

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Proposed 2010 - 2011 Columbus County Operating Budget Workshop**

Thursday, June 10, 2010

6:00 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 third **Workshop** for the **Proposed 2010 - 2011 Columbus County Operating Budget**.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Edwin Russ **Chairman**  
 Giles E. Byrd, **Vice Chairman**  
 Amon E. McKenzie  
 James E. Prevatte  
 Lynwood Norris  
 Ricky Bullard  
 Ronald Gore

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

William S. Clark, **County Manager**  
 Mike Stephens, **County Attorney**  
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**  
 Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Director**

**WORKSHOP CALLED to ORDER:**

At 6:00 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the Proposed 2010 - 2011 Columbus County Operating Budget Workshop to order.

**READING of WORKSHOP PROCEDURES:**

Chairman P. Edwin Russ stated the following:

1. First, the workshop meeting is to inform the Board and permit discussion - no final action is taken;
2. Second, the procedures are less formal than at a regular meeting, but such meetings are part of the decision-making process, deliberations are going on, and therefore, they constitute "official meetings"; **and**
3. The purpose of this Budget Workshop is to discuss with Mr. Clark and Bobbie Faircloth the Proposed 2010 - 2011 Columbus County Operating Budget, and Department Heads to ask questions.

**INVOCATION:**

The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Ronald Gore.

**PROCEDURE for WORKSHOP:**

Chairman Russ stated the procedure that will be followed is that each Commissioner will be allowed one (1) question at a time until all Commissioners have asked the questions of their choosing, and allow Mr. Clark and Bobbie to submit any additional information if they would like to do so.

**DISCUSSION - QUESTIONS - COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner Bullard:** asked the following questions from Page 103:

1. What is the Rent - Whiteville Depot?  
 Bobbie Faircloth replied stating this is a twenty (20) year Lease Agreement, with a ten (10) year renewal that expires in 2019, and the rent increases four (4%) percent annually.
2. What is the Regional Penalties Program?  
 Bobbie Faircloth stated she did not know, and could not locate the backup justification, but she would locate this information and forward it.
3. What is the Governors One on One Program?  
 Commissioner Prevatte replied stating this was a program funded by the State and handled

through the Dream Center, and it is for one-on-one mentoring with an adult and a child.

4. **Chadbourn Park Project:**  
I support taking the monies and splitting the total amount equally between Tabor City, Chadbourn and Lake Waccamaaw.

The general consensus on this matter at the June 03, 2010 Budget Workshop was four (4) to not fund and two (2) to fund, with one (1) absent.

**Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:

Page 103: Livingston Creek Debris Removal - the Board needs to put money aside for this project to be available when it is needed.

**Commissioner Gore:** stated the following:

1. With next year's budget, there needs to be better clarification on some of the line items to help the ones that are reviewing the material to know what they are looking at, especially with the grants, which needs to be a separate line item.
2. This entire budget needs to be gone through, and the departments that have increased departmental supplies, office supplies and postage, and get them back to close to last year's amount.
3. At the Library, we need to follow up with the consultant for Morris on the E-Rate funding for cell phones which could give as high as a ninety (90%) percent reimbursement rate.

**Chairman Russ:** stated the following:

1. We have three (3) unresolved issues from the June 03, 2010 Budget Workshop.
2. The Sheriff's vehicles was one (1) of the issues, and we have the Sheriff here with us tonight if anyone would like to ask any questions. Mr. Clark has recommended six (6) and the Sheriff requested twelve (12).

## NUMBER of SHERIFF'S VEHICLES:

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** asked the following questions.

Sheriff Batten, we were informed that you have approximately ninety (90) vehicles, and how many of these vehicles have high mileage? Sheriff Batten replied stating that eight (8) of the patrol cars have 175,000+ miles, and twelve (12) have 150,000+ miles.

**Commissioner McKenzie:** stated that Mr. Clark had recommended six (6) vehicles for the Sheriff and I think we should give him six (6) vehicles.

**Commissioner Gore:** How many of your vehicles are used on a day-to-day basis? Sheriff Batten replied stating fifty to fifty-five (50-55) vehicles.

**Commissioner Prevatte:** stated that based on the information we have been given, you have approximately seventy-three (73) officers in the Sheriff's Department, and forty-eight (48) in the Detention Center. Do all seventy-three (73) in the Sheriff's Department have a vehicle? Sheriff Batten replied stating approximately sixty (60).

**Commissioner Bullard:** I noticed on the list there were two (2) maintenance people. Is that for the buildings or what are they for? Sheriff Batten replied stating that is for the buildings. We have to have certified officers to make sure the inmate is accompanied by a certified officer to take the inmates outside to take the trash out of the kitchen now, and this position was created in the last budget.

Can you use the contract meals like the Department of Aging does? Sheriff Batten replied stating we are now furnishing meals for one and 12/100 (\$1.12) dollars

**Commissioner Norris:** stated the following:

1. I would like to thank all the employees for the good work they are doing.
2. Relative to the Sheriff's vehicles, I am supporting Mr. Clark's recommendation of six (6) vehicles.
3. Relative to the Parks and Recreation funding, I think the amount should be divided equally between Tabor City, Chadbourn and Lake Waccamaw.

After lengthy in-depth discussion was conducted, the general consensus for the approved number of Sheriff's vehicles, from the June 03, 2010 was revived, and a general consensus was taken with a four (4) to three (3) vote for the Sheriff's Department to be given four (4) vehicles.

**EDUCATION - USE of CAPITAL OUTLAY FUNDS:**

After a brief discussion, it was a unanimous consensus that the funds allocated to education for Capital Outlay be restricted for that purpose only.

**RIVER ROAD PROJECT - WATER DISTRICT V:**

**Commissioner Norris:** Kip, what is the money amount appropriated for River Road?

**Kip McClary:** I will have to defer to Bobbie for that because that happened before I came here. I understand it went to the first year's debt service for the project. Is that correct, Bobbie?

**Bobbie Faricloth:** Once the project was complete in Water District V, that is correct. The debt service interest payment was paid and the remaining funds went to the Fund Balance in Water District V.

**Bill Clark:** We have a total of \$189,769.71.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** Bobbie, you are saying that this money went back into the payment for that district?

**Bobbie Faricloth:** It went back into the Fund Balance, the amount of \$189,769.71 went to the Fund Balance for Water District V.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** Is this the same situation that was published in the News Reporter several years ago where the County was subsidizing one of the water districts?

**Bobbie Faircloth:** I don't know.

**Commissioner Gore:** The best I remember, the prison was going to pay for Water District V, and everything else was basically gravy.

**Commissioner Bullard:** Bobbie, you just said that \$189,000 went back onto the Fund Balance.

**Bobbie Faircloth:** It went back into the Fund Balance for Water District V.

**Commissioner Bullard:** Was it overspent for Water District V?

**Bobbie Faircloth:** No, it was just recently moved to Water District V Fund Balance, the bank account was closed, the project was closed. Within the last two (2) weeks, it was moved to Water District V Fund Balance.

**Commissioner Prevatte:** Is it still there? Didn't we have a conversation about River Road as far as the number of customers?

**Chairman Russ:** We have thirty-three (33) signups.

**Kip McClary:** We have thirty-one (31) signups.

**Commissioner Prevatte:** Is it suppose to be thirty (30)? Is that right?

**Kip McClary:** Yessir.

**Commissioner Bullard:** Do you only have signups that have promised to hook on?

**Kip McClary:** No sir. At this time, my recommendation to you, at this time, we have petitions, because I would not take these people's money until I knew it was a viable project. I have petitions for thirty-one (31) that have promised to hook up. I would say, and this is my recommendation, approve to do the project contingent on getting all thirty-one (31) customers to hook up.

**Commissioner Bullard:** How long will it take the thirty-one (31) customers to pay back the \$189,000.00?

**Kip McClary:** At the average bill of thirty-three and 00/100 (\$33.00) dollars per month, which equates to \$396.00 per year, revenue per home, you will be looking at 5.3 year payback.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** But the cost was \$189,000.00 back how many years ago?

**Kip McClary:** The \$189,000.00 was not River Road. It was part River Road and the rest of the underruns on the project.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** My point is we have had other developments to come in and ask for water

and we have denied it. River Road properties, I know they need water, no question about that, but I don't see just taking pure money and just go and fill that particular citizen. Is the fee going to be one hundred and 00/100 (\$100.00) dollars or five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars to hook on because it is not in the first phase as you have spoken before?

**Kip McClary:** When River Road was in the original construction plans, about twelve to fifteen (12-15) of the people actually came in and paid the one hundred and 00/100 (\$100.00) dollars discount hookup fee. If we don't go back to that same practice, you are going to have another portion of the people who are going to be paying a higher rate.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** We should probably charge so much a foot to the landowner to put this in, and let them share the expense because what we are going to do, we are running the water line in there, at the county's expense, it will take five (5) years to get it back, and you are going to triple the value of that property. I don't feel like we should just take taxpayer's money and just go and do improvements like that without compensation. You're doing a whole community, you are talking about a dead end line, straight in, and who has worked out the easement plan? Is it a straight water line or is it going to weave the way the road weaves, how?

**Kip McClary:** It was laid out in the original construction plan, which we will be using to do the project, because we have a window closing on us right now. The State has extended the permit in District V until this project is finished, because it was part of the original District V Project. It was not an add-on, it was part of the original plan in District V to extend water down that road. The State is allowing an extension on the permit to do this project, and it will follow the path of the road with the exception of a couple of jogs on property where we had interferences in getting the easements.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** There are some ninety (90) degree turns in there almost.

**Kip McClary:** Yessir, and that was figured in the original project.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** And that will not hinder the water pressure to the other end?

**Kip McClary:** No sir.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** I went to Lake Waccamaw and asked them what did they do on extending water lines out beyond the existing lines. They charge to the landowner seven and 10/100 (\$7.10) dollars per foot. I feel like we need to run the water in there, but I feel like the property owner should share some of this cost.

**Bobbie Faircloth:** There is one other thing I need to point out. Water District V actually had a negative fund balance as of the end of the last fiscal year. So there is only a little over ten thousand and 00/100 (\$10,000.00) dollars left of those funds.

**Commissioner Prevatte:** So we don't have \$189,769.00.

**Bobbie Faircloth:** No sir.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** So, there is only ten thousand and 00/100 (\$10,000.00) dollars for this project?

**Bobbie Faircloth:** There is twelve thousand and 00/100 (\$12,000,00.00) dollars in Fund Balance right now, after you take the negative one hundred seventy-seven thousand, two hundred forty-two and 00/100 )\$177,242.00) dollars out of it.

**Chairman Russ:** It will cost sixty-five thousand and 00/100 (\$65,000.00) dollars to do this project.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** Sixty-five thousand and 00/100 (\$65,000.00) dollars and you only have ten thousand and 00/100 (\$10,000.00) dollars, so that leaves fifty-five thousand and 00/100 (\$55,000.00) dollars. How many feet is it?

**Kip McClary:** Over eight thousand (8,000+) feet.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** So, if you charged , any kind of fee, and I will use the seven and 10/100 (\$7.10) dollars across the property owners, that will generate fifty-six thousand and 00/100 (\$56,000.00) dollars. I am totally against running a dead end line in with taxpayers money just to benefit thirty-one (31) houses. Are we going to do this for the others that have asked this Board to do so.

**Kip McClary:** As I pointed out in my memo, every water district that has been constructed across the county has run water lines on dead-end private roads to serve customers, and we are doing it as we speak in Water District IV.

**Chairman Russ:** I feel like you will gain some more customers than the thirty-one (31).

**Commissioner Bullard:** How many people is there that is wanting water that are on the state maintained roads that we have not put water to?

**Kip McClary:** A lot.

**Commissioner Bullard:** I think they should come first before we enter private property.

**Kip McClary:** The only thing is now that we intended to do this as far as Water District V's original construction.

**Commissioner Bullard:** Who is we?

**Kip McClary:** The County.

**Commissioner Bullard:** I wasn't here then, that is just my opinion now.

**Commissioner Prevatte:** The only reason I would support it is because it was part of the original set of plans.

**Kip McClary:** One (1) landowner stopped it because he refused to let it cross his easement, and we have obtained that easement and have negotiated that part out.

**Commissioner Bullard:** There is a lot of things that were done a few years ago on that water that has given people heartburn. There are extra taxes, and now we have a different Board, and my opinion is against it.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** There is no difference in levying a special rate per foot across that property than there is going over in District II and District III and levying a special tax to help pay for that. If this money that was left over in this district had been left in escrow for a later date, then you would have your money setting there, but that is not what happened. The money has been spent in other places for whatever projects. It is just not right to take the taxpayers money and build in a private group of landowners. You are talking about property that is going to triple in value. Gentlemen, if we come to a consensus and charge so much per foot across that property, I will support putting it in there, and according to how many houses to get that hook up.

**Commissioner Bullard:** Mr. Stephens, would we need to come up with a policy to make something like that fair, instead of just implementing a fee?

**Mike Stephens:** I think you would.

**William S. Clark:** If you are going to do this for one district, then you will have to do for all the other districts. I guess you could make an exception, but it is a policy decision.

**Commissioner Bullard:** I think you will have to have a policy first before you can enact it.

**Commissioner Gore:** Bobbie, you said that there was a Fund Balance of one hundred eighty-nine thousand, thereabouts, in the Capital Projects, but the Water District had a loss of ten thousand and 00/100 (\$10,000.00) dollars.

**Bobbie Faircloth:** No, the Water District had a negative Fund Balance of one hundred seventy-seven thousand and 00/100 (\$177,000.00) dollars. The project was not completed in the time period they thought it was going to be completed in, so over the last one and one-half (1 1/2) years, their fund balance was depleted. These funds that are remaining in the Capital Project were moved about two (2) weeks ago from the Capital Project bank account to the Water District Fund Balance.

**Commissioner Gore:** Are we not getting enough revenue from that district to support it?

**William S. Clark and Bobbie Faircloth:** We haven't been.

**Commissioner Gore:** We were told, or I remember being told, that, basically the prison was going to pay for Water District V, and every customer that we had added on to that, was going to be, basically gravy, in addition. There was no way we could lose money on Water District V.

**William S. Clark:** Is this the issue with the prison?

**Kip McClary:** No sir. The prison didn't fully staff out, or didn't fully fill all the beds until about September of last year. We have not seen a full year of revenue from the prison yet. They were still staffing and bringing in inmates right on into September, October of last year. No, we are just beginning to experience the full revenue from the prison. In addition to that, we only had three hundred forty-seven (347) signups in Water District V.

**Commissioner Gore:** How many current customers do we have in Water District V instead of signups?

**Kip McClary:** Three hundred forty-seven (347) active customers.

**Commissioner Gore:** You are not counting those people that have paid the one hundred and 00/100 (\$100.00) dollars on River Road as part of that?

**Kip McClary:** No sir. If we do not approve the project, we still have to refund their money that we have sitting on it since the project was initiated.

**Commissioner Gore:** My thoughts are we need to refund those people their money. I am not in favor of going on private property with a water line. I never have been, and I am not going to change my mind on it.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** How many areas in the County could we run eight thousand (8,000') feet of water line and pick up thirty-one (31) houses? I am sure there are plenty of areas throughout the County with bad water in District II, III, or other districts in the County. Eight thousand (8,000') feet is a mile and one-third. That's a right good area. Another thing, even in the future, that water line would need to run straight through there, and not take those ninety (90) degree turns and all that, and then you are staying right beside the river banks, where if you came out some, and in the future, you could service some other homes if they ever came back into the area. I think, at this time, it is poor planning, and it is a dead cost and unfair to the County taxpayers.

**Commissioner Prevatte:** Didn't we say that if this happened, we would borrow the money from District I?

**Bobbie Faircloth:** This was the initial discussion.

**Commissioner Bullard:** I think if we borrow the money from one water district, then all those

customers in that water district should be getting water without having to go without it, instead of loaning their money to another water district. That is not right.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** That is what we have been talking about is keeping each district independent, and let it expand and do its own, rather than, just because this one is doing good and got a few dollars, we are going to pull it out to put it over here. They should be operating as five (5) separate water districts, and then have growth.

**Commissioner McKenzie:** That is why we need one county-wide water system.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** First, we have to get five (5) functional water systems before we can consolidate them into one (1).

**Commissioner McKenzie:** We need to be thinking about the fact that there are many private roads in this county, and there are many of them, like the River Road Project, that are going to need, at some point, someone running the water out there. If we say no to every time that someone is going on a private road, then we will pin ourselves in a corner, and we do not want to do that.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** If you take this money we are talking about and put in Water District II and III, it could eliminate that extra tax those people are having to pay.

**Commissioner McKenzie:** I would agree with that, but it is all about fairness too. It was on the initial plan, if it had not been on the initial plan, you might have something there.

**Commissioner Bullard:** If you borrow money, then you should borrow the money to pay off those debts where you don't have to charge the customers that water tax.

A roll-call general consensus was taken with the following results:

**AYES:** Chairman Russ, Commissioners McKenzie, Prevatte and Norris; **and**

**NAYS:** Vice Chairman Byrd, Commissioners Bullard and Gore.

The general consensus resulted in four (4) in favor, and three (3) not in favor.

**Commissioner Bullard:** Where is the money coming from?

**Chairman Russ:** District I.

**Commissioner Bullard:** That is not right. People in District I do not have water lines running by their own house, and then you want to pull that money out and fund another district. That is not right.

**William S. Clark:** This is not a gift, it is a loan.

**Commissioner Bullard:** You could take that money and put it to work in District I where it was generated at, and give people that does not have water in that district, water.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** An ongoing project is when you have got the money there left over from the ongoing project to do it. If you spent that money five (5) years ago, and you are coming back now and saying it is an ongoing project, you should have the money. We don't have the money. We got to borrow it from another district.

**Commissioner Bullard:** If in some of the other districts, if a Brunswick County Commissioner lived down a certain road, then they could get water.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** This is one of the most unfair things I have seen done to the taxpayers since I have been on the Board.

### **COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment):**

**Commissioner Bullard:** I will support a one and one-half (1 ½%) increase.

**Commissioner Gore:** I support the five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars and no 401-K like we discussed at the June 03, 2010 Budget Workshop.

**Commissioner Prevatte:** How much does the five and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars increase equate to?

**Bobbie Faircloth:** Based on five hundred twenty (525) employees, it will equate to two hundred sixty-two thousand, five hundred and 00/100 (\$262,500.00) dollars.

**Commissioner Prevatte:** How much does the one and one-half (1 ½%) percent equate to?

**William S. Clark:** The one and one-half (1 ½%) percent is two hundred thousand and 00/100 (\$200,000) dollars.

**Commissioner Prevatte:** I support the five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars, and no 401-K because it will benefit the lower paid employees.

**William S. Clark:** Below you will find the history of the COLA for the past few years:

YEAR	COLA	401-k
2009	0%	1%
2008	2.5%	1%
2007	3%	2%
2006	3%	2% <b>(Started)</b>
2005	5%	N/A

**Commissioner McKenzie:** I support the Manager's recommendation of two and one-half (2 ½%) percent COLA, and one (1%) percent 401-K.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** In order to benefit the lower paid employees the most, I support the five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars, and no 401-K.

**STATEMENT ON RECORD:**

Sheriff Christopher Batten requested the Clerk to the Board to place the following on record:

I am requesting the amount of the determined salary increase for me, and Major Lewis Hatcher, be distributed equally among all of my employees.

Sheriff Batten stated the entry level had not been increased in the last five (5) years.

**Chairman Russ:** I would like to see salary increases as follows:

Below \$40,000	3% increase; <b>and</b>
Over \$40,000	1% increase.

**Joan Stephens (Interim Social Services Director):** stated the lower level employees needs to be helped but we do not want to penalize the employees who have been with Columbus County for several years. The entry level has created problems in getting and keeping good employees.

**Kim Smith (Health Director):** The salary entry level is preventing me from hiring the employees that I need.

**Jeremy Jernigan (Emergency Services Director):** the salary entry level is preventing me from hiring the qualified employees that I need.

**Kip McClary (Public Utilities Director):** stated the salary entry level is preventing me from hiring the good caliber employees that I need.

**Commissioner Gore:** stated the following:

1. We need to review that pay scale to determine if we can move the entry level closer to the medium level for entry level people;
2. We need to take a proactive approach to this and try and get the entry level up;
3. If we have got a scale, and can establish something within that scale rather than hiring a consultant to develop a new scale at thousands of dollars, let Mr. Clark look at it, and let's raise that lower entry level.

**Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:

1. I was not aware that the lower end of the scale did not go up;
2. I thought all steps went up every year when we gave a certain percentage;
3. I would suggest that we go back to the bottom of the scale and increase it by two and one-half (2 ½%) percent, or five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars, whichever is greater;
4. I would suggest the salary increases be as follows:

Below \$20,000	2.5%;
\$20,000 - \$40,000	2%; <b>and</b>
Over \$40,000	1.5%.

**William S. Clark:** what I would like to give is the two and one-half (2 ½%) percent or five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars, whichever is greater.

**Commissioner Bullard:** Why don't we let Mr. Clark look at this and have another workshop and he can give us some recommendations.

**William S. Clark:** stated the following:

1. We need to move all the scales and give everyone two and one-half (2 ½%) percent; **and**
2. We will run these numbers and let you know what these numbers equate to

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** the best way to handle this for this budget is to move the bottom scale up five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars, and then give every employee five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars, across the Board, and then adjust the pay scale for the upcoming year.

**Commissioner Bullard:** stated the following:

1. I understand, from what I am hearing, there are some problems with our pay scale;
2. If anything is changed, it needs to be done without haste, and have thought put into it;
3. It is very important when you start changing pay scales; **and**
4. I would like for Mr. Clark to look at it, and take some time with it.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** When we come back, are we just going to talk about the salaries?

**William S. Clark:** that is up to the Board.

**Commissioner Bullard:** When is the next workshop?

**Commissioner Gore:** stated the following:

1. We need to take what we have decided on in the three (3) Budget Workshops, and go forward with it;
2. We need to let Mr. Clark set down and work out the salary schedule;
3. We can't deal with and solve all of these salary problems between now and the end of the month;
4. We need to let Mr. Clark come up with a good viable pay scale that will benefit these people, at the entry level, and let everyone get something on every level;
5. It will take some time;
6. If we do not take what we have decided on and go forward, we have not accomplished anything; **and**
7. I am in favor of moving the entry level up five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars, and then give a five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars salary increase to all employees across the board.

**Commissioner Bullard:** I still support the thirty thousand and 00/100 (\$30,000.00) dollars in Parks and Recreation, not increasing the amount, and giving Tabor City, Chadbourn and Lake Waccamaw ten thousand and 00/100 (\$10,000.00) dollars each, and then stating that this will be the last year this will be funded.

## **5-MINUTE RECESS:**

At 8:00 P.M. a five (5) minute recess was declared.

## **RESUME BUDGET WORKSHOP:**

At 8:05, the Budget Workshop was resumed.

**Commissioner Prevatte:** I call for a consensus to vote to have Administration to look at our salary schedule, move the bottom of the salary schedule up at least five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars, and award everyone else five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars across the board. In addition, let Mr. Clark look at adjusting the salary schedule for next year to make it more proportionate.

**Commissioner Bullard:** How many bottom schedule opening areas are there, Mr. Clark?

**William S. Clark:** I understand that you are talking about the bottom of all the scales.

**Commissioner Bullard:** So, how many are there?

**William S. Clark:** Let me say this:

1. What the Board approved and came to consensus the last time was to give everybody five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars;
2. What you are doing now, if I understand James's motion correctly, is to give everybody five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars, and we move the scales, which I would support, because I think all the scales need to go up because they haven't gone up in apparently years, and I have been told they were not suppose to go up.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** James are you talking about from the top to the bottom?

**Commissioner Prevatte:** I am talking about looking at the scales from the top to the bottom, take a look at adjusting this information for next year.

**William S. Clark:** For clarification, we will do the following:

1. Everybody gets five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars;
2. We move all the scales up the same amount;
3. Everybody gets that amount in their base pay; **and**
4. In essence, everybody gets that, and we move all the scales accordingly.

**Commissioner Bullard:** What Commissioner Prevatte is saying is when you give them that five hundred and 00/100 (\$100.00) dollars raise, that five hundred dollars (\$500.00) dollars is what is going to move the scales up.

**William S. Clark:** Yes sir. In the past, we have given raises but we have not moved the scales up.

The general consensus was unanimous to approve Mr. Clark's recommendation.

#### **PARKS and RECREATION:**

**Commissioner Bullard:** I would like to hear the consensus about taking the thirty thousand in Parks and Recreation and dividing it equally between Tabor City, Chadbourn and Lake Waccamaw.

**Vice Chairman Byrd:** Are we going to include a letter with this money stating that this will be the last year of this funding? If this is done, I will support it.

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

**AYES:** Chairman Russ, Vice Chairman Byrd, Commissioners McKenzie, Norris and Bullard; **and**  
**NAYS:** Commissioners Prevatte and Gore.

The general consensus passes with five (5) in favor and two (2) not in favor.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:10 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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**JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board**

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**P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman**