

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP NUMBER ONE**

**Tuesday, June 02, 2020
6:30 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, for the purpose of conducting Budget Workshop #1.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

BUDGET WORKSHOP #1 CALLED TO ORDER:

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the Budget Workshop #1 to order.

INVOCATION and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:

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 Chairman P. Edwin Russ.

DISCUSSION of COLUMBUS COUNTY FY 2020-2021 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET:

Chairman Russ stated we would review the budget page-by-page, and if anyone has a question, please state the question.

NAME	PAGE	QUESTION - Line Item	ANSWER-BOBBIE / MIKE
Prevatte	4	1.5% Coll Fee-Towns Vehi	Small amount left after the State started to collect the taxes
Byrd	4	Collection Fee-Whiteville Does this amount cover their expenses?	Yes, and just a little bit of their time.
Burroughs	4	Are all the towns/cities being charged the same rate?	No
Byrd Burroughs McDowell	5	Indirect Cost Water Districts I, II, III, IV and V: Is this violating our Fund Balance Policy?	No
Byrd Prevatte Burroughs	8	Travel Telephone Non-Capital Outlay	Reduced due to possibility of virus returning. Standard telephone sitting on your desk. Program that no one has checked for the cost of program for Boards/Committees.
McDowell	9	Salaries & Wages Regular Insurance Contribution	This figure was taken from the actual payroll sheet. She had Mike's insurance in this figure and the County does not pay for Mike's insurance.
McDowell	11	Contracted Services - What is this for?	Postage Machine and Toshiba Copiers

NAME	PAGE	QUESTION - Line Item	ANSWER-BOBBIE / MIKE
Prevatte	12	Salaries & Wages Regular - What is the difference for? Dues & Subscriptions - What is this for?	The Deputy Finance Officer was taken off of probation. The organizations that I am a part of.
Burroughs	12	Non-Capitalized Outlay - What is the drastic difference between one year and this year?	The drastic difference is when we replaced all of the computers for Windows 10, and we purchased an on-site deposit for the Tax Office.
Prevatte	13	Salaries & Wages Regular - Increase from last year to this year?	I went by the payroll sheets submitted to Finance. No justification has been provided.
Byrd	13	Salaries & Wages Regular - Has Needom been given the authority to grant an increase in any salary?	No.
Byrd	13	C/O Office Equipment - \$2,000 Requested and -0- Recommended	I would think this was for computers.
Bullard	13	Maint & Repair - Equipment - What is the \$9,500 used for?	Contract for Maintenance on equipment used.
Prevatte	13	Uniforms & Clothing - Are we buying clothes for them to wear?	Polo Shirts for re-valuation process for identification.
Prevatte	13	Professional Services - This was hard for me to understand.	This is used for foreclosures when an attorney is needed.
Bullard	13	Uniforms & Clothing - How many people are involved in this process? That is a lot of money.	No response.
McDowell	13	Salaries & Wages Regular - This needs to be looked at.	No response.
Burroughs	16	Capital Outlay - Why the \$10,00 went to -0-?	That item was moved to Maintenance for cameras.
Prevatte	16	Salaries & Wages Regular - What is this for?	Maintenance employees.
Prevatte	17	Elections Fees - What is the difference between \$28,000 and \$1,500?	Type of election, and these are the fees paid by the candidates.
Prevatte	18	Salaries & Wages Regular - Why the difference?	This is a typo.
Byrd	18	Non-Capitalized Outlay - Why -0- amount?	Last year she got updated lap-tops and all, and printers. For this year, she does not need anything.
Bullard	18	Travel - Requested \$30,000 and Recommended \$20,000?	This was based on prior history.
Prevatte	18	Departmental Supplies - Projected \$50,000, Recommended \$23,531	She will not spend all of that amount. She has always stayed within her budget.

NAME	PAGE	QUESTION - Line Item	ANSWER-BOBBIE / MIKE
Prevatte	22	Contracted Services - What is this?	New E-Mail program and security
Byrd	24	Capital Outlay - Why it is cut completely out?	Did not need.
Prevatte	24	M/R Vehicles - Body Damage	The insurance we have is \$1,000 deductible, and that is for all vehicles.
McDowell	25	M & R Bldg/Grounds - \$12,500 to \$6,500	Replacement of floor postponed for another year.
McDowell	25	Capital Outlay - What is \$23,000 for?	Replace DSS HVAC unit.
Burroughs	26	Buildings - What is not going to be done there?	Roof repair for Administration.
Burroughs, McDowell and Prevatte	27	M & R Bldg/Grounds -and- Maint & Repair - Equipment	The \$7,152 was for replacing which has been put on hold for this year. The \$500 is for equipment. Detailed discussion was held regarding the leak between the walls which eventually will result in black mold developing.
McDowell	28	Capital Outlay - \$300,00 - Where is this money? Is this the money that is being used?	No decision has been made about the elevator.
Burroughs	28	This money needs to be in the budget for the elevator.	---
Bullard	28	This matter needs to be decided on what to be done.	---
Prevatte	29	Capital Outlay - What is this for?	HVAC units at Maintenance Shop, Tax, EMS, Library and DSS.
Prevatte	29	Rental - Building - What is this for?	Storage at South Whiteville.
McDowell	31	Retirees Health Insurance - Why only \$565?	This amount is divided between 3 budgets.
McDowell	33	Salaries & Wages - Part-time? What is this for?	Part-time bailiffs.
Prevatte	33	Contracted Services - What is this for?	Several different items.
Burroughs	33	Departmental Supplies - From \$389,888 to \$100,000?	Several different items.

ESTABLISHMENT of BUDGET WORKSHOP #2:

After a short discussion, it was the consensus of the Board members to establish Tuesday, June 09, 2020, at 6:30 P.M., for Budget Workshop #2.

BUDGET WORKSHOP RECESSED:

At 8:27 P.M., Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to recess the Budget Workshop #2 until Tuesday, June 09, 2020, at 6:30 P.M., seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.
