

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**Monday, April 20, 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 third 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**
(Excused)

Agenda Item #1: MEETING RESUMED from MARCH 16, 2020, and CALLED to ORDER:

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the April 20, 2020 Regular Session Board Meeting to order, and stated this April 20, 2020 Meeting is resumed from the March 16, 2020 Meeting, and the April 06, 2020 Board Meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Agenda Items #2 and #3: INVOCATION and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Ricky Bullard delivered the invocation. 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: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the following listed minutes (6 sets), with stated corrections on March 02, 2020, March 16, 2020 and March 23, 2020, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

- A. February 25, 2020 Joint Meeting with Whiteville City Schools Board of Education;
- B. March 02, 2020 Regular Session (**correction-s**);
- C. March 04, 2020 Joint Meeting with Southeastern Community College Board of Trustees;
- D. March 09, 2020 Joint Meeting with Columbus County Schools Board of Education;
- E. March 16, 2020 Regular Session (**correction-s**); **and**
- F. March 23, 2020 Board Retreat (**correction**).

MOTION for three (3) Agenda Items:

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to approve Agenda Items #5, #6 and #7, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #5: NC DEPARTMENT of TRANSPORTATION - RESOLUTION of SUPPORT to CONSTRUCT a LEFT TURN LANE on NC 87 (OLD STAGE ROAD) at SR 1740 (OLD LAKE ROAD):

Kenneth L. Clark, District Engineer, requested Board approval of the following Resolution of Support to Construct a Left Turn on NC87 (Old Stage Road) at SR1740 (Old Lake Road).

**RESOLUTION of SUPPORT to CONSTRUCT
a LEFT TURN on NC87 (OLD STAGE ROAD) at SR1740 (OLD LAKE ROAD)**

WHEREAS, the NCDOT has made a request to appear before the County Commissioners on April 20, 2020, to present a plan for installing a left turn lane on NC 87 at SR 1740; **and**

WHEREAS, the traffic volumes on NC 87 and on SR 1740 continue to increase including

a high proportion of heavy truck traffic; **and**

WHEREAS, the NCDOT believes the addition of a left turn lane on NC 87 at SR 1740 would function better and safer; **and**

WHEREAS, the proposed left turn lane would be an interim measure until such time that NC 87 is widened to a multilane roadway.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners endorse the installation of a left turn lane on NC 87 at SR 1740, provided that it does not require the purchase of additional right-of-way for said project.

APPROVED and **ADOPTED** this the 20th day of April, 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

Agenda Item #6: LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) - APPROVAL of MEMBERSHIP and ANNUAL REPORT:

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

Local Emergency Planning Committee Membership for approval:

Timothy Ward	Sheriff Jody Greene	Dana Mauldin	Les High
David McPherson	Mark Cox	Deuce Niven	Stephanie Kriner
Edwin Russ	Dalton Dockery	Randy Guyton	Donna Hill
Kay Worley	Shannon Blackman	Aaron Sulava	Kim Smith
Michael Oppenheim	Allen Johnson	Harold Nobles	Larry Hayes
Gina Ward	Dennis Williams	Adam Boyles	Hal Lowder
Emily Watson	Ronald Baziknet		

ANNUAL REPORT:

To: Board of Commissioners
 From: David McPherson, Chairman
 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
 Subject: Annual Report for 2019

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 2019 were as follows:
 Chairman: David McPherson
 Vice Chair: Deuce Niven
 Secretary: Kay Worley
2. Annual public notices of dates for the LEPC meetings for 2019 were announced in the News Reporter.
3. Rope Rescue Team
 - Acme Delco Riegelwood Fire-Rescue is currently overseeing team.
 - Received \$10,000 from county to assist in purchasing equipment. The team will need continued financial support from the county.
 - There is a need for additional volunteers to be a part of the team.
4. Water Rescue Team
 - 4 Boats have been purchased and placed throughout the county. These are located at Acme Delco Riegelwood Fire and Rescue, Fair Bluff Fire and Rescue, Old Dock Fire Department and Whiteville Rescue. Each of these departments has members that will respond to calls when needed throughout the county.
 - Received \$15,000 from county to assist in purchasing equipment. The team will need continued financial support from the county.

- There are 15 certified people in the county.
5. Safety
- Columbus County Emergency Services held Disaster Preparedness Workshop July 18 at the Vineland Station, Director Michael Sprayberry with NCEM was guest speaker.
 - Hurricane Expo was held June 1, 2019 at Columbus County Fairgrounds.
 - Emergency Responder training such as initial and continuing education is coordinated with Southeastern Community College.
 - Columbus County Emergency Services responded to 39 calls (search and rescue, major vehicle accidents, fuel leaks, structure fire, etc.)
 - Columbus County Fire Marshal Office responded to 81 fire calls (structure fire, illegal burns, major accidents, etc.). Conducted 65 fire investigations. Performed 217 fire inspections.
6. Tier II reports
- Industry is required to submit their Tier II reports to E-Plan, electronic web based reporting system.
 - Tier II reports for 2019 year have been filed with E-Plan currently the county has 71 agencies that report their information. 2019 E-Plan reports are due by March 31 of each year.

NOTE: The LEC supports the EMS departments request for an increase in their rescue tax. All departments, fire and EMS, are struggling with the shortage of volunteers.

Agenda Item #7: AIRPORT - GRANT AGREEMENT:

Phil Edwards, Airport Manager, requested Board approval of a Grant Agreement, Project No.: 36237.53.15.1, in the amount of \$73,468, and a match in the amount of \$8,164. The Grant Agreement 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 #8: CENSUS 2020 - UPDATE:

Dalton Dockery delivered the following update on the 2020 Census.

I hope all is well, and that you are practicing your social distancing daily!

First, I want to thank you for your financial support of the Complete Count Census Committee. I am sure you are aware of how important it is that we all be counted. The School Systems, Partnership for Children and several other organizations have been very helpful in getting the word out. As you are aware of we worked to get 8 locations set up throughout the county to answer questions & assist were possible with the census. Due to the Coronavirus, all locations were closed due to the stay at home order by Governor Cooper.

However, we did order Columbus County Complete Census Signs that are being placed throughout the county. These signs are blue and white election type signs and are placed at intersections and places of businesses. We have already covered the Nakina, Tabor City, Dothan, Pireway, Old Dock, Guideway, Hallsboro, Lake Waccamaw and Riegelwood Area. We are in the in the process of putting signs throughout the rest of the county as well. In the following weeks we will try to cover, Whiteville, Chadbourn, Evergreen, Fair Bluff & Cerro Gordo, depending on what we are allowed to do relative to the executive order.

We continue to work to educate the citizens of Columbus County on how important it is that the census be completed. We also have a Columbus County Census Facebook Page that has been view numerous times and we continue to update the public on where we are in the process. There, has also been an extension give in-terms of when the census has to be completed with is great.

At this time of the \$5000.00 that was budgeted we have spent approximately \$1586.00 and most of that cost were for the signs that we purchased to be placed throughout the county. Our intentions are to be wise and prudent in our spending and when this is over we will return what is left back to the county.

At this point the National level self-response rate is at 48.1 % and North Carolina's self-response rate is at 45.1%. which is not bad. In comparison to the state Columbus County's self-response rate is at 38% which puts us 7 percentage points behind the state, so we still have work to do. However,

if we look at neighboring counties, Bladen is at 34.9%, Brunswick is at 40.2%, Pender is at 39% and Robeson is at 35%. So, in the scheme of things we are not doing too bad. Most counties on the southeast are averaging in the high 30's and low 40's percentiles.

Agenda Item #9: PLANNING - PROPOSED ORDINANCES TO DEMOLISH AND REMOVE ABANDONED STRUCTURES LOCATED AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES:

- A. 3604 New Britton Highway, Whiteville; and
- B. 14214 James B. White Highway, Tabor City.

John Ganus, Code Enforcement Officer, requested Board approval of the following two (2) Ordinances for the demolition of the abandoned structures listed.

