

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**Monday, May 17, 2021****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 Regular Session Meeting, it being the third Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**
 Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**
 Chris Smith
 Giles E. Byrd
 Lavern Coleman
 Brent Watts
 Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Edwin H. Madden, Jr., **County Manager**
 Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
 Jay Leatherman, **Interim Finance Officer**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board - (Excused)**

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

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the May 17, 2021 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Charles T. McDowell. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Vice Chairman Jerome McMillian.

Agenda Item #4: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Watts made a motion to approve the May 03, 2021 Regular Session minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:

Chairman Bullard stated this matter needed to be handled.

PRESENTATION to GAIL EDWARDS:

**PRESENTED TO
 GAIL EDWARDS
 IN APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION
 OF OUTSTANDING DEDICATION AND
 CONTINUOUS SERVICE
 TO COLUMBUS COUNTY
 THIS THE DAY OF MAY 17, 2021**

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Agenda Item #5: APPROVAL of MAY 17, 2021 AGENDA -and- CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the May 17, 2021 Agenda, and the following Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

A. Budget Amendments:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditures	14-330-550000	Capital Outlay	42,328
Revenues	10-3991-499101	Fund Balance Appropriated	42,328
Expenditures	42-5911-549956	Contingency	276,578

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
	10-9800-589013	Transfer to Capital Projects/Grants	3,000,000
Revenues	42-3591-449120	Loan Proceeds	(922)
	42-3591-449130	Needs Based Lottery Funds	277,500
	42-3591-498029	Whiteville City Schools Misc Revenue	(333,000)
	42-3591-432304	Article 44 Sales Tax Transferred from GF	333,000
	10-3991-499101	Fund Balance Appropriated	3,000,000
Expenditures	10-4920-519000	Professional Services	815
Revenues	10-3491-441002	Planning Fees	815

B. RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT OF THE “RESILIENT COLUMBUS” COLLABORATIVE:

**Resolution in Support of the Mission of the
Columbus County Partnership for Children**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners for Columbus County were informed on May 3rd, 2021 by a presentation from the Columbus County Partnership for Children;

WHEREAS, the mission is to promote resilience in Columbus County through education and engagement of community members regarding the life-long impacts of adverse childhood experiences;

WHEREAS, the vision to provide the options and resources necessary for children and their families to lead healthy, happy, and productive lives;

WHEREAS, the Resilient Columbus Collaborative has formed committees to advance the Collaborative’s goal to fulfill their vision and mission;

WHEREAS, the Resilient Columbus Collaborative has acquired grants to cover personnel costs in support of keeping the resiliency education and awareness agenda evolving and progressing;

WHEREAS, the Resilient Columbus Collaborative will provide education and training to targeted groups and the Columbus County community to build trauma awareness, coping methods, tools to reset our nervous systems and a common language among citizens;

WHEREAS, the Resilient Columbus Collaborative will share resources, materials and coordinate technical assistance services;

WHEREAS, the Resilient Columbus Collaborative will build public awareness through Resilience film screenings and community conversations on Adverse Childhood Experiences and resiliency;

WHEREAS, the Resilient Columbus Collaborative will continue to seek funding to support the ongoing efforts of becoming a trauma informed community in Columbus County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County do unanimously support the mission of the Resilient Columbus Collaborative.

Adopted this the 17th day of May, 2021.

Columbus County Board of Commissioners

/s/ Ricky Bullard, Chairman

Attested By:

/s/ June Hall, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

Agenda Item #6: PRESENTATION - PROCLAMATION of CONGRATULATIONS and APPRECIATION to DALTON DOCKERY:

Chairman Bullard presented the following Proclamation Honoring Dalton Bernard Dockery.

PROCLAMATION HONORING DALTON BERNARD DOCKERY

WHEREAS, Dr. Dalton Dockery began his work for Columbus County as a youth on his grandfather's farm where his parents shaped his work ethic, values and his commitment to public service;

WHEREAS, Dalton, began his employment with the Cooperative Extension in 1996 and while working there, earned his Ph.D. from NC A & T University in 2015, in continuance of his service to Columbus County and its citizens;

WHEREAS, through his work at the Cooperative Extension, Dalton has provided citizens mentorship and training, recertification classes, agricultural research and education opportunities, youth development courses and a myriad of other programs geared toward supporting Columbus County and its citizens;

WHEREAS, in furtherance of his commitment to Columbus County and seeking to address racial and political division within our borders started, in concert with other local leaders and clergy members, Unify Columbus to create a safe space for open dialogue of issues including skin color, education and religion;

WHEREAS, Dalton's philosophy of continued room for growth, evidenced by his actions to unify the county through common purpose and goodwill, is the bedrock of Unify Columbus and its mission to care for the community; and

WHEREAS, Dalton was honored by NC State with a 2020 Award of Excellence in Public Service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we the Columbus County Board wish to congratulate him on his award and to commend him for his commitment to public service, his outstanding leadership ability, and his generous capacity and consideration for the well-being of his community and the citizens of Columbus County

Adopted this the 17th day of May, 2021.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **RICKY BULLARD**, Chairman

/s/ **CHRIS SMITH**

/s/ **LAVERN COLEMAN**

/s/ **CHARLES T. McDOWELL**

/s/ **EDWIN H. MADDEN, JR.**, County Manager

/s/ **AMANDA B. PRINCE**, County Attorney

/s/ **JEROME McMILLIAN**, Vice Chairman

/s/ **GILES E. BYRD**

/s/ **BRENT WATTS**

ATTESTED BY:

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

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the Proclamation Honoring Dalton Bernard Dockery, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #7: ADMINISTRATION - PRESENTATION of PROPOSED FY 2021/2022 OPERATING BUDGET and PUBLIC HEARING, and FIRST BUDGET WORKSHOP:

Eddie Madden, County Manager, requested the acceptance of the Proposed FY 2021/2022 Operating Budget, the establishment of a Public Hearing for June 07, 2021, at 6:30 P.M., and a date for the first budget workshop.

BUDGET MESSAGE

TO: Ricky Bullard, Chairman
Columbus County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Edwin H. Madden, Jr.
Columbus County Manager

DATE: May 17, 2021

RE: Columbus County Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Message

Overview

In accordance with the North Carolina Budget and Fiscal Control Act, North Carolina General Statute 153A-82, I submit the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (FY 2022) recommended annual budget for Columbus County for your review and consideration. North Carolina law states that a balanced budget must be publicly presented by June 1 and a balanced budget adopted by June 30. We are pleased to present a balanced budget without a property tax increase.

The Budget Message I am providing today is the first that I have submitted to this board since being named County Manager in late March 2021. Coming into this role midstream in the budget process has presented its challenges especially given the transitions that have occurred with the staff. Nevertheless, I am confident after listening to the various departments and providing them with multiple opportunities to contribute to the development of the budget, the recommended budget is in order and ready for the Board’s review and consideration.

In planning for the upcoming fiscal year, the departmental leadership, finance team, and administration staff assessed the resources needed, based on the future goals set by the Columbus County Commissioners that were established at the annual budget retreat. This information was utilized to develop the recommended budget for FY 2022. The major themes the board established were to increase pay for all employees in order to retain and recruit top quality people, support law enforcement and public safety, increase support for our public schools and the community college, enhance the county’s water, sewer, and broadband capabilities, and develop new opportunities for economic development. In my opinion, the recommended budget is the step in the right direction in addressing each of the priorities set by the board.

In planning for the upcoming fiscal year, our department leadership assessed the resources needed and that information, in conjunction with their future goals, was utilized to develop the recommended budget for FY 2022.

The recommended FY 2022 budget provides funding to maintain Columbus County’s high quality services, meets the needs of the community and is fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars during this difficult and challenging period.

RECOMMENDED BUDGET

The FY 2022 recommended budget totals \$81,501,358 for all County operations. Following is the breakdown between the General Fund, Water Fund and all Other Funds:

	Adopted Budget FYE 6/30/2020	Adopted Budget FYE 6/30/2021	Proposed Budget FYE 6/30/2022
General Fund	\$61,056,668	\$62,877,681	\$66,739,425
Water Fund	\$ 4,002,870	\$ 3,762,416	\$ 3,691,009
Other Funds	<u>\$11,872,877</u>	<u>\$10,810,130</u>	<u>\$11,070,924</u>
Total All Funds	\$76,932,415	\$77,450,227	\$81,501,358

The total proposed budget of \$81.5 million for fiscal year ending 6/30/2022 is an increase of \$4.1 million (5.2%) over the adopted budget for fiscal year ending 6/30/2021.

GENERAL FUND

The General Fund is the main operating fund for the majority of the County operations. We have balanced the budget for FY 2022 without utilizing any funds from the Fund Balance. Following is more detailed information related to the revenue and expense budget for this fund.

Revenue

The chart below displays the categories of revenue in the FY 2022 budget with the percentage for each category.

The largest category, *Ad Valorem taxes*, generates 51% of the total revenue budget. We have budgeted \$33.75 million for the Ad Valorem taxes revenue which is an increase of 9.4% over the projected FY 2020-2021 totals.

North Carolina General Statute G.S. 159-11 requires a taxing unit to publish a revenue-neutral

property tax rate following the revaluation of its real property. This revenue-neutral rate is the rate that is estimated to produce revenue for the next fiscal year equal to the revenue that would have been produced for the next fiscal year by the current tax rate if no revaluation had occurred. Columbus County completed a revaluation of its properties in January 2021. The total valuation of all properties in Columbus County increased approximately \$545,345,069 (17%) from \$3,196,663,351 prior to the revaluation to \$3,742,008,420. Compared to our current rate of 80.5 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation the resulting revenue-neutral rate would be 69.9 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.

The value of a penny on the tax rate is \$374,200.

Other taxes, which comprises 18% of the total budgeted revenue, is the sales tax revenue budgeted at \$11,966,105 for FY 2022, an increase of \$712,000 (6.2%) over the projected current year. We have seen a trend of growth in this tax as the population is spending more as the pandemic restraints are being reduced.

Columbus County is scheduled to receive \$10.7 million from the Federal Government under the *American Recovery Act*. We recommend utilizing \$3,265,239 of these funds towards salaries of first responders, personal protective equipment and capital expenditures related to first responders. We will provide a separate budget to the Commissioners on the proposed uses of all of the \$10.7 million.

Sheriff's revenue is comprised of various fees and reimbursements. Total revenue for the Sheriff's Office of \$1,932,958 is projected to increase 3.0% over last year's budget. The largest amount is \$1,158,275 for resource officers provided to schools.

Detention Center revenues budgeted at \$1,551,000 includes a new source for the coming fiscal year. An agreement to house prisoners through the federal inmate program has been signed and is budgeted to generate \$1,460,000 in revenue for the next fiscal year. The agreement provides \$80 per day per inmate plus additional reimbursement for transportation to court appointments. We have budgeted for 50 inmates per day although we can house up to 80 per day.

Health Department revenues budgeted at \$2,383,427 is a decline of 15.5% from last year's budget. The Health Department contracts with both the State and Federal government for various contracts to provide services to the public. The management of the Health Department was conservative in their projections basing them only on the contracts that they have approved from the government at this time. One of the single largest contracts is \$400,000 for school nurses. We are requesting an increase in the Environmental Health fees to be equal with surrounding counties. Following is the proposed fees with their increases:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>
	<u>Septic Systems</u>	
New/Expansion IP	\$140.00	\$200.00
Re-inspection	\$ 75.00	\$100.00
Repair	\$ 75.00	\$100.00
Engineered Option Permit	\$ 64.50	\$ 82.50
	<u>Other Services</u>	
Food Ext. Plan review	\$100.00	\$200.00
Public Pool Permit	\$100.00	\$200.00
Tattoo Artist	\$200.00	\$225.00

The increase in fees is projected to add additional revenue of \$78,433 to the General Fund budget.

Social Services programs are funded by various State contracts. The budget for these various programs for FY 2022 is \$6,798,170, a 5% decrease from the previous year's budget. The management, being conservative in their revenue budget, was basing the projections on the contracts that have been approved to date.

Aging department has budgeted \$2,060,658 in revenues for FY 2022. The department's revenue is derived from Federal Grants and State programs to provide services to the aging community. The revenue budget for FY 2022 is 13% lower than the budget for the previous year. Their projections are based on information provided by the Federal and State government.

Miscellaneous revenue consists of all of the remaining sources in the General Fund not detailed above. The table below details the larger amounts in the miscellaneous revenue:

<u>Description</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>FY 2022</u>
Investment Earnings	\$809,079	\$300,000	\$600,000
Airport (fuel sales)	448,034	588,500	538,500
Register of Deeds fees	441,330	299,680	377,000
Inspection fees	391,336	432,000	370,000
Education (fines & forfeitures)	222,379	261,000	286,000
Library fees	172,005	208,319	171,000
Rent	114,991	115,719	115,719
Other revenue	563,186	535,205	576,383
TOTAL	\$3,162,340	\$2,740,423	\$3,034,602

The total budgeted miscellaneous revenue for FY 2022 is \$3,034,602, which is a 10.7% increase over FY 2021 budget.

Expenditures

Total General Fund expenses of \$66,739,425 budgeted for FY 2022 are projected to increase over FY 2021 budget by \$3,861,744 (6.1%).

The graph below summarizes the expenses by categories of the County. Each category is compared for the last three years budgeted. The largest category is salaries followed by Education. The salaries have increased along with the benefits over the past three years. The majority of other categories have remained fairly constant over the past three years.

Salaries – Total salaries budgeted for FY 2022 increased 14.1% from FY 2021 budget. The budget for FY 2022 includes a Cost of Living adjustment (COLA) of 7% for all employees. Each 1% of COLA increase equals \$260,000 including benefits. Fifteen new full-time positions and two part-time positions have been included in the budget for a total cost of \$613,668.

Benefits – The total benefits budgeted equal 36.6% of total salaries. The budget for FY 2022 includes a 5% increase in health benefit costs for the last six months of the fiscal year. The retirement contribution has increased 11.1% from last year, increasing from 10.24% to 11.44% of payroll for all employees except law enforcement. The retirement contribution for law enforcement increased from 10.84% of salaries to 12.04%. The life and disability insurance expense increases as this is based on total payroll. The higher the total payroll, the higher the total expense for this insurance. There were no other changes in benefits.

Supplies and other – Total supplies and other expenses budgeted for FY 2022 of \$5,179,838 increased 2.8% from FY 2021 budget.

Education – The education budget represents current operating expenses and capital improvement requests that will be funded to Columbus County Schools, Whiteville City Schools and Southeastern Community College. The total includes debt service payments for Whiteville City Schools and Columbus County Schools related to debt incurred for their capital projects.

Miscellaneous – This expense includes insurance, several fees passed through to the State and other expenses that did not fit the description of any other categories.

The pie chart below provides the FY 2022 percentage of expense by functions. Following will be a detailed explanation of what departments are included in each function and their expenses

<u>Function</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>FY 2020</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>FY 2021</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>FY 2022</u>
General Government	\$ 8,445,486	\$ 7,767,140	\$ 8,731,710
Public Safety	\$13,355,179	\$13,844,165	\$16,529,542
Economic & Physical Development	\$ 1,904,197	\$ 1,915,021	\$ 1,934,126
Human Services	\$19,373,965	\$19,537,879	\$19,304,685
Cultural & Recreational	\$ 1,991,721	\$ 2,057,162	\$ 2,227,113
Education	\$14,026,952	\$15,062,620	\$14,540,170
Special Appropriations	\$ 1,170,755	\$ 1,051,732	\$ 1,196,618
Debt Service	\$ 788,433	\$ 1,641,962	\$ 2,275,461
TOTAL	\$61,056,688	\$62,877,681	\$66,739,425

The cost of living adjustment for salaries (COLA) will be included in each department expense budget for FY 2022. Prior years this adjustment was listed in total in a non-departmental expense department. Therefore, the total expenses budgeted in each department may be higher than prior

year's budget. The detail following will list each department that is included in the functional expense along with any significant changes in their ongoing expenses for the FY 2022 budget.

General Government

Governing Body – For FY 2022, expense for 50% (\$20,000) of the new shared Administrative Support Specialist position with the Legal Department and \$45,000 for contract attorney fees was added to the budget.

Administration – A new position, Assistant County Manager, is included in the FY 2022 budget. If approved by the board, the position would advise the County Manager on matters pertaining to the departments of Maintenance/Facilities, EMS/Fire/911, Building Inspections, Parks and Recreation, Planning, Transportation, Soil and Water Conservation, and Safety. Funding for the position is derived from the combining of other positions and job duties within the organization.

In addition, the budget includes the promotion of the current Assistant to the County Manager to the position of Senior Advisor to County Manager. This position would advise the County Manager on the departments of HUD, the Department of Aging, Cooperative Extension, Library, MIS, Public Utilities/Solid Waste, and Veterans Services.

In addition to overseeing the office of Administration, including the positions mentioned above, the County Manager would be directly involved with overseeing the Finance office, Airport, Economic Development, Health Department, Department of Social Services, and the Tax Administration office.

By creating the two positions in the budget and by dividing responsibilities, more assistance and oversight of the various departments will occur bringing about a more efficient and effective organization.

Personnel – Besides the ongoing expenses in the department, \$7,000 has been included in the FY 2022 budget for an outside agency to review and update the personnel policies.

Purchasing and Safety – No new expenses are included in this department for next year.

Finance – Additional expenses in this department include moving \$39,500 for audit fees and \$25,000 for outside consultants from Professional Services department. This will place the expenses in a more specific appropriate department.

Tax Administration – Included \$300,000 in capital spending for new tax software in FY 2022 to replace the current system that is 36 years old and no longer supported.

Legal - \$25,000 was moved from the Professional Services department to this department for outside attorney services and 50% of the new shared Administrative Support Specialist position (\$20,000) was included for next fiscal year.

Elections – Part-time salaries for FY 2022 of \$179,916 are \$80,409 higher (80.8%) than FY 2021 budget. This increase is based on the trend of the actual expense over the past couple of years. Actual part-time salaries in FY 2020 was \$167,400 and projected for FY 2021 at \$185,000. The Director is in the process of filling two full-time clerical positions that have been approved and unfilled most of the current fiscal year. All other line item expenses are approximately the same amount as prior years.

Register of Deeds – No new positions or significant additional expenses from the current fiscal year are projected for this department.

Non-departmental – This department included the COLA with benefits in previous budget years. This year we have expensed the COLA budget with benefits to each individual department. Other expenses budgeted in this department for FY 2022 are Unemployment Insurance \$18,500, Professional Liability and property insurance \$725,000 (increase of 10% or \$66,650 over FY 2021 budget) and \$750,000 for Economic Development incentives and grants.

Management Information Systems - Similar expenses budgeted for FY 2022 as was budgeted for FY 2021.

Central Garage – Similar expenses budgeted for FY 2022 as was budgeted for FY 2021.

Public Buildings – This category consists of the following buildings: Court facilities,

Administrative building, Department of Social Services building, Senior Centers, Miller (Health Department) building, Soil and Conservation building, Publicly Owned Treatment Water facility, BB&T complex and four school buildings.

The BB&T complex along with the four school buildings are new additions that will be budgeted in FY 2022. These new additions budgets total \$273,085 for FY 2022. The budgets include 2 full time housekeeping staff and one full time maintenance staff, utilities, maintenance and repairs and \$60,000 capital expense for a new roof on the Guideway School.

Capital expenses budgeted for FY 2022 for other buildings are:

DSS building	-	replace some floor covering \$30,000; upgrade security cameras \$8,000, upgrade roof \$2,500.
Administrative cameras	-	ADA compliant elevator \$30,000 and upgrade security cameras \$4,000.
Senior Centers - \$7,000.	-	install doorway inside building \$3,000 and upgrade security cameras \$7,000.
Soil & Conservation	-	replace HVAC \$17,340 and upgrade security system \$10,000.
Other buildings	-	for Library replace HVAC \$6,000 and security upgrade \$8,000; upgrade security system for Veteran's office \$8,000; upgrade security system for Elections storage building \$12,000; and purchase new truck to replace two old ones \$22,000.

The maintenance employee's salaries and benefits along with other expenses in the maintenance department, utilities, supplies, gas, etc., are included in this category. There are no significant changes in the FY 2022 budget compared to the FY 2021 budget.

Public Safety

Sheriff – The Sheriff's budget for FY 2022 is \$737,635 or 9.7% higher than FY 2021. The largest expense in their budget is for salaries and benefits. Included in the FY 2022 budget in addition to the COLA, is the addition of 9 new full-time positions totaling \$394,846 in salaries, 5 to work on the East end of the County and 4 to cover other areas. Capital requests for the Sheriff's Office is \$691,068 for 12 new police vehicles and \$7,421 for a drone. Departmental supplies, uniforms and other expenses have increased for existing and new staff. Gas for vehicles is budgeted to increase \$75,000 (37%) over last year's budget for both additional vehicles and increase in projected gas prices. Special Services expense is budgeted to increase from \$50,000 in FY 2021 to \$100,000 in FY 2022. This is the money that is used to purchase illegal drugs in undercover operations.

Sheriff's Office Grants – Includes expenditures for the Governors Highway Safety Grant and Sheriff Office grants. Budgeted expenses for FY 2022 for the Governors Highway Safety Grant are approximately the same as FY 2021 budget with the exception of Capital items which decreased \$94,000 in FY 2022. The Sheriff Office grants increased in FY 2022 with the budget of \$22,461 for Water Rescue.

Detention Center – FY 2022 budgeted expenses of \$5,061,114 increased \$1,535,204 (43.5%) over FY 2021 budget. Five full time and six part time deputies were moved from the Sheriff's budget to the Detention Center budget. These 11 employees are working at the courthouse and their salary totals \$381,000. A capital expenditure of \$240,000 for perimeter fencing is in the FY 2022 budget. Additional increases in medical expense for inmates, food and departmental supplies are included in preparation of receiving the additional 50 inmates from other counties. These additional inmates will generate \$1.5 million in additional revenue.

EMS Medical Director – Same budgeted expenses of \$15,350 for FY 2022 as was budgeted for FY 2021.

Emergency Services – FY 2022 budgeted total is \$1,697,904 for this service. Except for the COLA increase for salaries all other expenses are close to last year's amounts.

Fire Marshal - Similar expenses budgeted for FY 2022 as was budgeted for FY 2021.

Animal Control – The FY 2022 budget of \$760,056 is an increase of \$388,291 (104%) over the FY 2021 budget. After a review and inspection by the state, staffing and supplies will need to be increased to meet their regulations. Two part time positions will be upgraded to one full time position. Supplies needed to be added or replaced are dog and cat traps, catch poles, cat grabbers,

snake poles, flashlights, computer equipment and pressure washers. Increased expense for dog and cat food along with increased fees for veterinary care were budgeted. Add or replace radios used by the staff and repair dog and cat kennels is included in the budget.

Building Inspections - Similar expenses budgeted for FY 2022 as was budgeted for FY 2021.

Economic and Physical Development

Airport – Total budgeted expenses for FY 2022 is \$615,728, compared to FY 2021 budget of \$655,234. The largest expense item in the airport budget is aviation fuel purchased for resale. \$425,000 was budgeted for aviation fuel in FY 2022, compared to \$442,000 for FY 2021. This decrease in budget of \$17,000 (-3.2%) is based on lower sales incurred during the current fiscal year. All other expense items in the budget for FY 2022 are comparable in amounts to the FY 2021 budget.

Planning – FY 2022 budget includes a new part-time position for planning and code enforcement. All other expenses are approximate to last year's budget.

Economic Development - FY 2022 budget excluding the COLA increased 8% over FY 2021. The largest single line item expense except for salaries and benefits is for marketing which increased \$5,600 (22.4%) over FY 2021.

Cooperative Extension – FY 2022 budget of \$525,472 is \$5,154 under the FY 2021 budget. The largest line item is contracts which is budgeted for \$465,361. The contracts is the amount the County reimburses North Carolina State University for the staff who provide the services in the County. This amount increased 3.4% over the previous fiscal year budget.

Soil Conservation – FY 2022 budget of \$242,298 includes \$14,560 for a new part-time position. All other line item expenses are budgeted similar to the previous year with the reduction in capital outlay of \$20,851.

Minor Home Repairs – This service is provided by the Aging Department. FY 2022 budget of \$70,000 is the same amount budgeted for the past several fiscal years.

Human Services

Health Department – Provides various services under many programs which are funded by Federal, State and local monies. Following is the list of the different programs with a description of the services provided to Columbus County residents. The budgeted amounts for the various programs is based on expected reimbursements from Federal and State programs along with County appropriations.

Health Promotion is budgeted for \$314,472 for FY 2022, which is a reduction of \$20,137 from the FY 2021 budget. A Health Educator is employed to work with the citizens to promote health improvement. Adult immunizations (including annual flu) are provided from this program. Funding for these services is received from Medicaid, Medicare, personal insurance and local match.

Cooperative Health provides the School Nurse program for which we will receive \$400,000 from the State. The administrative services to operate the Health Department are covered in this cost center. We receive \$115,930 from the State towards these expenses. County money is utilized to cover the balance of the expenses. The total budgeted for this cost center for FY 2022 is \$1,619,734, which is an increase of \$52,160 (3.3%).

Infant Mortality Reduction Grant is 100% funded by a State grant. The services provided by a family nurse to high risk pregnancies and education to prevent infant mortality. The budgeted FY 2022 of \$64,282 is \$1,627 lower than FY 2021 budget.

Bioterrorism Health is a State mandated program funded by 90% State appropriations and 10% local match. The FY 2022 budget is \$42,541, a \$500 increase over FY 2021 budget. This program covers supplies and education for any potential hazard event.

Communicable Disease Aids-TB is a State mandated program with some local funding. The FY 2022 budget of \$222,474 is a \$3,599 (1.6%) increase over the FY 2021 budget.

COLPO Clinic is a program for women's health. Colposcopies are performed in the office for women who have no health insurance. The equipment has been purchased by grant money and the program services are funded by Medicaid and local match. The FY 2022

budget is \$29,777, an increase of \$4,781 (19.1%) over the FY 2021 budget.

Family Planning is a State mandated program that is funded by Medicaid, personal insurance and County funds. This program provides birth control supplies and information to low income women of child bearing age. This program is one of the larger programs provided by the Health Department with a FY 2022 budget of \$501,947. This is a decrease of \$50,613 (9.2%) from the FY 2021 budget.

Immunization is a State mandated program providing children with immunizations for flu and other vaccinations. The program is funded by Medicaid. The FY 2022 budget of \$45,387 is a decrease of \$10,458 (18.3%) from the FY 2021 budget.

Child Services Coordination is a program reimbursed by Medicaid to provide health services to small and infant children. The FY 2022 budget of \$152,295 is an increase of \$13,496 (9.7%) over FY 2021 budget.

Child Healthcare is a State mandated program to provide well care visits to children from low income families. Reimbursement for this program is received from Medicaid, private insurance and County funds. The FY 2022 budget of \$239,845 is \$24,900 (-9.4%) lower than the FY 2021 budget.

Maternal Health is a State mandated program that provides healthcare for pregnant women who have no payer source or are low income. Reimbursement is received from Medicaid, State programs and County appropriations. The FY 2022 budget of \$345,731, is a decrease of \$123,139 (-26.3%) from the FY 2021 budget.

WIC provides vouchers for food for low income women and infant children. This program is 100% funded by Federal funds. The FY 2022 budget of \$322,516 is a decrease of \$3,967 (-1.2%) from the FY 2021 budget.

Dental program goes to local schools and provides services to children who have no dental coverage. It is funded by Medicaid and County appropriations. The FY 2022 budget of 296,248 is a decrease of \$91,656 (-23.7%) from the FY 2021 budget.

Maternal Case Work is fully funded by Medicaid to provide services to child bearing women in Columbus County. The FY 2022 budget of \$207,302 is similar to the FY 2021 budget.

Environmental Health is a State mandated program that places septic systems and wells on site according to the laws of NC for residential and commercial customers in the County. Also inspects local restaurants, nursing homes, hotels, and bed and breakfasts according to the State law. It utilizes permit and inspection fees to cover the cost of service along with additional appropriations from the County. The FY 2022 budget of \$392,747 is an increase of \$39,404 (11.2%) over the FY 2021 budget.

Comp Breast Screening is 100% funded by the State to perform breast screenings for low income individuals. The FY 2022 budget of \$15,562 is similar to the FY 2021 budget of \$15,278.

Communicable Disease STD Drug is a State funded program to purchase STD drugs. The FY 2022 budget of \$3,000 is the same amount as last fiscal year's budget.

Other Health Services provides all other women's health services including pregnancy testing that does not fall in any of the above programs. Reimbursement is from the Medicaid program and County appropriations. The FY 2022 budget of \$41,895 compares to the FY 2021 budget of \$42,272.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention is a grant-funded program that teaches teens the required NC comprehensive sex education course. The program is funded by the grant and a County in-kind match. The FY 2022 budget of \$100,000 is the same as the FY 2021 budget.

The Health Department total budgeted expenses for FY 2022 are \$4,960,857, which is a reduction of \$225,635 (-4.4%) from the FY 2021 budget. The Medicaid program is considering changes to their payment systems to providers that would move some of the current expenses to physician offices, and out of our Health Department.

Social Services – Provides the following services to the citizens of Columbus County:

Food Stamp benefits that are federally reimbursed.

Work First Block Grant program assists individuals in locating and obtaining employment, transportation to the work site, assists clients that are considered within poverty level with eligible expenses to keep them employed and their families in place. This program is federally funded. The County is also required to spend approximately \$771,000 to meet the requirements of the Work First program as well as payment for Work First staff salary and benefits.

Child Support Program for all appropriate families in the County.

Energy assistance to low income individuals funded by State and Federal monies.

Day Care Workers are funded by a portion of reimbursement from federal sources.

Foster Care program of placing the children in homes and reimbursing for their living expenses.

Transportation for Medicaid recipients to medical appointments and possible lodging if necessary.

Many of the programs receive both Federal and State funds for providing the services. The FY 2022 total budget for Social Services is \$11,325,653. This represents an increase of \$326,099 (3%) over the FY 2021 budget.

Veteran Services assists Columbus County veterans in filing their claims to the Veterans Administration for compensation, healthcare benefits, education and any other benefits available to veterans. The FY 2022 budget of \$159,489 is an increase of \$12,054 (8.2%) over FY 2021 budget. Per the geographic distribution provided by the Veterans Association, approximately 3800 veterans in Columbus County received compensation and other benefits from the VA in FY 2019 totaling \$43,953,000, an average of \$11,566 per veteran.

Aging - Provides various services to the elderly residents of Columbus County. The following list of services are funded by State grants and local appropriations in resident's homes and at various public sites.

Information/Case Assistance is funded with monies from the State Home Community Care Block Grant and a 10% County match. Staff provide information and assistance to elderly for home ramps, rails and other features to assist mobility at the home. Ensure, a liquid nutrition, is sold to the elderly at cost along with medication assistance provided by the staff to the residents. The FY 2022 budget for this service is \$207,727, a decrease of \$6,000 from FY 2021 budget.

Personal Care Services is funded by State grants and the Medicaid program. In home services is provided by CNA's to low income senior citizens. The FY 2022 budget for this service is \$292,357, a decrease of \$22,892 (-7.3%) from the FY 2021 budget.

Community Alternative Program provides staff to manage the care of a senior family member by other family members or neighbors. State grant, and primarily Medicaid, provide funding for this service. The FY 2022 budget of \$794,177 is a decrease of \$155,773 (-16.4%) from the FY 2021 budget.

Chore Title III B Title XX is largely Medicare funded with \$7,000 funded from the State and the County appropriations of \$700. This service is provided by CNA's at different hours and different levels of care in the homes of the elderly. The FY 2022 budget of \$332,871 is an increase of \$3,179 (1%) over FY 2021 budget.

Congregate Nutrition is the expense funded by State monies to provide food to the senior citizens at the area senior centers. The FY 2022 budget of \$273,646 is an increase of \$10,073 (3.8%) over FY 2021.

Home delivered meals is a program funded by State grants. The FY 2022 budget of \$159,104 is a decrease of \$33,508 (-17.4%) from the FY 2021 budget.

Titles IIIB & C Cares Act Grant and the Family Caregivers Support Program provides nutrition and information to senior citizens. The FY 2022 budget of \$89,592 represents the remaining Cares Act money that needs to be spent by December 2021.

The total FY 2022 Aging budget for all the services listed above is \$2,856,686, a decrease of \$344,712 (-10.8%) from the FY 2021 budget. The total budget is based on the grants and reimbursements projected to be received from the State and Federal government in the coming year.

The Aging Department also oversees seven senior centers in Columbus County. These senior centers provide meals, exercise classes and activities to the senior citizens of that community. Listed below are the seven centers with the FY 2022 budget compared to FY 2021 budget:

Location	FY 2021 Budget	FY 2022 Budget
Bolton Senior Center	\$ 76,850	\$ 82,322
Bug Hill Senior Center	\$ 72,938	\$ 78,473
Chadbourn Senior Center	\$ 74,851	\$ 77,677
Tabor City Senior Center	\$ 75,743	\$ 80,669
Whiteville Senior Center	\$168,147	\$170,002
Fair Bluff Senior Center	\$ 69,837	\$ 71,240
East Columbus Senior Center	<u>\$ 71,813</u>	<u>\$ 76,919</u>
TOTAL	\$610,179	\$637,302

Total FY 2022 budget for all senior centers of \$637,302 increased \$27,123 (4.4%) over FY 2021 budget. The senior centers are funded with Federal grants and County appropriations.

Medical Examiner FY 2022 budget is \$72,000 compared to the FY 2021 budget of \$73,000.

Cultural and Recreational

Library FY 2022 budget of \$1,637,919 is \$121,684 (8.0%) over the FY 2021 budget of \$1,516,235. This budget covers the operations of the main library plus 5 branches. The largest single line item in the budget is \$82,500 for books. In addition, the library budgeted \$21,693 for a new vehicle to replace an aging van.

Parks and Recreation staff maintain 26 properties that include 20 public parks, Columbus County Airport, Farmer’s Market, Chadbourn Railroad Depot and 2 additional County properties. Revenue is generated from registration fees for basketball and soccer programs and rental of various facilities to the public. The FY 2022 budget of \$589,194 increased \$48,267 (8.9%) over FY 2021. Included in FY 2022 budget is \$44,500 to develop a master recreation plan for the County.

Education

A portion of the sales tax received is restricted for school and economic development expenditures. Following is the breakdown of our sales and use tax we budgeted to receive in FY 2022 compared to FY 2021 budget:

Sales & Use Tax revenue	Budgeted FY 2021	Budgeted FY 2022
1 cent sales tax article 39	\$3,867,512	\$4,185,410
½ cent sales tax article 40	\$2,316,444	\$2,219,693
½ cent sales tax article 42	\$ 793,052	\$ 980,117
½ cent sales tax article 44	\$1,758,907	\$2,159,411
½ cent sales tax – county school art. 40	\$ 542,760	\$ 669,774
½ cent sales tax – city school art. 40	\$ 220,147	\$ 281,524
Second ½ cent sales tax – city art. 42	\$ 325,955	\$ 435,078
½ cent sales tax county school art. 42	<u>\$ 803,623</u>	<u>\$1,035,098</u>
Total Sales & Use Tax revenue	\$10,628,400	\$11,966,105

The state calculates the allocation of the sales tax for the different ‘‘’’es listed above. We based our budget for FY 2022 on the recent trends for the past year.

Article 39 is 100% for the County to use towards general operations without any restrictions. Article 40 restricts 30% to be used for Columbus County and Whiteville City Schools with the remaining 70% for general county operations. Article 42 restricts 60% to be used for County and Whiteville City Schools with the remaining 40% for general county operations. Article 44 restricts that 100% be used for Columbus County and Whiteville City Schools, Southeastern Community College and Economic Development.

Every year the schools and college request amounts for operations and capital during the budget process. The last several years, the operating expenses budgeted for the schools and the college have been increased 3% over the previous year; and I am recommending we continue that funding commitment for FY 2022. The schools and college have provided a list of capital projects for which they are seeking reimbursement from the County to fund. Both the city and county schools have debt which is paid by the County. We are utilizing article 44 sales tax revenue to cover the debt payments of \$666,298 for FY 2022 budget. The FY 2022 budget to the schools and college for capital expenditures totals \$1,214,314. Southeastern Community College is budgeted for \$289,713, which is for \$125,000 upgrades to Instructional Classroom technology, \$32,000 Lab renovations, \$66,235 for a 3-bay shelter and \$66,478 for campus grounds equipment improvements. Columbus County Schools are budgeted to receive \$500,000 and Whiteville City Schools \$424,601 for capital improvement projects.

The total revenue received from fines and forfeitures \$141,000 and ABC profit distribution \$145,000 for FY 2022 budget, will be distributed between city and county schools based on the number of students.

Special Appropriations

Total special appropriations budgeted for FY 2022 is \$1,138,618, an increase of \$86,886 (8.3%) over FY 2021 budget. Following is the list of the Special Appropriations budgeted for FY 2022 compared to the FY 2021 budget:

	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>FY 2022</u>
Rent/Lesae Agreements	\$66,701	\$80,000
Daytime Rescue Squads	\$225,000	\$225,000
Fire/Rescue Appropriations	\$253,917	\$258,309
R.S.V.P.	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Arts	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000
Sickle Cell	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Cape Fear-Res Con Dev	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
Mental Health	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
Council of Government	\$ 24,513	\$ 24,367
Southeastern Economic Development	\$ 5,229	\$ 5,229
CCAIVE	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Forest Service	\$220,852	\$248,542
Dom Nursing Home Travel	\$ 2,000	\$ - 0 -
Literacy Council – Spelling Bee	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Families First	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Misc. Appropriations	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Special Child Adoptions	\$ 94,750	\$ 68,928
Cape Fear River Assembly	\$ 462	\$ 462
Rope Rescue Team	\$ 19,600	\$ 51,107
Water Rescue	\$ 16,708	\$ 41,674
ABC Bottle Tax Dist. For Mental Health	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000
Columbus County Dream Center	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
Columbus County Chamber of Commerce	\$ - 0 --	\$ 5,000
Town of Chadbourn	\$ - 0 --	\$ 60,000
TOTAL	\$1,051,732	\$1,174,118

The FY 2022 budget is \$122,386 (11.6%) increase over the FY 2021 budget. Two new requests for the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Chadbourn are recommended for approval. The following organizations submitted new requests for FY 2022:

Annie Catherine Pridgen (ACP) Community Development Foundation LLC	\$800,000
First Hope Foundation	\$100,000
Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church	\$100,000

We have not included any money in the FY 2022 budget for these three new requests listed above.

Debt Service

The FY 2022 budget for debt service totals \$2,275,461, an increase of \$633,499 from FY 2021 budget. Items included in debt service are \$674,250 for the courthouse annex project, \$955,832 for the Viper radio system, \$441,768 for BB&T complex and \$203,611 for BB&T Pinckney Street office.

WATER FUND

The Water Fund is comprised of 5 water districts. Total revenue budgeted for FY 2022 for all 5

districts is \$3,691,009, a decrease of \$71,407 (-1.9%) from FY 2021 budget. Budgeted revenue is based on the average received for the past fiscal year plus a 2.5% rate increase. The consolidated water rate system will increase 2.5% effective July 1, 2021, which will result in an approximate increase of \$1.25 per month in the average residential customer's bill.

Total combined expenses budgeted for the 5 water districts for FY 2022 is \$3,691,009, a decrease of \$71,407 (-1.9%) from FY 2021 budget. No change in staffing and all other operating expenses are approximately the same as the previous year's budget. Two new trucks totaling \$55,000 have been included in the capital expense budget for the FY 2022 Water Fund.

OTHER FUNDS

Other Funds include those listed in the table below:

	Adopted Budget FYE 6/30/2020	Adopted Budget FYE 6/30/2021	Proposed Budget FYE 6/30/2022
Solid Waste	\$6,043,741	\$5,035,404	\$5,567,405
Tabor City Incubator	\$ 101,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 34,000
Public Transportation	\$ 765,727	\$1,156,759	\$ 786,170
NC 911	\$ 323,082	\$ 325,811	\$ 318,748
HUD	\$1,919,384	\$1,912,317	\$1,723,350
Rescue Units	\$ 751,976	\$ 666,466	\$ 751,618
Fire Departments	\$1,781,058	\$1,557,422	\$1,799,633
Sheriff's Special Alcoh/drug	\$ 66,826	\$ 16,951	\$ 70,000
Revaluation Services	\$ 120,083	\$ 99,000	\$ 20,000
TOTAL	\$11,872,877	\$10,810,130	\$11,070,924

Solid Waste – The FY 2022 budgeted revenue for solid waste of \$5,567,405 is an increase of \$532,001 (10.6%) over FY 2021 budget based on projected usage.

The FY 2022 budgeted expenses include a 5% (\$212,000) increase in the disposal fees for trash hauled to Sampson County and capital items of a new excavator for \$75,000 and a new dump truck for \$175,000. All other expense line items are similar to last budget year.

Tabor City Incubator - FY 2022 budget has decreased \$6,000 from FY 2021 budget due to a decrease in maintenance and repairs to the building and grounds.

Public Transportation – The FY 2022 of \$786,170 is \$370,589 (-32%) under the FY 2021 budget. The reduction in the budget is due to Cares Act money not being available for spending in FY 2022. Of the \$786,170 budgeted for FY 2022, \$747,764 or 95.1% of the total is received from NC DOT and the remaining \$38,406 is provided by County appropriations. The FY 2022 budget includes \$209,223 for two 20 ft. and one 22 ft. vehicles to replace aged out vehicles.

NC 911 – Is funded 100% by the state. The FY 2022 budget is slightly lower than the FY 2021 budget with a reduction in the wireless carrier fees.

HUD – Is funded 100% by federal funds. The FY 2022 budget of \$1.7 million decreased \$188,967 (-9.9%) from the FY 2021 budget. This reduction was a result of the CARES ACT money of \$54,723 received in FY 2021 as a one-time payment and a reduction in the housing assistance payments of \$106,000 (-6.6%).

Rescue Units – Are funded by a special district tax for the City of Whiteville and a 2 cent County ***Rescue Tax***. The FY 2022 budget includes \$195,499 for the special district tax and \$556,119 for the 2 cent tax. These two taxes total \$751,618 which is an increase of \$85,152 (12.7%) from the FY 2021 budget. The total FY 2022 budget is redistributed to rescue units with \$195,498 for the district and the balance divided equally, \$69,515 to each of the following rescue units – Cerro Gordo, Acme Delco Riegelwood, Buckhead, Chadbourn, Fair Bluff, Lake Waccamaw, Nakina and Tabor City.

Fire Departments – The special fire tax that is collected is repaid to each of the fire districts. Based on the collections for the current fiscal year, the FY 2022 budget of \$1,799,633 is an increase of \$116,378 (6.9%) from the FY 2021 projected. Below is the FY 2022 budgeted amount for each fire department compared to the FY 2021 projected:

	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>FY 2022</u>
Evergreen	\$ 65,422	\$ 70,525
St. James	\$ 20,155	\$ 22,182

North Whiteville	\$163,416	\$173,887
Nakina	\$ 96,024	\$105,316
Old Dock	\$ 56,977	\$ 60,785
Hallsboro	\$ 59,472	\$ 64,820
Roseland	\$ 79,235	\$ 86,364
Yam City	\$127,338	\$135,749
Acme Delco	\$368,675	\$386,408
Klondyke	\$115,565	\$125,379
Coles Service	\$ 91,966	\$ 89,009
Cerro Gorda	\$ 78,877	\$ 87,105
Williams Township	\$ 99,178	\$106,796
White Marsh-Welch Creek	\$ 45,406	\$ 50,161
Brunswick	\$144,806	\$157,993
Bolton	\$ 37,346	\$ 42,742
Buckhead	\$ 20,813	\$ 21,102
Remit to District	\$ 12,584	\$ 13,310
TOTAL	\$1,683,255	\$1,799,633

Sheriff Special Alcohol and Drug – FY 2022 budgeted revenue includes \$25,000 from a controlled substance tax, \$40,000 from US Marshal-DEA fund and \$5,000 from County funds. The FY 2022 budget revenue covers the overtime salaries and supplies related drug investigations.

Revaluation – FY 2022 budget allocates \$20,000 towards the total cost of revaluation in future years.

In Closing

Thank you for the opportunity to present the FY 2022 budget that is recommended for your consideration. Our goal was to prepare a recommended budget that supports and advances the board's priorities, while maintaining the tax rate at 80.5 cents and continues the level of service that meets the needs of our citizens.

As your new County Manager, I will continue to work with the Board to develop a mission, vision, and purpose to advance Columbus County and its citizens while making a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I want to acknowledge the hard work of the Finance office under the leadership of Jay Leatherman, Heather Woody, and Dylan Bowen in partnership with Department Directors and staff in the development of this budget document.

I am grateful to each of you for your leadership and support, and I welcome your comments and suggestions as you review the attached information in the days ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Edwin H. Madden, Jr., ICMA-CM
County Manager

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to establish June 07, 2021, at 6:30 P.M., for the Public Hearing for the Proposed FY 2021/2022 Columbus County Operating Budget, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

Chairman Bullard stated the first Budget Workshop would be set at the June 07, 2021 Board Meeting.

Agenda Item #8: PUBLIC INPUT:

Chairman Bullard opened the floor for Public Input, and stated we need to suspend the three (3) minutes time limit that is listed in the Public Address to the Board, due to the nature of information.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to suspend the three (3) minutes time limit that is listed in the Public Address to the Board Policy, seconded by Commissioner Watts. The motion unanimously passed. The following spoke.

1. Steven Beck: stated the following:
 - At Nolan Park last Thursday, around 6:15 P.M., we were getting ready to play ball;
 - Several continuous gunshots were heard on two (2) occasions;

- I took the best safety practices that were available to me;
- The children were dramatized;
- When I thought it was safe to do so, we loaded the children up in the vehicles and departed;
and
- Children should not be exposed to activity of this nature.

2. **Shane Hardy:** stated the following:

- I was not at the stated event, but from the details I have heard, we should avoid incidences of this nature from happening;
- A nice sports complex centrally located in the County, would curtail events like this from happening;
- The complex would need to be well maintained with strict regulations, and would eventually have economic value;
- A committee needs to be formed, which entails all the affected faucets, on the feasibility of building a sports complex, and I would be willing to serve on the committee.

MOTION:

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to form a committee on the feasibility of building a sports complex, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #9: PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Joy Jacobs, Public Transportation Director, delivered the following Departmental Update.

FY21 Update Summary

Operational and Capital Budget	\$633,173.00	
Spent so far	<u>\$315,706.45</u>	
Balance:	\$317,466.54	
ROAP Budget carried over from FY19 - this is the funds to pay for the actual passenger trips		
Budget	\$72,432.75	
Spent so far	<u>\$5,847.10</u>	
Balance:	\$66,585.65	
CARES Act Funding Budget	\$414,621.00	For operational expenses
Additional CARES just approved	<u>\$106,000.00</u>	
Total CARES Funding Budget	\$520,621.00	
Spent so far	<u>\$297,190.00</u>	
Balance:	\$223,431.00	Any remaining at the end of FY21 sill carry over to FY22
Trip Funding from DHHS	\$70,000.00	Initial funds received for July 1-Dec 30, 2020
Spent	<u>\$31,282.50</u>	
Balance:	\$38,717.50	
Sent Back	<u>\$17,942.00</u>	
Amount allowed for Vaccine trips	\$20,775.50	
Spent so far:	<u>\$1,226.10</u>	74 trips, 39 passengers taken for vaccines
Balance:	\$19,549.40	
Veterans Funding	\$22,000.00	
Spent so far	<u>\$4,771.37</u>	
Balance:	\$17,228.63	
Revenues so far:	\$27,244.90	

There are 2 buses for sale on state surplus that will be added to this plus 3 more months of surcharge income from our vendor. This will help to cover our local match needed for our regular grant with

NCDOT. Currently our matching funds needed are \$30,264.00.

Agenda Item #10: PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION - INCREASE in SURCHARGE:

Joy Jacobs, Public Transportation Director, requested an increase of the surcharge from \$0.08 to \$0.10 to help cover our local match requirements for FY22.

Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to approve an increase of the surcharge from \$0.08 to \$0.10 to help cover our local match requirements for FY22, seconded by Commissioner Watts. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #11: PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION - SETTING NO-SHOW FEE TO \$10.00 PER TRIP:

Joy Jacobs, Public Transportation Director, requested Board approval to set the no-show fee to a flat \$10.00 per trip. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the no-show fee to a flat \$10.00 per trip, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #12: SOCIAL SERVICES - MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

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

**Monthly Administrative Update
For April 2021
May 17, 2021 Meeting**

Columbus County DSS continues to participate in the Covid-19 planning team calls, which are held once a week. Updates are given on the County's and State's Covid-19 status. We are pleased that the cases in our county have decreased. Efforts continue to get more citizens vaccinated as soon as possible.

On April 1, 2021, we attended a budget meeting with the county manager and finance department. This was a very positive session.

On April 7, 2021, the day care supervisor, program manager, and I participated on a conference call with our state day care consultant. During the call we received some program updates on the state's day care funding. We also discussed our spending levels. We may be able to serve some children from our waiting list if our spending decreases. Our consultant informed us that our day care waiting list policy needs to be updated, therefore we will be working on making changes to our waiting list policy as needed. We were also informed that the Division of Child Development and Early Education will continue to pay parent fees through June 2021.

On April 8, 2021, I participated in the NC Directors Association's monthly zoom meeting, during the meeting we received an update on the Families First Prevention Services Act, which will be implemented in North Carolina in October. This will affect child welfare services and the way we work with families to improve outcomes. This new practice model could also be a cost to counties at some point. One of the goals is to move away from children being placed in congregate care in the next two to three years. At this point the state is drafting a plan to implement this new system. Counties were told to be aware of unlicensed adult care homes that are on the increase across the state, and that some licensed facilities have closed due to the low rates paid to adult care homes. The state is looking at removing the capped rate for these homes. There was no new information shared about Medicaid Managed Care this month.

We continue to have conference calls and virtual meetings with program representatives. They provide information on policy changes, problem areas, and review county data with the program managers, supervisors, and agency director when possible.

During the month of April, I participated on eight zoom meetings and one in-person meeting with department managers.

We had a worker involve in a vehicle accident during work hours with a DSS van. The worker was not at fault and only suffered minor injuries.

Lastly our building continues to be fogged each morning prior to staff arriving. We continue to provide personal protective equipment to staff. Common areas are cleaned throughout the day.

Washing hands, wearing mask, and social distancing continue to be stressed during work hours.

**April 2021
Human Services**

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Adult Services (APS)	APS Reports Accepted: 2 County Wards: 28 Number of Payee Cases: 20 Adults Served APS: 7 Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: 1,174 Amount Requested for Reimbursement: \$22,598.20
Children's Protective Services (CPS)	Reports Accepted: 28 Reports Screened out: 27 Families Receiving In-Home Services: 48 Children Served: 93 Contacts with Families Monthly: 715 Assessments: 22
Foster Care	Foster Children in Foster Homes: 84 Children Placed Outside County: 33 Agency Adoptions: 0 Pending Adoptions: 3 Total Foster Homes Licensed: 3 Total Children in Foster Care: 87
Work First Employment (TANF)	Applications Taken: 10 Applications Approved: 3 Individuals Receiving Benefits: 238 Entered Employments: 3 Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 0
Program Integrity	Collections for Fraud: \$3,201.00 New Referrals: 19 Cases Established: 13
Day Care	Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 341 Children on the Waiting List: 470 Amount Spent on Day Care Services: \$184,221.00

**April 2021
Economic Services**

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Food & Nutrition	Applications Taken: 102 Applications Approved: 103 Active Cases: 6,519 Benefits Issued: \$2,648,888.00 Participants Served: 12,983
Adult Medicaid	Applications Taken: 97 Cases Terminated: 5 Redeterminations: 334 Applications Processed: 132
Family & Children's Medicaid	Applications Taken: 136 Applications Processed: 219 Redeterminations: 1,010 Total Medicaid Cases: 14,397 Total Individuals Receiving: 46,612
Child Support	Absent Parents Located: 57 Orders Enforced: 912 Active Cases: 3,808 Collections: \$496,959.00

Economic Services Program Narrative
Family and Children's Medicaid; Adult Medicaid including Nursing Homes/Special Assistance/Community Alternatives Program (CAP); Medicaid Transportation; Food & Nutrition; Child Support/Paralegal and Housekeeping
Submitted by Cyndi Hammonds, Income Maintenance Administrator
Reporting Month: April 2021

News/Updates/Vacancies

Adult and Family & Children's Medicaid:

Medicaid's REDA Audit has begun which means Quality Control with the State randomly selected 20 Medicaid cases in April that were dispositioned in March. Cases were reviewed and no technical errors were found however there was one eligibility error with no charge back to the county. This case was denied properly for not being disabled however the worker (who is fairly new) forgot to evaluate the client for the Family Planning Program. This program only pays for Family Planning visits, birth control and COVID testing. The application was reopened and the client was given these benefits. We will be waiting in May for our 2nd selection of 20 cases to be reviewed. It gets tough at times when you have brand new workers working on cases that could possibly forget to document something or evaluate for all programs. We also passed our Report Card for our timeliness compliance timeframe. In order to help reduce errors that have been called in the past, we reorganized Adult Medicaid and have hired a new Supervisor over the Long Term Care Section. See next section for more explanations. For Medicaid policy purposes the Public Health Emergency remains in place until July 19, 2021. These 2 teams have 3 new hires and 2 vacancies.

Medicaid for Long Term Care; Medicaid Transportation and Housekeeping:

- Medicaid for Long Term Care consist of those clients that have applied for or are actively receiving Medicaid to help pay for them to be in a Nursing Home or Rest Home (Special Assistance). It also includes the Community Alternative Program (CAP) which is Medicaid for clients that can safely remain at home with the help of family members and nursing aides but qualifies to be in a Nursing Home and Medicaid for those that qualify to be in a Rest Home but can safely remain at home with a monetary payment – Special Assistance In-Home. These programs are very in depth because caseworkers must investigate to see if clients or their family members have transferred assets out of the client or spouse's name in order to be eligible for Medicaid. When this is done, the client could potentially be ineligible to receive help in the facility for a certain period of time. The newly hired Supervisor will officially begin on May 3, 2021. There are 4 caseworkers with only one being a veteran worker and the other 3 are new to the policies for Nursing Home, Rest Home and CAP.
- Medicaid Transportation remains a busy program making referrals for those that need transportation to and from their medical providers. Once Managed Care is implemented, some of these clients will have to go through their Primary Health Plans in order to get their transportation referrals. The majority of our riders are those that will not be having to choose a Primary Health Plan and will remain with us to make referrals to our contracted vendors.
- Housekeeping remains busy with only one housekeeper completing the cleaning at this time. Our other housekeeper was promoted within the department.

Food and Nutrition:

Several policy waivers remain in place in order for clients to be/remain eligible for benefits. Effective April clients that are receiving all unemployment benefits are considered countable income for FNS purposes and could make some of our clients ineligible for the program.

These Unemployment Benefits include: Extension of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation which provides an additional \$300.00 weekly payments on top of regular unemployment compensation provided by the State thru September 6, 2021; Extension of Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation which provides additional weeks of unemployment benefits to individuals who exhaust their regular unemployment compensation through September 6, 2021; Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation which is a provision that started December 27, 2020 and extends through September 4, 2021 and provides an additional \$100.00 weekly benefit to individuals with at least \$5,000.00 in net income from self-employment during the applicable tax year. All complaints the Food and Nutrition Team receives must be logged and noted how the complaint was resolved and sent to the State bi-annually. This includes any hearings the client may ask for because they are not satisfied. This team is fully staffed however has 2 new hires still in training and 1 new hire that just began her training.

Child Support and Paralegal:

Child Support prepared 232 cases for 3 days of court in April. They are anticipating their collection rate to increase due to intercepting of income tax returns. They continue to have clients come to the agency for DNA testing and signing of voluntary child support agreements before they go to court. If absent parents do not agree to sign these voluntary agreements that is when we have to bring them to court and let the judge decide on the support agreement by hearing both party's arguments. Each month the State sends out a "top 20 employees" across NC that have the largest one-time payments. Our Child Support Team had 2 employees that were 7th and 8th for the top collectors totaling a \$15,479 collection for one and a \$13,740 collection for the other. Congratulations to both workers! Our paralegal completed 175 orders for the month. This team has 2 currently in training and still remains with 3 vacancies. These positions keep getting reposted due to not getting enough qualified applicants applying for the positions.

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD REPORT
Melinda H. Lane, Program Manager
Vacancies/Updates/News for April 2021

Intake/Investigation/Assessment:

The Intake/Investigation/Assessment Unit continues to be fully staffed. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. This Unit has not slowed down in its day-to-day activities of contacts with children, families, and other resource agencies. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) is making monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework. She plans an on-site visit in June to complete an official yearly review of cases for the state.

In-Home Services:

The In-Home Services Unit is now fully staffed. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts, although short-staffed, to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. This Unit has not slowed down in its day-to-day activities of contacts with children, families, and other resource agencies. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) is making monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework. She plans an on-site visit in June to complete an official yearly review of cases for the state.

Foster Care/Permanency Planning:

The Foster Care Unit continues to be fully staffed, however one Social Worker will be moving to another position in another area of Child Welfare in May. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts 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., although more face-to-face visits are now being conducted. Regular updates continue to be provided from the state regarding guidance and information as things evolve. This Unit is participating primarily in in-court cases at this time. This Unit has not slowed down in its day-to-day activities of contacts with children, families, and other resource agencies. In fact, foster care cases increased in April. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) is making monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework. She plans an on-site visit in June to complete an official yearly review of cases for the state.

Transitional Unit:

The Transitional unit continues to have one vacancy. This position has been advertised and interviews will be scheduled soon. Staff are working caseloads while assisting the other Child Welfare Units as needed. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. The Foster Home Licensing worker continues to begin to move forward slowly with getting more foster homes licensed since COVID-19 has also affected getting all of the required parts of the licensure packet completed. They are conducting one-on-one time for those that might be interested in completing Deciding Together, instead of the MAPP classes. They have sent out packets in an attempt to recruit and train new prospective foster parents. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) is making monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework. She plans an on-site visit in June to complete an official yearly review of cases for the state.

Adult Services:

The Adult Services Unit continues to be fully staffed. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts to provide needed services to the elderly and disabled while utilizing precautions due to COVID-19. This Unit continues to be busy in its day-to-day activities of contacts with the elderly

and disabled and resource agencies.

Work First Employment:

This Unit 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. Workers are encouraged to make telephone contacts with clients at least every two weeks to offer support and resources to clients.

Child Day Care:

The Child Day Care Unit continues to be fully staffed. The Supervisor and staff are currently working the over and under payment report to ensure proper payment has been made to county daycare providers over the past several months. 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 be fully staffed. COVID-19 continues to limit office visits, encouraging telephone contact. Repayment agreements are being relaxed to help clients during this time.

The Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) continues to have available funds. Applications are now available on EPASS where applicants can complete and submit applications on-line. Due to CIP being the only program with available funds right now and applications being low one in-house staff person is processing applications at this time. In April 40 applications for CIP were completed with 17 approvals. Duke Energy continues to have a moratorium in place for some customers that prevents them from being disconnected, however, that moratorium will end May 31st.

Agenda Item #13: ANIMAL CONTROL - ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE - AMENDED-:

The Honorable Sheriff Jody Greene, requested discussion of the Proposed Animal Control Ordinance, and a Public Hearing be established for June 21, 2021, at 6:30 P.M.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to establish a Public Hearing for the -Amended- Animal Control Ordinance for June 21, 2021, at 6:30 P.M., seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: PLANNING -ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING:

Samantha Alsup, Planning Director, requested June 07, 2021, at 7:00 P.M., as the date and time for a Public Hearing on proposed text amendments to the Columbus County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10, Parts 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to establish June 07, 2021, at 7:00 P.M., as the date and time for a Public Hearing on proposed text amendments to the Columbus County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10, Parts 1, 2, 3 and 4, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #15: ADMINISTRATION - WAIVER OF TIPPING FEES FOR CERRO GORDO AND TABOR CITY SCHOOLS:

Eddie Madden, County Manager, requested the waiver of tipping fees for the demolition of Cerro Gordo and Tabor City Schools.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to waive the tipping fees for the demolition of Cerro Gordo and Tabor City Schools, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #16: FINANCE - AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE:

Jay Leatherman, Interim Finance Director, requested Board approval of the following American Rescue Plan Capital Project Ordinance.

COLUMBUS COUNTY

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
CAPITAL PROJECT
MAY 17, 2021**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus, North Carolina, that pursuant to Section 159-13.2 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following Capital Project Ordinance is **HEREBY ADOPTED**:

SECTION 1. The project authorized is the American Rescue Plan..

SECTION 2. The project manager is hereby directed to proceed with the project.

SECTION 3. The project will be executed in full during fiscal years 2021/2022.

SECTION 4. The following revenues will be available to the County to complete the project.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	TITLE	AMOUNT
93-3429-432033	American Rescue Plan Revenue	\$10,765,435
TOTAL:		\$10,765,435

SECTION 5. The following amounts were appropriated for completion of the project:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	TITLE	AMOUNT
93-4972-512100	Salaries & Wages - Reimbursement	\$800,000
93-4972-523920	Personal Protective Equipment	\$175,000
93-4972-539820	Small Business Grants/Chamber	\$150,000
93-4972-550013	Viper Radio Infrastructure	\$900,000
93-4972-558025	Airport Infrastructure-Terminal Building	\$2,000,000
93-4972-558015	Airport Infrastructure - Hanger	\$1,200,000
93-4972-558035	Water and Sewer Infrastructure - Eastern End Industrial Development	\$2,000,000
93-4972-558045	Broadband/Fiber Infrastructure	\$1,500,000
93-4972-545505	Revenue Replenishment	\$2,040,435
TOTAL:		\$10,765,435

SECTION 6. Copies of the Grant Project Ordinance shall be made available to the Budget Officer, Project Manager and the Finance Office.

ADOPTED this the 17th day of May, 2021.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ **JUNE B. HALL, CLERK TO BOARD**

Commissioner Watts made a motion to approve the American Rescue Plan Capital Project Ordinance, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #17: FINANCE - FINANCIAL REPORT:

Jay Leatherman, Interim Finance Director, delivered the following Financial Report for acceptance.

We have completed ten (10) months or 83% of our fiscal year. Following are highlights of the financial operations to date.

Fund 10 - Operating Fund

Revenues

Total General Fund revenue received for the ten (10) months of the current fiscal year was \$46.5 million, 72.05% of the budget.

We have collected over \$29.6 million (91.51%) in Ad Valorem taxes which is the largest single revenue source. Sales tax is under budget but is expected to increase in the next several months as more businesses are getting back to normal.

Several of the higher revenue departments, Aging and Social Service, are awaiting third party funds for their operations performed to date. The Health Department is close to budget with their revenue receipts.

Finance staff will be monitoring all receipts on a regular basis and assist departments in collecting revenue to meet the budget.

Expenditures

Total General Fund expenditures for the ten (10) months of the current fiscal year was \$47.4 million 73.4% of the budget.

The majority of departments are under their 83% average in expense for the year. A few that are over 83%, Tax and Elections, have incurred the majority of their expenses early in the fiscal year based on their type of operation.

As of April 30, the expenditures in Fund 10 have exceeded the revenue by \$889,202. We are working with Department Managers to limit spending the remainder of the fiscal year and secure additional revenue due from third parties.

OTHER FUNDS

I have attached a summary of revenue and expenditures to date for several other funds. Several of these funds report expenses exceeding revenue for the first ten (10) months of the fiscal year. This is a result of the timing of receiving the revenue for these funds.

The Water Districts combined report revenue exceeding expenses by \$511,331 year-to-date. The Fire Departments and Ambulance and Rescue Funds report zero as the total revenue received for these operations is disbursed out to the various organizations.

Agenda Item #18: FINANCE - AWARD OF LOW BID FOR FINANCING OF BB&T PROPERTY (COURTHOUSE):

Jay Leatherman, Interim Finance Director, requested Board approval of low bidder of the proposed commercial real estate purchase for Columbus County, from the following Bidders List.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY
Bank Refinancing
Building Purchase - \$600,000 Terms - 36 Months**

BANK	INTEREST RATE	INTEREST COST with FEES
BB&T	0.97%	\$14,914.79
United Bank	0.90%	\$9,361.41
First Bank	1.16%	\$12,290.47

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve United Bank as the low bidder for the financing of BB&T Property at the Courthouse, at the interest rate of 0.90%, with the total interest cost with fees for three (3) years, at nine thousand, three hundred sixty-one, and 41/100 (\$9,361.41)

dollars, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

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

At 8:05 P.M., Commissioner Coleman 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 Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of MINUTES:

May 03, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting Minutes.

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

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

At 8:07 P.M., Commissioner Watts made a motion to adjourn the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #20: COMMENTS:

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

A. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Commissioner Coleman:** stated the following:
 - I am greatly concerned about the ballpark shooting;
 - Columbus County has a serious drug problem, and I hope that the Sheriff, Highway Patrolmen, County Manager, City Managers, and the community can all come together to rid the County of drug dealers and troublemakers; **and**
 - We need to provide safe areas for our children to play in.
2. **Commissioner McDowell:** stated the following:
 - The shooting at the park is very sad especially when kids are involved;
 - We need to put a stop to this type of activity;
 - Sometimes it takes a tragedy to wake us up and open our thinking to new ideas;
 - We need to provide safe environments for our kids to play in; **and**
 - There is a vaccination event on Sunday, at City Hall, and no appointment is needed, just walk in.
3. **Commissioner Smith:** stated the following:
 - I have talked to a lot of friends who were at the ballpark when the shooting took place;
 - They did make it home safe; **and**
 - Concrete and serious consideration needs to be given to providing a safe and controlled environment for our kids to play in or hold sports activities.
4. **Commissioner Watts:** stated the following:
 - I am strongly concerned over the ballpark shooting, and know that the outcome could have been detrimental;
 - We need to concentrate heavily on providing a safe environment for our kids; **and**
 - I deeply thank the Board for supporting the kids.
5. **Commissioner Byrd:** stated the following:
 - I am greatly concerned over the ballpark shooting, and how a situation like this could escalate; **and**
 - It is difficult for our law enforcement people to do their jobs effectively when the people they arrest are freed back into the community before they have a chance to submit the paperwork.

6. **Vice Chairman McMillian:** stated the following:
 - I am concerned over the ballpark shooting, and what the consequences could have been;
 - I thank the citizens that came out to express their concerns; **and**
 - The Health Department is still offering vaccinations.
7. **Chairman Bullard:** stated the following:
 - I am greatly concerned over the ballpark shooting; **and**
 - I would like to thank the County Manager for securing gas for emergency vehicles.

B. County Manager - Edwin J. Madden, Jr.: stated the following:

1. There are relaxed rules regarding gathering and face mask requirements for vaccinated staff;
2. All departments will be fully open to the public starting tomorrow;
3. Will include continued guidelines for social distancing and masking for unvaccinated;
4. Travel restrictions have been lifted; **and**
5. I am pleased to introduce Stuart Carroll as the new Maintenance Director who will replace Larry Hayes.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE and (6) PERSONNEL:

At 8:18 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (3) Attorney-Client Privilege and (6) Personnel, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #21: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE and (6) PERSONNEL:

No official action was taken.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:

At 8:44 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

READING and APPROVAL of CLOSED SESSION GENERAL ACCOUNT:

Chairman Bullard requested Amanda Prince, County Attorney, to orally read the Closed Session General Account. Ms. Prince orally read the following: "The County Commissioners discussed opioid litigation with the County Attorney. The County Commissioners discussed personnel matters with the County Manager. No official action was taken."

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

MOTION:

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to appoint Sheriff Jody Greene as the full-time Animal Control Director, seconded by Commissioner Coleman, effective May 18, 2021. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #22: ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:46 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed. These minutes were recorded by Amanda Prince, County Attorney, and typed by June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board.

APPROVED:

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

Monday, May 17, 2021

8:05 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:

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**
Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**
Chris Smith
Giles E. Byrd
Lavern Coleman
Brent Watts
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Edwin H. Madden, Jr., **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
Jay Leatherman, **Interim Finance Officer**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board (Excused)**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:05 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of MINUTES:

May 03, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer District 1 Board Meeting.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the May 03, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

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

Monday, May 17, 2021

8:05 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:

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**
Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**
Chris Smith
Giles E. Byrd
Lavern Coleman
Brent Watts
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Edwin H. Madden, Jr., **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
Jay Leatherman, **Interim Finance Officer**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board (Excused)**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:05 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of MINUTES:

May 03, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the May 03, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

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

Monday, May 17, 2021

8:05 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:

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**
Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**
Chris Smith
Giles E. Byrd
Lavern Coleman
Brent Watts
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Edwin H. Madden, Jr., **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
Jay Leatherman, **Interim Finance Officer**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board (Excused)**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:05 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of MINUTES:

May 03, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the May 03, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

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

Monday, May 17, 2021

8:05 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:

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**
Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**
Chris Smith
Giles E. Byrd
Lavern Coleman
Brent Watts
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Edwin H. Madden, Jr., **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
Jay Leatherman, **Interim Finance Officer**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board (Excused)**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:05 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of MINUTES:

May 03, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the May 03, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

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

Monday, May 17, 2021

8:05 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:

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**
Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**
Chris Smith
Giles E. Byrd
Lavern Coleman
Brent Watts
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Edwin H. Madden, Jr., **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
Jay Leatherman, **Interim Finance Officer**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board (Excused)**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 8:05 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #19: **COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of MINUTES:**

May 03, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the May 03, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman