

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS****Monday, July 06, 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 the regularly scheduled meeting, it being the first Monday.

**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**

**APPOINTEE ABSENT:**

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 P. Edwin Russ call the July 06, 2020 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Charles T. McDowell. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner James E. Prevatte.

**REQUEST by COMMISSIONER RICKY BULLARD:**

Commissioner Ricky Bullard stated the following:

1. I have talked with Amanda B. Prince, Columbus County Attorney, today regarding allowing the public to attend the Board Meetings;
2. Ms. Prince stated the Board was allowed to do social distancing;
3. This was our choice to make; **and**
4. I will make the following motion.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to allow the public to attend the Board meetings and keep each individual in attendance six (6') feet apart, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian.

Commissioner Prevatte asked Ms. Prince what are the legalities of this action. Ms. Prince replied stating this ruling does not technically apply to these meetings because of this being local government. The Chairman and the Board can decide what they want to do.

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

**AYES:** Vice Chairman Jerome McMillian and Commissioner Ricky Bullard; **and**  
**NAYS:** Chairman P. Edwin Russ, Commissioners James E. Prevatte, Giles E. Byrd, Trent Burroughs and Charles T. McDowell.

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

**AGENDA ADD-ON:**

Chairman Russ stated the following Agenda Add-on needs to be added to this Agenda.

**Finance - Budget Amendment:** Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, is requesting Board approval of this Budget Amendment.  
**(Bobbie Faircloth will be present to explain and answer any questions the Commissioners may have.)**

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the Add-on as Agenda Item #5A,

seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #4: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:**

- A. June 02, 2020 Budget Workshop Number One;
- B. June 09, 2020 Budget Workshop Number Two;
- C. June 15, 2020 Regular Session Minutes Board Meeting; **and**
- D. June 16, 2020 Budget Workshop Number Three.

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the above listed four (4) sets of minutes, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #5: TAX DEPARTMENT - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:**

Needom Hughes, Tax Administrator, delivered the following departmental update.

- 1. The County Collection Rate for fiscal year 2019 as of June 30, is 97.30%. We will still be accepting post marked mail through June 30, 2020. Estimating, that will bring our rate up to 97.50% for 2019 tax billings.
- 2. 2019 **Amount Billed:** \$25,472,548.85, **Collected Amount:** \$24,777,414.40.
- 3. We are currently still working on our revaluation that will go into effect for the billing year 2021. We have fiscally visited all 50,000 parcels and we are sure that proper corrections have been made to anything that may have not been listed correctly on the card. There are roughly 6,000 parcels that we have notes on that will be revisited. These check backs are very time consuming. We will have to measure and appraise each of these. Most of these check backs are additions on houses, new construction, pole barns, out buildings, etc. (this is from failure to pull a permit).
- 4. The Tax Office is staying very busy during this time with all the changes that have happened during the COVID-19. We will start to generate the tax bills mid- July and will be sending them out in August. For the tax year 2020, we will be billing and collecting for all municipalities within the county.
- 5. I appreciate the consideration of all involved who help make the Columbus County Tax Office successful.

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to accept the Tax Department’s Departmental Update, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #5A: FINANCE - BUDGET AMENDMENT (ADD-ON): Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, requested Board approval of the following Budget Amendment.**

**Expenditures:**

10-4310-550000	Capital Outlay	\$286,483
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**Revenues:**

10-3839-439110	Loan Proceeds	\$239,483
10-3991-499101	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$47,000

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

The following comments were made relative to the Agenda Add-on:

- 1. Commissioner Byrd stated this was an oversight/mis-communication;
- 2. Upon request, Chairman Russ orally read a text message he received that requested him to orally read the Agenda Add-on, and he did likewise;
- 3. Commissioner Burroughs stated the Board approved the funds for the cars to be purchased and we thought the total number of cars had been purchased, and only two (2) of the cars were purchased, and we were not aware of this;
- 4. Since the money was not spent, we want to re-appropriate the money so the cars can be purchased; **and**
- 5. Commissioner Prevatte stated this is the money we borrowed for a three (3) year payoff.

**Agenda Item #6: TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES - ANNUAL REPORT:**

Dennis Williams, BS, Southern Regional Director, delivered the Annual Report.

**Agenda Item #7: AGING - FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT:**

Kristie Massey, Director of Aging, requested Board approval of \$64,039, with no match for Title C-1 Congregate Meals.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the sixty-four thousand, thirty-nine and 00/100 (\$64,039.00) dollars from the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, with no county match, for the Title C-1 Congregate Meals, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #8: SOLID WASTE - TRANSFER STATION BIDS:**

Harold Nobles, Solid Waste Director, requested Board approval of the low bid to Cypress Knee General Contracting LLC, for repairs to the transfer station, from the following Bid Tabulation.

**BIB TABULATION**

PROJECT OWNER: Columbus County  
 PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Solid Waste Transfer Station  
 BID OPENING DATE: June 25, 2020 @ 11:00 A.M.  
 ENGINEER: Green Engineering, P.L.L.C.

**CONTRACT NUMBER 1:**

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	CYPRESS KNEE	SMITH & ALLEN
1A	Site Work	11,500.00	26,000.00
1B	Structural Improvements-Refuge Transfer Building	726,655.00	992,000.00
1C	Electrical Construction	72,335.00	63,000.00
	<b>TOTAL CONTRACT NUMBER 1:</b>	<b>\$810,490.00</b>	<b>\$1,081,000.00</b>

I, **E. LEO GREEN, III**, hereby certify that this Bid Tabulation is a true and correct representation of the bids received for this project according the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ **E. LEO GREEN, III**  
 NC Firm License: P-0115

06-25-2020

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to approve the low bid to Cypress Knee General Contracting, LLC, at the cost of eight hundred ten thousand, four hundred ninety and 00/100 (\$810,490.00) dollars, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #9: ADMINISTRATION - HURRICANE MATTHEW DRA 17 GRANT AWARD OF RECONSTRUCTION:**

Mike Stephens, County Manager, requested approval of the low bid by Cook Contractors, for the Columbus County DRA, contract for Juanita Russ, from the following Bid Tabulation, and approval for Mike Stephens to execute the contract once approved by Attorney Amanda Prince.

BIDDER	AMOUNT
From The Ground Up Construction	\$130,464.00
Cook Contractors	\$99,985.00
Nash Locklear Construction	\$142,500.00

BIDDER	AMOUNT
Holland Construction Company	\$126,960.00
Oral's Construction	\$123,455.00
Frankie Demery	\$108,700.00

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the low bid by Cook Contractors of ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred eighty-five and 00/100 (\$99,985.00) dollars, for the reconstruction of one (1) house in the DRA Program, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #10: ADMINISTRATION - NORTH CAROLINA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY 2020 URGENT REPAIRS PROGRAM (URP) SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN the ADAMS COMPANY and COLUMBUS COUNTY:**

Mike Stephens, County Manager, requested Board approval of the Service Contract (Agreement for Services NCHFA 2020 Urgent Repair Program) between The Adams, Company and Columbus County.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the Agreement for Services NCHFA 2020 Urgent Repair Program between The Adams, Company and Columbus County, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. 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 Clerk to the Board's Office, for review.

**Agenda Item #11: ADMINISTRATION - NORTH CAROLINA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY 2020 URGENT REPAIR PROGRAM (URP):**

Mike Stephens, County Manager, requested Board approval of the following URP20 Program Requirements documents:

- A. Assistance Policy;
- B. Procurement and Disbursement Policy;
- C. Conflict of Interest Statement;
- D. Delegation Resolution; **and**
- E. Grant Project Ordinance.

**GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE  
2020 URGENT REPAIR PROGRAM  
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS**

Be it ordained by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners that, pursuant to Chapter 159, Section 13.2 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant project ordinance is hereby adopted:

Section 1. The project authorized is the 2020 Urgent Repair Program described in the work statement contained in the grant agreement between this unit and the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency.

Section 2. The officers of the unit are hereby directed to proceed with the grant project within the terms of the grant documents, the rules and regulations of the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency and the budget contained herein.

Section 3. The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete this project:

34-3300-333030	Urgent Repair Grant	\$100,000
	TOTAL:	\$100,000

Section 4. The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

34-5155-549835	Urgent Repair Grant Expenditures	\$100,000
	TOTAL:	\$100,000

Section 5. The finance officer is hereby directed to maintain with the Grant Project Fund sufficient detailed accounting records to provide the accounting to the grantor agency required by the grant agreement and federal and state regulations.

Section 6. Disbursements will be electronically wired to Columbus County in advances equal to 50% of the original approved grant amount. The Second and final disbursement will be made to Columbus County upon written certification to the NC Housing Finance Agency (as certified on the Project Management Report) that 90% of the funds previously advanced have been disbursed for eligible activities.

Section 7. Copies of this grant project ordinance shall be made available to the budget officer and the finance officer for direction in carrying out this project.

Adopted this 6th day of July, 2020  
/s/ P. Edwin Russ, Chairman

Attested By:  
/s/ June B. Hall  
Clerk to Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the above listed documents for the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency 2020 Urgent Repair Program (URP), seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #12: ADMINISTRATION - 2019 CDBG NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION (CDBG-NR) PROJECT GRANT #18-C-3058:**

Mike Stephens, County Manager, requested Board approval of the following documents for Project Grant #18-C-3058:

- A. Program Policies;
- B. Code of Conduct;
- C. Grant Project Ordinance;
- D. Optional Coverage Relocation Plan;
- E. Section 3; **and**
- F. Fair Housing Plan.

**Grant Project Ordinance  
2019 CDBG-NR PROGRAM  
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS**

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners that pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant ordinance is hereby adopted:

**Section 1:** The project authorized is the Neighborhood Revitalization project described in the work statement contained in the grant agreement #18-C-3058 between this unit and the Department of Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division. This project is more familiarly known as the Columbus County 2019 Community Development Neighborhood Revitalization Project.

**Section 2:** The officers of this unit are hereby directed to proceed with the grant project within the terms of the grant documents, the rules and regulations of the Department of Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division and the budget contained herein.

**Section 3:** The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete this project:

**REVENUES:**

CDBG-NC Grant	\$	750,000.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>750,000.00</b>

**Section 4:** The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

**EXPENDITURES:**

Housing Clearance	\$	45,000.00
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Temporary Relocation	\$ 25,000.00
Housing Reconstruction	\$ 605,000.00
General Administration	\$ <u>75,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>\$ 750,000.00</b>

**Section 5:** The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain within the Grant Project Fund sufficient detailed accounting records to provide the accounting to the grantor agency required by the grant agreement(s) and federal and state regulations.

**Section 6:** Funds may be advanced from the General Funds for the purpose of making payments as due. Reimbursement requests should be made to the grantor agency in an orderly and timely manner.

**Section 7:** The Finance Officer is directed to report annually on the financial status of each project element in Section 4 and on the total grant revenues received or claimed.

**Section 8:** The Budget Officer is directed to include a detailed analysis of past and future costs and revenues on this grant project in every budget submission made to the board.

**Section 9:** Copies of this grant project ordinance shall be made available to the Project Manager, Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out this project.

**ADOPTED**, this the 6th day of July, 2020.

/s/ **P. Edwin Russ, Chairman**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the documents listed above for the 2019 CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization (CDBG-NR) Project Grant #18-C-3058, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed. Due to the number of pages, this information will be on file in the Administration Office, for review.

**Agenda Item #13: NCACC - VOTING DELEGATE for the NCACC 113<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS SESSION:**

Alissa Cobb, NCACC, requested the designation of a voting delegate during the virtual Business Session of the NCACC 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to designate Commissioner Trent Burroughs as the voting delegate for the NCACC 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Business Session, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #14: ORDINANCE - LAND USE REGULATION ORDINANCE:**

Commissioner Ricky Bullard requested approval to modify the Land Use Regulation Ordinance to redact “Intensive Livestock Farming” as a Regulation use.

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to redact Intensive Livestock Farming as a Regulation Use in the Land Use Regulation Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte.

Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney, stated the following:

1. This cannot be enforced
2. The Planning Board needs to address this issue, and submit a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners;
3. There are many other statutory changes that need to be made; **and**
4. We need to know if the Board would like to change all of these matters at one time.

Commissioner Bullard stated the Board needs to move forward with this statutory change and establish a date for a public hearing.

Commissioner Bullard withdrew his original motion, and Commissioner Prevatte withdrew his original second.

**AMENDED MOTION:**

Commissioner Bullard made an amended motion to request the Planning Board to review this item and respond, so we can set the date and time for a public hearing to be held, an amended second by Commissioner Prevatte. The amended motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #15: APPOINTMENTS / RE-APPOINTMENTS / REPLACEMENTS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS and AUTHORITIES:**

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

COMMITTEE	ZONE/ EB	PERSON(S)	EXPIR. DATE	BOARD ACTION
Economic Development Commission Board of Directors	V	R.C. Soles, Jr.	06/30/2020	<b>HOLD</b>
Housing Advisory Committee	I III	Richard Peacock David Solomon	06/30/2020 06/30/2020	<b>HOLD</b> <b>HOLD</b>
Industrial Facilities Pollution Control Financing Authority	EB	Carl Meares, Jr.	06/30/2018?? ?	<b>HOLD</b>
Community Advisory Committee (Joint and/or Nursing Home)	EB EB EB EB EB EB EB EB EB EB	Karen Dawsey Robert Adams Zelma Biddle Linda Young Deborah Spivey Michael J. Creen Joleen Fowler Lewis Peggy Gerald Anita Adams Millie Freeman	04/04/2020 07/16/2020 ? ? 04/02/2019 07/16/2019 06/03/2020 06/03/2020 06/03/2020 06/03/2020	<b>HOLD</b> <b>HOLD</b> <b>HOLD</b> <b>HOLD</b> <b>HOLD</b> <b>HOLD</b> <b>HOLD</b> <b>HOLD</b> <b>HOLD</b> <b>HOLD</b>
Southeastern Economic Development Commission	II	Ricky James Benton	04/01/2020	<b>HOLD</b>
Water and Sewer Advisory Commission	I II III	Thaddus Williams Chris Smith Margaret Gordon	06/02/2020 06/02/2020 06/02/2020	<b>HOLD</b> <b>HOLD</b> <b>HOLD</b>

After discussion, it was the general consensus of the Board to wait until the first meeting in August.

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

At 6:57 P.M., Commissioner Bullard 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 V Board Meeting, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

June 15, 2020 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 #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - DISCUSSION of \$5.00 CHARGE for PAYMENT of MONTHLY BILL:**

Commissioner Ricky Bullard delivered the following discussion of the \$5.00 charge to customers to call the Public Utilities Office for payment of bill.

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

**Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V - GENERATOR ADDITIONS AND SCADA MODIFICATIONS:**

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the low bid from M&W Electric for the generator additions, and approval of the quote for SCADA modifications from Interstate Utility Sales, Incorporated.

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

**Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT IV - MATCH COMMITMENT LETTER for EDA INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT APPLICATION for the INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS PARK:**

Dr. Gary Lanier, Economic Development Director, requested Board approval of the match of \$630,272 in Article 44 Sales Tax Proceeds, contingent upon award of the EDA grant for the ILP Park Project, and approval of the attached match commitment letter.

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

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

At 7:16 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn the Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #10: PUBLIC INPUT (by TELEPHONE, E-MAIL or LETTER):**

Chairman Russ opened the floor for Public Input by telephone, e-mail or letter. Amanda Prince, County Attorney, orally read the following e-mails.

1. **Lee Creekmore, 952 Fertilizer Road, Riegelwood, NC 28456-7031:**  
I am writing to ask that you not consider a \$5 charge for county residents to pay utilities. This is an extravagant charge in any area, but particularly in Columbus County. Right now there is no other way to pay bill except by phone, mail or in person. Those of us in the county cannot reasonably drive to Whiteville to pay utility bill. Mail is time consuming for both customer and Columbus County Utilities. In this time when money is tight for people all over this country and particularly for your constituents in Columbus County, adding any more fees and making it harder for people to pay utility bill is not the right move for the resident of Columbus County. Please do not vote for this and let the residence of Columbus County have the opportunity to pay bills at a reasonable time and with no added fees to burden them. Thank You.
2. **Donna and John Askew, 100 E. White Oak Street, Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450:**  
We would like to thank you for NOT including in the budget the \$87,000 request for riot gear from Sheriff Greene. We feel you made a very wise and thoughtful decision in this, and many of our fellow citizens applaud you.
3. **Doris A. Strickland, Tabor City:**  
I am not for this county charging \$5.00 for people paying their water bill by phone. Most organizations are waiving fees during this pandemic. It is ridiculous to charge this amount anyways. Most companies and organizations charge \$1.50 in ordinary situations. Columbus County citizens should be treated far better than this.

Secondly, this board can waive restrictions and allow 11 public citizens to attend these meetings. WE have a right to know what goes on in the County's business. You have held illegal meetings because the public could not hear business discussions and transactions and you have had 11 people present which violated Roy Cooper's Executive Order.



Commissioners, I would highly recommend you to consider changing the way you conduct future meetings.

**Agenda Item #21: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Items, as presented, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

**A. Budget Amendments:**

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditures	68-4520-599900	CCPC Purchases of Services	(1,200)
Revenues	68-3452-430103	Smart Start Grant	(\$1,200)
Expenditures	10-5170-526001	WIC Departmental Supplies	1,445.30
	10-5170-526000	WIC Office Supplies	1,385.70
	10-5170-526007	WIC Misc Support C/S	2,544.00
Revenues	10-3510-430055	WIC	5,375.00
Expenditures	17-4213-512100	COVID-19 Salaries	12,000
	17-4213-512700	COVID-19 Longevity	1,000
	17-4213-518100	COPVID-19 FICA	6,000
	17-4213-518300	COVID-19 Retirement Contribution	5,000
	17-4213-518301	COVID-19 Insurance Contributions	5,321
Revenues	17-3581-430172	covid-19 Grant	29,321

**B. TAX REFUNDS AND RELEASES:**

*Property Value* Amount: \$81.43  
 Strickland, Brenda W PROPERTY: 96235 Total: \$200.93  
 Value: \$1,380.00 Year: 15-19 Account: 11-02959 Bill#: 99999  
 Release entire value. Camper given away. Release Columbus Rescue(2.59) Release  
 late list(3.91)Release

*Property Value* Amount: \$86.14  
 Williamson, Kenneth L. PROPERTY: 22673 Total: \$98.98  
 Value: \$10,700.00 Year: 2019 Account: 12-03103 Bill#: 34641  
 Release value of home. Repoed. Release Columbus Rescue(2.14) release Cole  
 Service(10.70)

*Refunds* Amount: \$82.56  
 Honeycutt, Nicholas Chase PROPERTY: 00000 Total: \$165.12  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2019 Account: 01-08805 Bill#: 99999  
 Refund billing on Plate EKE9060. Sold Vehicle after paying. Refund portion to Mr.  
 Honeycutt(128.58) and old balance to Columbus County Tax Office(82.56) to clear  
 out account.

*Refunds* Amount: \$392.84  
 Whaley, Christopher G PROPERTY: 15201 Total: \$402.60  
 Value: \$48,800.00 Year: 2019 Account: 08-03227 Bill#: 99999  
 Refund portion of value Overbilled on value. Release columbus Rescue(9.76)

*User Fee* Amount: \$0.00  
 Wayne, Revonda Kaye PROPERTY: 88172 Total: \$400.00  
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2019 Account: 14-01732 Bill#: 33037  
 Release user fee. County buyout.

**Agenda Item #22: COMMENTS:**

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

**A. Department Managers:**

**The Honorable Sheriff Jody Greene (text message orally read by Chairman Russ):**

1. On behalf of the Columbus County Sheriff's Office, I feel that it is a sad day when we make issues political and not for the benefit of the County and the citizens; **and**
2. I would like to thank Horry County Sheriff Thompson, and his staff, for donating much needed equipment for our detention and staff that the Commissioners failed to fund us.

**B. Board of Commissioners:**

1. **Commissioner Burroughs:** stated the following:

-It looked very good to see the massive number of American flags at the Veterans Park; **and**

-I would like to address the Budget situation that we experienced as follows:

On June 30, 2020, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners adopted its operation budget for fiscal year 2020/2021. This budget proved to be a challenge with the loss of sales and use tax revenue due to the effects of Covid-19. Faced with a decrease in State and Local revenues, the Board worked with the County Manager and the Finance Officer to develop a budget that was fair and equitable for all of our departments, as well as the taxpaying citizens of our County. By working together and looking at each line item in every County Department, Commissioners were able to adopt the budget with no tax increase to the citizens of our County.

In order to control our expenses, the majority of our departments' expenditures remained the same as the previous fiscal year. Our main focus in this year's budget was Education and Law Enforcement. Our Education budget increased \$1,035,668.00 (7%) including \$800,000.00 for technology needs. Our Law Enforcement budget which includes the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center, budget increased \$947,587.00. The Sheriff's Office increased amount was \$536,665.00 (8%) including 15 new vehicles and 4 new positions and the Detention Center's increased amount was \$410,922.00 (13%) including 1 new position and \$120,000.00 for a new camera system. Also, a 3% COLA adjustment was appropriated for ALL of our County employees.

Many of our departments did not receive all of their budget requests. The long-term, unknown effects of Covid-19 on the County's future revenues made it necessary to limit, to the extent possible, use of funds from the County's fund balance (savings account), however \$1,578,646.00 was used to achieve a balanced budget.

I say all of this because, I want everyone to understand exactly what this board did in regards to the budget preparation and why. I also want to correct many misconceptions and untruths perpetuated by the fake news propagandists.

The County does not have over \$30 million dollars in an unrestricted fund balance. I will say it again. The County does not have over \$30 million dollars in an unrestricted fund balance. What you must understand is the difference between an unrestricted fund balance and a restricted fund balance. The overall fund balance is an accumulation of all of the cash accounts that the County maintains. That balance has restricted funds held within it.

For an example: We have pledged millions of dollars in down payments for our new schools that are to be constructed among other capital projects. Those moneys are restricted, held in reserve for the purpose that they were set aside for. In other words, they are already obligated and cannot be spent for other purposes. If they were spent for other purposes they would not be available to make the payment that they were intended for. You can't spend the same money twice.

Another misrepresentation that is being perpetuated and has been brought to my attention is that once you take into account the increase in health insurance cost to employees, there is no raise. That too is untrue. Although health insurance cost to the County did increase this year by about \$160,000.00, the county pays 100% of the cost of health insurance premiums for our county employees, therefore there were no additional cost to our employees. In addition, the County's cost for our employee's State Retirement System increased by almost \$ 900,000.00, but there again 100% of that cost was paid by the county, at no additional cost to our employees. It is predicted that we will have similar cost increases of these amounts annually moving forward.

If this Board was to have funded all of the requests of each of our departments; some line items in some departments, by over 2000%, we would have to have increased our property tax rate by

31 ½ cents. That is an almost 28% percent overall tax increase placed on every taxpaying citizen in this county. I regularly speak with citizens from all across this County and almost without exception; everyone that I speak with say they are unable to pay anymore taxes. They feel they are taxed to death as it is. Especially, since this Covid -19 virus pandemic has hit.

Many citizens and business owners have been greatly affected by this Pandemic and are not as fortunate as our County employees are. Some of our taxpayers have been laid off from their jobs, some forced to close their businesses and most had their income stream dramatically reduced. No County employee was ever laid off or not paid because of this pandemic, whether they were working or not.

A wise friend of mine, a past Chief Financial Officer for County Government and present Chief Financial Officer for a Municipality Government once told me, “You can treat your fund balance in one of two ways. You can mine it, and once it’s gone, it’s gone and next to impossible to recreate, or you can treat it like a garden, harvest a little now and a little later for non reoccurring expenses and it will always be there when a crisis arises and you need it. It could be used for down payment on schools, an economic development incentive project, capital outlay project or any one time expenditure. It should never be used for an expenditure that has reoccurring cost such as salaries or payments, because to do that would be unsustainable.” Once explained, it didn’t take a rocket scientist to figure out. It’s basic economics.

The only thing that lies between the taxpaying citizens of this County and a massive tax hike is this Board of Commissioners. We as Commissioners have an obligation scrutinize every dime of every request to spend taxpayer’s money, and to make certain that we run our County’s finances in a very responsible way. I have pledged to do that and will continue to, as I feel the majority of this Board will, as long as we serve. So far in my tenure on this Board, there has never been a tax rate increase and I will do my best to ensure that there will not be one in the future. It will take dedication and strong will to accomplish. We must remember, at the end of the day, this is REAL MONEY we are talking about and REAL PEOPLE have to pay it.

2. **Commissioner Byrd:** stated the following:
  - Commissioner Burroughs covered the Budget well; **and**
  - I would like to thank Horry County for their help.
3. **Vice Chairman McMillian:** stated the following:
  - I hope that everybody is staying safe from the COVID-19 virus;
  - I have been working hard with Barry Gelesinsky about clogged ditches and state maintained roads; **and**
  - I think the State is responsible for keeping the ditches clean.
4. **Commissioner McDowell:** stated the following:
  - You can’t look at someone and tell who has the virus, so stay safe; **and**
  - We are spraying for mosquitoes.
5. **Commissioner Bullard:** stated the following:
  - The letter that was forwarded to the Board members from Bill Phipps relative to the school property needs to be addressed and handled by the end of July;
  - The helicopters for the Sheriff’s Department seem to be in good shape;
  - I received a telephone call from Drew Cox and he stated NCDOT had approved a 4-Way stop sign in Cerro Gordo, and they were working for a stop light where all the wrecks have been occurring at Highway 242 and 76;
  - We need to start working on the Boardman intersection.
6. **Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:
  - Commissioner Burroughs has done a good job with his statement relative to the budget;
  - There is an increase in the number of pandemic victims, and Columbus County is not number one;
  - I would like to congratulate the Health Department for what they have done and the people who helped;
  - We can pick and choose which Executive Order the President issued that we will follow, but in my opinion, they are as good as a law; **and**
  - I would like to have a vehicle count done on Highway 701, 401 and Hallsboro Road for future use.

- C. **County Manager (Michael H. Stephens):** stated the following:  
-Last Thursday, I visited the DA's office and they need more space, and we are looking at the Probation Office; **and**  
-We are working with Larry Hayes, Jess Hill and Judge Sasser trying to do what the County can do, and we are looking at Hallsboro School Cafeteria and Media Center.

**Agenda Item #23: ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:51 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V  
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING  
Monday, July 06, 2020  
6:57 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, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board.

**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 the Board**

**APPOINTEE ABSENT:**

Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 6:57 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

June 15, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the June 15, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - DISCUSSION of \$5.00 CHARGE for PAYMENT of MONTHLY BILL:**

Commissioner Ricky Bullard delivered the following discussion of the \$5.00 charge to customers to call the Public Utilities Office for payment of bill.

1. I have been told by water customers they are going to be charged \$5.00 if they ask for assistance with their water bills;
2. I have been told the Board voted for this in February, 2020, but if I did vote on this issue, I did not know what I was voting for; **and**
3. This is too much money to charge a customer just because they need a little assistance, and this is not good business.

Commissioner Prevatte stated the following:

1. There is no charge if they use the machine, use the toll free number published on their bill;
2. The \$5.00 charge is when they ask for help to call the number and use the credit machine; **and**
3. The citizens need to be educated on the procedure to be used.

Commissioner McDowell stated the following:

1. This information is not on the water bill, but will be; **and**
2. The Water Board needs to re-address this matter of the \$5.00 charge.

Commissioner Burroughs stated the following:

1. We need the Water Board to re-address this matter and come to the Board and explain; **and**
2. We need better instructions on this process to enable us to explain to the customers.

Commissioner Bullard stated there was a big problem in getting anyone to answer the telephone in the Water Department, and many other departments.

**Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V - GENERATOR ADDITIONS AND SCADA MODIFICATIONS:**

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the low bid (3 bids received), from M&W Electric for the generator additions, and approval of the quote for SCADA modifications from Interstate Utility Sales, Incorporated.

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>GENERATOR ADDITIONS (M &amp; W Electric)</b>	<b>SCADA (Interstate Utility)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
I	\$27,700.00	\$41,474	\$69,174.00
II	\$68,300.00	\$26,107.00	\$94,407.00
III	\$80,100.00	\$2,025.50	\$82,125.50
IV	\$99,000.00	\$4,051.00	\$103,051.00
V	\$24,500.00	\$2,025.50	\$26,525.50
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$299,600.00</b>	<b>\$75,683.00</b>	<b>\$375,283.00</b>

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the low bid of M & W Electric, at the cost of two hundred ninety-nine, six hundred and 00/100 (\$299,600.00) dollars, for the generator additions, and the quote from Interstate Utility Sales, Incorporated for the SCADA modifications, at the cost of seventy-five thousand, six hundred eighty-three and 00/100 (\$75,683.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:16 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V  
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING  
Monday, July 06, 2020  
6:57 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, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board.

**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 the Board**

**APPOINTEE ABSENT:**

Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 6:57 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

June 15, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the June 15, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - DISCUSSION of \$5.00 CHARGE for PAYMENT of MONTHLY BILL:**

Commissioner Ricky Bullard delivered the following discussion of the \$5.00 charge to customers to call the Public Utilities Office for payment of bill.

1. I have been told by water customers they are going to be charged \$5.00 if they ask for assistance with their water bills;
2. I have been told the Board voted for this in February, 2020, but if I did vote on this issue, I did not know what I was voting for; **and**
3. This is too much money to charge a customer just because they need a little assistance, and this is not good business.



Commissioner Prevatte stated the following:

1. There is no charge if they use the machine, use the toll free number published on their bill;
2. The \$5.00 charge is when they ask for help to call the number and use the credit machine; **and**
3. The citizens need to be educated on the procedure to be used.

Commissioner McDowell stated the following:

1. This information is not on the water bill, but will be; **and**
2. The Water Board needs to re-address this matter of the \$5.00 charge.

Commissioner Burroughs stated the following:

1. We need the Water Board to re-address this matter and come to the Board and explain; **and**
2. We need better instructions on this process to enable us to explain to the customers.

Commissioner Bullard stated there was a big problem in getting anyone to answer the telephone in the Water Department, and many other departments.

**Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V - GENERATOR ADDITIONS AND SCADA MODIFICATIONS:**

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the low bid (3 bids received), from M&W Electric for the generator additions, and approval of the quote for SCADA modifications from Interstate Utility Sales, Incorporated.

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>GENERATOR ADDITIONS (M &amp; W Electric)</b>	<b>SCADA (Interstate Utility)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
I	\$27,700.00	\$41,474	\$69,174.00
II	\$68,300.00	\$26,107.00	\$94,407.00
III	\$80,100.00	\$2,025.50	\$82,125.50
IV	\$99,000.00	\$4,051.00	\$103,051.00
V	\$24,500.00	\$2,025.50	\$26,525.50
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$299,600.00</b>	<b>\$75,683.00</b>	<b>\$375,283.00</b>

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the low bid of M & W Electric, at the cost of two hundred ninety-nine, six hundred and 00/100 (\$299,600.00) dollars, for the generator additions, and the quote from Interstate Utility Sales, Incorporated for the SCADA modifications, at the cost of seventy-five thousand, six hundred eighty-three and 00/100 (\$75,683.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:16 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V  
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING  
Monday, July 06, 2020  
6:57 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, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board.

**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 the Board**

**APPOINTEE ABSENT:**

Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 6:57 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

June 15, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the June 15, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - DISCUSSION of \$5.00 CHARGE for PAYMENT of MONTHLY BILL:**

Commissioner Ricky Bullard delivered the following discussion of the \$5.00 charge to customers to call the Public Utilities Office for payment of bill.

1. I have been told by water customers they are going to be charged \$5.00 if they ask for assistance with their water bills;
2. I have been told the Board voted for this in February, 2020, but if I did vote on this issue, I did not know what I was voting for; **and**
3. This is too much money to charge a customer just because they need a little assistance, and this is not good business.

Commissioner Prevatte stated the following:

1. There is no charge if they use the machine, use the toll free number published on their bill;
2. The \$5.00 charge is when they ask for help to call the number and use the credit machine; **and**
3. The citizens need to be educated on the procedure to be used.

Commissioner McDowell stated the following:

1. This information is not on the water bill, but will be; **and**
2. The Water Board needs to re-address this matter of the \$5.00 charge.

Commissioner Burroughs stated the following:

1. We need the Water Board to re-address this matter and come to the Board and explain; **and**
2. We need better instructions on this process to enable us to explain to the customers.

Commissioner Bullard stated there was a big problem in getting anyone to answer the telephone in the Water Department, and many other departments.

**Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V - GENERATOR ADDITIONS AND SCADA MODIFICATIONS:**

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the low bid (3 bids received), from M&W Electric for the generator additions, and approval of the quote for SCADA modifications from Interstate Utility Sales, Incorporated.

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>GENERATOR ADDITIONS (M &amp; W Electric)</b>	<b>SCADA (Interstate Utility)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
I	\$27,700.00	\$41,474	\$69,174.00
II	\$68,300.00	\$26,107.00	\$94,407.00
III	\$80,100.00	\$2,025.50	\$82,125.50
IV	\$99,000.00	\$4,051.00	\$103,051.00
V	\$24,500.00	\$2,025.50	\$26,525.50
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$299,600.00</b>	<b>\$75,683.00</b>	<b>\$375,283.00</b>

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the low bid of M & W Electric, at the cost of two hundred ninety-nine, six hundred and 00/100 (\$299,600.00) dollars, for the generator additions, and the quote from Interstate Utility Sales, Incorporated for the SCADA modifications, at the cost of seventy-five thousand, six hundred eighty-three and 00/100 (\$75,683.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:16 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V  
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING  
Monday, July 06, 2020  
6:57 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, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board.

**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 the Board**

**APPOINTEE ABSENT:**

Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 6:57 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

June 15, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the June 15, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - DISCUSSION of \$5.00 CHARGE for PAYMENT of MONTHLY BILL:**

Commissioner Ricky Bullard delivered the following discussion of the \$5.00 charge to customers to call the Public Utilities Office for payment of bill.

1. I have been told by water customers they are going to be charged \$5.00 if they ask for assistance with their water bills;
2. I have been told the Board voted for this in February, 2020, but if I did vote on this issue, I did not know what I was voting for; **and**
3. This is too much money to charge a customer just because they need a little assistance, and this is not good business.

Commissioner Prevatte stated the following:

1. There is no charge if they use the machine, use the toll free number published on their bill;
2. The \$5.00 charge is when they ask for help to call the number and use the credit machine; **and**
3. The citizens need to be educated on the procedure to be used.

Commissioner McDowell stated the following:

1. This information is not on the water bill, but will be; **and**
2. The Water Board needs to re-address this matter of the \$5.00 charge.

Commissioner Burroughs stated the following:

1. We need the Water Board to re-address this matter and come to the Board and explain; **and**
2. We need better instructions on this process to enable us to explain to the customers.

Commissioner Bullard stated there was a big problem in getting anyone to answer the telephone in the Water Department, and many other departments.

**Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V - GENERATOR ADDITIONS AND SCADA MODIFICATIONS:**

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the low bid (3 bids received), from M&W Electric for the generator additions, and approval of the quote for SCADA modifications from Interstate Utility Sales, Incorporated.

DISTRICT	GENERATOR ADDITIONS (M & W Electric)	SCADA (Interstate Utility)	TOTAL
I	\$27,700.00	\$41,474	\$69,174.00
II	\$68,300.00	\$26,107.00	\$94,407.00
III	\$80,100.00	\$2,025.50	\$82,125.50
IV	\$99,000.00	\$4,051.00	\$103,051.00
V	\$24,500.00	\$2,025.50	\$26,525.50
<b>TOTAL:</b>	\$299,600.00	\$75,683.00	\$375,283.00

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the low bid of M & W Electric, at the cost of two hundred ninety-nine, six hundred and 00/100 (\$299,600.00) dollars, for the generator additions, and the quote from Interstate Utility Sales, Incorporated for the SCADA modifications, at the cost of seventy-five thousand, six hundred eighty-three and 00/100 (\$75,683.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT IV - MATCH COMMITMENT LETTER for EDA INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT**

**APPLICATION for the INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS PARK:**

Dr. Gary Lanier, Economic Development Director, requested Board approval of the match of \$630,272 in Article 44 Sales Tax Proceeds, contingent upon award of the EDA grant for the ILG Park Project, and approval of the attached match commitment letter.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the match of six hundred thirty thousand, two hundred seventy-two and 00/100 (\$630,272.00) dollars in Article 44 Sales Tax Proceeds, contingent upon award of the EDA grant for the ILG Park Project, and approval of the following match commitment letter, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

June 15, 2020

Ms. Hillary Sherman  
NC Economic Development Representative  
Economic Development Administration  
US Department of Commerce

**RE: Match Commitment Letter**  
EDA Infrastructure Grant  
International Logistics Park

Dear Ms. Sherman:

Columbus County is applying for a \$2,521,088 EDA application for water infrastructure to serve the International Logistics Park, and the county is providing a match in the amount of \$630,272. The local matching funds are available, committed, and unencumbered, and the project activities in the EDA application would not start until a grant is made, if awarded.

Please let us know if any additional information is needed at this time. You can reach me at (910) 640-6630 or [mstephens@columbusco.org](mailto:mstephens@columbusco.org).

Sincerely,  
/s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS**, Chairman  
c.c.: Michael H. Stephens, County Manager

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:16 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman**



**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V**  
**COMBINATION BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday, July 06, 2020**  
**6:57 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, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board.

**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 the Board**

**APPOINTEE ABSENT:**

Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 6:57 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

June 15, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the June 15, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - DISCUSSION of \$5.00 CHARGE for PAYMENT of MONTHLY BILL:**

Commissioner Ricky Bullard delivered the following discussion of the \$5.00 charge to customers to call the Public Utilities Office for payment of bill.

1. I have been told by water customers they are going to be charged \$5.00 if they ask for assistance with their water bills;
2. I have been told the Board voted for this in February, 2020, but if I did vote on this issue, I did not know what I was voting for; **and**
3. This is too much money to charge a customer just because they need a little assistance, and this is not good business.

Commissioner Prevatte stated the following:

1. There is no charge if they use the machine, use the toll free number published on their bill;
2. The \$5.00 charge is when they ask for help to call the number and use the credit machine; **and**
3. The citizens need to be educated on the procedure to be used.

Commissioner McDowell stated the following:

1. This information is not on the water bill, but will be; **and**
2. The Water Board needs to re-address this matter of the \$5.00 charge.

Commissioner Burroughs stated the following:

1. We need the Water Board to re-address this matter and come to the Board and explain; **and**
2. We need better instructions on this process to enable us to explain to the customers.

Commissioner Bullard stated there was a big problem in getting anyone to answer the telephone in the Water Department, and many other departments.

**Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V - GENERATOR ADDITIONS AND SCADA MODIFICATIONS:**

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the low bid (3 bids received), from M&W Electric for the generator additions, and approval of the quote for SCADA modifications from Interstate Utility Sales, Incorporated.

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>GENERATOR ADDITIONS (M &amp; W Electric)</b>	<b>SCADA (Interstate Utility)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
I	\$27,700.00	\$41,474	\$69,174.00
II	\$68,300.00	\$26,107.00	\$94,407.00
III	\$80,100.00	\$2,025.50	\$82,125.50
IV	\$99,000.00	\$4,051.00	\$103,051.00
V	\$24,500.00	\$2,025.50	\$26,525.50
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$299,600.00</b>	<b>\$75,683.00</b>	<b>\$375,283.00</b>

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the low bid of M & W Electric, at the cost of two hundred ninety-nine, six hundred and 00/100 (\$299,600.00) dollars, for the generator additions, and the quote from Interstate Utility Sales, Incorporated for the SCADA modifications, at the cost of seventy-five thousand, six hundred eighty-three and 00/100 (\$75,683.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:16 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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

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**P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman**