

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**Tuesday, June 30, 2020
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 a Public Hearing and a Special Called Meeting which was duly called for, advertised and scheduled.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

6:30 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING - EXTENSION OF COLE FIRE AND INSURANCE DISTRICT:
any person who wishes to be heard on the Extension may send written comments to publiccomments@columbusco.org.

PUBLIC HEARING CALLED to ORDER:

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the Public Hearing to order, and stated this Public Hearing is for the extension of Cole Fire and Insurance District. The purpose of the Public Hearing is for any person who wishes to be heard on the extension to send written comments.

POLICY:

Chairman Russ requested that Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney, orally read the Policy on Comments at Public Hearings. Ms. Prince orally read the policy in its entirety.

COMMENTS:

Chairman Russ opened the floor for comments. Ms. Prince orally read the one (1) following comment that was received by e-mail.

Evelyn Waddell (grande@rsnet.org):

As a senior citizen living in Fair Bluff, NC, I have given much thought to how the proposal to extend Cole Fire and Insurance District to include the territorial area within the corporate limits of Town of Fair Bluff. Living on a fixed income, along with all the charges that have affected our town in recent years, our Senior Citizens cannot afford to have property taxes increase. I have done some research and have found that my county taxes will increase by \$100.00. Our town has an Insurance Services Office rating of 5. This rating was obtained **(information ends)**

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED:

At 6:33 P.M., there being no further comments, Chairman Russ stated the Public Hearing was closed.

6:33 P.M.

REGULAR SESSION

Agenda Items #1, #2 and #3:

**MEETING CALLED to ORDER, INVOCATION
and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:**

At 6:33 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the June 30, 2020 Special Called 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 Giles E. Byrd.

Agenda Item #4: RESOLUTION - RESOLUTION of AGREEMENT to EXTEND the COLE FIRE and INSURANCE DISTRICT to INCLUDE the TOWN of FAIR BLUFF:

Al Leonard, Fair Bluff Town Manager, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution of Agreement to Extend the Cole Fire and Insurance District to Include the Town of Fair Bluff.

**RESOLUTION of AGREEMENT to EXTEND the
COLE FIRE and INSURANCE DISTRICT to INCLUDE the
TOWN of FAIR BLUFF**

WHEREAS, the Town of Fair Bluff (hereinafter referred to as Town) provided, as a governmental service, fire protection through a contract with the Fair Bluff Fire Department (hereinafter referred to as District); **and**

WHEREAS, the external territorial boundaries of the Town is contiguous to the District, with the aggregate external boundary coincident with the existing boundary of the District; **and**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Commissioners passed a Resolution on the 17th day of March, 2020, requesting that the territory within the corporate limits of the Town become part of and be included within the boundaries of the Cole Fire Tax District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, do hereby agree for the territory within the corporate limits of the Town of Fair Bluff to become part of and be included within the boundaries of the Cole Fire Tax and Insurance District pursuant to N.C.G.S. §153A-303.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 30th day of June, 2020.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman

/s/ JAMES E. PREVATTE

/s/ TRENT BURROUGHS

/s/ CHARLES T. McDOWELL

/s/ MICHAEL H. STEPHENS, County Manager

/s/ JEROME McMILLIAN, Vice Chairman

/s/ GILES E. BYRD

/s/ RICKY BULLARD

ATTESTED BY:

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

/s/ AMANDA B. PRINCE, County Attorney

Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution of Agreement to Extend the Cole Fire and Insurance District to Include the Town of Fair Bluff, seconded by Commissioners Bullard, the motion unanimously passed.

Commissioner Byrd asked what the tax levy would be. Commissioner Prevatte replied stating the tax levy would be ten (\$.10) cents.

Agenda Item #5: BUDGET - COLUMBUS COUNTY FY 2020-2021 OPERATING BUDGET APPROVAL and ADOPTION:

Mike Stephens, Columbus County Manager, requested Board approval and adoption of the Columbus County FY 2020-2021 Operating Budget by adoption and approval of the following Columbus County Budget Ordinance.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE
FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina:

Section 1: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the General Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and

ending June 30, 2021 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

DEPARTMENT	APPROPRIATIONS
Governing Body	272,154
Administration	279,776
Personnel	166,226
Purchasing & Safety	130,643
Finance	435,650
Tax Administration	1,247,897
County Attorney	270,412
Court Facilities	520,281
Elections	464,507
Register of Deeds	449,967
Non - Departmental	1,920,233
Management Information Systems	421,675
Professional Services	68,638
Central Garage	61,600
Public Buildings - DSS	90,800
Public Buildings - Administration	21,823
Public Buildings - Senior Center	31,406
Public Buildings - Miller	303,534
Public Buildings - All Other	558,590
Public Buildings - Farm Services	30,959
Public Buildings - POTW	39,914
Sheriff	6,968,696
Law Enforcement Center	3,525,910
EMS Medical Director	15,350
Emergency Services	1,581,072
Fire Marshal	157,419
Medical Examiner	73,000
Animal Control	371,765
Airport	655,234
Planning	204,650
Building Inspection Department	374,029
Economic Development	201,622
Cooperative Extension	530,626
Soil Conservation	232,038
Health Department	4,616,313
Social Services	9,149,369

Public Assistance	1,772,364
Veterans Services	147,435
Education	15,062,620
Library	1,512,916
Parks and Recreation	540,927
Department of Aging	2,935,082
Special Appropriations	944,674
Transfers to Other Funds	1,695,061
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS:	61,054,857

Section 2: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the General Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

SOURCE	REVENUE
Ad Valorem Taxes	32,367,110
Court Facilities Revenues	90,000
Sales Tax Revenues	10,628,400
Collections Revenues	39,019
Miscellaneous Revenues	926,100
Transfers	29,020
Fund Balance Appropriation	1,587,446
Legal Department Revenues	108,001
Elections Revenues	1,500
Register of Deeds Revenues	299,680
Sheriff's Office Revenues	1,768,909
Detention Center Revenues	139,360
Emergency Services Revenues	49,705
Fire Marshal Revenues	9,000
Animal Control Revenues	16,200
Airport Revenues	588,500
Building Inspection Department Revenues	432,000
Planning Revenues	9,800
Cooperative Extension Revenues	1,200
Soil & Water Conservation Revenues	36,000
Health Department Revenues	2,259,211
Social Services Revenues	7,084,722
Veterans Services Revenues	2,000
Education Revenues	261,000
Library Revenues	205,000

Recreation Revenues	11,000
Department of Aging Revenues	2,104,974
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES:	61,054,857

Section 3: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Tax Revaluation Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Tax Revaluation	99,000
Total Appropriations	99,000

Section 4: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Tax Revaluation Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

Transferred From General Fund	20,000
Fund Balance Appropriated	79,000
Total Estimated Revenues	99,000

Section 5: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Ambulance & Rescue Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Ambulance & Rescue	666,466
Total Appropriations	666,466

Section 6: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Ambulance & Rescue Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

Ambulance & Rescue Tax	666,466
Total Estimated Revenues	666,466

Section 7: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Fire Districts Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

DEPARTMENT	APPROPRIATION
Evergreen Fire District	53,680
St James Fire District	18,643
North Whiteville Fire District	157,852
Nakina Fire District	95,860
Old Dock Fire District	53,398
Hallsboro Fire District	58,331
Roseland Fire District	78,677
Yam City Fire District	121,656
Acme Delco Fire District	308,991
Klondyke Fire District	107,677
Coles Service Fire District	93,986
Cerro Gordo Fire District	68,219
Williams Township Fire District	95,719

DEPARTMENT	APPROPRIATION
White Marsh-Welch Fire District	44,400
Brunswick Fire District	135,819
Bolton Fire District	35,932
Buckhead Fire District	16,905
East Columbus Fire District	11,677
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS:	1,557,422

Section 8: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Fire Districts Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

Special Fire Tax	1,557,422
Total Estimated Revenues	1,557,422

Section 9: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Debt Service Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Debt Service	2,769,653
Total Appropriations	2,769,653

Section 10: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Debt Service Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

Transferred From General Fund	1,641,962
Transferred From 1/2 Sales and Use Tax	269,853
Transferred From Water Districts II, III, V	857,838
Total Estimated Revenues	2,769,653

Section 11: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the E - 911 Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM	325,811
Total Appropriations	325,811

Section 12: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the E - 911 Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

NC 911 BOARD REVENUES	325,811
Total Estimated Revenues	325,811

Section 13: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the HUD Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

HUD	1,813,348
Total Appropriations	1,813,348

Section 14: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the HUD Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

HUD Revenues	1,813,348
Total Estimated Revenues	1,813,348

Section 15: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Columbus County Water District I Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Columbus County Water District	712,012
Total Appropriations	712,012

Section 16: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Water District I Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

Revenues From Operations	712,012
Total Estimated Revenues	712,012

Section 17: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Columbus County Water District II Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Columbus County Water District	961,964
Total Appropriations	961,964

Section 18: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Water District II Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

Revenues From Operations	961,964
Total Estimated Revenues	961,964

Section 19: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Columbus County Water District III Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Columbus County Water District	559,450
Total Appropriations	559,450

Section 20: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Water District III Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

Revenues From Operations	559,450
Total Estimated Revenues	559,450

Section 21: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Columbus County Water District IV Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Columbus County Water District	716,660
Total Appropriations	716,660

Section 22: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Water District IV Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

Revenues From Operations	716,660
Total Estimated Revenues	716,660

Section 23: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Columbus County Water District V Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Columbus County Water District	798,250
Total Appropriations	798,250

Section 24: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Water District V Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

Revenues From Operations	798,250
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Total Estimated Revenues	798,250
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Section 25: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Tabor City Incubator Project Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Tabor City Incubator Project	40,000
Total Appropriations	40,000

Section 26: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Tabor City Incubator Project Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

Revenues From Operations	40,000
Total Estimated Revenues	40,000

Section 27: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Transportation Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Transportation	632,989
Total Appropriations	632,989

Section 28: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Transportation Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

Revenues From Operations	632,989
Total Estimated Revenues	632,989

Section 29: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Solid Waste Fund for the operation of county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for the County.

Solid Waste	5,035,404
Total Appropriations	5,035,404

Section 30: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Solid Waste Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

Landfill User Fees	3,906,654
Tipping Fees	1,005,750
Tire Disposal	50,000
Miscellaneous	73,000
Total Estimated Revenues	5,035,404

Section 31: There is hereby levied a tax rate of eighty and one half cents (\$0.80 5) per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation of property listed as of January 1, 2020 for the purpose of raising revenue included in "Ad Valorem Taxes" in the General Fund in Section 2 of this ordinance.

Section 32: The Budget Officer is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations as contained herein under the following conditions.

- A. He/she may transfer amounts between line items expenditures within a department without report being required. These changes should not result in increases in recurring obligations such as salaries.
- B. He/she may transfer amounts between departments without a report being required.
- C. He/she may not transfer any amounts between funds, except as approved by the Board of Commissioners in the Budget Ordinance as amended.

Section 33: The Finance Officer may make cash advances between funds for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days without reporting to the Board of Commissioners. Any advances that extend beyond ninety (90) days must be approved by the Board. All advances that will be outstanding at the end of any fiscal year must be approved by the Board.

Section 34: Copies of this Budget Ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Board and to the Finance Officer to be kept on file for review. Direction from the Board of Commissioners will be given to the Finance Officer in the disbursement of funds.

Adopted this 30th day of June 2020.

/s/ P. Edwin Russ, Chairman
Columbus County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve and adopt the Columbus County FY 2020-2021 Operating Budget, as presented and amended at the Monday, June 29, 2020 Budget Workshop Number 4, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs.

A roll-call vote was taken with the following results:

AYES: Chairman P. Edwin Russ, Commissioners James E. Prevatte, Giles E. Byrd, Trent Burroughs, and Charles T. McDowell; **and**

NAYS: Vice Chairman Jerome McMillian and Commissioner Ricky Bullard.

The motion passes on a five (5) to two (2) vote.

Agenda Item #7: ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:37 P.M., Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman