

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**Monday, July 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**

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

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the July 20, 2020 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Ricky Bullard. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Charles T. McDowell.

ADJUSTMENT to AGENDA:

Chairman Russ stated that adjustments needed to be made to the Agenda as follows:

1. Add N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (6) Personnel to Closed Session; **and**
2. Closed Session needed to moved to Agenda Item #3A.

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to add N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (6) Personnel to Closed Session and to move Closed Session to Agenda Item #3A, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (5) (i) REAL ESTATE; and (6) PERSONNEL:

At 6:32 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (5) (i) Real Estate and (6) Personnel, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #3A: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (5) (i) REAL ESTATE; and (6) PERSONNEL:

No official action was taken.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and RESUME REGULAR SESSION:

At 7:12 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

READING and APPROVAL of CLOSED SESSION GENERAL ACCOUNT:

Chairman Russ requested that Amanda B. Prince, Columbus County Attorney, orally read the Closed Session General Account. Ms. Prince orally read the following: *“The County Commissioners discussed a personnel matter with the County Attorney, and the County Commissioners discussed purchasing real estate that the Columbus County Schools are trying to sell”*.

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

After discussion was conducted, it was the general consensus of the Board to form a committee inclusive of Vice Chairman McMillian, and Commissioners Bullard and Byrd to meet with the Columbus County Schools relative to real estate, with emphasis on Fair Bluff.

NUMBER of PEOPLE in ATTENDANCE at MEETINGS:

MOTION:

Commissioner Bullard made a motion for the Board to allow people that have an item on the Agenda to come in, at that time, and discuss the topic, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Commissioner Prevatte made a Substitute Motion to limit the number of attendees at the Board Meetings to ten (10), inclusive of the seven (7) Board members and three (3) staff members, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results:

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

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

Agenda Item #4: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the June 29, 2020 Budget Workshop Number Four, with a correction on Page 567, the June 30, 2020 Special Called Meeting, as recorded, and the July 06, 2020 Regular Session Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #5: AGREEMENT - TOWN of SANDYFIELD INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT for FLOOD PREVENTION:

Claudia Bray, Town Clerk/Finance Officer, requested Board approval of the Interlocal Agreement Between Columbus County and the Town of Sandyfield (Town's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance).

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement Between Columbus County and the Town of Sandyfield (Town's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance), seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed. A copy of this document will be marked as Exhibit "A", and kept on file in the Clerk to the Board's Office, in Minute Book Number 6, for review.

Agenda Item #6: VETERANS SERVICES - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Kim Sellers, Veteran Services Director, delivered the following Departmental Update.

We are continuing to serve our veterans during this pandemic using safety precautions. We are assisting them as much as possible by phone, fax and email. We are completing applications over the phone to lessen the length of time they are in the office. A drop box is posted outside of the front door. Due to the lack of space for social distancing, we are only allowing one person in the lobby at the time. Hand sanitizer is stationed at the lobby entrance and masks are available if needed. Our sliding glass window remains 90% closed to lessen the potential spread of germs and we sanitize the office routinely.

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

Our Veteran Service Officers Spring Training Conference was cancelled due to the pandemic. As of today, our Fall Training Conference is still scheduled for October.

We are completing online training in case the fall conference is cancelled also.

We must complete training each year to maintain our accreditations.

January 01, 2020 VA began processing claims filed under the Blue Water Navy Act of 2019. We have filed several of these claims and some have already been approved. One of our Navy veteran's claim was approved with a \$448,000.00 back payment!!

The VA Healthcare Centers are not scheduling in person appointments at this time. Telephone and

virtual appointments are being conducted until further notice.

We are always pleased to report the annual VA Distribution of Expenditures. The 2019 Total VA Expenditures for Columbus County Veterans was \$43,953,000. That is \$29,152,000. in compensation and pension benefits and \$14,801,000. in health care and education benefits.

Please encourage any Columbus County veterans you know that have not inquired about potential VA benefits to call or come by our office.

Agenda Item #7: EMERGENCY SERVICES - UPDATE on VIPER RADIO SYSTEM:

Kay Worley, Emergency Services Director, delivered the status of the VIPER Radio System.

Columbus County VIPER Project Status Report - July 15, 2020

Items completed to date:

- All equipment related to the paging system, consoles, mobiles, portables, and the VIPER expansion has been shipped, inventoried, and warehoused at the MCA facility
- Remote site engineering and design:
 - Site Plan, Compound Details, and Tower Elevation drawings for the Fair Bluff site
 - Antenna inventories for the towers at the Delco, Nakina, and Lake Waccamaw sites
 - Tower Elevation drawings for Delco and Nakina sites
- Microwave path design
- Initial draft of the subscriber templates for Law Enforcement and Fire/EMS completed by the County

Next steps:

- County's completion of the lease line to connect the 911 Center to the VIPER master site. Lease line installations can take 60 to 90 days. After the lease line is installed and tested, the installation of the new consoles will be scheduled along with dispatcher training.
- Completion of the Law Enforcement and Fire/EMS templates for the subscriber units by the County.

Upon completion of the templates, the talk group plan will be submitted to VIPER for approval. Once approved by VIPER, a group of test radios will be programmed and distributed to the designated test individuals. After the testing is completed and all required template adjustments are finalized, the subscriber programming and mobile installation will be scheduled.
- Completion of site construction drawing packages. Currently, we are waiting for the county to receive
 - a. permission from Duke Energy to install the proposed antennas at the design locations on the Fair Bluff tower and
 - b. permission from the Whiteville tower owner, Time Warner, to perform antennal mapping services

Once these items are completed, the tower structural analyses will be performed and the site construction drawings will be completed within 60 days.

Agenda Item #8: SOCIAL SERVICES - ENERGY PROGRAMS OUTREACH PLAN 2020-2021:

Algernon McKenzie, Social Services Director, requested Board approval of the Energy Programs Outreach Plan.

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to approve the Columbus County Department of Social Services Energy Programs Outreach Plan 2020-2021, with one correction on Page 9 to delete Help Mission, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed. This document will be marked as Exhibit "B", and kept on file in Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 6, in the Clerk to the Board's Office, for review.

Agenda Item #9: SOCIAL SERVICES - MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE:

Algernon McKenzie, Social Services Director, delivered the following Monthly

Administrative Update.

Columbus County DSS continues to participate in the daily Covid-19 planning calls held at 9am. The program managers for Human Services and Economic Services also participate.

As of June 1, 2020 all staff at DSS resumed our regular work schedule. We are continuing to provide access to services in our foyer. Applications for all program areas can be picked up daily. All applications and instructions are in English and Spanish. We are also providing services via phone interview, Skype, On-line, and FaceTime as allowed by DHHS and policy.

The month of June has been proclaimed as Elder Abuse Prevention Month by DHHS. We received a certificate from the Division of Aging & Adult Services recognizing the work that is done to protect our adults in need of services.

During the month of June our courts system was reopened for Child Support. However, we are not able to schedule as many individuals for court due to Covid-19. Staff have worked closely with the Judge and Clerk of Court to develop a plan to move forward.

Court sessions for Child Protective Services and Foster Care are being held virtually at this time.

During the month of June, I participated in several webinars and zoom meetings with our Adult Services Representative, Child Welfare Representative, Smart Start Partnership, Red Cross Shelter Operations, and DHHS.

We continue to get updates and program policy changes via email from DHHS. This information is shared with supervisors and staff to ensure services are provided by guidelines as they change during this Covid-19 Pandemic.

Staff are continuing to make those mandated Face-to-Face visits in Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, and Foster Care. These and all staff have access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Staff are encouraged to practice the safety guidelines advised by the CDC and DHHS.

We have been able to secure some face shields for those staff who conduct DNA testing on adults and children when needed.

DSS continues to adjust to many changes in service delivery and program policy as we strive to provide assistance to our citizens and protect staff during this Covid-19 Pandemic.

**June 2020
Human Services**

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Adult Services (APS)	APS Reports Accepted: 10 County Wards: 25 Number of Payee Cases: 16 Adults Served APS: 2 Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: 987 Amount Requested for Reimbursement: \$19,246.87
Children’s Protective Services (CPS)	Reports Accepted: 28 Reports Screened out: 27 Families Receiving In-Home Services: 50 Children Served: 93 Contacts with Families Monthly: 521 Assessments: 26
Foster Care	Foster Children in Foster Homes: 63 Children Placed Outside County: 11 Agency Adoptions: 0 Pending Adoptions: 2 Total Foster Homes Licensed: 4 Total Children in Foster Care: 65

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Work First Employment (TANF)	Applications Taken: 14 Applications Approved: 5 Individuals Receiving Benefits: 237 Entered Employments: 1 Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 0
Program Integrity	Collections for Fraud: \$3,717.25 New Referrals: 4 Cases Established: 10
Day Care	Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 405 Children on the Waiting List: 379 Amount Spent on Day Care Services: \$175,410.00

**June 2020
Economic Services**

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Food & Nutrition	Applications Taken: 154 Applications Approved: 164 Active Cases: 5,842 Benefits Issued: \$1,835,620.00 Participants Served: 11,865
Adult Medicaid	Applications Taken: 98 Cases Terminated: 41 Redeterminations: 250 Applications Processed: 158
Family & Children's Medicaid	Applications Taken: 129 Applications Processed: 106 Redeterminations: 960 Total Medicaid Cases: 13,729 Total Individuals Receiving: 20,545
Child Support	Absent Parents Located: 47 Orders Enforced: 1169 Active Cases: 3,638 Collections: \$513,239.81

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: **June 2020**

News/Updates/Vacancies

Food and Nutrition:

Not a lot of changes due to COVID-19 for the month of June. We have received notification that active FNS recipients will be getting the maximum allotment amount of benefits for July also. Notification was also received that clients that usually were not eligible due to not working the required hours (ABAWD) remain eligible during the pandemic however the waiver for us not to have to complete an interview (phone or face to face) for applications and reviews was denied by USDA. This means beginning July 1, 2020, we will go back to the policy for every application we receive and once every year with active ongoing clients, we must make contact by phone to complete an interview with them. Again being closed to the public has been a great benefit for workers to get work completed in a timelier manner. This team is fully staffed.

Adult and Family & Children's Medicaid:

Policies for both Medicaid categories also remain relaxed again for June. No terminations from the program unless they moved out of state, voluntary request termination or deceased. Workers have begun to work on verifications for the upcoming 2 months' reviews while recertifications were

automatically extended for June. They always have to work 2 months ahead in order to get all verifications completed before the month they are due. We have 1 vacancy and 3 in training in Adult Medicaid and 1 Supervisor position vacant.

Child Support and Paralegal:

Child Support has begun to go back to court in June in a new way for 2 days. Child Support was assigned a new emergency temporary Judge until further notice. Our June 18th court day had 259 clients calendared for court however we had to scale down to 30 in the morning and 30 in the afternoon due to social distancing. This puts us in more of a backlog since we have not had court in a few months. They continue to utilize phone interviews to clients and defendants to try to get voluntary support agreements or consents so we do not have to go to court on some cases. 73 cases were prepared for court and 199 had to be continued for June. Our paralegal prepared 387 orders and reviewed 20 orders prepared by the Child Support attorney. This team has 2 Child Support Agent positions vacant and a clerical position vacant.

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

- Work First Cash rules have gone back to having to interview clients with their applications and can be completed by phone.
- Our Interpreter continues to help with the Energy Program when not interpreting for workers.
- Our Deputy remains in the lobby where all applications for programs are on a table for clients to enter in the foyer and pick up. A drop box is also available for them to drop any information back off to us or they can mail it in. This drop box is checked throughout the day and mail/applications are passed on.
- Housekeeping and Maintenance continue to keep our building sanitized and cleaned.
- Medicaid Transportation continues to be sort of slow for June.
- This team is fully staffed with 1 still in training in Transportation.

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

Intake/Investigation/Assessment:

The Intake/Investigation/Assessment Unit continues to have one vacancy. This position was posted in-house with no applicants and was recently posted to outside of the agency. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts and to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. Regular updates continue to be provided from the state regarding guidance and information as things evolve. Referrals have gone up drastically with an increase in screened-in assessments. The amount of open cases has decreased due to staff working diligently to initiate cases in a timely manner, assess for risk and needs, put services in place, and close in a timely manner.

In-Home Services:

The In-Home Services Unit continues to have one vacancy. This position was posted in-house with no applicants and was recently posted outside of the agency. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts and to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. Regular updates continue to be provided from the state regarding guidance and information as things evolve. The amount of cases has decreased slightly due to less cases needing continued services.

Foster Care:

The Foster Care/Adoptions Unit continues to be fully staffed. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts and to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. DHHS does continue to make some allowances for cases that are stable and with parent visitation by allowing the use of Facetime, video chats, etc. Regular updates continue to be provided from the state regarding guidance and information as things evolve. This Unit continues to participate in “virtual court,” although a few cases that are being contested will be held in court in August.

Transitional Unit:

The Transitional unit continues to be fully staffed. Staff are working caseloads while completing as much mandatory first year training as they can with what has been made available on-line by the state. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts and to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. Regular updates continue to be provided from the state regarding guidance and information as things evolve. The Foster Home Licensing worker hopes to slowly begin to move forward with getting more foster homes licensed since COVID-19 has also affected getting all of the required parts of the licensure packet completed. They will also begin to schedule some one-on-one time for those that might be interested in completing Deciding Together, instead of the MAPP classes.

Adult Services:

The Adult Services Unit is now fully staffed again. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts and to provide needed services to the elderly and disabled while utilizing precautions due to COVID-19. Referrals continue to show an increase. Regular updates continue to be provided from the stated regarding guidance and information as things evolve.

Work First Employment:

This Unit now continues to be fully staffed. COVID-19 continues to make an impact on how this Unit conducts day to day business. Telephone interviews for Work First applications, recertification's, short-term services and benefits continue to be allowed. 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 continues to make an impact on how this Unit conducts day to day business. 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 continues to limit office visits, encouraging telephone contact. Repayment agreements are being relaxed to help clients during this time.

Although electric companies have relaxed disconnections and the Governor continues to order 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. We are concerned, however, that we are seeing a significant amount of applicants that are not paying on their electric bills since the Governor has ordered that they not be disconnected and this is creating a large amount of past due bills which will create a greater crisis in the future.

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to accept the Social Services Administrative Update, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #10: ANNUAL 33RD COLUMBUS COUNTY FIREWORKS CELEBRATION:

Cynthia S. Nelson, EVP, Tabor City Chamber of Commerce, requested permission for the fireworks celebration on Saturday, September 12, 2020, the fee for the permit to be waived, and a contribution of \$1,000 to the annual event.

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to award permission for the fireworks celebration on Saturday, September 12, 2020, the fee for the permit to be waived, and a contribution of \$1,000 to the annual event, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Commissioner Bullard made a Substitute Motion to award permission for the fireworks celebration on Saturday, September 12, 2020, and the fee for the permit to be waived, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian.

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

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

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

ORIGINAL MOTION:

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

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

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

Agenda Item #11: SHERIFF - RE-PURPOSE ALLOCATED MONIES:

The Honorable Sheriff Jody Greene requested Board approval to re-purpose monies allocated for positions in the FY 2020-2021 Budget.

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to keep the allocated money the same way as budgeted for the five (5) positions, four (4) Deputy Bailiffs and one (1) Detention Bailiff, seconded by Commissioner McDowell.

After lengthy discussion was conducted, a roll-call vote was taken with the following results:

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

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

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

At 7:43 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into a **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

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

July 06, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

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

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

At 7:46 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #13: PUBLIC INPUT (by TELEPHONE, E-MAIL or LETTER):

Chairman Russ opened the floor for Public Input. The following e-mail was orally read by Amanda B. Prince, Columbus County Attorney.

Barbara Featherson: Budget Concerns: Question? Will the county be setting a precedent if one department head is allowed to repurpose an established budget? Also, is it fair to all county employees if some are granted a 5% pay raise and others not?

Thank you.

Agenda Item #14: CONSENT AGENDA ITEM:

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

Budget Amendment:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditures	10-5161-526001	Family Planning Departmental Supplies	14,819.26
	10-5197-526001	Health Promotion Departmental Supplies	22,328.78
	10-5166-526001	Children’s Health Departmental Supplies	35,958.54

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
	10-5167-526001	Maternal Health Departmental Supplies	67,102.87
	10-5111-526001	Other Services Departmental Supplies	1,398.46
	10-5121-526001	Comm Disease Departmental Supplies	12,516.23
	10-5171-526001	Dental Departmental Supplies	29,833.86
Revenues	10-3510-430025	General Medicaid	313,958.00

Agenda Item #15: COMMENTS:

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

B. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Vice Chairman McMillian:** stated the following:
 - I am receiving multiple complaints about beavers, and I have contacted Edward Davis;
 - Mr. Davis states there have been many problems in locating the property owners that have property to be crossed;
 - There are problems with sink holes on Highway 410;
 - I would like for this Board to recognize the Deputies that saved a baby.

MOTION:

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion for a resolution and plaque be prepared for special recognition and appreciation for the two (2) deputies that saved an infant's life last week near Tabor City, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

2. **Commissioner Byrd:** stated that all departments need to work together for the greater good of Columbus County and the citizens.
3. **Commissioner Burroughs:** I have not been able to make contact with my appointment on the Economic Development Commission.
4. **Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:
 - We have some unseen heroes that need to be recognized for their work, and these heroes are the many seamstress that have donated their expertise and time in preparing gowns for our First Responders;
 - We need Letters of Appreciation sent to each and every seamstress that donated time and willingness to aid in the process;
 - Each letter needs to have all ten (10) signatures (7) Board Members and 3 staff members);

MOTION:

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion for a Letter of Appreciation to be sent to each seamstress that aided in the preparation of the gowns for our First Responders, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

-We are experiencing purchases being made without following the proper purchasing protocol, and I will make the following motion;

MOTION:

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion that all vendors presently being utilized, and any vendor that may be utilized, be notified by Columbus County that they must have previous approval of the purchase or service by Columbus County before delivery, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results:

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

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

PROCEDURE to HANDLE TWO (2) PURCHASE ORDERS:

Michael Stephens, County Manager, stated he needed direction on how to handle two (2) purchase orders that he received, one is for a truck and one is for the repair to a helicopter.

After discussion was conducted, Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to authorize Michael Stephens, County Manager, to pay for the truck that has been delivered, and to pay for the repair on the helicopter, and then follow purchasing policies that have been established in our last budget, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

5. **Commissioner McDowell:** stated the following:
 - I have been asked about the funds that were allocated for Special Projects, and the person presenting the question was informed the funds had been placed in the General Fund Account and not rolled over;
 - Mike replied stating the funds were rolled over; **and**
 - I received a copy of the Tax Notice and it looks good.
6. **Chairman Russ:** stated the following:
 - I will read a text message from the Sheriff as follows: *“Please follow your policy. We have twenty-eight (28) vehicles outside your policy”*.

C. **County Manager (Michael H. Stephens):**

- I received a telephone call from a lady at Social Services with concerns relative to no merit pay increases being a part of the pay scale; **and**
- I would like to acknowledge Larry Hayes, Maintenance Director, and staff, and Timmy Ward, Columbus County Schools Maintenance Director, and his staff, who have worked tirelessly at Hallsboro Elementary School, and all other areas they have been assigned; **and**
- We need to recognize them for the hard work.

Agenda Item #16: Moved to Agenda Item #3A.

Agenda Item #17: ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:21 P.M., Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. 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, July 20, 2020
6:57 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Mike Stephens, **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:43 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 #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

July 06, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the July 06, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:46 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. 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, July 20, 2020
6:57 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Mike Stephens, **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:43 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 #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

July 06, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the July 06, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:46 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. 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, July 20, 2020
6:57 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Mike Stephens, **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:43 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 #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

July 06, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the July 06, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:46 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. 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, July 20, 2020
6:57 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Mike Stephens, **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:43 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 #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

July 06, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the July 06, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:46 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. 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, July 20, 2020
6:57 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Mike Stephens, **County Manager**
 Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:43 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 #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

July 06, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the July 06, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:46 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman