

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD RETREAT
Thursday, April 23, 2015
6:00 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time, at Southeastern Community College, Room T-122, 4564 Chadbourn Highway, Whiteville, North Carolina, for the purpose of holding a Board Retreat facilitated by Chris May, Cape Fear Council of Governments.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

Danny Fowler, **Pub. Utilities Director**

BOARD RETREAT OPENED:

At 6:11 P.M., Chairman Trent Burroughs opened the April 23, 2015 Board Retreat. He welcomed everyone that was present. Chris May, Facilitator, delivered the invocation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES - Gary Lanier:

Gary Lanier stated the following:

1. **Mr. Clark asked me to see how we could create jobs in Columbus County and this to be my number one priority:**
 - Receiving many questions pertaining access to rail and port;
 - We already have an industrial area in the Acme-Delco-Riegelwood Area;
 - We started looking at what could go there;
 - There are several sites on Neils Eddy Road that we could utilize to do the following:
 - 250,000 Square Foot Building
 - 110,000 Square Foot Building
 - 200,000 Square Foot Building
 - 234,000 Square Foot Building
 - 4 Incubator-type building;
 - A CSX Railroad goes down the middle of this area;
 - There is a 6" natural gas line;
 - The only negative is the 4" water line and for the sprinkler requirements, the water line needs to be larger;
 - What is actually needed is a better water source;
 - We need to get our people willing to work; **and**
 - There is more industrial demand in the Eastern part of the County.

REVIEW of LAST YEARS' GOALS - Chris May:

Chris May, Facilitator, stated let's review what happened last year with the accomplishments (2013-14)

Water improvements	
Economic development/Jobs	
Re-establish rail	In litigation
School funding	Ongoing
Beaver control	In process)
Combined water districts (extra tax to support water going away, phased out over next 2 years)	Done

FY 2014-2015 Goals:

#	GOAL	ACTION
1.	Reduce crime - curtail Rx abuse - target funds to CCSD for drug purchases, etc.	
2.	County promotion of: Fitness events Fitness trails Active life styles Incentive money to County employees	Building Fitness Trail, Wellness Programs for employees
3.	Continue to improve infrastructure	Ongoing
4.	Economic Development - jobs tied to: Enterprise zones Incentives Health incentives	
5.	School funding tied to commissioner priorities	
6.	.25 Sales tax earmarked for new school construction	Tried three (3) times
7.	Encourage school boards to present long-term capital improvements plans	Relationship better
8.	Continue successful beaver program	Do away with \$60,000.00, increase bounty from \$30.00 to \$50.00
9.	Encourage use of more fuel efficient vehicles that still meet safety and utility requirements	Purchasing fuel-efficient vehicles
10.	Adopt minimum housing standards with enforcement. Goal is to improve appearance.	In progress
11.	Establish county garage facility to do vehicle m/r and fueling	
12.	Implement second phase of pay study to include retention plan	Implemented ½
13.	County move to more green/less paper policy form info packets - consider tablets for BOC	Did not go
14.	Live feed BOC meetings	Did not go
15.	Time card accountability (Chris will survey surrounding counties to see what they do)	Checking into

NEW GOALS for BOARD (PRIORITIZATION EXERCISE):

Mr. May stated the following list would be the items that would be voted on at the end of this session for the top five (5) priorities.

1. Increase jobs and economic development
-Good paying jobs with benefits
2. School cost (building and infrastructure)
3. Expand water, natural gas and sewer
4. Courthouse issues/renovations
5. Second phase of salary implementation with some tweaking
6. Continue Beaver Program and consider different approaches
7. Environmental cleanup of junk, eyesores, houses
8. County Wellness Program
-Set standard for county
9. Small business incentives

10. Support and encourage rail
11. Go to less paper using e-mail and technology
12. Look for partnership opportunities to work regionally
13. EMS funding
14. Recreation improvements
15. Support law enforcement (drug prevention/gang elimination)

TALLY of VOTES: (8 voters)

<u>Item #</u>	<u>VOTES</u>
1	7
2	7
3	8
4	3
5	7
6	3
7	1
8 & 14	3
9	1
10	1
11	0
12	0
13	0
15	0

TOP FIVE (5) PRIORITIES 2015:

PRIORITY #	# ON LIST	DETAILS	VOTE
1	1	Increase jobs and economic development	7
2	2	School Cost (Building and Infrastructure)	7
3	3	Expand water, natural gas and sewer	8
4	5	Second phase of salary implementation with some tweaking	7
5	8 & 14	County Wellness Program and Recreation Improvements	3

BOARD RETREAT CLOSED:

At 7:40 P.M., Chairman Burroughs stated the Board Retreat was closed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

TRENT BURROUGHS, Chairman