

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**Monday, February 06, 2012****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 their regularly scheduled meeting on the first Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Amon E. McKenzie, **Chairman**
 Charles T. McDowell, **Vice Chairman**
 James E. Prevatte
 Giles E. Byrd
 P. Edwin Russ
 Lynwood Norris
 Ricky Bullard

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

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

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman Amon E. McKenzie called the February 06, 2012 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order. 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 Commissioner P. Edwin Russ.

Agenda Item #4: PRESENTATION - RETIREMENT PLAQUE:

Chairman McKenzie presented the following retirement plaque to Janet M. Thomas for her many years of service to the Columbus County Department of Aging.

PRESENTED TO***JANET M. THOMAS***

***IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION
 FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND LOYALTY
 TO
 COLUMBUS COUNTY AGING DEPARTMENT***

1-01-1989 - 1-31-2012**** * * * *******COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS*****Agenda Item #5: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:**

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the January 17, 2012 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #6: PUBLIC INPUT:

Chairman McKenzie opened the floor for public input. The following spoke.

1. **Howard Lofton Cox, Jr., 2133 Howard Cox Road, Tabor City, NC 28463:** stated the following:
 - A. We got a beaver problem in the county, and I know you are aware of it;
 - B. I have presented this information to you on a previous occasion, and at that time we had a Beaver Committee started;
 - C. Milton McLean was the beaver trapper and he was a man and a half;
 - D. I have noticed in the last three (3) years, in particular, when we have a rain, it does not run off, it just stays there;

- E. If you slow down when you go across a bridge, you don't see any moving water, and in some of these places, you can see some huge beaver dams;
- F. For every beaver dam that you see, there is probably thirty (30) or forty (40) that you don't see;
- G. We have got a problem on Garland Cox Road;
- H. There is a tile approximately five to six (5' - 6') feet tall, and it is clogged;
- I. Several dams have been broken that were holding nine (9') feet of water back;
- J. The assistant to the beaver trapper came down and stated he did not the authority to blow the beaver dams;
- K. You can blow the dams, but if you don't take care of the beavers, you are just wasting your time;
- L. When Milton was working that area, that one run where we are having problems, he trapped over thirty (30) beavers over a period of time;
- M. I have not seen anybody down there, and I have reported this to D.O.T., and I got the impression it is not as easy to get anything done as it has been in the past;
- N. When we started the Beaver Committee, you had one (2) trapper that was shared between Bladen, Columbus and a little bit of Brunswick County, and thanks to the Commissioners, we got a full-time trapper;
- O. I don't know the present trapper, but it would appear that the County may not be getting their money's worth for this guy to do the job;
- P. He keeps stating he will come in a couple of weeks, and does not come;
- Q. The beaver problem is worse, and you don't see any water dropping;
- R. I think it would be good if the County would check into this and see if they are getting their money's worth from the person that replaced Milton McLean, and if they are, then maybe we need to think in terms of getting another trapper to go help him;
- S. We have got a problem in my area and many other areas in the county;
- T. If we have a big rain, a tropical depression or hurricane, you are going to see flooding like you have never seen before because the swamps are dammed up so much due to the beavers; **and**
- U. I hope you can do something about this, and I appreciate your time.

Chairman McKenzie asked what was the procedure in getting in contact with the beaver trapper.

Edward Davis, Soil and Water Conservation: stated the following:

1. I have his number in my cell phone, and I have talked to Mr. Cox;
2. He comes upon request;
3. What he does is go out and do an assessment, and then he decides the number of beavers in the area, he will contract with the landowner to go in and trap the beavers;
4. You need to get the beavers out before you take the dams out, and sometimes it will take as many as twenty (20) visits to do it, but it is on a contract basis, unless it is a D.O. T. problem;
5. It sounds like this is a D.O.T. problem, and I have got a call into Johnathan, and I will mention this to him, because I am receiving a lot of calls on beavers now; **and**
6. Beavers are all over everywhere, and we do have a problem.

Chairman McKenzie requested that Johnathan White be present at the next Board Meeting to discuss the beaver situation. Mr. Davis stated he would arrange for him to be present.

2. **James D. Buffkin, 391 Big Branch Road:** stated the following:

- A. Columbus County is in dire need of a Noise Ordinance that the Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney can enforce;
- B. There is a Noise Ordinance but it can't be enforced;
- C. I am from the Delco area and live off the Big Branch Road not far from the Triple K Ranch;
- D. They hold parties at this location mostly on Friday and Saturday nights which last into the A.M. hours;
- E. At these parties, the music is so loud it will vibrate the windows, mirrors and other articles in houses 1/8 to 1/4 mile away;
- F. When the Sheriff's Department visits this location, they will turn the music down at that time, and then thirty (30) minutes later, they turn the music back up;
- G. I talked to Commissioner Russ, we had a meeting with the Sheriff and the District Attorney, and the Sheriff stated the decimeters were the problem;

- H. Our community has offered to buy one for our community and to be used in that area; **and**
- I. Something needs to be done so we can get the rest we need at night.

Agenda Item #7: CAPE FEAR FARM HERITAGE ASSOCIATION - LETTERS of ENDORSEMENT:

Alma Galloway, Managing Partner of the Cape Fear Farm Heritage Association, requested letters of endorsement for grant applications to purchase land.

On behalf of Ms. Galloway, Earl Gurkin stated the following:

1. I will read our Mission Statement - "Our mission is to promote interest for collecting, preserving and restoring tractors and other equipment with historical agricultural value and to educate the public by providing information, demonstrations and exhibits about local farm heritage and culture";
2. We formed our club in 2008, and had our first show in 2009 at the Boys and Girls Home in Lake Waccamaw, and will be holding our fourth show on March 3, 2012;
3. We are trying to acquire a site to where we can hold our shows and to set up permanent displays;
4. We have people who have donated things like an old ground sawmill, a log tobacco barn, a smokehouse, plows, and things like that, but we need a place to put these items;
5. The Boys and Girls Home is an excellent place to hold the show, but we can't put any permanent displays there;
6. We intend to always have the Boys and Girls Home as our charity, and none of that will change;
7. We will have a place where we can set up for a permanent site;
8. We are here to ask the Board's endorsement; **and**
9. We are applying for grants and for loans to acquire this piece of property.

Commissioner Russ made a motion to approve the letters of endorsement for the Cape Fear Farm Heritage Association in their applications for funding, at no cost to the County, second by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #8: PRESENTATION - OLD DOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Allen Faulk, Superintendent of Columbus County Schools, delivered the following presentation to the Board on Old Dock Elementary School.

1. I have the following staff members with me tonight:
Monty Herring Chairman, Barbara Yates, Vice Chairman, Kathy Cartrette, Elementary Principal, Billy Hobbs, Maintenance Director, David Clinton, Architect, and Dr. Johnathan Williams, Assistant Superintendent;
2. The main part of the building at Old Dock Elementary School was erected in 1936;
3. The backside of the building was built after 1936, and that is where we are having serious problems with the structure, and is in the worst condition;
4. As you can see from the slides, the soil levels have risen, and when a big rain comes, water goes under the building;
5. There is rot and termite damage in the floor joists, and a few repairs have been done, as is evidenced by the newer material;
6. We recognized this problem two (2) years ago and requested additional capital outlay to remedy the situation;
7. We have dry wall that is cracking, and hallway buckling in the portion built in 1936;
8. We have contacted our architect and he is proposing to replace the portion that was built in the 1940's with a six (6) classroom pod that will be built out front to eliminate the usage of mobile units;
9. The six (6) classroom pod is being constructed in the manner to allow for future addition;
10. The cost for replacing the entire building would be from five to six (\$5-\$6) million.
11. We have set aside \$750,000 of lottery funds for this project;
12. The project cost will be \$1.5 million; **and**
13. We are requesting \$750,000 from the County to complete this project.

Discussion:

1. **Vice Chairman McDowell:** stated the following:
 - I am quite familiar with Old Dock Elementary School;
 - My wife attended this school and later taught at this school;
 - In this section of the building, it is almost like walking on a trampoline;
 - There was a 2" crack in the southwestern corner of her classroom that you could look down and see the brick from the outside foundation;
 - I am in favor of this project;
 - I know that there are many needs in this County; **and**
 - Having been an educator all my life, children have to rank at the top.

2. **Commissioner Bullard:** stated the following:
 - I went and looked at the building and seen the damages;
 - We are behind time with our schools and we need to start catching them up;
 - The safety of our children is the first thing we need to look at;
 - The slides show that this building is setting on pillars and it could be a disaster under certain conditions;
 - We can't control the cost when something happens, but it is our responsibility to make the best choices and spend the money as wisely as we possibly can;
 - I do support this project;
 - We have other schools that are in dire need of money; **and**
 - I think this is the most urgent need at this time.

3. **Commissioner Russ:** stated the following:
 - I do support the project;
 - This building is in bad shape; **and**
 - We need to take care of our children.

4. **Commissioner Norris:** I also support the project, and we need to put our kids as our priority.

5. **Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:
 - I did not visit the site, but I did discuss this matter with several others, and what was described to me I clearly understood;
 - I have a proposal after everybody speaks;
 - I feel like we need to look at the total number of children that we have got;
 - We have requests from Southeastern Community College asking for some monies, the County schools need money, and I would like to offer the opportunity for the Whiteville City Schools to speak in support of what the County schools are asking for; **and**
 - They want to support the County schools, and can they have a few minutes?

6. **Commissioner Byrd:** stated the following:
 - I have spoken to several people, and I am very aware of the condition of the building, and it definitely needs some repairs;
 - We all know there are numerous schools throughout the County, especially in the eastern end of the County, that are in very bad shape, Hallsboro, Acme Delo and Armour area, **and**
 - We will have to take them as the priority calls for and move forward.

7. **Dr. Hagar, Whiteville City Schools:** stated the following:
 - I can only echo what has been said;
 - We all have the same problems across the State of North Carolina, but certainly here in Columbus County;
 - We would like to be considered;
 - We have put bandaids on some serious problems, and it is coming back to haunt us now;
 - If we don't take care of these problems, then we are not taking care of our children;
 - I would ask that you certainly consider the Whiteville City Schools also in a proportionate amount of money to take care of the same problems; **and**
 - We would appreciate it if you would consider that.

8. **Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:
 - When I talked to Mr. Faulk, I asked if he needed the money right now, or could it wait until July 01, 2012, and Mr. Faulk replied stating it could wait until July 01, 2012, if we would put it in next year's budget;

- My proposal to you is let's put it next year's budget for the County schools;
- To give a proration amount to the city schools and the college a portion also, but don't tie their hands;
- Their needs are different, and let them decide how to spend and don't tie their hands, and let them decide capital outlay or current expense;
- Let's give them a proration portion come July 01, 2012, in the new budget; **and**
- Let's treat everyone the same.

9. **Commissioner Byrd:** We do not need to delay construction.
10. **Chairman McKenzie:** We will allow our County Manager to decide how the funds will be appropriated in the best manner.
11. **Vice Chairman McDowell:** stated the following:
- We have a meeting coming up with both of the Boards of Education and Southeastern Community College;
 - I would suggest maybe that we ask them, if they would like, to bring a prioritized list of needs so that they can share them with us at that particular time;
 - I am looking at Columbus County Schools' request from April, 2011, and it specifically mentions Old Dock Elementary School as being the most needed school in their system, along with East Columbus and South Columbus; **and**
 - I understand what Commissioner Prevatte is saying, but I am in favor of giving the money now, and having the other two school systems come to us with a prioritized list, allow us to look at this, and let them make a presentation just like this, if that is what they want to do.

MOTION:

Vice Chairman McDowell made a motion to approve the appropriation of seven hundred fifty thousand, and 00/100 (\$750,000.00) dollars to Columbus County Schools for the purpose of the Old Dock Elementary School construction, as requested by letter bearing date of February 6, 2012, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Discussion:

Commissioner Prevatte: stated the following:

- I am in favor of this project, and I am not going to vote against this;
- I still think we should treat everybody the same way; **and**
- We owe the college and the city schools equal consideration.

Commissioner Byrd: stated the following:

- Nobody on this board disagrees with that;
- We are prioritizing this situation;
- This was brought to our attention and we were all aware of it last year;
- Yes, I think we need to treat them all equally, but this was on the table tonight;
- I don't think we need to procrastinate, we need to move forward;
- We will take them in the order that they come, and we will look at the needs ourselves; **and**
- We all agree on the need at Old Dock Elementary School, so I think we need to move forward and give you the authority to go ahead because building costs are going up.

Commissioner Bullard: stated the following:

- I do support our County schools, I support our Whiteville City Schools, and I support our community college;
- If Whiteville City had come tonight with the same problem, I would be in support just as quick as Columbus County;
- I think we have to take a case-by-case basis, as it comes before us;
- I think I voted on the best interest of our children; **and**
- They are all of our children, and I support all of our schools.

Agenda Item #9: **INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT (IDA) GRANT # 09-C-2043 CLOSEOUT- ESTABLISH DATE and TIME for PUBLIC HEARING:**

Carol Caldwell, Director of The Dream Center, requested the Board to establish February

20, 2012, at 6:30 P.M. as the date and time for a public hearing to close out the Individual Development Account Community Block Grant (IDA), Grant # 09-C-2043.

Commissioner Russ made a motion to establish February 20, 2012, at 6:30 P.M. as the date and time for a public hearing to close out the Individual Development Account Community Block Grant (IDA), Grant # 09-C-2043, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #10: VETERANS - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Sherri Blackmon, Veterans Director, delivered the following Departmental Update to the Board.

1. We are very busy and as long as the war effort lasts, we will be;
2. Kim Sellers is back now;
3. We have recently coordinated with the VA Medical Center in Fayetteville with the Rural Health Care Team to come to Columbus County on a regular basis, and they are now coming into the County twice monthly; either to the American Legion Post on Phillip Street, or either to the Vietnam Veterans of America Post on Madison Street;
4. They come in and have a nurse educator that comes in and speaks with the veterans individually about their specific health care needs;
5. They are doing some enrollment, but we have been doing enrollments in our office since 2003, so that is not anything that we don't do here;
6. There are so many services that VA Healthcare Administration offers that until you sit one-on-one with that veteran, it is hard to explain everything that might be available to that veteran;
7. The good news for our area is that the VA has begun construction on a Medical Specialty Super Clinic at 1725 Gardner Road, near the airport in Wilmington;
8. This will be an 85,000 square foot facility which will be ten times larger than the facility that we currently have;
9. There are four (4) major medical centers in North Carolina, and because of the massive veterans population in southeastern North Carolina, it is considered that veterans east of I-95 don't have a medical center;
10. Fayetteville services twenty-one (21) counties in North Carolina and two (2) counties in South Carolina;
11. They have extended their mental health services;
12. The veterans returning from war are filing their claims, and we are glad they are doing this early because it makes it easier;
13. The VA has added two (2) disabilities to the presumptive list for Agent Orange, and we have had some major monetary awards;
14. We were approached by the Arts Council in Fayetteville relative to a North Carolina Veterans Park being built in Fayetteville, and we were asked for five (5) names to represent Columbus County, and we were asked to choose those names based on what they had done for the veterans since they were discharged from service;
15. We choose William Lloyd Gore and he had a bronze cast hand, and the other four (4) were from all different areas of service;
16. Our current veteran population is 4,369; **and**
17. Benefits paid to Columbus County veterans were \$23,414,000.00 for fiscal year October, 2010 until September, 2011, and that is an increase of \$1,405,000.00 from the previous year.

Agenda Item #11: **RESOLUTION - REQUEST for ADDITION to STATE MAINTAINED SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM, LAKELAND CIRCLE, HONEY HILL DRIVE, KEITH DAVIS DRIVE - LAKELAND VILLAGE SUBDIVISION:**

H.L. "Drew" Cox, PE, District Engineer, North Carolina Department of Transportation, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Request for Addition to State Maintained Secondary Road System.

**North Carolina Department of Transportation
Division of Highways
Request for Addition to State Maintained Secondary Road System**

County of Columbus

Road Description: Lakeland Circle, Honey Hill Drive, Keith Davis Drive - Lakeland Village Subdivision.

WHEREAS, the attached petition has been filed with the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Columbus requesting that the above described road, the location of which has been indicated in red on the attached map, be added to the Secondary Road System, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is of the opinion that the above described road should be added to the Secondary Road System, if the road meets minimum standards and criteria established by the Division of Highways of the Department of Transportation for the addition of roads to the System.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Columbus that the Division of Highways is hereby requested to review the above described road, and to take over the road for maintenance if it meets established standards and criteria:

CERTIFICATE

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus at a meeting on the 6th day of February, 2012.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this the 6th day of February, 2012.

(Official Seal) **Clerk, Board of Commissioners, County of Columbus**
/s/ **JUNE B. HALL**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve and adopt the Request for Addition to State Maintained Secondary Road System, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

COMMENT:

Commissioner Bullard requested to know the status of the request by Commissioner Prevatte to Mr. Cox relative to grinding the rough bumps off of Highway 76, and stated it still has not been done between Whiteville and Fair Bluff.

Ken Clark, Department of Transportation, replied stating that has not been done because the road will be resurfaced. It is under contract to be resurfaced. This will be from Chadbourn to Fair Bluff. The part from Road Number 1356 Cherry Grove Road to Fair Bluff will be widened.

Agenda Item #12: RESOLUTION - REQUEST for ADDITION to STATE MAINTAINED SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM, BLUEBIRD LANE, MOCKINGBIRD LANE - HONEY HILL SUBDIVISION:

H.L. "Drew" Cox, PE, District Engineer, North Carolina Department of Transportation, requested Board approval and adoption of the following Request for Addition to State Maintained Secondary Road System.

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Division of Highways
Request for Addition to State Maintained Secondary Road System

North Carolina
County of Columbus

Road Description: Bluebird Lane, Mockingbird Lane - Honey Hill Subdivision.

WHEREAS, the attached petition has been filed with the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Columbus requesting that the above described road, the location of which has been indicated in red on the attached map, be added to the Secondary Road System, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is of the opinion that the above described road should be added to the Secondary Road System, if the road meets minimum standards and criteria

established by the Division of Highways of the Department of Transportation for the addition of roads to the System.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Columbus that the Division of Highways is hereby requested to review the above described road, and to take over the road for maintenance if it meets established standards and criteria:

CERTIFICATE

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus at a meeting on the 6th day of February, 2012.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this the 6th day of February, 2012.

(Official Seal) Clerk, Board of Commissioners, County of Columbus
/s/ JUNE B. HALL

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve and adopt the Request for Addition to State Maintained Secondary Road System, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #13: COURTHOUSE ANNEX PROJECT - APPROVAL of SPECIAL COUNSEL for COURTHOUSE FINANCING:

William S. Clark, County Manager requested Board approval to use Gundars Aperans as special counsel for financing of the Courthouse Annex Project.

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve using Gundars Aperans as special counsel for financing of the Courthouse Annex Project, seconded by Commissioner Russ.

Discussion was conducted relative to the following:

1. The reimbursement of the out-of-pocket disbursements for travel, express delivery, photocopying and other miscellaneous charges, and these expenses not being included in the \$30,000.00;
2. If this was the only bid received;
3. The fact that this is a service;
4. Negotiating the fees and putting a cap amount on them; **and**
5. The historical usage of this firm for this type service.

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

AYES: Chairman McKenzie, Vice Chairman McDowell, Commissioners Byrd, Prevatte, Norris and McDowell; **and**

NAYS: Commissioner Bullard.

The motion passes on a six (6) to one (1) vote.

Agenda Item #14: SINGLE FAMILY REHABILITATION (SFR 2010) BID OPENING - APPROVAL of LOW BID, CONTRACT and NOTICE to PROCEED:

Warren Wooten, The Wooten Company, requested Board approval of the low bid from the following Bid Tabulation, the contract and the following Notice to Proceed for the Single Family Rehabilitation (SFR 2010).

BID TABULATION SHEET

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

DATE: 12/21/11

LOCATION: Columbus County Manager's Office

CONTRACTOR

CASE #12 (Johnson)

D & A Complete	\$53,925
Robert Strickland	\$44,770
S & S Home Improvements	\$49,000

Turtle Construction \$46,257

COST ESTIMATE: \$45,762

This is to notify of the bids opened and read aloud at the time, date and location shown above. The Locality will award the contract based on the contractor qualifications, cost estimate and contractor scheduling.

/s/ **NATALIE CARROLL 12-21-11**
 Witnessed By

/s/ **ROBERT R. CLINEBELLE 12-21-11**
 Opened By

Contractor in attendance:
PATRICK LOWERY, D & A Complete Construction

NOTICE TO PROCEED

TO: Robert L. Strickland, L.L.C.
DATE: February 6, 2012 **CONTRACT DATE:** February 06, 2012
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 107 Smith Alley, Whiteville, N.C. 28472
OWNER'S NAME: George and Laurine Johnson **CASE #:** 12

You are hereby notified to commence work in accordance with the above referenced contract on March 1, 2012, and you are to complete all work within 60 consecutive calendar days thereafter. The date of completion of work is, therefore, April 30th, 2012.

George Johnson (Owner)	_____
	Signature
Laurine Johnson (Owner)	_____
	Signature
William S. Clark Local Government Official	_____
	Signature

Acceptance of Notice:
 February 6, 2012 (Date)

Robert L. Strickland Construction LLC
 Contractor

 Signature

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the low bid of \$44,700.00, to award the contract to Robert Strickland for the Single Family Rehabilitation (SFR 2010), approve the contract, and approve the Notice to Proceed, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed. A copy of the contract will be marked as Exhibit "A", and kept on file in the Minute Book Attachments, Book Number 4, in the Clerk to the Board's Office, for review.

Agenda Item #15: APPOINTMENTS / RE-APPOINTMENTS / REPLACEMENTS:

June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, request the following appointment be made.

COMMITTEE	ZONE/ EB	PERSON(S)	BOARD ACTION
Economic Development Commission Board of Directors Motion: Norris Second: Russ	EB	P. Edwin Russ (Resigned) (County Commissioner)	Giles E. Byrd

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

At 7:31 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte 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 Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

January 17, 2012 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 1 for each water district respectively.

Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - ADOPTION of LETTER of SUPPORT for NCRWA:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested the Board to adopt the following Letter of Support for NCRWA to receive reimbursements from EPA.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 1 for each water district respectively.

Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT III - NC DEPARTMENT of TRANSPORTATION ROAD PAVING PROJECT:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the budget amendment, acceptance of the low bid, award of the contract and Notice to Proceed on the widening of Krissy Prease Road.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 1 for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III.

Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV - BOARD DIRECTION on DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested Board direction on the remaining delinquent accounts in Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 1 for Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV.

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

At 7:49 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V, and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #20: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Vice Chairman McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

A. Budget Amendments:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	10-5180-549924	Mosquito Control	3,604
Revenue	10-3510-430061	Mosquito Control	3,604
Expenditure	10-5112-512100	Salaries	115,890
Revenue	10-3510-430026	State General Aid-To-Counties	115,890
Expenditure	10-5161-523900	FP Drugs and Medical	2,240
Revenue	10-3510-430031	FP State Funds	2,240

B. Tax Refunds and Releases:**TAX REFUNDS (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):
February 06, 2012**

Refunds Name: Sellers, Peggy W. Amount: \$216.00
 Value: \$5,300.00 Year 7-11 Account # 1-80460 Bill # 999999 Total \$237.20
 Refund portion of land. Double billed for front footage and acreage. Refund Roseland Fire (15.90), refund
 Columbus Rescue(5.30)

Refunds Name: Gardner, John W. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year 011 Account # 1-00710 Bill # 99999 Total \$478.00
 Refund user fees for years 2007,2008,2009 and 2011. Dwelling is vacant. 930 Vinson Blvd.
 46 Twin Pines Rd. Brunswick NC 28424

Refunds Name: Gaskin, Lavern & Mary Frances Amount: \$341.49
 Value: \$41,900.00 Year 011 Account # 9-01031 Bill # 37640 Total \$375.01
 Refund portion of property value. Land use removed in error. Refund Williams Fire(25.14), refund Columbus
 Rescue (8.38)
 108 Chula Vista Drive Wilmington NC 28412

Refunds Name: BB&T Centralized Sol Inc. Amount: \$128.43
 Value: \$15,758.00 Year 011 Account # 13-01925 Bill # 25040 Total \$131.58
 Refund portion of value on land. Incorrect listing value. Will be rebilled for 2010.

**TAX RELEASES (as submitted to the Governing Body Office from the Tax Office):
February 06, 2012**

Release the Property Value in the name of Foird, Thomas Amount: \$24.53
 Value: \$3,010.00 Year: 2011 Account # 11-04154 Bill # 6222 Total \$25.13
 Release value of 2004 Camper. Double listed Act#11-04154 Michael Fine. Release Columbus Rescue(.60)

Release the Property Value in the name of Freeman, Crystal Amount: \$1,034.74
 Value: \$9,440.00 Year: 2002-1 Account # 01-29755 Bill # 9999 Total \$3,463.67
 Release value of mobile home. Repoed in 2001. Release North Whiteville(250.00), Release Whiteville
 Rescue(26.29), release Water District III (115.28)

Release the Property Value in the name of Hilburn, Bobby Earl Amount: \$1.63
 Value: \$200.00 Year: 2011 Account # 13-18861 Bill # 2473 Total \$1.84
 Release value of business equipment. Closed July 2010. Release Columbus Resuce (.04)

Release the Property Value in the name of Rising Nicky, Dale & Sabrina Davis Amount: \$62.76
 Value: \$7,700.00 Year: 2011 Account # 5-04736 Bill # 7670 Total \$72.77
 Release portion of land. Double listed with other property under same account.
 Release Whiteville Rescue(1.54), release Water District III (8.47)

Release the Property Value in the name of Ritenour, Velma Carman Amount: \$311.33
 Value: \$38,200.00 Year: 2011 Account # 1-03399 Bill # 7678 Total \$568.71
 Release value of dwelling. Rebilled to Act#1-00603 Henry Ritenour(Heirs). Release Brunswick Fire(26.74),
 release Whiteville Rescue(7.64)

Release the Refunds in the name of BB&T Centralized Sol Inc. Amount: \$128.43
 Value: \$15,758.00 Year: 2011 Account # 13-01925 Bill # 5040 Total \$131.58
 Refund portion of value on land. Incorrect listing value. Will be rebilled for 2010.

Release the Refunds in the name of Gardner, John W. Amount: \$0.00
 Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 1-00710 Bill # 9999 Total \$478.00
 Refund user fees for years 2007,2008,2009 and 2011. Dwelling is vacant. 930 Vinson Blvd.

Release the Refunds in the name of Gaskin, Lavern & Mary Frances Amount: \$341.49
 Value: \$41,900.00 Year: 2011 Account # 9-01031 Bill # 7640 Total \$375.01
 Refund portion of property value. Land use removed in error. Refund Williams Fire(25.14), refund Columbus
 Rescue (8.38)

594

Release the Refunds	in the name of Sellers, Peggy W.	Amount:	\$216.00
Value:	\$5,300.00 Year: 07-11 Account # 1-80460 Bill # 99999	Total	\$237.20
Refund portion of land. Double billed for front footage and acreage. Refund Roseland Fire (15.90), refund Columbus Rescue(5.30)			
Release the User Fee	in the name of Coleman, Tammy	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 12-01361 Bill # 1180	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.			
Release the User Fee	in the name of Core, Rutheria	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 10-02923 Bill # 1626	Total	\$136.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.			
Release the User Fee	in the name of Enzor, Billy G.	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 10-00447 Bill # 4847	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. No can at this address.			
Release the User Fee	in the name of Evans, Michelle Y & Rhonald M.	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 15-01645 Bill # 5175	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.			
Release the User Fee	in the name of Hinson, Doris S. (ETAL)	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 1-41321 Bill # 2809	Total	\$446.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.			
Release the User Fee	in the name of Jablonowski, Linda B. & Joseph T.	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 13-21110 Bill # 4328	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.			
Release the User Fee	in the name of Jernigan, Paul	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 12-04558 Bill # 5093	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.			
Release the User Fee	in the name of Lennon, Perry Franklin	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 12-15840 Bill # 7511	Total	\$446.00
Release user fee. 2 dwellings are vacant. 12531 Haynes Lennon Hwy., 5107 Arthur Collier Rd.			
Release the User Fee	in the name of McCray, Buster & Ruth	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 7-11480 Bill # 9750	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.			
Release the User Fee	in the name of Milligan, James & Margie	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 1-62264 Bill # 1608	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.			
Release the User Fee	in the name of Mobley, Betty Joe & Ruth	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 11-17740 Bill # 1987	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.			
Release the User Fee	in the name of Moss, James O Jr. & Charles Darwin	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2009/1 Account # 14-03013 Bill # 99999	Total	\$866.00
Release user fees. No cans at dwellings.			
Release the User Fee	in the name of Patterson, Peggy L.	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 13-32043 Bill # 4649	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.			
Release the User Fee	in the name of Phillips, Glenda Hayes	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 5-05406 Bill # 4980	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.			
Release the User Fee	in the name of Prince, William B. (Sr) & Miriam G.	Amount:	\$0.00
Value:	\$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 9-05137 Bill # 6524	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.			

Release the User Fee in the name of Ransom, Herbert (Deceased)	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 5-05442 Bill # 6763	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Mobile home is vacant.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Robinson, Corene	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 11-05847 Bill # 7807	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Roy Eugene Pollock & Della C.	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 7-04501 Bill # 8265	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Simmons, Joseph Frank	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 9-26520 Bill # 0094	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Smalls, Bertha D. (Heirs)	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 15-34360 Bill # 0608	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Smith, Thomas Ray (Sr) & Laurette	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 6-33811 Bill # 1428	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant		
Release the User Fee in the name of Spivey, Garrett Jason	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 12-03703 Bill # 2356	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Stephens, Genevieve	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 3-24025 Bill # 3027	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Suggs, Daniel R.	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 1-90940 Bill # 3959	Total	\$136.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Thompson, Donald	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 9-04727 Bill # 4788	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Thurman, Laconya T.	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 11-05542 Bill # 5133	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Wade, Patty Cribb	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 9-01947 Bill # 6469	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Walker, James E. (Jr.)	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 12-28160 Bill # 6605	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant.		
Release the User Fee in the name of Ward, Tina Gore	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 3-01906 Bill # 7627	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. Dwelling is vacant. Can picked up 2/25/2009		
Release the User Fee in the name of White, Elizabeth Anne	Amount:	\$0.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2011 Account # 12-04348 Bill # 8535	Total	\$223.00
Release user fee. No Can at this location.		

Agenda Item #21: COMMENTS:

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

B. Department Head:

Gary Lanier, Economic Development Director: stated the following:

- a. We have really appreciated Commissioner Russ on our Board and his help on our EDC Board;
- b. He has helped on our EDC Board, and he has been a go-to guy for us; **and**
- c. I look forward to working with Commissioner Byrd.

C. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Commissioner Byrd:** stated the following:

- a. I am certainly glad to get those two (2) resolutions passed to get these roads under the State system;
- b. I would like to ask Ken Clark with the Department of Transportation about the section of Whitehall Road and Mitchell Cemetery Road with fourteen (14) houses on it, that is not paved;
Ken Clark replied stating the following:
 - This is a private road;
 - They may have petitioned this road in the past;
 - We have not pressed that forward like we want, but what we are waiting for on that is Mitchell Cemetery Road will hopefully come up in the paving priority a few years down the road, and we will be able to do all of that at one time;
 - We will certainly look at the private section of that road to be added to the system, there are enough houses on it, it meets the 1975 rule, and that is not an issue; **and**
 - We will be back before the Board in March, 2012 with our presentation, and we will check into this before then.

2. **Commissioner Russ:** stated the following:

- a. I would like for this Board, and Mr. Clark, to consider Kay Worley as the new director of the EMS, and have applications for an assistant to help out;
- b. On the Noise Ordinance, myself, Sheriff Batten and the District Attorney met a month ago on the Big Ranch Road, with 25 concerned citizens complaining about the noise and activity, and that is why you got the copy of the Noise Ordinance;
- c. There is some tweaking that has got to be done to it;
- d. I talked to the Sheriff this afternoon and the machine that we need with this ordinance is about \$2,500, and we need a minimum of twelve (12), which equates to approximately \$30,000; **and**
- e. I would like to get this ordinance like it needs to be, let the Board review it, and set aside \$30,000.00 in next year's budget.

Commissioner Byrd: Why do you need twelve (12) of the instruments to start with?

Major Hatcher: stated the following:

1. I talked to the Sheriff today, and these instruments will have to be certified;
2. These instruments will have to be just like a radar, they will have to be calibrated periodically;
3. You can't just calibrate it one time, and go out and use it for 1-2 years;
4. The Sheriff came up with the number 12;
5. The Court will not recognize it if the person using is not certified or trained in its proper usage;
6. We need at least one (1) instrument per shift, and you would need to train more than one (1) person per shift due to their availability when needed;
7. I have read this ordinance extensively, and the Sheriff has also read it extensively, and it is a good ordinance;
8. The only thing that I see that might need to be added is some wording concerning the unincorporated areas of Columbus County so we will not be obligated to the incorporated areas of the County; **and**
9. We are basically satisfied with this ordinance.

Chairman McKenzie: Why is so difficult to get rid of neighbors disturbing you.

Major Hatcher: The Supreme Court says that what is loud to you may not be loud to another person, so you are going to need this instrument to measure this tone in decimals before the court can accept or prosecute someone.

3. **Commissioner Bullard:** stated the following:
 - a. I would like to say to Mr. Jernigan that I hate to see you go, and I think you have been a number one Emergency Services Director;
 - b. You have led the County in the right direction since you have been with us;
 - c. You have done a great job, and it scares me that you are leaving during the time that we are getting a new radio system;
 - d. I thank you for what you have done, and I admire you for the stand that you took while you have been with us; **and**
 - e. Roseland Fire Department, over the weekend, put on a first class barbecue dinner, and they do this because they like what they do, and they do a first class job.

4. **Vice Chairman McDowell:** stated the following:
 - a. I must say Major Hatcher, it is most alarming what I heard that you can't go to where people are breaking the law and arrest them, but I know it is not your doing;
 - b. I would like to thank everyone for coming to the meeting;
 - c. I want to assure Southeastern Community College and Whiteville City Schools system that we will not forget you, I give you my word when it comes to that, and I think I speak for the entire Board;
 - d. We set a precedent last year, we want to continue our communication and support of you as best we can, please be aware of that; **and**
 - e. I would like to say to Jeremy Jernigan that you have done an excellent job and I appreciate it, and I appreciate the thought that you have in staying around and helping with the radio system.

5. **Commissioner Prevatte:** stated the following:
 - a. I would like to echo what everyone has said about Jeremy Jernigan, you came at a difficult time when we were negotiating contracts, I admire the stance that you took, and I appreciate the hard work that you have put into making our EMS and fire departments even better than they have ever been;
 - b. I thank everyone for coming to the meeting;
 - c. I think we need to treat all the children the same way, and that is not a shallow promise either; **and**
 - d. Mr. Ken Clark, Barbcrest Avenue comes right up beside Primary School and intersects with Smyrna Road, at the Smyrna Road connection at Barbcrest Avenue, to Smyrna Church, there is no speed limit sign. I have had several citizens get tickets for speeding through a school zone that is not marked.

Ken Clark: replied stating the speed limit on this road is 35 MPH in the city limits and outside that is 55 MPH. There is not a school zone there.

The State law is 55 MPH, unless otherwise posted. They need speed limit signs on this 4 ½ mile stretch.

Ken Clark: There should be a speed limit sign where the speed limit changes from 35 MPH to 55 MPH.

D. County Manager (William S. Clark): stated the following:

1. On the Department of Aging, the study that we requested to be done has been completed, and I think it will take too long to present the findings in a regular meeting, and I would like to know if the Board wants to receive the findings in a workshop, and if so, when?;
2. I would like to thank Jeremy Jernigan publicly for what you have done; **and**
3. Jeremy came in at a difficult time, worked through a lot of difficult issues, he has moved the department in a positive direction, the department has come a long way, and the county has come a long way, and we appreciate what you have done.

WORKSHOP DATE ESTABLISHED:

After a brief discussion was conducted, it was the general consensus of the Board to establish a workshop on the findings of the report that was conducted at the Department of Aging, on February 20, 2012, at 5:30 P.M.

E. **County Attorney (Michael H. Stephens):** stated the following:

1. The property that was subject to foreclosure which the County now owns on 31 Thompson Town Road in Chadbourn, this Board authorized an upset bid process;
2. Ms. Denise Godfrey offered a bid of \$500.00;
3. We advertised the property and it was not upset; **and**
4. Ms. Godfrey has called and wants to know if the Board is going to accept her bid or not.

After a brief discussion among the Board members, it was the general consensus of the Board to not accept the bid of \$500.00 on the property located on 31 Thompson Town Road in Chadbourn.

C. **Board of Commissioners (continued):**

6. **Chairman McKenzie:** stated the following:
 - a. We will have the group and individual pictures taken at the first meeting in March, and they will be in-house;
 - b. It is time for the evaluation of our County Manager, and I will give to you the evaluation forms tonight, and please return these to me prior to the next meeting;
 - c. Relative to the schools in Columbus County, we do treat them all the same, and at this time, without an increase in property taxes, we can only fix them on a case-by-case basis;
 - d. We have been asked by Commissioner Russ for a recommended salary for the new Social Services Director, and try to have that by the next meeting;
 - e. I would like to thank all of the Commissioners for the time and efforts that you put into doing the things that we do, and the timely manner that you do them in;
 - f. Columbus County has come a long ways, but we still have a ways to go;
 - g. We got some fine people in Columbus County, and that is why I love serving the people of Columbus County; **and**
 - h. To the news media, and to all of us, relative to prospective industry, let's all practice strict confidentiality.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, and (4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

At 8:25 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(3) Attorney-Client Privilege and (4) Economic Development, after a five (5) minute recess, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #22: Closed Session in Accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(3) Attorney-Client Privilege and (4) Economic Development

No official Action was taken.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:

At 9:24 P.M., Commissioner Norris made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

READING and APPROVAL of CLOSED SESSION GENERAL ACCOUNT:

Chairman McKenzie requested that Mike Stephens, County Attorney, orally read the Closed Session General Account. Mr. Stephens orally read the following: *"In reference to Attorney-Client*

Privilege, the County Attorney discussed the status of the lawsuit involving the Town of Chadbourn. As to the General Statute involving Economic Development, Economic Development Director Gary Lanier discussed a confidential project related to landfill gas”.

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

Agenda Item #23: ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:25 P.M., Commissioner Russ made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E McKENZIE, Chairman

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

Monday, February 06, 2012

7:31 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, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Amon E. McKenzie, **Chairman**
Charles T. McDowell, **Vice Chairman**
James E. Prevatte
Giles E. Byrd
P. Edwin Russ
Lynwood Norris
Ricky Bullard

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:31 P.M., Chairman McKenzie called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

January 17, 2012 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the January 17, 2012 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - ADOPTION of LETTER of SUPPORT for NCRWA:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested the Board to adopt the following Letter of Support for NCRWA to receive reimbursements from EPA.

February 06, 2012

Lisa Jackson
EPA Administrator
USEPA Headquarters
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Mail Code: 1101A

497

Washington, DC 20460

IN RE: Letter of Support

Dear Ms. Jackson:

The Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, population 58,098, supports the technical and source water protection assistance provided by the North Carolina Rural Water Association. This funding is through EPA to the National Rural Water Association.

The North Carolina Rural Water Association is a valuable asset to the Columbus County Public Utilities Department. It needs to remain a funded organization. The service it provides benefits not only the citizens of Columbus County, but citizens across the great state of North Carolina.

Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

/s/ **AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman**

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AEM/jbh

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Letter of Support to the North Carolina Rural Water Association, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:49 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E McKENZIE Chairman

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

Monday, February 06, 2012

7:31 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, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Amon E. McKenzie, **Chairman**
Charles T. McDowell, **Vice Chairman**
James E. Prevatte
Giles E. Byrd
P. Edwin Russ
Lynwood Norris
Ricky Bullard

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:31 P.M., Chairman McKenzie called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

January 17, 2012 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the January 17, 2012 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - ADOPTION of LETTER of SUPPORT for NCRWA:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested the Board to adopt the following Letter of Support for NCRWA to receive reimbursements from EPA.

February 06, 2012

Lisa Jackson
EPA Administrator
USEPA Headquarters
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Mail Code: 1101A

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Washington, DC 20460

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Dear Ms. Jackson:

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The North Carolina Rural Water Association is a valuable asset to the Columbus County Public Utilities Department. It needs to remain a funded organization. The service it provides benefits not only the citizens of Columbus County, but citizens across the great state of North Carolina.

Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

/s/ **AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman**

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AEM/jbh

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Letter of Support to the North Carolina Rural Water Association, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:49 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E McKENZIE Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, February 06, 2012
7:31 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, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Amon E. McKenzie, **Chairman**
Charles T. McDowell, **Vice Chairman**
James E. Prevatte
Giles E. Byrd
P. Edwin Russ
Lynwood Norris
Ricky Bullard

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:31 P.M., Chairman McKenzie called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

January 17, 2012 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the January 17, 2012 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - ADOPTION of LETTER of SUPPORT for NCRWA:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested the Board to adopt the following Letter of Support for NCRWA to receive reimbursements from EPA.

February 06, 2012

Lisa Jackson
EPA Administrator
USEPA Headquarters
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.

402

Mail Code: 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

IN RE: Letter of Support

Dear Ms. Jackson:

The Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, population 58,098, supports the technical and source water protection assistance provided by the North Carolina Rural Water Association. This funding is through EPA to the National Rural Water Association.

The North Carolina Rural Water Association is a valuable asset to the Columbus County Public Utilities Department. It needs to remain a funded organization. The service it provides benefits not only the citizens of Columbus County, but citizens across the great state of North Carolina.

Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

/s/ AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AEM/jbh

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Letter of Support to the North Carolina Rural Water Association, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #18: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT III - NC DEPARTMENT of TRANSPORTATION ROAD PAVING PROJECT:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the budget amendment, acceptance of the low bid, award of the contract and Notice to Proceed on the widening of Krissy Prease Road.

1. **Budget Amendment:**

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditure	62-7113-559000	C/O Other Improvements	33,296
Revenue	62-3715-489096	NCDOT Revenues	33,296

2. **Informal Bids Received December 29, 2011:**

CONTRACTOR	PRICE
Axel McPherson Construction	\$41,474
Columbus Utilities	\$37,920

Frank Horne Construction	\$33,296
Horne and Son Construction	\$46,457

3. **Contract:**

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS**

THIS **CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT** made this the 6th day of February, 2012 by and between the County of Columbus, a body corporate and politic of the State of North Carolina (hereinafter called "County") and Frank Horne Construction, Inc. a licensed utility contractor of the State of North Carolina (hereinafter called "Frank Horne Construction");

WITNESSETH:

THAT WHEREAS, the County owns a Public Water Supply System (hereinafter called "Water District #3") within the boundaries of Columbus County,

WHEREAS, the portion of water main and services in Water District #3 along Krissy Prease Road (SR 1556) is in interference with new construction being performed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation and needs to be relocated and replaced.

WHEREAS, Columbus County Water District #3 and Frank Horne Construction desire to enter into a written contract agreement for the relocation and replacement of the water main and services pursuant to which Frank Horne Construction shall bill the County for the installation of the new water main and services upon completion based upon bid received on December 29, 2011.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County agree to payment in full of the amount of \$33,296.00 for installation of said water main and service based upon bid received December 29, 2011 within 45 days of receipt of Invoice provided by Frank Horne Construction upon completion of work.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, terms and conditions contained herein accruing to the benefit of each of the respective parties hereto, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, it is as agreed as follows:

1. Frank Horne Construction shall provide labor, equipment and materials for the performance of said work stated here-in.
2. Frank Horne Construction shall provide proof of \$1,000,000.00 General Liability Insurance and Workers Compensation Insurance prior to commencement of work.
3. Frank Horne Construction shall perform such work to the minimum standards required by the Licensing Board of the State of North Carolina, the North Carolina Department of Transportation and Columbus County.
4. Frank Horne Construction shall warrant all work for a period of (1) one year following

completion of work and receipt of final payment.

- 5. Frank Horne Construction shall hold Columbus County harmless of all indemnity, faults or claims relating to the performance of said work.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this instrument to be executed by their properly designated officials and their respective seals to be hereunto affixed on the day and year first written above and this instrument is executed in duplicate.

COLUMBUS COUNTY
 By: /s/ **AMON E. McKENZIE**
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

Attest:
 /s/ **JUNE B. HALL**
Clerk to the Board

Frank Horne Construction, Inc.
 By: _____
President

Attest:

Officer

- 4. **Notice to Proceed:** Verbal (no printed document presented to Board).

Commissioner Russ made a motion to approve the budget amendment, accept the low bid of thirty-three thousand, two hundred ninety-six, and 00/100 (\$33,296.00) dollars, award the contract to Frank Horne Construction and give notice to proceed on February 07, 2012, on the widening of Krissy Prease Road, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:49 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E McKENZIE Chairman

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

Monday, February 06, 2012

7:31 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, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Amon E. McKenzie, **Chairman**
Charles T. McDowell, **Vice Chairman**
James E. Prevatte
Giles E. Byrd
P. Edwin Russ
Lynwood Norris
Ricky Bullard

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:31 P.M., Chairman McKenzie called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

January 17, 2012 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the January 17, 2012 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - ADOPTION of LETTER of SUPPORT for NCRWA:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested the Board to adopt the following Letter of Support for NCRWA to receive reimbursements from EPA.

February 06, 2012

Lisa Jackson
EPA Administrator
USEPA Headquarters
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.

468

Mail Code: 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

IN RE: Letter of Support

Dear Ms. Jackson:

The Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, population 58,098, supports the technical and source water protection assistance provided by the North Carolina Rural Water Association. This funding is through EPA to the National Rural Water Association.

The North Carolina Rural Water Association is a valuable asset to the Columbus County Public Utilities Department. It needs to remain a funded organization. The service it provides benefits not only the citizens of Columbus County, but citizens across the great state of North Carolina.

Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

/s/ **AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman**

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AEM/jbh

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Letter of Support to the North Carolina Rural Water Association, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV - BOARD DIRECTION on DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested Board direction on the remaining delinquent accounts in Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV, as per the following memorandum.

January 30, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: County Commissioners
From: Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director

Reference: **Update on Delinquent Accounts in Water District #4**

Following the directive given in the last discussion on this matter, we gave customers with delinquent accounts the opportunity to catch up their accounts without penalties. During the grace period 31 customers took advantage of the offer and caught up their accounts. However the grace period expired November 15, 2011. As of January 15, 2012 there are still 53 accounts which are delinquent. This leaves Water District #4 with a revenue deficit of over \$15,000.00 on these accounts alone.

For the Fiscal Year of 2011 – 2012 Revenues were budgeted at \$353,518.00. Current Projections for

the Fiscal Year 2011 – 2012 have Revenues at about: \$307,000.00. Part of this shortfall is lack of revenues from the delinquent accounts and part of it is lack of projected water sales.

In regards to the delinquent account the Current Water Policy in Section 26. Billing and Collecting states: “if the bill is not paid in full within ninety days the district will initiate legal procedures to collect the amount due.” Clearly the Public Utilities Department must take another step to collect the unpaid revenues as well as make some adjustments to correct the additional revenue shortfall. Below I have listed recommendations:

Action 1: Authorize staff to list the Delinquent Accounts with the State of North Carolina Debt Set-Off Program – this will capture the revenues from those who anticipate receiving a State Income Tax Refund.

Action 2: Authorize staff to report Delinquent Accounts to the Credit Bureau.

Action 3: Authorize the County Attorney to proceed with collection of the outstanding balances through the legal system.

Action 4: Adjust the base rate and/or the usage rate.

Adjust Base Rate only from \$25.00 per month to \$28.50 per month.

Adjust the Usage Rate only from \$4.00 to \$6.30 per thousand gallon.

Combination #1: Adjust the Base Rate to \$26.00 and Usage Rate to \$5.85 per thousand.

Combination #2: Adjust the Base Rate to \$27.00 and Usage Rate to \$5.40 per thousand.

Discussion:

Chairman McKenzie: Out of the options that we have, what options do you recommend?

Kip McClary: Certainly that we do Action 1, Action 2 and Action 3.

William S. Clark: Action 3 be done after we have exhausted Action 1 and Action 2.

Commissioner Bullard: What does the County Attorney recommend that we do?

Mike Stephens: Action 1. The cost of litigation, at this time, would be more than the account balance unless the account balance is large enough to justify litigation.

MOTION:

Commissioner Russ made a motion to recommend Action 1: Authorize staff to list the Delinquent Accounts with the State of North Carolina Debt Set-Off Program, seconded by Commissioner Bullard.

Discussion was conducted relative to the following:

1. The possibility of utilizing Action 1 and Action 2 before using Action 3;
2. Being careful about using Action 2;
3. The utilization of using Action 1 and Action 3 before using Action 2;
4. The option to send a letter to the customer explaining the further actions that will be taken unless the bill is paid; **and**
5. The requirement to send a notice, and the customer will have an opportunity to come before this Board.

The motion unanimously passed.

Mr. McClary stated the following:

1. I would like to point out to you, and it does not require any action tonight, we are expecting a revenue shortfall in Water District IV, as of our projections through the month of January;
2. It appears we are going to be approximately \$46,000.00 short in revenues;
3. The budgeted amount was \$353,518.00, and with projections, we are going to come up with approximately \$307,000.00 in total revenues in that district;
4. A portion of that is these uncollected outstanding balances, the other portion is the lack of water sales as projected; **and**
5. That is where Action 4 comes into play, and whether we need to adjust the base rate for that district or adjust the base and usage rate for that district to make up for the shortfall.

Discussion:

Discussion was conducted relative to the following:

1. Policy in place for that, and in order to change the rate, we would have to change it for all of the districts;
2. The possibility of being allowed by the policy to make adjustments and offer the different rates by district;
3. Considering Water District IV alone in the upcoming budget to make some adjustments to cut any shortfalls;
4. What can be done on the forty (40) year contract with Northwest;
5. Large number of customers using no water at all and just paying \$25.00;
6. Connection fee being \$500.00 and the deposit fee being \$50.00;
7. County financing the connection fee over a period of years to help;
8. Lowering the connection fee for a period of time;
9. Extend time and possibly going to mandatory hookup;
10. The State will not support mandatory hookup; **and**
11. Discussion of this at the Board Retreat.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:49 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E MCKENZIE Chairman

COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, February 06, 2012
7:31 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, to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Amon E. McKenzie, **Chairman**
 Charles T. McDowell, **Vice Chairman**
 James E. Prevatte
 Giles E. Byrd
 P. Edwin Russ
 Lynwood Norris
 Ricky Bullard

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:31 P.M., Chairman McKenzie called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

January 17, 2012 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Norris made a motion to approve the January 17, 2012 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - ADOPTION of LETTER of SUPPORT for NCRWA:

Kip McClary, Public Utilities Director, requested the Board to adopt the following Letter of Support for NCRWA to receive reimbursements from EPA.

February 06, 2012

Lisa Jackson
 EPA Administrator
 USEPA Headquarters
 Ariel Rios Building
 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
 Mail Code: 1101A

477

Washington, DC 20460

IN RE: Letter of Support

Dear Ms. Jackson:

The Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, population 58,098, supports the technical and source water protection assistance provided by the North Carolina Rural Water Association. This funding is through EPA to the National Rural Water Association.

The North Carolina Rural Water Association is a valuable asset to the Columbus County Public Utilities Department. It needs to remain a funded organization. The service it provides benefits not only the citizens of Columbus County, but citizens across the great state of North Carolina.

Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

/s/ **AMON E. McKENZIE, Chairman**

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AEM/jbh

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the Letter of Support to the North Carolina Rural Water Association, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:49 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

AMON E McKENZIE Chairman