could create safety issues if someone other than employees are able to enter the building without using the keypads.

I asked Supervisors to let someone know if they see anything inside or outside of the building that needs to be repaired.

Supervisors were informed the door codes would be changed soon and all staff would be notified.

Lastly, Supervisors were informed the county offices would be closing at 12 noon due to the winter weather that is moving into the area; and to be sure to listen to the news or check the website for closings or delays.

On January 3, 2018 at 3pm a shelter was opened at Edgewood Elementary School. DSS staff were onsite to assist in signing individuals into the shelter. Our agency was closed on January 4, 2018 and reopened on Friday, January 5, 2018 at its normal schedule.

On January 11, 2018 I attended the Executive Board Meeting of the Director's Association. The majority of this meeting was focused on Project 4; which is Child Welfare Programs being moved into the NCFAST System. The five pilot counties continue to report there are issues with the automated system that are causing more work or not allowing workers to enter information correctly. These are issues that need to be addressed before other counties go live this year. They are recommending that roll out to other counties be delayed. During our discussion, our president stated a letter had been sent out in late December to Secretary Mandy Cohen, from the Director's Association, to outline and communicate our concerns with the NCFAST System as it relates to Child Welfare (see attached letter). There are nine or more critical issues contained in this letter. Our association is not against NCFAST, however we want it to be user friendly and not to cause more work for agencies and staff; as we try to ensure the safety and welfare of children across the state.

We were informed DHHS and the NCFAST Team has decided to push the rollout schedule back by two or three months. If this is done, Columbus County would go live in May 2018 instead of March 2018. This would be great as Child Welfare staff will have to complete online training on their own.

The Assistant Secretary informed Directors he may have found some funds to hire more state staff to work with counties. The NCFAST Team is continuing to work on the statewide Document Management System and a 24/7 access backup system for the Child Welfare System. They will provide more information later.

On January 30, 2018 I met with the Social Work Program Manager and the Child Welfare Supervisors. During this meeting, I reviewed some Dear County Directors Letters from the state related to policy changes, NCFAST P-4 and training for Social Workers. We discussed House Bill 630 and updates related to required performance measures as well as written agreements that will be required by all 100 counties.

I reminded Supervisors to ensure workers are completing the required background and criminal checks on safety placements. Also, that they are checking documentation and monitoring home visits; as we are scheduled to review our Program Development Plan sometime in March with our program representatives and monitor.

I also reminded them workers need to be looking at the Sandbox training screens in NCFAST for Child Welfare staff.

The state has implemented an initiative called Diligent Recruitment and Retention for Foster and Adoptive Families. This is an effort to collect data and develop increased capacity to meet the needs of children and youth in the care of County DSS offices and private child placing agencies. Our Foster Care and Transitional staff have been working on efforts to recruit incentive funds back on each adoption completed by the agency; which must be used to promote Foster Care and Adoptions. Starting in February, there will be billboards posted around the county; which we hope will draw attention to the need for children to be with loving caring families.

Economic Services

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Food & Nutrition	Applications Taken: 251 Applications Approved: 196 Active Cases: 5,715 Benefits Issued: \$1,339,331 Participants Served: 12,180
Adult Medicaid	Applications Taken: 147 Cases Terminated: 51 Redeterminations: 265 Applications Processed: 205
Family & Children's Medicaid	Applications Taken: 123 Applications Processed: 170 Redeterminations: 367 Total Medicaid Cases: 13,404 Total Individuals Receiving: 15,137
Child Support	Absent Parents Located: 76 Orders Enforced: 857 Active Cases: 3,986 Collections: \$461,956.42

**January 2018
Human Services**

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Adult Services (APS)	APS Reports Accepted: 21 County Wards: 20 Number of Payee Cases: 15 Adults Served APS: 9 Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: 1,149 Amount Requested for Reimbursement: \$29,111.88
Children's Protective Services (CPS)	Reports Accepted: 38 Reports Screened Out: 21 Families Receiving In-Home Services: 21 Children Served: 60 Contacts with Families Monthly: 280 Assessments: 28
Foster Care	Foster Children in Foster Homes: 60 Children Placed Outside County: 17 Agency Adoptions: 0 Pending Adoptions: 4 Total Foster Homes Licensed: 5 Total Children in Foster Care: 64
Work First Employment (TANF)	Applications Taken: 36 Applications Approved: 23 Individuals Receiving Benefits: 326 Entered Employment: 3 Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 1
Program Integrity	Collections for Fraud: \$5,588.64 New Referrals: 0 Cases Established: 0
Day Care	Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 449 Children on the Waiting List: 627 Amount Spent on Day Care Services: \$206,813.70

Melinda H. Lane, Program Manager
Vacancies/Updates/News for January 2018

Intake/Investigation/Assessment:

The Intake/Investigation/Assessment Unit continues to be fully staffed and busy! All staff have busy caseloads and are continuing to get updated training. Staff in this Unit are beginning to orient themselves to the NCFast system as Child Welfare currently has plans to begin in March. Staff are beginning to take required trainings for NCFast. Staff are preparing for a state monitoring in March.

In-Home Services:

The In-Home Services Unit continues to be short-staffed. Interviews will begin soon. Staff in this Unit are beginning to orient themselves to the NCFast system as Child Welfare currently has plans to begin in March. Staff are beginning to take required trainings for NCFast. Staff are preparing for a state monitoring in March.

Foster Care/Adoptions:

The Foster Care/Adoptions Unit continues to be short-staffed due to the transition to the new Unit. Two new workers will begin February 5th. Staff are being moved around to accommodate the new workers. Staff in this Unit are beginning to orient themselves to the NCFast system as Child Welfare currently has plans to begin in March. Staff are beginning to take required trainings for NCFast. Staff are preparing for a state monitoring in March.

Transitional Unit:

The new transitional unit is busy building caseloads and planning events for LINKs and Foster/Adoptive Parent Recruitment. Staff in this Unit are being moved into a conference room for office space to accommodate new staff coming in on February 5th. Staff in this Unit are beginning to orient themselves to the NCFast system as Child Welfare currently has plans to begin in March. Staff are beginning to take required trainings for NCFast. Staff are preparing for a state monitoring in March.

Adult Services:

The Adult Services Unit continues to be fully staffed and very busy. Cases are becoming more complex with more issues. Many members of this Unit are in training and cross-training in order to work together more efficiently.

Work First Employment:

The Work First Employment Unit continues to work within the NCFAST system with daily issues. This Unit continues to assist with 200% and with CPS Intake coverage when needed.

Child Day Care:

The Child Day Care Unit continues to be fully staffed. This Unit continues to work within the NCFAST system dealing with daily issues and updates. Currently there are concerns with how NCFast manages the waiting list and funding.

Program Integrity:

Program Integrity continues to work hard to get caught up with program integrity duties and cases. Five temporary workers continue to work fulltime taking Crisis Intervention Program applications and Low Income Energy Assistance Program applications. In January 43 applications were taken for CIP with 43 approvals and 658 were taken for LIEAP with 616 approvals and 42 denials. It appears these programs will continue to have funding through the most of the month of February. Applications take longer to complete making it harder to see as many applicants during a day.

Economic Services Program Narrative

Child Support/Paralegal and Work First Cash/Medicaid Transportation/Maintenance and Housekeeping

Food and Nutrition and Family and Children's Medicaid

Adult Medicaid//Rest Home and Nursing Home/Community Alternatives Program (CAP)

Submitted by Cyndi Hammonds, Income Maintenance Administrator

Reporting Month: January 2018

News/Updates/Vacancies

Food and Nutrition:

The Intake/Processing Team and the Review Team continue to be in compliance with timeliness. The Benefit Data Trust Project (Seniors 65+ that are receiving Medicaid but not receiving Food and Nutrition) is still reaching out trying to encourage these seniors to apply for benefits. The State has sent out 25,463 letters and from those letters 2,261 applications have been submitted to the counties statewide. Columbus County has received 38 applications as the result of this project. We still receive phone calls asking if these letters are scams and from the results of these phone calls we also tell them they can apply with us directly if they choose to. This team currently has 4 vacancies; one of these vacancies we have interviewed for and recommendations are being made for hire.

Adult and Family & Children's Medicaid:

The North Carolina Health Choice (CHIP) Medicaid program thru BCBS for children from age 6 - 18 that was in jeopardy of not being funded has been approved for 6 more years of funding. The Family and Children's Medicaid Team continue to stay in compliance with timeliness. Adult Medicaid struggles with the Long Term Care team of 3 workers that complete the intake, process and review of all Nursing Home, Rest Home and Community Alternative Program cases. These cases require more investigations into the transferring of any assets the clients may have made. We currently are in need of another worker to help keep this work timely. This could be accomplished by taking a position from their regular Medicaid team and upgrading the position. This team is fully staffed.

Child Support and Paralegal:

It is the time of year when Child Support is preparing for the interception of income tax refunds on those absent parents that are behind in their child support payments. Each year at this time we get increased phone calls and upset parents because of this however it helps them get caught up at times and others it helps from them going to jail for non-payment. This team prepared 350 cases for court. Due to the vacancies on this team we are not meeting compliance goals for one area however our State Representative that visits every month is working with us to help us meet these goals. We currently interviewed for the 4 vacancies and are recommending 4 for hire. The paralegal prepared 277 orders and reviewed 38 orders the attorney prepared.

Work First Cash/Medicaid Transportation/Interpreter/Maintenance and Housekeeping/Deputy:

- Medicaid Transportation remains to be a high demand program due to the lack of transportation by many of our Medicaid clients.
- WorkFirst Cash continues to stay in compliance with their program.
- Housekeeping, Maintenance and the Deputy continue to work with the whole agency in keeping the building clean and safe.
- The Interpreter remains busy with interpretations from the front desk to all programs and by phone when clients call in.
- This team is fully staffed.

December 22,2017

Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary
 NC Department of Health and Human Services
 101 Blair Drive, Adams Building
 2001 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Secretary Cohen,

Thank you for talking with me last week regarding the Directors' decision to communicate with your office, the collective concerns brought forth from the five NCFast Project 4 Child Welfare pilot counties and supported by the NCACDSS membership. Beginning August 7, 2017, Guilford, Franklin, Sampson, Rockingham and Richmond Counties started piloting the Child Welfare module within NC FAST. These counties have worked tirelessly with NC DHHS and the NC FAST team to provide feedback regarding concerns and strengths in the form of conference calls, face-to-face meetings and written communication, to include a meeting with Deputy Secretary, Susan Perry-Manning and other members of your leadership team. Due to significant concerns within the scope of the pilot, the next scheduled rollout planned for this fall to seven additional counties was delayed. We continue to have serious concerns about issues the pilot counties have identified and believe these issues will ultimately impact the overall success of P4 statewide; therefore, we cannot endorse moving forward with the rollout to the next ten counties on January 22, 2018.

Below are high level concerns that have been shared with your leadership team as well as the NC FAST team.

High level concerns with P4 from the pilot counties:

- Several business processes in NCFAST conflict with state statute and/or current policies. Counties are held accountable to meet practice standards that the system may negatively impact.
- Additional requirements and increased workload is affecting practice--correcting cases within the system takes hours which is less time for assessing risk and safety of families and children.
- Breach of confidentiality (federal requirement) between economic services and child welfare services after previous fixes have been attempted.
- Unresolved security roles are impacting the DSS Director's ability to monitor/assess work.
- Unresolved issues with the financials for foster care reimbursement are creating significant fiscal impact to counties.
- The unavailability of the System multiple times since August impacts access to the child protective services record. This impacts screening intakes, response to alleged victim children, inability to access case for legal purposes and creates the potential for safety to be compromised.
- NC failed the Federal Child and Family Services review (CFSR) in 2015. Since 2016, NC has been under a federal Program Improvement Plan (PIP) which includes changes to child welfare policy. These policy changes have not been incorporated into NC FAST though rollout to more counties is scheduled.
- Multiple help desk tickets have no resolution.
- Security issues allow one county to change another county's work in progress.

Counties have been operating in NC FAST since 2012 with the initial rollout of Food and Nutrition Services (FNS), followed by Medicaid, Child Care Subsidy, Energy Programs (CIP and LIEAP), and Work First. While the system for these programs has shown improvement, there continue to be challenges to completing our work efficiently in the system. General concerns include:

- Under/over payments in child care - these inaccurate payments negatively impact providers and impede county tracking of resources available to assist citizens on waiting lists.
- Help desk tickets on FNS and Medicaid cases continue at very high levels.
- System unavailability results in duplications of efforts of economic services staff. This impacts workloads, ability to process cases timely, and inability to assist customers coming into the agency with open benefit cases.
- Counties continue to receive weekly notifications of additional tasks that must be completed to correct system generated errors.

County staffs are expected to "work around the system" and still meet all federal and state mandates. To provide a greater understanding of the issues, we are working with our program staff to compile information on specific, detailed issues that they have encountered. This information will be shared with DHHS in early January 2018.

Counties are dedicated to the mission of serving children and families while also ensuring the integrity of programs and trust of our citizens. Creating a mutually satisfactory solution to these issues is critical as we move forward with the provisions of HB 630 (SL 2017-41). To that end, we ask that you strongly consider our request to delay further rollout as we work in partnership to make the needed improvements to the NC FAST System.

We look forward to meeting with you and your leadership team to respond to any questions you might have and to formulate a plan that moves us forward. I can be reached at 704-650-4574.

Sincerely,
Donna F. Fayko
President

Cc: NC HHS Joint Legislative Oversight Committee
Deputy DHHS Secretary Susan Perry-Manning
Assistant DHHS Secretary Michael Becketts
Deputy Secretary for Technology and Operations Sam Gibbs
DSS Director Wayne Black
NCFAST Director Angela Taylor

Agenda Item #12: VETERANS - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Kim Sellers, Veterans Director, delivered the following Departmental Update.

It has been over 2 years since our department has given a report and many changes have occurred since then.

As you know, Sherri Blackman retired last April and I was promoted to Director. Ken Goben was hired last June. Ken is a retired Marine Corps Warrant Officer. He has been an Accredited Veteran Service Officer for the past 5 years with the NCDVA State Service Office in Wilmington and at the VA Health Care Center in Wilmington, so he already knew many of our veterans. Ken and his wife

Terri have been Columbus County residents for 20 years, so he is enjoying his daily 4 mile commute now. We are fortunate to have Ken as he was already accredited and ready to start assisting our veterans from day one.

We provide many services to Columbus County veterans, among these are assisting veterans and their dependents in filing claims and applications to the DVA for VA Health Care, Service Connected Compensation, Disabled War Time Veterans Pension, Notices of Disagreement and Appeals, Education, Voc Rehab, Certificates of Eligibility for VA Home Loan Guaranties, Requests for Veterans DD214s and Service Treatment Records, NC State Veterans Benefits, Dependents Benefits such as: Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC), Widows Pension, Dependents Education, CHAMPVA, Burial Benefits, VA Grave Markers and many more benefits. We meet with Veterans Organizations, Social Services, Dept of Aging, Health Dept, Transportation Dept, SSA and CRHC to understand and maximize use of all local resources available to our veterans.

We assist an average of 30 veterans and their dependents daily in person and by phone.

I attended our 2017 Spring County Veteran Service Officers Conference last April. Ken and I both attended our Fall NCDVA and County VSO Conference last October. We also attended 2 one day NCDVA work shops and 2 Congressional VSO meetings. VA benefits, applications and procedures are constantly changing, which makes it imperative for us to attend these meetings so we can assist our veterans more efficiently. We participate in a monthly phone conference with the DVA Regional Office in Winston Salem, Congressman Rouzer's Office, NCDVA and the other County VSOs. We also complete online training annually.

The Fayetteville VAMC has expanded and made some health care benefits easier for veterans to access such as: opening this summer, 5 state of the art operating rooms and a 25 private room med/surg unit, expanding specialty care by hiring another general surgeon, orthopedic surgeon, rheumatologist and an endocrinologist. An inpatient substance abuse treatment and recovery program has been approved but not funded at this point. Veterans no longer have to wait for a referral by their primary care doctor for audiology and optometry appointments. They can call directly to these clinics and make their own appointments.

The DVA implemented the Fully Developed Claims Program 4 years ago to expedite the processing of claims. This program is working well for VA, as FDC are being completed in 4 to 6 month, instead of 12 to 18 months. Previously the VA developed the claim, gathering the documentation needed to render a decision on the claim. As the name of this program states, VA is receiving the claims from us with the development completed. VA has placed the burden of gathering evidence on the veterans and the state and county service officers. This is very time consuming for us and in some cases costly to the veterans.

The most notable new VA benefit is the compensation for 8 presumptive diseases associated with contaminants in the water at Camp Lejeune for active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served a minimum of 30 days at Camp Lejeune or the Marine Corps Air Station, New River, NC between August 1953 and December 1987. This ruling became effective March 14, 2017. We have filed 5 claims for veterans and 4 for widows of veterans who have died of one of these presumptive diseases.

VA has not released the 2017 Distribution of Expenditures at this time. The 2016 total VA Expenditures for Columbus County were: \$39 million. That is \$25 million in compensation and pension benefits and \$14 million in health care and education benefits. This is \$2.8 million more in benefits than in 2015.

Ken and I will be participating in a Regional Veterans Outreach Claims Clinic March 22 – 24th in Wilmington. We encourage our veterans with claims pending for more than a year to attend this clinic also. The Winston Salem VA Regional Office will have Claims Rating Officers on sight at this clinic.

Our goal is to assist every Columbus County veteran in obtaining every VA benefit they are eligible to receive. If you know veterans that have not inquired about their potential benefits, please urge them to come speak with us. It is an honor and a pleasure to assist our veterans through the VA claims processes.

Thank you for your support.

Agenda Item #13: ADMINISTRATION - APPROVAL of CDBG-DR (DISASTER RECOVERY) NO. 17-3-3010 COMPLIANCE PLANS:

Mike Stephens, County Manager / Attorney, requested Board approval of the following documents for the CDBG-DR (Disaster Recover) Number 17-3-3010:

- A. Equal Opportunity and Procurement Plan;
- B. Section 3 Plan;
- C. Language Access Plan;
- D. Section 504 Self Evaluation and Grievance Plan;
- E. Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan;
- F. Citizen Participation Plan;
- G. Excessive Force Plan;
- H. Fair Housing Plan; **and**
- I. Floodplain Certification.

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the above listed nine (9) documents for the CDBG-DR (Disaster Recovery) Number 17-3-3010 Grant, seconded by Vice Chairman Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed. These documents will be kept on file in the Administration Office, for review.

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

At 8:21 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into a **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

February 05, 2018 **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 8:22 P.M., Vice Chairman Burroughs 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 #15: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Budget Amendments:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditures	10-9600-560062	Special Child Adoption	119,886
Revenue	10-3991-499101	Fund Balance Appropriation	119,886
Expenditure	10-9600-560079	Water Rescue	5,500
Revenue	10-3991-499101	Fund Balance Appropriated	5,500

B. Tax Refunds and Releases:

<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$201.93
Bailey, Robert Jr. & Donna Day	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$1,974.96
Value: \$2,330.00	Year: 09-17	Account: 01-01809	Bill#: 99999
Release value of S/W. No power in 9 years.			

<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$72.95
Britt, Jeffrey & Anna Maria	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$93.75
Value: \$1,000.00 Year: 08-17 Account: 13-03937		Bill#:	99999
Release value. DBL to real estate in 2006 to new owner. Release Klondyke Fire(6.30) release Columbus Rescue(1.80) release Water II(4.55) release late list(8.15)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$1,157.42
Chestnutt, Roosevelt(Heirs)	PROPERTY: 23862	Total:	\$2,356.46
Value: \$29,800.00 Year: 08-17 Account: 13-08173		Bill#:	99999
Release value. Sold at tax sale. Release Columbus Rescue(54.04)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$2,329.68
Col County Hospital Foundation Inc.	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$2,387.56
Value: \$289,400.00 Year: 2017 Account: 01-08397		Bill#:	99999
Release entire value of lots. Owned by the Hospital should have been exempt. Property#98576 and 76211 Release Whiteville Rescue(57.88)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$377.40
Creech, Justin L. & Tonya Brooke	PROPERTY: 94061	Total:	\$638.03
Value: \$1,482.00 Year: 2017 Account: 07-03545		Bill#:	56973
Release value DBL and Mobile home was repoed in 2016. Release Yam City Fire(46.88) release Columbus Rescue(9.38) release late list(1.37)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$7.25
Dimuzio, James Sr ETAL	PROPERTY: 80928	Total:	\$8.15
Value: \$900.00 Year: 2017 Account: 02-04842		Bill#:	58409
Release value. 2% mistake Release North Whiteville(.72) release Whiteville Rescue(.18)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$195.82
Evans, Robert	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$910.69
Value: \$4,170.00 Year: 11-16 Account: 10-03023		Bill#:	99999
Release mobile home. No evidence of existing 24 years. Release Columbus Rescue(4.84) release late list(16.63)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$1,391.49
Powell, Lin	PROPERTY: 2732	Total:	\$1,925.71
Value: \$7,500.00 Year: 08-17 Account: 01-04716		Bill#:	99999
Release entire value. Sold at tax sale for legal fees. Release Columbus Rescue(34.22)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$17.53
Reynolds, Thomas Woody	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$21.21
Value: \$2,178.00 Year: 2017 Account: 09-00519		Bill#:	83967
Release entire amount. Sold boat. Release Williams Fire(1.31) release Columbus Rescue(.44) release late list(1.93)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$344.32
Robinson, Lacy & Letha McMillian	PROPERTY: 4394	Total:	\$387.07
Value: \$5,500.00 Year: 08-17 Account: 01-77020		Bill#:	99999
Release value. DBL Prop#4395 Release Klondyke Fire(33.25) release Columbus Rescue(9.50)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$364.75
Teal, Jacob	PROPERTY: 5302	Total:	\$373.75
Value: \$5,000.00 Year: 08-17 Account: 01-92240		Bill#:	99999
Release entire value. Sold at tax sale for legal fees. Release Whiteville Rescue(9.00)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$75.87
Tyson, Ronald Russell & sue Ellen Gore	PROPERTY: 10878	Total:	\$75.87
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2017 Account: 06-03456		Bill#:	92801
Release interest. Postmark on time.			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$525.67
United Carolina Bank c/o BB&T	PROPERTY: 18038	Total:	\$538.73
Value: \$65,300.00 Year: 2017 Account: 10-24463		Bill#:	60019
Release taxes for 2017. Leased and occupied by the Town of Fair Bluff Prop#18038			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$1,269.49
United Carolina Bank c/o BB&T	PROPERTY: 18366	Total:	\$1,301.03
Value: \$157,700.00 Year: 2017 Account: 10-17420		Bill#:	92837
Release taxes for 2017. Leased and occupied by the Town of Fair Bluff.Prop#18366			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$439.13
Ward, A Leon (Jr) & Nina	PROPERTY: 98496	Total:	\$450.04
Value: \$109,300.00 Year: 2017 Account: 09-04907		Bill#:	93687

445

Release value. Should have been exempt. Release Columbus Rescue(10.91)

<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$528.08
Williamson, Margaree (ETAL)	PROPERTY: 13928	Total:	\$593.58
Value: \$189,600.00	Year: 2017	Account: 07-19305	Bill#: 96594

Release value. Should have been billed at Land Use Value Release Nakina Fire(52.38)
release Columbus Rescue(13.12)

<i>Refunds</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Register, Mary Ellen B	PROPERTY: 98653	Total:	\$79.12
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 11-22440	Bill#: 83814

Refund portion of user fee. Should have been billed to Prop#98653

<i>Refunds</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Taylor, Joyce L.	PROPERTY: 13849	Total:	\$83.80
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 07-17883	Bill#: 91124

Refund portion of user fee. House is vacant but \$83.80 was paid to the user fee.

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Williams, Agnes M.	PROPERTY: 23134	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 12-00049	Bill#: 95805

Release user fee. Vacant.

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Baldwin's Ministries of Whiteville	PROPERTY: 97291	Total:	\$406.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 01-07807	Bill#: 48798

Release user fees. S/W are vacant. Both

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Boone, Marie	PROPERTY: 8535	Total:	\$116.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 04-00970	Bill#: 51191

Release user fee. House is vacant.

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Callahan, Shirley Davis	PROPERTY: 1120	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 01-00559	Bill#: 54014

Release user fee.

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Davis, Daniel Jeff & Teresa Jackson	PROPERTY: 97370	Total:	
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 01-04285	Bill#:

Release user fee.

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Faircloth, S J	PROPERTY: 15719	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 09-07920	Bill#: 60499

Release user fee. Vacant.

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Farmer, Graham Scott & Tracie	PROPERTY: 96983	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 15-04205	Bill#: 60591

Release user fee. No home on property

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Gore, Jerry Lee	PROPERTY: 13159	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 07-06401	Bill#: 64206

Release user fee. House is vacant.

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Gore, Ronald Lane	PROPERTY: 60126	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 07-00124	Bill#: 64455

Release user fee. No house on property.

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Hamer, Dolroe (Jr) & Jacqueline	PROPERTY: 25682	Total:	\$406.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 13-01712	Bill#: 99999

Release user fees both locations vacant.

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Hobbs, Tommy S & Marcia C	PROPERTY: 632	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 01-42241	Bill#: 68681

Release user fee. DBL

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Horne, Jill Cox	PROPERTY: 4305	Total:	\$203.00

Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 01-07798	Bill#: 69082
Release user fee. Vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Jacobs, George & Minnie		PROPERTY: 8971	Total: \$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 04-08120	Bill#: 70227
Release user fee. Vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Jones, William K.		PROPERTY: 82603	Total: \$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 03-12419	Bill#: 71586
Release user fee. House is vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Malpass, Sabrina		PROPERTY: 86968	Total: \$183.38
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 15-02828	Bill#: 75056
Release user fee and interest. Wrong property . Taxes paid in full			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
MCCoy Annie & John E		PROPERTY: 75972	Total: \$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 12-17083	Bill#: 75853
Release user fee. Vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Mullins, Leonard (Heirs)		PROPERTY: 3691	Total: \$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 01-64100	Bill#: 78818
Release user fee. House is vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Patrick, Reginald Rendell		PROPERTY: 00000	Total: \$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 15-02329	Bill#: 80974
Release user fee. House is non-liveable.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Peacock, Daniel Thelston &		PROPERTY: 25265	Total: \$116.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 13-32080	Bill#: 81064
Release user fee. Vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Peanut Sandwich Shop		PROPERTY: 00000	Total: \$1,721.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 10-17	Account: 08-04229	Bill#: 99999
Release user fees. Closed in 2010.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Priest, Julian		PROPERTY: 11797	Total: \$368.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 15-17	Account: 06-02707	Bill#: 99999
Release user fee. House is vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Simmons, Joseph Frank		PROPERTY: 16247	Total: \$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 09-26520	Bill#: 86713
Release user fee. Vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Simmons, Joseph Frank		PROPERTY: 16788	Total: \$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 09-26520	Bill#: 86712
Release user fee. Vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Thurman, Laconya T.		PROPERTY: 20279	Total: \$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 11-05542	Bill#: 91898
Release user fee. Vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Walters, Jimmy C & Deborah Kay		PROPERTY: 60395	Total: \$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 13-41559	Bill#: 93600
Release user fee. S/W is vacant.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Whaley, Glen Edward		PROPERTY: 5378	Total: \$406.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 16-17	Account: 02-00358	Bill#: 99999
Release user fees. Home used for storage.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00

Wilson, Wanda		PROPERTY: 88807	Total:	\$203.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2017	Account: 15-01315	Bill#:	96971
Release user fee. Vacant.				

Agenda Item #16: COMMENTS:

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

A. Department Managers:

1. **Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director:** stated the following:
 - A construction company hit a main water line on Bill Hooks Road during a boring process; **and**
 - There will be a boil water advisory for about two (2) days.
2. **Amanda Harrelson:** stated the following:
 - I would like to thank the Board of Commissioners for the exercise equipment at the senior centers; **and**
 - I would like to thank Larry Hayes for allowing his workers to deliver the equipment and getting it set up.

B. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Commissioner Russ:** stated the following:
 - Harold, I have a petition with seventy-one (71) signatures for Water District IV;
 - I went and got my examination for my CDL License at the Health Department and was very pleased; **and**
 - In Oxford, North Carolina, we have the Masonic Home for Children, and they would love to have some of these foster children at the Department of Social Services up there.
2. **Vice Chairman Burroughs:** stated the following:
 - Harold, were you able to follow up on the Frank Norris Road request? Harold replied stating they had talked and he had a petition;
 - I received a call from a gentleman that wanted to know about running water down Sandy Plain Church Road, and I would like for Harold to check on this;
 - When budget time comes, I would like for us to consider the Sheriff's Department.
3. **Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:
 - My Water Board member has informed me that we have lost 450,000 gallons of water in the Riegelwood area, and I think we need to place a lock on the meter;
 - We have also lost water in the Cerro Gordo area, and we need to place a meter and a lock at that location;
 - My Water Board member's term will soon expire, and I need someone to serve on this board; **and**
 - We have three (3) people who will soon be added on the Nursing Home Board, and we need some more people to serve on this committee.
4. **Vice Chairman Burroughs:** There is a misunderstanding on Cerro Gordo usage of the County water. This is reciprocating with Cerro Gordo using County water and County using Cerro Gordo water.
5. **Commissioner Bullard:** stated the following:
 - At budget time, we need to help the Sheriff's Department; **and**
 - We need to recognize Roseland Volunteer Fire Department for their volunteerism and very beneficial fundraisers.

MOTION:

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve and adopt the following Proclamation of Appreciation and Recognition to Roseland Volunteer Fire Department, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

PROCLAMATION of APPRECIATION and RECOGNITION to

ROSELAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the fire departments in Columbus County are noted for their ability to protect our citizens, their willingness to devote their time and efforts, and when a need arises in their community, their ability to coordinate events and fundraisers that will generate the necessary funds for a given cause; **and**

WHEREAS, observation has been made that ***Roseland Volunteer Fire Department*** has the ability to coordinate events, including fundraisers, that pulls willing volunteers together who work harmoniously to accomplish the task at hand; **and**

WHEREAS, when many people come together as one unit for a given cause, work smoothly together as a unit, it increases the ability to accomplish the goal at hand; **and**

WHEREAS, it is very rewarding to know that we have citizens who are willing to work together, as a team, for the greater cause.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners proudly presents this **Proclamation of Appreciation and Recognition** to ***Roseland Volunteer Fire Department***, for their diligent and endless hours of dedication in their efforts to protect our citizens and coordinate events that benefit many people.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 19th day of February, 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

6. **Commissioner McDowell:** stated the following:
 -A lot of us attended the Opioid Presentation at South Columbus High School last Thursday night, and it was a great and informative meeting;
 -It will be presented at East Columbus High School this Thursday night;
 -I suggest that someone video the opioid presentation and put it on our website and the schools' website; **and**
 -Blacks Tire Service had a car in the Daytona Race and they are letting people know what Columbus is all about, and we need to follow with this information.

7. **Chairman McKenzie:** stated the following:
 -At the Opioid Presentations, there are not enough attendance, and we need to get this information out to everyone in the County; **and**
 -The Ad Hoc Committee Meeting for the schools is scheduled for March 15, 2018, at 6:30 P.M., in the County Commissioners' Chambers.

- C. **County Manager / County Attorney (Michael H. Stephens:** stated I have been contacted by R.J. Corman about closing within a week, and Monday would be a good day.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (a) (6) PERSONNEL:

At 8:45 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into a Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (6) Personnel, after a five (5) minute recess, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #17: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (a) (6) PERSONNEL:

No official action was taken.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:

At 10:30 P.M., Vice Chairman Burroughs 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 Board of Commissioners interviewed applicants for the County Attorney position. No decision or action was taken”*.

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

Agenda Item #18: ADJOURNMENT:

At 10:31 P.M., Vice Chairman Burroughs made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Russ. 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
Monday, February 19, 2018
8:21 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
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**

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Giles E. Byrd

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:21 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 #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

February 05 2018 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the February 05, 2018 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:22 P.M., Vice Chairman Burroughs 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
Monday, February 19, 2018
8:21 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
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**

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Giles E. Byrd

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:21 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 #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

February 05 2018 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the February 05, 2018 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:22 P.M., Vice Chairman Burroughs 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
Monday, February 19, 2018
8:21 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
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**

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Giles E. Byrd

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:21 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 #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

February 05 2018 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the February 05, 2018 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:22 P.M., Vice Chairman Burroughs 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
Monday, February 19, 2018
8:21 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
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**

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Giles E. Byrd

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:21 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 #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

February 05 2018 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the February 05, 2018 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:22 P.M., Vice Chairman Burroughs 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
Monday, February 19, 2018
8:21 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
 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**

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Giles E. Byrd

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:21 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 #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

February 05 2018 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the February 05, 2018 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:22 P.M., Vice Chairman Burroughs made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E. MCKENZIE, Chairman