

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

**Tuesday, June 16, 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 #3.

**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 #3 CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called Budget Workshop #3 to order.

**INVOCATION and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:**

The invocation was delivered by Commissioner James E. Prevatte. 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:** (Pages 76 through 116)

Chairman Russ stated we would review the budget page-by-page, and if anyone has a question, please state the question. I recommend that we try to go faster than we did at the previous Budget Workshops, by going through, and then come back to areas of concern for discussion.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>PAGE</b>	<b>QUESTION - Line Item</b>	<b>ANSWER - BOBBIE/MIKE</b>
Burroughs	76	Is this State and Federal Funds?	Yes
All Board members	82	In crisis at the present time - Additional money will be needed- No guarantee to receive the Article 44 Sales and Use Tax	N/A
McDowell	83	Library Grant - Is this money consistent from year to year?	Yes, it is E-Rate money.
Prevatte	84	Salaries & Wages Regular - Why is this budgeted at this amount?	This amount includes a 3% raise and someone got a raise.
McDowell	84	Retirement Contribution and Insurance Contribution - Why have these amounts increased?	The listed numbers are wrong.
Prevatte	85	Fall Soccer Reg Fee - This was cancelled.	I will look into this.
McDowell	86	Need 4 x 4 Truck - cannot utilize the one they were given, need a 4 x 4.	Trying to locate someone who can utilize truck.

NAME	PAGE	QUESTION - Line Item	ANSWER - BOBBIE/MIKE
Prevatte	86	Fall Soccer League - Need to look at this.	No comment.
Prevatte	86	Non Capitalized Outlay - What is this for?	Playground equipment.
Bullard	87	Discussion - Relocation of Fair Bluff Department of Aging due to mold. Discussed the usage of old vacant buildings.	The County funds \$800,000 in this budget.
Prevatte McMillian McDowell	88	What is the status of the signs? If you contact Julie Strickland, she will inform you of where you can order some nice signs that will last.	No comment.
Prevatte	89	Salaries/Wages - PT - Is this the CNA/s?	Yes
McDowell	90	Salaries/Wages - PT - What is this for?	Clients allowed by State.
Prevatte	91	Contracted Services - What is this for?	Supplies.
Prevatte	92	Travel - Why the large amount?	It was figured on the miles to be traveled.
Prevatte	93	Is this for ramps and rails?	Yes
Prevatte	95	Rental - Is this the rent of the building?	Yes
Prevatte	99	Other Equipment	Replace equipment for all centers.
Prevatte	100	Salaries & Wages Regular - No Senior Director right now.	Some employee took a demotion to become the Director.
McDowell	102	Rent/Lease Agreements - That \$66,701 is the rent we pay for those two (2) buildings?	Yes
Burroughs	102	Water Rescue - Are we still doing this?	Yes
Burroughs	102	Columbus County Partnership for Children - What is this that was cut out?	Smart Start
McDowell	102	Special Child Adoptions - What is this?	Federal money
McDowell	107	Why did they request \$10,000 less?	This is the tax collected.
Prevatte	108	Why does the amount appear as two different amounts?	You take the revenue and minus the Refunds and Releases out.
Prevatte	111	Transfer from WD-II, III and V 2015 Refunding - What is this for?	This is refunding bonds that was paid off but the County took the responsibility.
McDowell	112	First Bank VIPER Radio System- Interest -First Bank VIPER Radio System - Why has this been separated?	The interest is this much due to a 5 years payoff, and this needs to be separated due to the audit.
Prevatte	113	What is this?	Tax on the cell phone bills.

NAME	PAGE	QUESTION - Line Item	ANSWER - BOBBIE/MIKE
McDowell	114	Wireless Carrier Fees - What are these fees?	Relates to EMS.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS by MICHAEL STEPHENS, COUNTY MANAGER:**

I have received two (2) requests this afternoon, one (1) from Sheriff Jody Greene, and one (1) from Chief Building Inspections Director, Wayland Townsend. I have contacted Larry Hayes, Maintenance Director, regarding the elevator at the Health Department, and he is recommending to spend \$224,000 to fix the elevator as a passenger elevator, and this a new elevator.

**ESTABLISHMENT of BUDGET WORKSHOP #4:**

After a short discussion, it was the general consensus of the Board members to establish Monday, June 29, 2020, at 6:30 P.M., for Budget Workshop #4.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP RECESSED:**

At 8:27 P.M., Chairman Russ stated Budget Workshop #3 will be recessed until Monday, June 29, 2020, at 6:30 P.M.

\*\*\*\*\*