COUNTY OF COLUMBUS
 111 Washington Street
 Whiteville, North Carolina 28472

File No. AS-16-16

VERSUS

**James Everett Peoples,
 Margaret Peoples and W. C. Peoples**
 Unknown Address
 Whiteville, North Carolina 28472

Ordinance Number: _____

AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE CODE ADMINISTRATOR TO REMOVE OR DEMOLISH THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED AS ABANDONED AND UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION AND DIRECTING THAT A NOTICE BE PLACED THEREON THAT THE SAME MAY NOT BE OCCUPIED

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus find that the structures described herein are Abandoned and unfit for human habitation under the County Abandoned Structures Code and that all the procedures of the Abandoned Structures Code have been complied with; and

WHEREAS, the structures should be removed or demolished as directed by the Code Administrator and should be placarded by placing thereon a notice prohibiting use for human habitation; and

WHEREAS, the owner of the structure has been given a reasonable opportunity to bring the structures into compliance with the Abandoned Structures Code, in accordance with NCGS 160A-443(5) pursuant to an order issued by the Code Administrator on May 10, 2016, and the owner has failed to comply with the Order;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the County Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus, that:

Section 1. The owner of such building(s), dwelling(s) and premises is hereby ordered to vacate any occupants and/or personal property therein on or before April 19, 2020.

Section 2. The Code Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to place placards containing the legend:

"This building is unfit for human habitation. The use or occupation of this building for human habitation is prohibited and unlawful."

on the buildings located at the following addresses:

**3604 New Britton Hwy East, (PID # 07233)
 Whiteville, North Carolina 28472**

Section 3. The Code Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to proceed to remove or demolish all the above described structures and accessory structures in accordance with his order to the owner thereof dated the 10th day of May 2016, and in accordance with the Columbus County Abandoned Structures Code and NCGS 160A-443;

Section 4. (a) The costs of removal or demolition shall constitute a lien against the real property upon which the cost was incurred. The lien shall be filed in the office of the County Tax Collector, and shall have the same priority and be collected in the same manner as the lien for special assessments in Article 10 of NCGS Chapter 160A;

(b) Upon completion of the required removal or demolition, the Code Administrator shall sell the materials of the dwelling or structures and credit the proceeds against the cost of removal or demolition. The Code Administrator shall certify the remaining balance to the Tax Collector. If a surplus remains after the sale of the materials and satisfaction of the cost of removal or demolition, the Code Administrator shall deposit the surplus in the Superior Court where it shall be secured and disbursed in the manner provided by NCGS 160A-443(6)

Section 5. It shall be unlawful for any person to remove or cause to be removed the placard from any building to which it is affixed. It shall likewise be unlawful for any person to occupy or to

permit the occupancy of any building therein declared to be unfit for human habitation.
Section 6. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this 20th day of April, 2020.

**/s/ P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman
COLUMBUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

ATTEST:

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

COUNTY OF COLUMBUS
111 Washington Street
Whiteville, North Carolina 28472

File No. AS-2015-05

VERSUS

S. J. FAIRCLOTH
c/o Richard J. Faircloth
7254 James B. White Hwy South
Whiteville, North Carolina 28472

Ordinance Number: _____

AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE CODE ADMINISTRATOR TO REMOVE OR DEMOLISH THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED AS ABANDONED AND UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION AND DIRECTING THAT A NOTICE BE PLACED THEREON THAT THE SAME MAY NOT BE OCCUPIED

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus find that the structures described herein are Abandoned and unfit for human habitation under the County Abandoned Structures Code and that all the procedures of the Abandoned Structures Code have been complied with; and

WHEREAS, the structures should be removed or demolished as directed by the Code Administrator and should be placarded by placing thereon a notice prohibiting use for human habitation; and

WHEREAS, the owner of the structure has been given a reasonable opportunity to bring the structures into compliance with the Abandoned Structures Code, in accordance with NCGS 160A-443(5) pursuant to an order issued by the Code Administrator on January 4, 2016 and the owner has failed to comply with the Order;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the County Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus, that:

Section 1. The owner of such building(s), dwelling(s) and premises is hereby ordered to vacate any occupants and/or personal property therein on or before April 19, 2020.

Section 2. The Code Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to place placards containing the legend:

"This building is unfit for human habitation. The use or occupation of
this building for human habitation is prohibited and unlawful."

on the buildings located at the following addresses:

**14214 James B. White Hwy South (PID #15719)
Tabor City, North Carolina 28463**

Section 3. The Code Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to proceed to remove or demolish all the above described structures and accessory structures in accordance with his order to the owner thereof dated the 4th day of January 2016, and in accordance with the Columbus County Abandoned Structures Code and NCGS 160A-443;

Section 4. (a) The costs of removal or demolition shall constitute a lien against the real property upon which the cost was incurred. The lien shall be filed in the office of the County Tax Collector, and shall have the same priority and be collected in the same manner as the lien for special assessments in Article 10 of NCGS Chapter 160A;

(b) Upon completion of the required removal or demolition, the Code Administrator shall sell the materials of the dwelling or structures and credit the proceeds against the cost of removal or demolition. The Code Administrator shall certify the remaining balance to the Tax Collector. If a surplus remains after the sale of the materials and satisfaction of the cost of removal or demolition, the Code Administrator shall deposit the surplus in the Superior Court where it shall be secured and disbursed in the manner provided by NCGS 160A-443(6)

Section 5. It shall be unlawful for any person to remove or cause to be removed the placard from any building to which it is affixed. It shall likewise be unlawful for any person to occupy or to permit the occupancy of any building therein declared to be unfit for human habitation.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this 20th day of April, 2020.

/s/ P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman
Columbus County Commissioners

ATTEST:

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

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to adopt the Proposed Ordinances to demolish and remove abandoned structures, File Number: AS-20-15-05 and File Number AS-16-16, as above listed, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #10: SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION - BEAVER BOUNTY PRICE:

John Deans, Chairman of the Beaver Bounty Program, requested an increase in the Beaver Bounty Price.

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to increase the Beaver Bounty Price to fifty and 00/100 (\$50.00) dollars.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to table this item until after the budget process, seconded by McDowell.

After discussion was conducted relative to the need for the increase, the timing of the increase, budget wise, and the amount of the increase, it was the general consensus of the Board to take this matter under advisement.

Agenda Item #11: SOCIAL SERVICES - MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2020:

Algernon McKenzie, Social Services Director, delivered the February and March, 2020 Monthly Administrative Updates.

February 2020:

On February 13, 2020, I attended the Director’s Executive Board meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina. During the meeting, we were given some information on Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation. The state is looking at the rates for transportation that are being paid across the state. There are concerns that when the health plan contracts with providers their rates will be low causing the provider not to sign contracts for Medicaid transportation. This will be a part of Medicaid Managed Care when it is implemented. We were also informed that if Medicaid expansion occurs that there will be come cost to counties. The Federal Government will not pay 100% of the cost for Expansion Medicaid, which will increase the number of eligible individuals in counties. Thus increasing Medicaid caseloads and the need for additional space for staff.

Rob Morrell with DHHS presented information to the directors about the NCFast Training Certification that will be coming soon. He explained that workers who complete application, recertification, etc. in NCFast will have to be certified by completing two different test in NCFast to be certified. The state is developing the two levels for certification. This is a requirement and workers will have to be recertified every three years. New workers must complete the training within the first 90 days of employment. Current workers will have 18 months from the county’s go live date. There were many questions about this new certification, which could start by September 2020.

Lastly were given some updates on Child Welfare, Adult Services, and Child Care Subsidy.

On February 27, 2020, I attended the Eastern Regional Director’s Meeting. During the meeting we received an update from the Division of Aging and Adult Services concerning the transferring of guardianship cases to local DSS agencies. At this point the state will continue to hold the contracts for guardianship with the corporations until the next fiscal year. There will be a work group to determine the best way to transition these cases throughout the state. They will provide some data to counties about the location where these individuals are being served, to help counties prepare to take these guardianship cases. There is still concern from the directors about increase workloads for existing staff.

There was discussion with Eastpointe, Trillium, and The Division of Mental Health around access to behavioral health services for children. During this time there were many concerns from directors about us not being able to get placement services when we have children with behavioral issues. Often when we have children in our custody, staff has to spend the night or days at our agencies or in hotels, because facilities are not willing to take complex cases. This is a growing problem with the facilities that the LME/MCO'S contract with in the eastern region and across the state. It was determined during the discussion that there needs to be more collaboration with the LME/MCO'S, DHHS, the Secretary, and the Director's Association around this issue. Local DSS Directors are held responsible for these children and adults in our custody in spite of the fact that facilities may refuse to take these individuals or there may not be a bed open in existing facilities. All agreed that there is a need for more state funding to develop resources to assist in addressing this issue statewide.

Another issue that was brought to our attention is that county ordinances in many areas will not allow facilities to be built for respite and residential care, which hinders the LME/MCO's from opening more homes to meet this growing need.

This was a very informative meeting with lots of information shared about the challenges we face in providing services to and protecting families in need of assistance.

**February 2020
Human Services**

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Adult Services (APS)	APS Reports Accepted: 9 County Wards: 23 Number of Payee Cases: 16 Adults Served APS: 0 Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: 1894 Amount Requested for Reimbursement: \$34,658.43
Children's Protective Services (CPS)	Reports Accepted: 38 Reports Screened out: 22 Families Receiving In-Home Services: 57 Children Served: 120 Contacts with Families Monthly: 467 Assessments: 31
Foster Care	Foster Children in Foster Homes: 60 Children Placed Outside County: 12 Agency Adoptions: 0 Pending Adoptions: 2 Total Foster Homes Licensed: 7 Total Children in Foster Care: 62
Work First Employment (TANF)	Applications Taken: 24 Applications Approved: 16 Individuals Receiving Benefits: 231 Entered Employments: 2 Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 1
Program Integrity	Collections for Fraud: \$2,081.00 New Referrals: 10 Cases Established: 5
Day Care	Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 442 Children on the Waiting List: 402 Amount Spent on Day Care Services: \$180,353.80

**February 2020
Economic Services**

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
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Food & Nutrition	Applications Taken: 131 Applications Approved: 149 Active Cases: 5,285 Benefits Issued: \$1,200,367.00 Participants Served: 10,887
Adult Medicaid	Applications Taken: 119 Cases Terminated: 59 Redeterminations: 397 Applications Processed: 134
Family & Children's Medicaid	Applications Taken: 162 Applications Processed: 194 Redeterminations: 597 Total Medicaid Cases: 13,632 Total Individuals Receiving: 17,937
Child Support	Absent Parents Located: 48 Orders Enforced: 968 Active Cases: 3,869 Collections: \$409,038.00

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: February 2020

News/Updates/Vacancies

Adult and Family & Children's Medicaid:

The State has implemented a new communication service for Medicaid and Food and Nutrition clients to receive important alert information. Information can be received via text messages or emails. Alerts that they will receive if they opt in are things such as wellness alerts like flu shot reminders; open enrollment announcements, shelter openings and locations during disasters, energy assistance program awareness and other important broad information. These alerts will never be specific to a client's application or case. Clients can opt in by going through the electronic ePASS system and creating an account and choosing to opt in; making an application for either program and choosing the options to receive alerts or by calling their caseworker and she can complete the process for them. Workers had to complete a 10-minute web based training to learn how to opt a client into the process. We have been notified we will be monitored in March for our Special Assistance Program (Rest Home) and they will be reviewing 25 cases in this program. This Team passed their monthly compliance Report Card and continues to train 3 new workers and has 1 vacancy.

Child Support and Paralegal:

Child Support continues to fight for the children of Columbus County in court. 146 cases were prepared for 2 days of allowed court and with continued issues that the Judge will not allow that does not follow Child Support policy has really discouraged workers of getting these monies for the children. The Judge will not issue an order an arrest for a non-custodial parent that has been personally served by the Sheriff's Department if he/she does not show up in Child Support Court. The workers then have to complete a criminal show cause/order so the Judge will issue a criminal order for arrest (appearance bond). If he/she fails to appear after being arrested, then the money for the bond does not go to the child; it goes to the school board. On these cases we would love to get board approval for these monies to go to the child since that is initially where the money is intended. Due to some of these reasons; Child Support is not on track to meet all of their HB630 compliance goals with the State this year. The Paralegal prepared 121 orders and reviewed 48 orders prepared by the Attorney. We currently have 2 vacancies on this Team.

Food and Nutrition:

The dates our State Monitor was scheduled to come to complete our onsite Food and Nutrition

Management Evaluation were moved to March due to her sickness and inclement weather. She will be in the County on March 3rd and 4th to complete the Evaluation. Some records that we were able to get scanned into NCFASST will be reviewed by her prior to her visit. A total of 85 Food and Nutrition cases will be reviewed. We are fully staffed on this Team.

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

- We have filled our vacancy on the Medicaid Transportation team. This will illuminate the Supervisor from having to complete these vacancy duties and get back to her proper Supervisor role of training, coaching and 2nd party reviewing cases for correctness.
- WorkFirst Cash continues to meet their timeliness compliance timeframes. We have been notified we will be monitored by the State in March for this program and they will be reviewing 25 cases for correctness and timeliness.
- Our Interpreter has been helping with the Energy programs while she is not interpreting for the agency.
- Maintenance, Housekeeping and the Deputy continue to keep our building clean and safe.

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD REPORT
Melinda H. Lane, Program Manager
Vacancies/Updates/News for February 2020

Intake/Investigation/Assessment:

The Intake/Investigation/Assessment Unit continues to be fully staffed. With the ever-changing policy, the increased demands on workers, the limited support provided from the state, and the growing caseloads with growing complexities, workers occasionally demonstrate symptoms of burnout which can affect our productivity and ability to meet state standards. DHHS has developed a regional support plan in preparation for future regionalization which is supposed to provide more consultation, support, and technical assistance from the Child Welfare consultant. A new consultant, Daphine Little, has been assigned to Columbus County. She made her first visit in February and will be visiting monthly in the state's effort to provide more direct support to counties.

In-Home Services:

The In-Home Services Unit now has one vacancies. A worker that previously left to go to another county has returned. Interviews will be scheduled for the last vacancy as soon as possible. With the ever-changing policy, the increased demands on workers, the limited support provided from the state, and the growing caseloads with growing complexities, workers occasionally demonstrate symptoms of burnout which can affect our productivity and ability to meet state standards. DHHS has developed a regional support plan in preparation for future regionalization which is supposed to provide more consultation, support, and technical assistance from the Child Welfare consultant. A new consultant, Daphine Little, has been assigned to Columbus County. She made her first visit in February and will be visiting monthly in the state's effort to provide more direct support to counties.

Foster Care:

The Foster Care/Adoptions Unit is now fully staffed with two new workers beginning March 2. With the ever-changing policy, the increased demands on workers, the limited support provided from the state, and the growing caseloads with growing complexities, workers occasionally demonstrate symptoms of burnout which can affect our productivity and ability to meet state standards. DHHS has developed a regional support plan in preparation for future regionalization which is supposed to provide more consultation, support, and technical assistance from the Child Welfare consultant. A new consultant, Daphine Little, has been assigned to Columbus County. She made her first visit in February and will be visiting monthly in the state's effort to provide more direct support to counties.

Transitional Unit:

The Transitional unit is now fully staffed. Two new workers began in February and the fourth begins the first week of March. With the ever-changing policy, the increased demands on workers, the limited support provided from the state, and the growing caseloads with growing complexities, workers occasionally demonstrate symptoms of burnout which can affect our productivity and ability to meet state standards. DHHS has developed a regional support plan in preparation for future regionalization which is supposed to provide more consultation, support, and technical assistance from the Child Welfare consultant. A new consultant, Daphine Little, has been assigned to Columbus County. She made her first visit in February and will be visiting monthly in the state's effort to provide more direct support to counties.

Adult Services:

The Adult Services Unit continues to be fully staffed. This Unit continues to encounter more and more issues with homeless adults and adults with mental health issues which creates other problems

because of the slow response time of mental health agencies and the lack of resources for this population. A tremendous amount of time is being dedicated to assisting those adults with mental health issues that are unable to be independent, unable to manage their own funds, etc.

Work First Employment:

This Unit now has three workers due to one transferring to another position. Due to decreased caseloads in this area we will be looking at the best way to utilize this position in another way. This Unit continues to assist with 200% and Emergency Assistance for those eligible. Staff in this Unit are no longer assisting with screening energy applications due to a decrease in applications.

Child Day Care:

The Child Day Care Unit continues to work within the NCFAST system dealing with daily issues and updates. The waiting list continues to grow which is a concern for staff, but this Unit continues to monitor the list and occasionally works the list in an attempt to decrease the list by small amounts. This Unit also continues to deal with continuing issues with spending coefficients which is a problem across the state.

Program Integrity:

Program Integrity continues to work hard to get caught up with program integrity duties and cases. Program Integrity continues to work within NCFAST with issues regarding data that does not always correctly reflect the actual work of staff. For the month of January, 50 applications were processed for the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) with 47 approved and 3 denied. And only one application was processed for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) and denied due to funding being exhausted at the end of January. Program Integrity, along with CIP and LIEAP, was monitored in February with a good preliminary report from the monitoring. Due to reorganization this Unit now has a new position that will assist with Program Integrity and Energy. This position is currently being advertised within the agency.

March 2020 Update:

Due to the Covid-19 situation in North Carolina our monthly Directors meeting in Raleigh NC was canceled until further notice. The Directors Association will be communicating information and policy changes via e-mails. The Division of Health & Human Services will be conducting conference calls and webinars with local DSS agencies and their staff as needed, by program area.

On March 11, 2020, we held our first agency staff meeting of 2020. During the meeting staff was given an update on Medicaid Transformation and the delays with NC Fast. Staff was informed about the Worker Certification in NC Fast that will be required of all staff across the state who complete eligibility in the NC Fast system. There will be two levels of certification once it is implemented. At this point it is being developed and tested before it is rolled out to counties.

Staff was reminded not to use their speaker phones to return calls or listen to messages with their door open, as this could be a violation of confidentiality if others hear private information being discussed.

Lastly, I informed staff that the Governor had declared a State of Emergency for North Carolina, which would help the state access federal resources quicker. Staff was informed that there were seven cases of Covid-19 in the state and that they should follow the guidelines suggested: wash their hands, use hand sanitizer, wipe door handles, and cover your mouth when coughing.

On March 12, 2020, we had a visit from our Adult Programs Representative, Kate Walton. She provided some program updates and some training dates for staff. We discussed the new county MOU's with the state that should be coming out in April. Lastly, we staffed two problem cases with her to get some direction on how to provide case management for them with their special needs, which are hard to meet.

During the last two weeks of March most local committee meetings were canceled due to Covid-19 increasing in North Carolina and for safety in our county. We have been participating in planning meetings and calls with emergency Management and other county officials/department heads.

On March 30, 2020, our agency stopped face-to-face contact with the public except for mandated CPS and APS referral initiations. The state is now allowing DSS to conduct court ordered and

Foster Care visits via Skype, Face Time, or Conference Calls. This is being done to protect staff as well as families from the risk of exposure to Covid-19.

We are continuing to provide service to our citizens by mail, phone, and on-line.

**March 2020
Human Services**

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Adult Services (APS)	APS Reports Accepted: 3 County Wards: 23 Number of Payee Cases: 16 Adults Served APS: 1 Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: 1,880 Amount Requested for Reimbursement: \$32,721.30
Children's Protective Services (CPS)	Reports Accepted: 38 Reports Screened out: 16 Families Receiving In-Home Services: 61 Children Served: 131 Contacts with Families Monthly: 552 Assessments: 28
Foster Care	Foster Children in Foster Homes: 67 Children Placed Outside County: 16 Agency Adoptions: 0 Pending Adoptions: 2 Total Foster Homes Licensed: 7 Total Children in Foster Care: 69
Work First Employment (TANF)	Applications Taken: 16 Applications Approved: 7 Individuals Receiving Benefits: 217 Entered Employments: 4 Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 0
Program Integrity	Collections for Fraud: \$5,524.72 New Referrals: 6 Cases Established: 5
Day Care	Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 445 Children on the Waiting List: 345 Amount Spent on Day Care Services: \$177,929.00

**March 2020
Economic Services**

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Food & Nutrition	Applications Taken: 144 Applications Approved: 143 Active Cases: 5,268 Benefits Issued: \$1,207,555.00 Participants Served: 10,903
Adult Medicaid	Applications Taken: 127 Cases Terminated: 50 Redeterminations: 368 Applications Processed: 172
Family & Children's Medicaid	Applications Taken: 87 Applications Processed: 155 Redeterminations: 681 Total Medicaid Cases: 13,641 Total Individuals Receiving: 17,936

Child Support	Absent Parents Located: 41 Orders Enforced: 1,151 Active Cases: 3,824 Collections: \$531,193.19
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HUMAN SERVICES BOARD REPORT
Melinda H. Lane, Program Manager
Vacancies/Updates/News for March 2020

Intake/Investigation/Assessment:

The Intake/Investigation/Assessment Unit continues to be fully staffed. Although COVID-19 has made a huge impact on public agencies, child welfare services are mandated services and continue to be delivered while maintaining the safety for the children, families, resource parents, and staff. Regular updates are being provided from the state regarding guidance and information as things evolve. Staff are having to continue to make home visits and contacts with families and children while at the same time utilizing safety precautions at all times.

In-Home Services:

The In-Home Services Unit now has one vacancy. An interview was recently scheduled and the applicant did not show up, therefore the position will be re-advertised as soon as approved. Although COVID-19 has made a huge impact on public agencies, child welfare services are mandated services and continue to be delivered while maintaining the safety for the children, families, resource parents, and staff. Regular updates are being provided from the state regarding guidance and information as things evolve. Staff are having to continue to make home visits and contacts with families and children while at the same time utilizing safety precautions at all times.

Foster Care:

The Foster Care/Adoptions Unit continues to be fully staffed. They have had a very busy month with 12 new children coming into custody. Although COVID-19 has made a huge impact on public agencies, child welfare services are mandated services and continue to be delivered while maintaining the safety for the children, families, resource parents, and staff. Regular updates are being provided from the state regarding guidance and information as things evolve. Staff are having to continue to make home visits and contacts with families and children while at the same time utilizing safety precautions at all times.

Transitional Unit:

The Transitional unit is now fully staffed. New staff that need to complete mandatory training before beginning a caseload are taking the required training on-line at this time. The state has modified the most necessary trainings to accommodate child welfare staff so they will not have to travel away from the office. Although COVID-19 has made a huge impact on public agencies, child welfare services are mandated services and continue to be delivered while maintaining the safety for the children, families, resource parents, and staff. Regular updates are being provided from the state regarding guidance and information as things evolve. Staff are having to continue to make home visits and contacts with families and children while at the same time utilizing safety precautions at all times.

Adult Services:

The Adult Services Unit is currently short-staffed due a social worker being on medical leave. The time of this worker's return is unknown at this time. Although COVID-19 has made a huge impact on public agencies, adult services, particularly adult protective services, are mandated and continue to be delivered while maintaining the safety of the elderly and disabled, along with their families and staff. Regular updates are being provided from the state regarding guidance and information as things evolve. Staff are having to continue to make home visits and contacts with clients and their families, but are utilizing safety precautions at all times.

Work First Employment:

This Unit now continues to be fully staffed. COVID-19 has made a huge impact on public agencies. The state has updated the TANF State Plan to allow telephone interviews for Work First applications, recertification's, short-term services and benefits. Certain necessary application documentation can be mailed to individuals that wish to apply and when received back the worker can conduct telephone interviews to complete that application. Some application information is also being provided for pick-up in the foyer area of the agency.

Child Day Care:

The Child Day Care Unit continues to be fully staffed. COVID-19 has made a huge impact on public agencies. Day Care services are continuing to be provided and the state is working with county agencies and day cares to help them stay open as much as possible while providing a safe environment for children. DSS staff continue to work with families to ensure their services stay in place while limiting contact to the telephone as much as possible.

Program Integrity:

Program Integrity continues to work hard to get caught up with program integrity duties and cases. COVID-19 has affected this unit by limiting office visits and encouraging telephone contact. Repayment agreements are being relaxed to help clients during this time.

Although electric companies have relaxed disconnections and the Governor has now ordered that public utilities not be disconnected, we continue to assist families, when they are eligible, with their cooling needs when they have received a late notice. This will help prevent many families from getting into a situation that is worse over time as charges accumulate. We are providing applications and information for pick-up in the foyer area of the agency and conducting telephone interviews to help determine eligibility.

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: **March 2020**

News/Updates/Vacancies**Adult and Family & Children's Medicaid:**

During COVID-19 many rules have relaxed for all programs. For applications, we can take the client's statement if we cannot get our information electronically. This has been done during hurricane disasters also however one rule they have relaxed for the first time is taking the client statement for medical bills they are still owing for to apply towards a deductible. For the review department, their reviews are being extended for another twelve or six months whichever cycle they are on. No Medicaid client can be terminated now except for death, if they move out of state or the client voluntarily request that their Medicaid be terminated even if we discover they are not eligible or they have aged out of the Family and Children's program. We are seeing an increase in applications, so the review departments are helping with those. We are fully staffed on these teams.

Food and Nutrition:

During COVID-19, Food and Nutrition rules have relaxed greatly and we are being flooded with applications. Applications and reviews do not have to have interviews completed. ABAWDs (Able Bodied Adults without Dependents) are exempt from working their 20 hours per week during this time. Active recipients will be getting the maximum allotment for two months. Example: Maximum allotment for a household of 1 is \$194.00; an elderly person that might only be receiving \$16.00 due to their housing being paid and they have no medical expenses to use because they are on Medicaid as a deduction will get an increase up to the \$194.00 for March and April. This may change for May if COVID-19 continues. All active Food and Nutrition households are being automatically extended for six months. Reports are being worked and this team and the Family and Children's Medicaid Team along with the Work First Team are helping with the flood of applications we are getting for Food and Nutrition. We have received our tentative results for our Management Evaluation and have rebutted some of the findings and are awaiting our final results from the State. We are fully staffed on this team.

Child Support and Paralegal:

Child Support is not having court during COVID-19 and our State Representative that visits and reviews files each month conducts a conference call and will be reviewing files once the restriction of travel has been lifted. Our Paralegal prepared 449 Orders and reviewed 66 Orders that the Attorney prepared. We continue to have 2 vacancies on this team.

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

- WorkFirst Cash also has some relaxed regulations during COVID-19. We do not have to complete face to face application and review interviews. This team is also helping Food and Nutrition complete their application processing by keying or contacting the client if necessary for questionable information.
- Our Interpreter has been helping with the Energy Program while not interpreting.
- Maintenance, Housekeeping and the Deputy continue to keep our building clean and safe.

Due to the number of attendees resulting from the COVID-19 virus, Mr. McKenzie could not be present, Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to accept the two (2) months Department of Social Services Administrative Updates, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #12: PROCLAMATION - WEEK of the YOUNG CHILD:

Selena Rowell, Executive Director, Smart Start, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Proclamation by Columbus County Commissioners Week of the Young Child.

Proclamation by Columbus County Commissioners
Week of the Young Child

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Partnership for Children (Smart Start) and other local organizations, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, are celebrating the **Week of the Young Child**, April 11 - 17, 2020; **and**

WHEREAS, these organizations are working to improve early learning opportunities, including early literacy programs, that can provide a foundation of learning for children in Columbus County, North Carolina; **and**

WHEREAS, teachers and others who make a difference in the lives of young children in Columbus County, North Carolina deserve thanks and recognition; **and**

WHEREAS, public policies that support early learning for all young children are crucial to young children's futures.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners of Whiteville, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 11 through April 17, 2020 as the **Week of the Young Child** in Columbus County, North Carolina, and encourage all citizens to work to make a good investment in early childhood in our county.

APPROVED and **ADOPTED** this the 20th day of April, 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

Agenda Item #13: PROCLAMATION - SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH:

Abby Williams, Families First, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation, April 2020.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION
April 2020

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and has public health implications for every community member of Columbus County; **and**

WHEREAS, Rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment impact our community as seen by statistics indicating that one in five women and one in 16 men will have experienced sexual assault by the time they complete college (Fisher, Cullen, & Turner, 2000); **and**

WHEREAS, We must work together to educate our community about what can be done to prevent sexual assault and how to support survivors; **and**

WHEREAS, Staff and volunteers of anti-violence programs at/in Columbus County encourage every person to speak out when witnessing acts of violence however small; **and**

WHEREAS, With leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual violence in Columbus County through prevention education, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of violence responsible for their actions; **and**

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Commissioners strongly supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts, including

conversations about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim that April 2020, is **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** in Columbus County and we join advocates and communities across the country in taking action to prevent sexual violence. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and each day of the year is an opportunity to create change for the future.

ADOPTED, this the 20th day of April 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

Agenda Item #14: RESOLUTION - RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR 988 NUMBER:

Tracy Ward, Deputy, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution of Support for 988 Number.

**RESOLUTION of SUPPORT for
988 NUMBER**

WHEREAS, Columbus County has a local walk-in facility who is dealing with mental health problems through behavioral health providers, for our citizens; **and**

WHEREAS, the telephone number presently being provided for help in times of crisis is an eleven (11) digit number, with staffed active answering; **and**

WHEREAS, mobile crisis providers are provided 24/365, with immediate dispatch upon request; **and**

WHEREAS, the presence of a kind and active voice on the end of their telephone call will help the individual caller feel more at ease to state their problem, and listen more carefully about the avenues of help that is available to them, and how to receive the help they need; **and**

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission proposes designating 988 as the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Hotline Number; **and**

WHEREAS, the three (3) digits number will allow easy access to the help needed, and to crisis services, reduce the stigma surrounding suicide and mental health conditions, and ultimately save lives; **and**

WHEREAS, the 988 number will be easy to remember, easy to dial, and provide timely help to those in need.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners do support the designation of the 988 number as the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Hotline Number.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 20th day of April, 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

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to approve and adopt the Proclamation by Columbus County Commissioners, Week of the Young Child, Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation, April 2020, and Resolution of Support for 988 Number, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #15: FINANCE - STATE APPLICANT DISASTER ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT:

Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, requested Board approval of the State - Applicant Disaster Assistance Agreement for the COVID 19 Pandemic - 4487-DR-NC, Public Assistance CFDA #97.036.

Commissioner Mc Dowell made a motion to approve the State - Applicant Disaster Assistance Agreement for the COVID 19 Pandemic - 4487-DR-NC, Public Assistance CFDA #97.036, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed. A copy of this document will be marked as Exhibit "C", and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 6, in the Office of the Clerk, for review.

Agenda Item #16: FINANCE - DESIGNATION of APPLICANT'S AGENT for COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, requested Board approval of the Designation of Applicant's Agent and Applicant Assurances for Public Assistance.

**DESIGNATION OF APPLICANT'S AGENT
AND APPLICANT ASSURANCES
FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

County of Columbus

PRIMARY AGENT

Bobbie Faircloth
County of Columbus
Finance Director
111 Washington Street
Whiteville, NC 28472
(910) 642-6825 Daytime Telephone

(910) 914-4108 Facsimile Number
(910) 499-1064 Cellular Number

SECONDARY AGENT

Kay Worley
County of Columbus
Emergency Services Director
608 N. Thompson Street
Whiteville, NC 28472
(910) 640-6610 Ext: 221 Daytime Telephone
(910) 640-1241 Facsimile Number
(910) 840-4077 Cellular Number

The above primary and secondary agents are hereby authorized to execute and file application for public assistance on behalf of the organization for the purpose of obtaining certain state and federal financial assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, (Public Law 93-288, as amended) or otherwise available. This agent is authorized to represent, and act for the organization in all dealings with the State of North Carolina and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for matter pertaining to such disaster assistance required by the agreements and assurances printed on the reverse side hereof.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Bobbie Faircloth
County of Columbus
Finance Director
111 Washington Street
Whiteville, NC 28472
910-642-6825
910-914-4108
910-234-7753

Applicant's Fiscal Year (FY) Start: 07-01

Applicant's Federal Employee's Identification Number: 56-60000289

Certifying Official's Signature: /s/ P. Edwin Russ

CERTIFYING OFFICIAL

P. Edwin Russ
County of Columbus
Chairman
111 Washington Street
Whiteville, NC 28472
910-940-0100
910-640-0208
910-840-0100

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Designation of Applicant's Agent and Applicant Assurances for Public Assistance, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #17: RESOLUTION — RESOLUTION DELEGATING LEASING AUTHORITY to COUNTY MANAGER DURING the STATE of EMERGENCY DUE to COVID-19:

Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Resolution Delegating Leasing Authority to County Manager during the State of Emergency due to COVID-19.

**Resolution Delegating Leasing Authority to County Manager during the State of
Emergency due to COVID-19**

WHEREAS, Columbus County declared a State of Emergency on March 24, 2020, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic; **and**

WHEREAS, real property may need to be acquired through lease in response to said COVID-19 Pandemic; **and**

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners wish to delegate to the County Manager the authority to determine what specific parcels of real property are temporarily essential to the County's needs in response to said pandemic and to lease such parcels for periods of up to one year in an amount not to exceed One Hundred, Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) during the course of the County's State of Emergency declared on March 24, 2020.

THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County resolves that:

1. The County Manager is authorized to determine what specific parcels of real property are temporarily essential to the County's needs in response to said pandemic and to lease such parcels for periods of up to one year in an amount not to exceed One Hundred, Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) during the course of the County's State of Emergency declared on March 24, 2020, upon such terms and conditions as the Manager shall determine.
2. The County Manager shall report to the Board of Commissioners at the first meeting of each quarter as to any leases entered into during the preceding quarter.

ADOPTED this the 20th day of April, 2020.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ **P. Edwin Russ, Chairman**

Attested By:
/s/ **June B. Hall, Clerk to Board**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution Delegating Leasing Authority to County Manager during the State of Emergency due to COVID-19, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #18: GOVERNING BODY - DESIGNATED PARKING for JURORS and DISABLED JURORS:

Commissioner Ricky Bullard requested designated parking spaces for jurors and disabled jurors. Commissioner Bullard stated the following.

1. I have spoken with Larry Hayes, Maintenance Director, and he stated he could designate sixteen (16) parking spaces between the Administration Building and the Tax Building for jurors and disabled jurors; **and**
2. When these sixteen (16) parking spaces are not being utilized by jurors, he would cover the signage up and they could be utilized by anyone.

MOTION:

Commissioner Bullard made a motion for sixteen (16) parking spaces between the Administration Building and the Tax Building be designated for jurors and disabled jurors, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian.

DISCUSSION:

Lengthy and in-depth discussion was conducted relative to the following:

- Placing a red flag on the juror when the spaces are being utilized;
- The parking spaces are optional if any juror chooses not to utilize the parking space;
- All parking spaces to be flagged as handicap to provide the number of spaces needed for the jurors; **and**
- There being inadequate parking spaces in the areas close to the Administration Building.

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

AYES: Vice Chairman McMillian and Commissioner Ricky Bullard; **and**
NAYS: Chairman Russ, Commissioners Burroughs, Byrd, McDowell and Prevatte.

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

Agenda Item #19: COURTHOUSE DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Ricky Bullard stated the following as an introduction to hold a discussion regarding the new Columbus County Courthouse.

1. We have received a letter from the Judge in reference to the new Columbus County Courthouse, and what we need to do;
2. We were given sixty (60) days to get this done and our time is running out; **and**
3. I wanted to check with our attorney to make sure we get the response within the allotted time, and what is going to be in the letter.

Commissioner Prevatte:

- I talked with the attorney that we have got, and we still got almost thirty (30) days before we have to respond to the judge;
- We are trying to get all the things that we could identify before we respond to the judge;
- We have not received the assessment from the Sheriff's Association so we can address the issues;
- We have completed all the projects we could identify, but some of the material that is needed has to be ordered; **and**
- Due to the approaching deadline, if we do not soon receive the assessment from the Sheriff's Association, we will need to have a person from a private company to do the assessment.

Commissioner Bullard: stated the following:

- The letter I received was issued March 13, 2020, and the response is needed by May 13, 2020;
- I have talked to our attorney and he is stating that it is important to include all of the critical information that we have, and I would like to see the letter before it is mailed;
- In accordance with the architect, we have three (3) options to choose from to expand the existing new Courthouse as follows:
 1. Expand two (2) Courthouse rooms in the existing Courthouse by going up with the existing walls;
 2. Re-do the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, and develop a walkway across to the sally port at the new Courthouse; **and**
 3. Utilize the Administration Building for Court use.;
- We do not need to be late getting our response to the judge;
- I do not want any jail time and no fine imposed on me.

After additional discussion was conducted, it was the general consensus of the Board that the letter would be prepared by the County Attorney, and be delivered on or before the deadline.

Agenda Item #20: APPOINTMENT - ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COUNCIL:

<u>District</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>BOARD ACTION</u>
IV	Donna Watson	01-17-2020	Jesse Stafford
V	Johnny Worley	05-21-2020	Re-Appoint
VI	Pat Faircloth	05-02-2020	Missy Guyton
VII	Patricia Thor	04-16-2020	HOLD

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

At 7:17 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into a **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

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

March 02, 2020 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

March 16, 2020 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II and V (**3 sets**)

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

Agenda Item #22: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT V - APPROVAL of LOW BID for OLD DOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SANITARY SEWER FORCE MAIN EXTENSION PROJECT:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the low bidder for Old Dock Elementary School Sanitary Sewer Force Main Extension Project.

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

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

At 7:27 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, and resume Regular Session, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #23: PUBLIC INPUT:

Chairman Russ opened the floor for Public Input. No Public Input was received by telephone call, letter or e-mail.

Agenda Item #24: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

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

A. Budget Amendments:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditures	10-4310-526001	Department Supplies	22,667
	10-4310-526001	Department Supplies	1,833
Revenues	10-3431-440035	Grant Income	24,500
Expenditures	10-5112-526001	Coop Departmental Supplies	47,613
Revenues	10-3510-440122	Rural Health Grant	47,613
Expenditures	10-4310-535300	M & R Vehicles	9,716
	10-4310-535300	M & R Vehicles	2,555
	10-4310-535300	M & R Vehicles	1,149
Revenues	10-3431-489000	Miscellaneous Funds	13,420
Expenditures	50-4970-549971	Housing Assistance Payments	147,553
	50-4970-512100	Salaries & Wages Regular	3,116
	50-4970-518200	Retirement Contribution	265
	50-4970-518301	Insurance Contribution Retirees	1,076
	50-4970-535200	Maint & Repair - Equipment	80
	50-4970-526010	Sundry Adm Expense	5,249
Revenues	50-3497-489041	Annual Contr Earned	147,250
	50-3497-489052	Fraud Recovery - Administration	303
	50-3497-489053	Fraud Recovery - HAP	303
	50-3497-489105	Annual Admin Fee Earned	9,417

	50-3497-491000	Investment Earnings	66
Expenditures	10-4155-512100	Salaries & Wages Regular	3,000
	10-4155-518100	FICA	230
	10-4155-522000	Food and Provisions	2,500
	10-4155-531100	Travel	5,500
	10-4155-537000	Advertising	1,200
	10-4155-539000	Other Services	447
Revenues	10-3416-436025	NC JCPC Grant	12,877
Expenditures	10-4320-526001	Dept Supplies	2,534
Revenues	10-3431-440035	Grant Income	2,534
Expenditures	10-5180-512100	Env Health Salaries	40,000
	10-5180-512700	Env Health Longevity	1,500
	10-5180-518100	Env Health FICA	1,500
	10-5180-518200	Env Health Retirement	4,000
	10-5180-518300	Env Health Insurance	2,500
	10-5180-518910	Env Health Christmas Bonus	10
	10-5180-519001	Env Health Contracted Services	800
	10-5180-532101	Env Health Postage	800
	10-5112-518300	Coop Insurance	(34,312)
Revenues	10-3510-430024	State Food and Drug	16,798
Expenditures	10-4317-560160	Grant Expenditures	24,360
Revenues	10-3431-440035	Grant Revenues	24,360
Expenditures	25-4140-550000	Capital Outlay	21,083
Revenues	25-3414-399100	Fund Balance Appropriated	21,083

B. Tax Refunds and Releases:

Property Value Amount: \$353.82
 Alston, Harriette **PROPERTY:** 81221 Total: \$415.14
 Value: \$6,000.00 Year: 11-18 Account: 15-00327 Bill#: 99999
 Release value sold at tax sale. Release Acme Delco(52.56) release columbus
 rescue(8.76)

Property Value Amount: \$304.92
 Alston, Harriette **PROPERTY:** 75632 Total: \$357.84
 Value: \$6,000.00 Year: 12-18 Account: 15-00327 Bill#: 99999
 Release value sold at tax sale. Release Acme Delco(45.36) release columbus
 rescue(7.56)

Property Value Amount: \$499.18
 Alston, Harriette **PROPERTY:** 77915 Total: \$585.84
 Value: \$8,500.00 Year: 12-18 Account: 15-00327 Bill#: 99999
 Release value sold at tax sale. Release Acme Delco(74.28) release columbus
 rescue(12.38)

Property Value Amount: \$8.05
 Brown, Ralph Earl & Wanda Gore **PROPERTY:** 00000 Total: \$12.38
 Value: \$1,000.00 Year: 2019 Account: 15-06080 Bill#: 89127
 Release value of boat. Listed in Brunswick Co. Release Roseland Fire(3.00) release
 Columbus Rescue(.20) release late list(1.13)

Property Value Amount: \$190.79
 Casto Patricia Lynn **PROPERTY:** 24936 Total: \$195.53
 Value: \$23,700.00 Year: 2019 Account: 13-03009 Bill#: 91740
 Release value. Should have been exempt. Had doctors note. Release Columbus

Rescue(4.74)					
<i>Property Value</i>				Amount:	\$5.35
Cook J Warren Jr & Mary		PROPERTY: 00000		Total:	\$6.03
Value: \$664.00	Year: 2019	Account: 01-16920		Bill#:	93121
Release value of boat. Destroyed in Hurricane. Release Whiteville Rescue(.13) release late list(.55)					
<i>Property Value</i>				Amount:	\$37.36
Leggette Family Revocable Trust		PROPERTY: 11349		Total:	\$37.36
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 06-05259		Bill#:	10426
Release 2% error.					
<i>Property Value</i>				Amount:	\$480.15
Malpass Jeffrey Boyd		PROPERTY: 00000		Total:	\$563.66
Value: \$66,301.00	Year: 2019	Account: 15-01538		Bill#:	12354
Release value of boat. Sold. Release Acme Delco(71.58) release Columbus Rescue(11.93)					
<i>Property Value</i>				Amount:	\$496.27
Mills, Smith Jr Sr		PROPERTY: 26221		Total:	\$778.87
Value: \$82,600.00	Year: 2019	Account: 14-10387		Bill#:	15292
Release value . County purchased home thru buy out program. County is exempt. Release Welches Creek(66.08) release Whiteville Rescue(16.52)					
<i>Property Value</i>				Amount:	\$165.91
Norris, Jason Daniel		PROPERTY: 00000		Total:	\$408.17
Value: \$20,610.00	Year: 2017	Account: 06-04057		Bill#:	80028
Release value. Dbilled Act#06-02962. Release Roseland Fire(16.49) releaseColumbus Rescue(4.12) release late list(18.65)					
<i>Property Value</i>				Amount:	\$72.75
Spaulding, Norman		PROPERTY: 00000		Total:	\$2,000.10
Value: \$1,000.00	Year: 10-19	Account: 08-17601		Bill#:	99999
Release value of mobile home. DBL to Act#08-00612. Release St James(5.40) release Columbus Rescue(1.80) release late list(7.15)					
<i>Property Value</i>				Amount:	\$6,275.15
Vineland Land Group LLC		PROPERTY: 6144		Total:	\$8,583.65
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 01-01910		Bill#:	31041
Release portion of value. Mapping corrected. Release North Whiteville(1366.80) release Whiteville Rescue(341.70)					
<i>Property Value</i>				Amount:	\$258.46
Wilson, Albert L. & Mitzi		PROPERTY: 3377		Total:	\$394.50
Value: \$115,200.00	Year: 2019	Account: 01-00616		Bill#:	34878
Release portion of value. Billing error. Release Whiteville Rescue(23.04)					
<i>Refunds</i>				Amount:	\$0.00
Long, annie McPherson		PROPERTY: 96588		Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2018	Account: 02-05322		Bill#:	18075
Refund user fee. Dbilled.					
<i>User Fee</i>				Amount:	\$0.00
Anders, Dedrick & Devora		PROPERTY: 60213		Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 08-00143		Bill#:	84401
Release user fee.					
<i>User Fee</i>				Amount:	\$0.00
Andrews, Barry Lee & Teresa		PROPERTY: 92450		Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 11-03028		Bill#:	84501
Release user fee. Storage facility.					
<i>User Fee</i>				Amount:	\$0.00
Batten, Alex Ray		PROPERTY: 1809		Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 01-01881		Bill#:	85922
Release user fee. Billed Act#01-30960					

<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Blackwell, Mary Ruth		PROPERTY: 84086	Total:	\$619.83
Value: \$0.00	Year: 10-12	Account: 09-03152	Bill#:	99999
Release user fee. Exempted per N Hughes.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Bowen, Kathelia		PROPERTY: 76279	Total:	\$113.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 04-01303	Bill#:	87999
Release user fee.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Britt, Tony Ray & Gladys		PROPERTY: 23142	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 12-04959	Bill#:	88560
Release user fee. Dbilled.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Fowler, John Erwin		PROPERTY: 79898	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 09-05569	Bill#:	98762
Release user fee. Can billed on Act#9-08866				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Gordon, John J. & Amanda		PROPERTY: 24344	Total:	\$400.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 13-05956	Bill#:	898
Release user fee. Overbilled. Only 1 liveable structure.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Gore, Jeffrey Thomas		PROPERTY: 16961	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 09-02923	Bill#:	1198
Release user fee. Dbilled.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Gore, Ricky Dean & Teresa Ann		PROPERTY: 80766	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 07-07109	Bill#:	1440
Release user fee.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Hardee, Mitchell		PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 09-00254	Bill#:	3441
Release user fee. Vacant				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Hardee, Mitchell		PROPERTY: 92025	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 07-00829	Bill#:	3449
Release user fee. Vacant				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Heavener, Belinda		PROPERTY: 78198	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 07-08243	Bill#:	4461
Release user fee.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Hope, Lorena Smith		PROPERTY: 77148	Total:	\$600.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 18-19	Account: 01-43382	Bill#:	99999
Release user fee. No power.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Hunt, Nannette		PROPERTY: 5026	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 01-05980	Bill#:	6591
Release user fee. Has no power				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Jerusalem Temple Fellowship		PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$113.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 01-06927	Bill#:	7954
Release user fee. Billed on Act#18-02427				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Johnson Mary E		PROPERTY: 28646	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 15-04451	Bill#:	8219
Release user fee. Vacant				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Jones, Ricky L		PROPERTY: 82174	Total:	\$400.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 12-13743	Bill#:	8710
Release user fee. Overbilled.				
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount:	\$0.00
Kidd, Rebecca Queen		PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$200.00

Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 01-06179	Bill#: 9312
Release user fee. Billed to S/w Act#01-06179			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Lyons, A B Heirs		PROPERTY: 21630	Total: \$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 12-16560	Bill#: 12105
Release user fee. Unliveable			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
McPhatter, Pearl Parker Heirs		PROPERTY: 24758	Total: \$594.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 15-19	Account: 13-04967	Bill#: 99999
Release user fee. Vacant for 10 years. Unliveable.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
McPherson, John Phillip II		PROPERTY: 6202	Total: \$452.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 01-02365	Bill#: 14381
Release user fee.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Moss, James O Jr		PROPERTY: 00000	Total: \$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 14-00113	Bill#: 16173
Release user fee. Vacant home			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Norris, Robin D & Lawrence P		PROPERTY: 93191	Total: \$811.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 16-19	Account: 12-02622	Bill#: 99999
Release user fees 4 years. Home destroyed sold at bank sale.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Parker, Arnold Lee & Catherine		PROPERTY: 29177	Total: \$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 15-03542	Bill#: 18269
Release user fee. Dbilled.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Powell, Paul P Jr & Debra		PROPERTY: 75781	Total: \$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 11-04338	Bill#: 19852
Release user fee. No home.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Prevatte, Allen		PROPERTY: 60284	Total: \$400.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 12-22425	Bill#: 20049
Release user fee.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Richardson, D L		PROPERTY: 13252	Total: \$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 07-02142	Bill#: 21706
Release user fee. No power.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Rivon, Roberto Flores		PROPERTY: 00000	Total: \$400.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 18-19	Account: 14-05033	Bill#: 99999
Release user fee. Billed on Act#14-04509			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Russell Oren		PROPERTY: 95091	Total: \$400.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 18-19	Account: 03-04626	Bill#: 99999
Release user fee. No power.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Shipman, Cherie		PROPERTY: 97225	Total: \$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 02-04752	Bill#: 24147
Release user fee. Vacant land.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Smith, George R & Donna		PROPERTY: 76492	Total: \$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 06-33387	Bill#: 25386
Release user fee.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Stanley, Bobby W & Brenda		PROPERTY: 12645	Total: \$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 07-05041	Bill#: 27160
Release user fee.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Stocks, Amanda Hammond		PROPERTY: 13284	Total: \$400.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 18-19	Account: 07-02327	Bill#: 99999
Release user fee. Vacant			

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Tedder, Carl Roosevelt	PROPERTY: 61567	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 11-26820	Bill#: 29174
Release user fee. Dbilled.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Thompson, James Alan	PROPERTY: 84275	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 01-01674	Bill#: 29555
Release user fee. Dbilled.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Thurmond Johnny Lee & Rosetta	PROPERTY: 79994	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 13-04857	Bill#: 29830
Release user fee.			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Williamson, Jason Delane	PROPERTY: 30061	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 16-02006	Bill#: 34577
Release user fee.			

Agenda Item #25: COMMENTS:

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

B. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:
 - I would like for the Board members to take the time to look at the two (2) pages of information that we have been working on; **and**
 - We need to consider a private company to do an assessment on the needs if we do not receive the assessment from the Sheriff's Association.
2. **Commissioner Bullard:** stated the following:
 - My appointed member on the Columbus County Planning Board has expired and I would like to appoint Craig Rogers to fill this appointment, and I want a thank you letter sent to Mr. Horne for his good job;
 - I am receiving multiple calls relative to the Board of Elections, and I am informing them we have no legal authority over the Board of Elections, and suggest they call the Election Board members;
 - I would like to know what the new election process will cost; **and**
 - I appreciate all the extra work that all of our employees have done relative to the Corona Virus, and our number is up to sixty-one (61).
3. **Commissioner McDowell:** stated the following:
 - I would like to thank the first responders and all the medical workers that have been involved with the corona virus;
 - I encourage everyone to stay home as much as you can;
 - I encourage everyone to fill out the 2020 Census material that will help the state and the county; **and**
 - On March 29, 2020, there was a boating accident on Waccamaw River which resulted in two (2) deaths, and the citizens in this area are very concerned, and would like for the Board to contact the Wildlife Commission and see if they could help.

MOTION:

Commissioner McDowell made a motion for the Board to send a letter to the North Carolina Wildlife Commission and request that they develop some rules and regulations for Waccamaw River and include Brunswick County, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

4. **Vice Chairman McMillian:** stated the following:
 - I have spoken with the District Engineer at the Department of Transportation and he stated they were behind due to the State Budget;
 - The engineer stated he was looking at the middle of May to get the ditches cleaned out; **and**
 - The County Manager is working hard on the County Budget, and we all need to work together on the budget.

5. **Commissioner Byrd:** stated the following:
 -I have received multiple telephone calls about the Board of Elections, and the general public needs to know that this Board has no legal authority over the Board of Elections;
 -The coronavirus has had a major impact on the work being done by the Department of Transportation;
 -The process of life will never be the same as it was before the virus; **and**
 -Due to limited funds, and the impact the coronavirus placed on people's income, we will be forced to maximize what we can do within the limitation of funds that we have.
6. **Commissioner Burroughs:** stated the following:
 -I concur with Commissioner Byrd's concerns relative to the impact the coronavirus will have on people statewide and nationwide;
 -I have a copy of a letter from the IRS which states that Daddy Joe's Campground and Carroll Winds Campgrounds are considered to be essential businesses and they can open up for business;

MOTION:

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to allow Daddy Joe's Campground and Carroll Winds Campground to reopen for business, seconded by Commissioner McMillian.

FIRST SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to wait until after April 30, 2020, to allow Daddy Joe's Campground and Carroll Winds Campground to reopen for business, seconded by Commissioner Bullard.

SECOND SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Commissioner Burroughs withdrew his **original motion** and Commissioner McMillian withdrew his second.

Commissioner Byrd withdrew his **substitute motion**, and Commissioner Bullard withdrew his second.

Commissioner Prevatte made a **Second Substitute Motion** to give authority to the Chairman to check with the two (2) campgrounds to see if they need this information before April 30, 2020, for the preparations that need to be done to allow them to re-open on May 01, 2020, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The **Second Substitute Motion** unanimously passed.

- The House of Raeford will be at the Farmers Market tomorrow with boxes of raw chicken at an economical price;
- There is going to be a price for everyone for what we have gone through;
- I encourage everyone to engage in safe practices until this pandemic has run its course.

7. **Chairman Russ:** stated the following:
 -I would like to thank Commissioner McDowell for reading the letter from the concerned citizens of Waccamaw River; **and**
 -I encourage everyone that can to stay at home.

- C. **County Manager (Michael H. Stephens):** stated the following:
 -I would like to echo what Commissioner Bullard has stated; **and**
 -I want to thank the County employees for what they do, and I appreciate what they have done.

TWO (2¢) CENTS RESCUE TAX:

In-depth and lengthy discussion was conducted regarding placing an additional two (2¢) cents Rescue Tax on the General Elections ballot in November, 2020, in the proper manner.

MOTION:

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion for Amanda Prince, County Attorney, to determine the proper manner to utilize placing an additional two (2¢) cents Rescue Tax on the

General Elections ballot in November, 2020, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #26: ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:07 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to the Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman

DRAFT

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, April 20, 2020
7:17 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:

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**
(Excused)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:17 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 #21: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

March 02, 2020 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets) -and-
March 16, 2020 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II and V (3 sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the March 02, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, and the March 16, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II and V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:27 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, April 20, 2020
7:17 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:

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**
(Excused)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:17 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 #21: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

March 02, 2020 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets) -and-
March 16, 2020 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II and V (3 sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the March 02, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, and the March 16, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:27 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, April 20, 2020
7:17 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:

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**
(Excused)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:17 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 #21: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

March 02, 2020 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the March 02, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:27 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, April 20, 2020
7:17 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:

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**
(Excused)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:17 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 #21: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

March 02, 2020 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the March 02, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:27 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman

COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, April 20, 2020
7:17 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:

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**
(Excused)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:17 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 #21: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

March 02, 2020 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting **(5 sets) -and-**
March 16, 2020 Combination Meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II and V **(3 sets)**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the March 02, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, and the March 16, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #22: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT V - APPROVAL of LOW BID for OLD DOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SANITARY SEWER FORCE MAIN EXTENSION PROJECT: -and- MODIFICATION: RESOLUTION of TENTATIVE AWARD:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the low bidder for Old Dock Elementary School Sanitary Sewer Force Main Extension Project from the following Bidders List, **-and-** approval of Resolution of Tentative Award.

BID TABULATION

WHEREAS, Green Engine3ring, PLLC recommends TENTATIVE AWARD to the S & L Contracting, LLC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that **TENTATIVE AWARD** is made to S & L: Contracting, LLC in the Total Bid Amount of \$1,238,362.00.

	<u>Name of Contractor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1.	S & L Contracting, LLC	\$1,238,362.00
2.	Columbus Utilities, Inc.	\$1,258,142.50
3.	Frank Horne Construction	\$1,319,017.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such **TENTATIVE AWARD** be contingent upon the approval of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality.

Upon motion of Commissioner Bullard,. Seconded by Commissioner McDowell, the above **RESOLUTION** was unanimously adopted.

This 20th day of April, 2020.

/s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman**

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

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

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the low bidder, S & L Contracting, LLC, at the cost of one million, two hundred thirty-eight thousand, three hundred sixty-two and 00/100 (\$1,238,362.00) dollars for the Old Dock Elementary School Sanitary Sewer Force Main Extension Project, and the Resolution of Tentative Award, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:27 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman