

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP - HOME HEALTH AGENCY**

**Monday, April 18, 2016
5:00 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 a Workshop for the Home Health Agency.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

WORKSHOP CALLED to ORDER:

At 5:00 P.M., Chairman Giles E. Byrd called the Workshop for the Home Health Agency to order.

PURPOSE of WORKSHOP:

William S. Clark, County Manager, stated the following:

1. The purpose of the Workshop is to discuss the Home Health Agency;
2. We are working on our budget, and we need a decision on how to move forward;
3. We have three (3) options as follows:
 - not do anything and continue to subsidize the Home Health Agency;
 - Lease the Home Health Agency; or
 - Sell the Home Health Agency;
4. I have invited Gary Massey, Consultant with Clifton Lawson Allen, to answer questions, and he has been involved in the sale of many Home Health Agencies, at least seven (7), in the State of North Carolina, and he is very knowledgeable about the process; **and**
5. If we decide to sell, we will have to go through a legal process and a bid process.

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS / DISCUSSION:

Vice Chairman Charles T. McDowell: I would like to know the actual legal process that we have to go through if we lease or sell.

Gary Massey, Consultant, Clifton Lawson Allen: stated the following:

1. The General Statute of the State of North Carolina spells out very specific steps that need to be followed;
2. Some of the key steps that you follow that are very important is that you get a least five (5) proposal bids when you choose to sell or you choose to lease;
3. The other aspects that are around this process is you give the dates you will follow;
4. You will put together a packet for those who have expressed interest when looking at the option of leasing or selling;
5. We have had only one (1) public entity to walk down that path of looking at lease;
6. The real decision factor is the value of the money that is being put on the table when you discuss sell;
7. The entity that was looking at lease was putting a fairly low dollar value on the annual payment;
8. It does not get you out of the whole process when you look at a lease; **and**
9. It is better to make a choice to get out of this completely.

Commissioner McKenzie: What are some of the options that will have significant impacts?

Gary Massey: replied stating the following:

1. The things are already impacting you now;
2. The payment rates will continue to go down;
3. The State of North Carolina Medicaid Program is looking at a choice of going to Managed Care Organization that will run all of the Medicaid Programs, and there is a portion of your revenue that comes from that;
4. What we have historically seen with Medicare and Medicaid, when you go to a Managed Care relationship, the rate they are willing to pay for those services also takes a hit;
5. We see rate reductions come into play, and the other element is a decision to do less visits;
6. All of those go against how you operate today and will have an adverse impact;
7. We are also looking at, in some states, where we have challenges for trying to create an integrated delivery system so we can deal with what they call bundle payments;
8. How do they create a value they can take to that bundle?;
9. There is a lot of competition in this area for Home Health Services, and the expectation would be if those individual entities are going to continue to be here in this community and will continue to provide the services;
10. There is a lot of element of unknown;
11. One (1) piece we discussed a year ago, is the Certificate of Need Process;
12. The State Certificate of Need Process designates geographic areas that don't have enough of a particular health service;
13. In the State of North Carolina, there is no unmet need with Home Health services, and I don't see that changing; **and**
14. If the Certificate of Need went away, then organizations that want to get into North Carolina and have not been able to get into North Carolina, they will be able to acquire an organization, and create potentially too many providers.

Commissioner Prevatte: stated the following:

1. Is there any way we can make Home Health viable again?; **and**
2. If we lease or sell Home Health, we will be losing eleven (11) employees, and I am not interested in losing any employee, especially not eleven (11).

Gary Massey: replied stating the following:

1. Medicare rate has declined, and that is a large portion of your payment, and I don't see this rate changing;
2. There is going to be new opportunities for Medicare and Medicaid to bundle their services together, and the beneficiary will end up in some system of care that is going to look at who is their preferred providers;
3. My greatest concern is that your Health Department is not going to be considered as a part of who they will look at; **and**
4. We have not seen any of the public patients not getting the care they need.

Chairman Byrd: How can a public agency make Home Health viable and the Columbus County Health Department can not make it viable?

Commissioner Prevatte: The hospital states that they can make it viable, and I don't understand that we can't.

Commissioner Bullard: The demand will be larger in four (4) counties than it will be in one (1) county.

Vice Chairman McDowell: Could it be the ratio per employee and patient changes?

Gary Massey: replied stating the following:

1. There is going to be an element of that;
2. There will be economy to scale on the overhead aspects that is going to be important;
3. One of the growing challenges the current program has is the increased regulatory burdens that are coming down from both Medicare and Medicaid;
4. If you have got resources in place to help with interpretation and making sure that staff and patient care are always responsive to those regulatory burdens;
5. The costs can be spread across larger entities, but yet the result of a single entity, you still have to gear up and be responsive to those same regulatory challenges;
6. Some of it will involve cost of service to pay someone come in and work with you to

- complete your costs report; **and**
7. There are other pieces that will be leveraged out by these larger organizations that will help.

Commissioner McKenzie: stated the following:

1. I believe if we have the right people in the right positions, I believe it will work;
2. I think we should subsidize Home Health until the next election, and then reconsider, if needed;
3. Our purpose is to find jobs for people and not to take jobs away;
4. We do not need to be hasty on this decision;
5. I asked the Health Director what we should do and I was told we needed to sell it;
6. We need to try other avenues that are available before we decide to sell; **and**
7. I will not vote to sell Home Health.

Commissioner Prevatte: Have we done anything this year to improve the situation with Home Health? Mr. Clark, has any corrective action been taken to improve the situation?

William S. Clark, County Manager: I will let the Health Department answer that question.

Kimberly Smith, Health Director: replied stating the following:

1. One (1) year ago, I stood before you and gave you the recommendation that my Health Board gave to me;
2. At that time, I was told that I could not hire anyone else, so no one else has been hired;
3. Mr. Clark can testify that I have been before him and asking him, on numerous occasions, could I hire a nurse to work inside the office, we had two (2) to retire. Also, the staff feels that a PR person would help, and I have been asking for that, and I was told no, I cannot hire anyone because we are waiting on a decision from the Board; **and**
4. If this was my agency, I would sell.

Trent Burroughs: stated the following:

1. No one wants to sell Home Health;
2. It has been proven that it is not working well; **and**
3. The hospital has a record of turning things around and better serve all the citizens of Columbus County.

Commissioner Bullard: stated the following:

1. I would like to see Columbus County keeping Home Health, but I don't want to see the County having to subsidize Home Health;
2. We have got some good employees working in Home Health and I don't want to see them lose their jobs, and that is a big concern of mine.
3. If the hospital can take Home health and make it work, I don't see why we can't make it work;
4. I thank the hospital for wanting to save our program; **and**
5. I want to keep Home Health in Columbus County.

Commissioner Burroughs: stated the following:

1. I think I can address some of your concerns; **and**
2. The hospital has a wide array of services that could benefit everyone.

Vice Chairman McDowell: Could it be possible to increase our patient load through referrals from the hospital?

Carla Hollis, CEO, Columbus Regional Healthcare System: stated the following:

1. We provide information to our patients about their health care needs and let them make their decision;
2. Home Health is a critical part of our continual care;
3. We can fully integrate that into all the services that we offer;
4. The hospital can make the Home Health Agency successful;
5. We cannot guarantee employment of all the staff involved;
6. We need a marketing person; **and**
7. We want to help the community.

Chairman Byrd: stated I understand what you are saying about the employees.

Commissioner Burroughs: stated the following:

1. I understand that we have to go through the legal process;
2. We don't have to accept the highest bid we receive, we can accept what is best for the County; **and**
3. We can accept the bid that is best for the County.

Gary Massey: stated the following:

1. You are exactly right on the importance of the integration of that, and I was not clearly stating that earlier;
2. What you are talking about is exactly the same advise I give to my clients;
3. You are valuable to the process; **and**
4. The political process is not going to change the process significantly because we are already seeing this.

Vice Chairman McDowell: stated the following:

1. Our decision is two (2) fold:
 - we need to look after the people that have provided this care in the County;
 - over the course of the last year, it has not been possible due to the cut of funds and the possibility of management;
2. We need to listen to the time frames that we need to get involved in to lease it or put it up for bids;
3. We need to make our decision on what we are going to do and proceed with the decision; **and**
4. The time frames are very important as to the public hearings, and the three (3) options are to keep it and stay where we are, sell or lease it, we have time restraints and there are restraints and legal steps to be taken with either of those.

Commissioner Prevatte: I have three (3) points as follows:

1. In talking to Mr. Clark, Home Health is not the only program we are subsidizing;
2. Eleven (11) workers are involved here, and there are five (5) workers who are not eligible for retirement; **and**
3. There is a \$2.3 million dollar Fund Balance in Home Health that needs to come back here to the Columbus County Fund Balance.

Commissioner Russ: stated the following:

1. Last year at a meeting with myself, Mr. Clark and Vice Chairman McDowell, it was suggested that the Health Department stay with Home Health; **and**
2. If there is a \$2.3 million dollar Fund Balance in Home Health, I recommend the hiring of two (2) additional employees for Home Health to see if it could be turned around.

Theresa Smith, Home Health Supervisor:

1. By waiting for thirteen (13) months to decide, it has made the situation worse;
2. We needed a marketing person to make everyone aware of what is available to them; **and**
3. It has been a negative year for us, and some people think we have closed.

William S. Clark, County Manager: Gary, what would the time frames be?

Gary Massey: in the other bidding that we have been doing with other counties, we like to allow for five (5) to six (6) months to allow for all the process.

Commissioner Bullard: Ms. Kim, if the PR person and a nurse is put into place, do you think that would turn it around?

Kimberly Smith, Health Director: stated the following:

1. Knowing what I know now, and what is going to happen in the future, the financial cuts will continue to happen, if we could get four hundred (400) patients, that would make a difference; **and**
2. The County of Columbus has grown only three (3%) percent in the last decade.

Charlene Bush: stated the following:

1. My only question is you were told one (1) year ago that we needed to hire a PR person and a nurse, and it was denied;

2. It would be very difficult to bring a person in for a job that might end October 01, 2016; **and**
3. This makes it very difficult to prepare a budget.

Ervin Stocks, Private Citizen: stated the following:

1. With my experience with Home Health, my doctor ordered oxygen and a defibrillator;
2. When the worker came to my house, they were from Leland, and out of Columbus County;
and
3. The charge for this was astronomical and it was not needed, and it was a long process to get them to stop paying the charges.

WORKSHOP CLOSED:

_____ At 6:01 P. M., Chairman Byrd stated the Home Health Agency Workshop was closed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**Monday, April 18, 2016****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 third Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Giles E. Byrd, **Chairman**
 Charles T. McDowell, **Vice Chairman**
 Amon E. McKenzie
 James E. Prevatte
 P. Edwin Russ
 Trent Burroughs
 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 Giles E. Byrd called the April 18, 2016 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Vice Chairman Charles T. McDowell. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Amon E. McKenzie.

Agenda Item #4: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the April 04, 2016 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes, with two (2) corrections on Page 601, Alexandria should be Alexander, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #5: PUBLIC INPUT:

Chairman Byrd opened the floor for Public Input. The following spoke.

Robert Eugene Adams, 233 Mt. Calvary Road, Clarkton, NC 28433: stated the following:

1. If there is a \$2.3 million dollar fund balance in Home Health, why is the County supplementing Home Health?;
2. The Aging Department turned theirs around through changes in management, changes in marketing and efficiency in their books and personnel;
3. The same thing can be done in Home Health if it is given a chance; **and**
4. Look out for the elderly and those who need this service in the County, and don't bring up the subject of selling.

Agenda Item #6: PRESENTATION - JUVENILE CRIME and PREVENTION COUNCIL:

Lance Britt, Chairman, delivered the following information relative to certification and funding of the Juvenile Crime and Prevention Program.

1. Increase marketing initiatives through website, Facebook, News Reporter, radio (public service announcements) and other media and community outlets.
2. Develop and cultivate new JCPC leadership through committee participation (100% committee participation) and long term commitments to Columbus County JCPC Board.
3. Promote, support and encourage fund-raising efforts of each program through grant writing (refer to state website) and other possible sources.
4. Increase collaboration and communication between each program and referral source for enhanced quality of service delivery to the youth and their families.
5. Continue to build and increase committee participation by recruiting and maintaining committed members and through monthly communications both electronically and personally.

6. We have a pass through budget for a total of one hundred ninety-eight thousand, nine hundred seventeen and 00/100 (\$198,917.00) dollars, and the following programs have been recommended by the committee:

-Columbus County JCPC Administrative	-	\$12,917.00
-13 th District Teen Court/Restitution Program	-	\$60,100.00
-Columbus County School Youth and Family Counseling	-	\$46,800.00
-Safe Haven Afterschool Program	-	\$45,100.00
-Ambassador's Program	-	\$34,000.00

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the programs recommended by JCPC for the one hundred ninety-eight thousand, nine hundred seventeen and 00/100 (\$198,917.00) dollars, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #7: COLUMBUS CHAMBER of COMMERCE and TOURISM - REQUEST for FUNDING:

Terri Edmund, Chairperson of Columbus Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, presented the following request for funding.

1. We have a fifteen (15) member board;
2. The Board represents many businesses here in town and we have 325 members;
3. The Chamber became county wide three (3) years ago with the merger of the Greater Whiteville Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Board to expand the footprint of the organization, and this has been a positive transition;
4. The Chamber focuses on helping businesses and people;
5. The Chamber promotes Columbus County through social media, trade shows, etc.;
6. When businesses prosper, it adds to the tax base, and this is basic economic development; **and**
7. The Chamber is requesting that you honor our request for funding (funding amount was not stated).

Agency #8: HOME HEALTH AGENCY - RECOMMENDATION:

William S. Clark, County Manager, requested Board action on the recommendation by the Board of Health on the Columbus County Home Health Agency

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to retain the Home Health Agency for one (1) year, and hire the PR person and Office Nurse needed, seconded by Commissioner Bullard.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to enter into the legal steps to go to bid for lease of the Home Health Agency to Columbus Regional Healthcare System, seconded by Vice Chairman McDowell.

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

- AYES:** Vice Chairman McDowell and Commissioner Burroughs; **and**
NAYS: Chairman Byrd, Commissioners McKenzie, Russ, Prevatte and Bullard.

The substitute motion fails on a five (5) to two (2) vote.

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

- AYES:** Chairman Byrd, Commissioners Russ, Prevatte, Bullard and McKenzie; **and**
NAYS: Vice Chairman McDowell and Commissioner Burroughs.

The original motion passes on a five (5) to two (2) vote.

Agenda Item #9: SOCIAL SERVICES - MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE:

Algernon McKenzie, Social Services Director, delivered the following Monthly Administrative Update.

On March 3, 2016, our monthly agency staff meeting was held. During this meeting, I spoke with the staff about being respectful of each other. Staff should keep noise levels down while in the hallways; so they don't disturb co-workers. I asked that doors be closed when speaker conversations are being held with clients. This could be a violation of confidentiality. Staff was reminded to be respectful of clients as well.

I also reminded staff that there are federal, state and local rules and policies in place that must be followed by all staff. If they are not followed, the agency could be sanctioned.

Staff was reminded they are expected to fulfill the job duties they were hired to do in their various positions. If they are having issues, they should speak with their Supervisor or Program Manager.

Staff recognitions and shout outs were completed and the meeting adjourned.

On March 4, 2016, I went to Tabor City Correctional Facility to receive a check in the amount of \$1,125. These funds will be used to help needy families who are in crisis situations, involved in Child Protective Services (CPS) or Adult Protective Services (APS). These funds were raised by a group of inmates who want to make a positive impact in the community and County; by donating funds to local charities. The group is called The Men's Club at the Tabor City Correctional Institution. We are very grateful for this act of kindness. I have attached a copy of the letter received along with a copy of the check.

On March 7, 8 and 9, 2016, we were involved in a record review for Child Welfare Services. The Supervisors in each Services Unit assisted the State reviewers in this three day process. The State will review records about every two years. The purpose is to identify weaknesses, strengths and needs counties may have. They will provide any assistance or training needed by counties to ensure program compliance is being met.

On March 10, 2016, I attended the Directors Executive Board Meeting in Raleigh. During the meeting, we received an update about House Bill 372; Medicaid Reform and from the Division of Medical Assistance. The State is looking at developing some training webinars around common issues with long term care applications.

Angela Taylor, from the NCFAST Project Team, informed us they would be updating the system and the system would not be available some weekends. She also stated there is a new tool they will use to identify specific issues a county or workers are experiencing in NCFAST. There was also much discussion and concern about non-emergency Medicaid Transportation being entered into NCFAST. Counties are not entering clients into the system because there has been no training for staff. As County DSS agencies, we are not sure what our role is; or what to tell transportation providers. Providers will have to enter their information into NCTracks to receive payment.

Wayne Black, our DHHS Director, stated North Carolina is making progress towards meeting the 5% timeliness requirement for Food and Nutrition application processing, which is required by USDA. He stated we were at 93.49%, which shows counties are working hard, but, we must continue to work hard, in spite of the increased workloads and the implementation of upcoming requirements for counties to work with Abled Bodies Adults with Dependent Children.

We have been notified we will receive an additional \$32,755 in Child Day Care Subsidy Funding. These funds will allow us to continue to provide services without terminating services at this point. We will continue to monitor spending monthly.

On March 9, 2016, our agency participated in an information session (5pm – 9pm) at Southeastern Community College, entitled; Methamphetamine Labs Are Among Us. Melinda Lane, Social Work Program Manager, presented information about the DSS role when these labs are located in our county; along with the Health Department, Sheriff's Department and the State Bureau of Investigation.

**March 2016
Economic Services**

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Food & Nutrition	Applications Taken: 153 Applications Approved: 131 Active Cases: 6,362 Benefits Issued: \$1,545,912 Participants Served: 13,312
Adult Medicaid	Applications Taken: 102 Cases Terminated: 26 Redeterminations: 317 Applications Processed: 147
Family & Children's Medicaid	Applications Taken: 128 Applications Processed: 143 Redeterminations: 965 Total Medicaid Cases: 13,690 Total Individuals Receiving: 17,889
Child Support	Absent Parents Located: 157 Orders Enforced: 1,315 Active Cases: 4,151 Collections: \$589,113.66

**March 2016
Human Services**

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Adult Services (APS)	APS Reports Accepted: 14 County Wards: 22 Adults Served via Guardianship: 22 Adults Served APS: 34 Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: 1,607 Amount Requested for Reimbursement: \$28,842.09
Children's Protective Services (CPS)	Reports Accepted: 35 Reports Screened Out: 14 Families Receiving In-Home Services: 41 Children Served: 71 Contacts with Families Monthly: 382 Assessments: 23
Foster Care	Foster Children in Foster Homes: 82 Children Placed Outside County: 17 Agency Adoptions: 0 Pending Adoptions: 9 Total Foster Homes Licensed: 6
Work First Employment (TANF)	Applications Taken: 42 Applications Approved: 28 Individuals Receiving Benefits: 376 Entered Employment: 5 Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 4
Program Integrity	Collections for Fraud: \$24,596.94 New Referrals: 77 Cases Established: 3
Day Care	Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 508 Children on the Waiting List: 303 Amount Spent on Day Care Services: \$213,800.40

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD REPORT

Children's Protective Services/Intake/Investigation/Assessment
Children's Protective Services/In-Home Services

Children's Protective Services/Foster Care/Adoptions
 Adult Services
 Work First Employment
 Child Day Care
 Program Integrity

Melinda H. Lane, Program Manager

Vacancies/Updates/News for March 2016

Intake/Investigation/Assessment:

The Intake/Investigation/Assessment Unit continues to be fully staffed with busy caseloads. This Unit received a state record review in March. This Unit earned 14.38 hours of compensatory time in the month of March. They currently have 26.76 hours of unused compensatory time.

In-Home Services:

The In-Home Services Unit continues to be short-staffed. Caseloads are down slightly. This Unit received a state record review in March. This Unit earned 18 hours of compensatory time in the month of March. They currently have 47.99 hours of unused compensatory time.

Foster Care/Adoptions:

The Foster Care/Adoptions Unit continues to be short-staffed. However, interviews are currently being conducted. The number of children in foster care has gone back up and continues to rise. This Unit is currently providing MAPP (Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting) classes for prospective foster parents. This Unit received a state record review in March. This Unit earned 85.43 hours of compensatory time. They currently have 61.18 hours of unused compensatory time.

Adult Services:

The Adult Services Unit continues to be short staffed. However, interviews are currently being conducted again.

Work First Employment:

The Work First Employment Unit continues to attempt to work within the NCFast system. Some training, mainly on-line training, and shadowing is currently available for staff as this Unit prepares to transition into the NCFast system, although staff would benefit from more hands-on training.

Child Day Care:

The Child Day Care Unit will soon begin training as they become one of the next to transition into the NCFast system. Limited training and information and state support continues to be an obstacle for all services that are becoming a part of the system. This Unit is continuing to assist Daycare providers with preparation for the changes that will begin in the early summer.

Program Integrity:

Program Integrity is working full steam ahead on big and involved cases in the county with several participants. They attended a regional meeting in Clinton in March.

Economic Services Program Narrative

Child Support/Paralegal and Work First Cash/Medicaid Transportation/Maintenance and
 Housekeeping
 Food and Nutrition and Family and Children's Medicaid
 Adult Medicaid//Rest Home and Nursing Home/Community Alternatives Program (CAP)

Submitted by Cyndi Hammonds, Income Maintenance Administrator

Reporting Month: March 2016

News/Updates/Vacancies

Food and Nutrition:

Due to the fast approaching implementation of ABAWD (Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents) policy, workers and supervisors are training and preparing for these changes effective July 1, 2016.

An ABAWD is an individual that is age 18 through 49, able to work and does not have a child under 18 included in the Food and Nutrition unit. Clients that fall in this category that are already

receiving will soon get letters notifying them of the new requirements and what they have to do to continue to receive Food and Nutrition benefits. The State will be searching each counties caseloads to determine who these clients are and will send each county a list to begin notifying them. All of the clients that chose to participate in getting help finding a job may be referred to the college/NC Works/Employment Security to register or be in an approved employment and training program or volunteering at an approved public or private agency 20 hours per week. Along with training, workers are still required to meet USDA's strict timeframes with getting all applicants their benefits in a timely manner.

Child Support and Paralegal:

Child Support continues to work hard to bring in money for the children that have absent parents. Each month our State consultant has 10 counties she is responsible for. These counties include Alamance, Chatham, Cumberland, Durham, Harnett, Moore, Orange, Richmond and Scotland. Each month the top ten workers are chosen from her areas who has the highest collection rates along with the number of orders they are charged with enforcing. Melinda Batten, one of our Child Support Agents has achieved being on that "Top Ten" list two months in a row. We continue to have one vacancy.

The Child Support Team prepared 534 cases for court in March and the paralegal prepared 373 orders and reviewed 27 orders that the attorney prepared.

Family and Children's Medicaid:

This Team continues to keep applications and recertifications timely. NC FAST still has a few issues however they give us a temporary fix so participants continue to receive their benefits during this time. We continue to have issues with computer slowness and are hoping this will get worked out. The Federal Marketplace has closed the open enrollment for applications which has reduced the number of applications we have to process. Caseworkers in all Medicaid no longer have to require clients to come in to complete their recertification and most cases are recertified for a 12 month period of time. The NC FAST system allows workers to run verifications thru the system with different programs to obtain clients wages. This allows workers more time to focus on the many steps that NC FAST requires to complete applications and recertifications. We have one vacancy but have interviewed and recommended an applicant and are waiting on results of all requirements for employment.

Adult Medicaid:

Adult Medicaid continues to struggle to meet time frames with their Long Term Care applications. NC FAST still has a few issues with this program but has also given us a temporary fix to allow us to continue to work these cases. Workers are being given training webinars to attend while trying to get their work completed. There are still lots of issues with NC FAST for those clients that automatically receive Medicaid because they receive a SSI check. These are cases that workers did not have to work on when we worked in the old system, but NC FAST has forced workers to have to work these cases also. Out of 8,597 Adult Medicaid cases, 4,958 of these receive a SSI check. SSI is Supplemental Security Income; if someone does not receive Social Security at the poverty level they are supplemented with a check (SSI) to bring their income up to the poverty level. We have one vacancy but have interviewed and recommended an applicant and are waiting on results of all requirements for employment.

Work First Family Assistance/Cash//Medicaid Transportation/Interpreter & Supportive Services:

- Our interpreter has begun and is learning about each of the programs within Social Services as she interprets for each department.
- Medicaid Transportation is still in limbo with NC FAST. We have been informed that Transportation Companies will now have to enroll in NC TRACKS and the transportation companies will be responsible for their billing and getting paid electronically from the State. We hope to have training soon in preparation for these clients to be entered in the system.
- NC FAST continues to work on a defect concerning Work First time clock issues. Each participant has a 5 year life time for being on the program and NC FAST has not been able to calculate these months correctly. We are working with a temporary fix in this case also.
- Housekeeping and Maintenance continue to do a great job keeping the agency and grounds clean.

Agenda Item #10: LIBRARY - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Morris Pridgen, Library Director, delivered the following departmental update to the Board.

Columbus County Public Library Facts

Mission Statement: Columbus County Library System is committed to providing modern library resources and services necessary to satisfy the evolving informational needs and recreational pursuits of the citizens of the community. Columbus County Public Library System will provide excellent service that will support our patrons with lifelong learning, enjoyment of reading, and enhance the quality of life within the county.

History: Public Library services began in Columbus County in 1921 when the city of Whiteville formed the Whiteville Library Association. Columbus County Library developed from a bookmobile service, which began in 1946. Whiteville City Library and Columbus County Library shared quarters until 1957. The two (2) libraries merged in 1978 to become Columbus County Library System. In 1986, the library moved into its current headquarters building.

Services: Columbus County Library is a full service library. Library service is provided to the county through the headquarters library in Whiteville and five (5) branch libraries. Homebound services are available to provide special library assistance to elderly and disabled citizens in homes, senior centers and nursing care facilities. The Library Bookmobile provides services to areas not served by a fixed site library. The Children's Librarian provides children's services to day care centers and Head start programs.

Overview of All Services: Adult and Children's Reference Services, e-Books, Magazines, Newspapers, Videos, MP3 books-on-tape, Children's Story Time, Summer Reading Program, Word Processors, Public Access Internet, Computer Lab, Typewriters, Inter-Library Loan, Homebound Service, Bookmobile, Local History, Genealogy, Copier and Fax Services.

Locations and Hours of Operation:

LIBRARY	ADDRESS	HOURS
Carolyn T. High Memorial	407 N. Powell Boulevard Whiteville, NC 28472	Mon-Thurs: 9 AM - 8:00 PM Fri: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Sat: 10:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Chadbourn Community Library	301 North Wilson Street Chadbourn, NC 28431	Mon-Thurs: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM Fri: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Fair Bluff Community Library	P.O. Box 438 315 Railroad Street Fair Bluff, NC 28439	Mon-Thurs: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM Fri: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Rube McCray Memorial Library	301 Fleming Drive Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450	Mon-Thurs: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM Fri: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
East Columbus Branch Library	P.O. Box 27 103 Church Road Riegelwood, NC 28456	Mon-Thurs: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM Fri: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tabor City Public Library	1 East Fifth Street Tabor City, NC 28463	Mon-Thurs: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM Fri: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

COLUMBUS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES' ANNUAL STATISTICS

Libraries Circulation Grand Total:	180,853
Total Computer Users:	54,779
Total Reference Questions	48,764
Total Door Count:	105,858
*Outreach Services:	914

***Library services provided to Columbus County Residents, who are unable to access the main library, bookmobile or branches for their library materials. Bookmobile and children staff personally selects and delivers materials for these patrons to enjoy. This includes both children daycares and nursing homes.**

**HIGHLIGHTS of COLUMBUS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
for CALENDAR YEAR 2015**

1. Collaborate with AARP and offer free tax preparation to all Columbus County citizens.
2. Tabor City public Library was remodeled. Roof, interior and exterior painted, carpet replaced and building repairs were done.
3. Carolyn T. High Memorial Library (Main) was remodeled. Roof, interior painted, carpet replaced and building repairs were done.
4. We are proud of the festivals, daycares, rest homes and many patrons to which we have provided services.

Agenda Item #11: FINANCE - AUDITING CONTRACT:

Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, requested Board approval of the award of the audit contract to Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams and Company for the next three (3) fiscal years, per the following bidders list.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY
AUDIT PROPOSALS
FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016**

COMPANY	COST 2015/2016	COST 2016/2017	COST 2017/2018
Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co.	Finance - \$23,950 Compliance-\$1,800 Addt'l Compliance Testing-\$1,500	Finance - \$23,950 Compliance-\$1,800 Addt'l Compliance Testing-\$1,500	Finance - \$23,950 Compliance-\$1,800 Addt'l Compliance Testing-\$1,500
W. Greene, PLLC	Finance-\$25,000 Compliance-\$10,000	Finance-\$25,000 Compliance-\$10,000	Finance-\$25,000 Compliance-\$10,000
Blair, Bohle & Whitsitt	Finance - \$24,000 Compliance-\$1,000 Addt'l Compliance Testing-\$750	Finance - \$24,000 Compliance-\$1,000 Addt'l Compliance Testing-\$750	Finance - \$24,500 Compliance-\$1,000 Addt'l Compliance Testing-\$750

Vice Chairman McDowell made a motion to approve the award of the audit contract for the next three (3) fiscal years to Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Company for the cost of twenty-seven thousand, two hundred fifty and 00/100 (\$27,250.00) dollars, broken down as follows - Finance Audit: \$23,750.00, Compliance Audit: \$1,800.00 and Additional Compliance Testing: \$1,500.00, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed

Agenda Item #12: ORDINANCE - AN ORDINANCE of the COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS AMENDING CHAPTER 6, ANIMALS of the COLUMBUS COUNTY CODE:

Michael H. Stephens, County Attorney, requested approval and adoption of the following ordinance so entitled “An Ordinance of the Columbus County Commissioners Amending Chapter 6, Animals of the Columbus County Code”, on the first reading.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AMENDING CHAPTER 6, ANIMALS, OF THE COLUMBUS COUNTY CODE**

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners wishes to make revisions to the Columbus County Animal Control Ordinance by repealing, adding and amending certain sections; **and**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners finds the revisions of Chapter 6, Animals, of the Columbus County Code, to be in the public interest and to promote public health, safety and welfare.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners that:

Chapter 6, Animals, of the Columbus County Code is hereby amended as follows:

**CHAPTER 6
ANIMALS**

Article II. Rabies

Section 6-50. Non-domestic animals prohibited.

Repealed.

Section 6-50.1 Keeping of wild or inherently dangerous exotic animals.

- (A) Keeping of inherently dangerous exotic animals prohibited. No person shall own, possess, keep, harbor, breed, bring into the county, or have in one's possession, act as a custodian, or have custody or control of inherently dangerous exotic animals as follows: felids of the Panthera family (lions, tigers, jaguars, etc) and their hybrids, species of lynx and their hybrids, non-domesticated canids (wolves, coyotes, etc) and their hybrids, all non-human primates which are great apes or apes (gorilla, chimpanzee, gibbons, orangutans, etc), all non-human primates which are old world monkey (languars, mandrills, macaques, baboons, etc), polar bears, grizzly bears, elephants, rhinoceroses, hippopotamuses, venomous reptiles, komodo dragons, water monitors, crocodile monitors, members of the crocodile family, alligators, African Rock Pythons, Burmese Pythons, Reticulated Pythons and Anacondas.
- (B) It is unlawful to keep, harbor, breed, sell or trade any wild or exotic animal for any purpose, except as may be licensed by the state Wildlife Resources Commission under its regulations and pertaining to wildlife rehabilitators.
- (C) **Exemptions.** The provisions of this section shall not apply to wild or inherently dangerous exotic animal under the possession or control of:
1. An institution accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association;
 2. A duly incorporated non-profit animal protection organization which is housing the inherently dangerous exotic animal at the written request to the Animal Control Department;
 3. An animal control or law enforcement agency or officers acting under the authority granted hereunder;
 4. A licensed veterinary hospital or clinic, if the inherently dangerous exotic animal is in its possession for treatment or rehabilitation purposes;
 5. A licensed or accredited research, medical, or educational institution which is in possession of the inherently dangerous exotic animal for purposes consistent with the nature and mission of the institution;
 6. A lawfully operated non-resident circus, carnival, or rodeo held within the County for no longer than one (1) continuous period of up to seven (7) days per calendar year; or
 7. A person temporarily transporting the inherently dangerous exotic animal through the County if the transit time is not more than 24 hours and the animal is at all times maintained within a confinement sufficient to prevent it from escaping.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any such exempt entity or person from which an inherently dangerous exotic animal escapes or is released for any reason (without regard to fault) shall be liable for the costs of capturing said animal.

- (D) **Enforcement of this Section.** The Animal Control Department and its agents and employees, and any law enforcement agency having authority within the territorial jurisdiction of this Section, shall be empowered to enforce the provisions of this Section.

- (E) **Impoundment and/or disposition of inherently dangerous exotic animals.**

The following provisions shall govern the impoundment and/or disposition of inherently dangerous exotic animals present in the County in contravention of this Section:

1. The Animal Control Department may immediately take upon and impound an inherently dangerous exotic animal if the Animal Control Department determines in its discretion that it has facilities sufficient to safely house the animal and that the impoundment can be undertaken without injury to persons or property. The possessor is liable for the costs of capture, placement, and care for the inherently dangerous exotic animal from the time the attempt to capture begins or impoundment occurs (whichever happens first) until the animal has been relocated to an approved facility as set forth hereunder, or has been returned to the possessor (in the case of an exempt entity or person), or has been destroyed. Said costs may be recovered by the County in the form of additional civil penalties as set forth under Article II of this Ordinance.
2. If an inherently dangerous exotic animal is impounded as set forth above, the possessor must within seventy-two (72) hours of impoundment post a security bond or cash deposit with the Animal Control Department in an amount sufficient to guarantee payment of all reasonable expenses incurred and expected to be incurred in capturing, caring for, providing for, and placing the animal, including but not limited to the estimated cost of feeding, medical care, and housing for at least thirty (30) days, plus the cost of relocating the animal as set forth hereunder. The security bond or cash deposit shall not prevent the Animal Control Department from relocating the animal at any time; provided, that upon such relocation the Animal Control Department shall recover under the security bond or cash deposit only those sums actually incurred in connection with the above listed expenses; provided further, that the Animal Control Department may in its discretion keep the animal under impoundment for a period of up to sixty (60) days if the possessor has posted a security bond or cash deposit sufficient to cover such period. In all cases the amount of the security bond or cash deposit shall be determined by the Animal Control Department and shall be based on the current rate to feed, provide medical care for, and house the animal plus the expected cost of relocating the animal, plus costs, already incurred for the same and for capturing the animal. The form for security bonds as required herein shall be approved by the Animal Control Department.
3. If an inherently dangerous exotic animal is impounded as set forth above, the Animal Control Department shall, upon posting the required security bond or cash deposit by the possessor, attempt to find proper and safe housing for the animal outside the County through placement of the animal with an institution or location accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association. If said security bond or cash deposit is not timely posted, or if the possessor of the animal is unknown or cannot be located, the Animal Control Department may, in its discretion, attempt to find proper and safe housing for the animal outside the County as stated above; provided, that if the possessor is subsequently identified or located, said possessor shall be liable for all costs of placement and care incurred by the Animal Control Department.
4. The provisions of subsections (E) 1 and 2 of this Section shall not apply in the case of an impounded inherently dangerous exotic animal if:
 - a. The impounded animal escaped or was released from an exempt entity or person; and
 - b. In the discretion of the Animal Control Department, the animal can safely be impounded and returned to the exempt entity or person or can safely be recaptured by said entity or person; and
 - c. In the discretion of the Animal Control Department, the exempt entity or person has taken reasonably sufficient steps to assure that the animal will not escape or be released in the County again; and
 - d. The animal has not previously escaped or been released in the County.

In such event the Animal Control Department shall allow the exempt entity or person to recapture

the animal or, if the animal is impounded, shall return the same to the exempt entity or person upon payment in full of all costs of capture as provided hereinabove.

5. If the Animal Control Department determines in its discretion that an inherently dangerous exotic animal cannot be taken up and impounded within the requirements of subsection (1) above, the Animal Control Department may authorize and direct the possessor to retain the animal and, within a fixed period of time not to exceed sixty (60) days, relocate the animal to proper and safe housing outside the County through placement with an institution or location accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association. The foregoing provisions shall apply only if the Animal Control Department determines in its discretion that the animal has not caused injury to persons or property and that the possessor has facilities sufficient to safely house the animal and prevent it from escaping or causing such injury during the period when it is being relocated. The decision of the Animal Control Department to proceed under this subsection shall in no way affect the applicability or imposition of civil penalties as to the possessor for violation the provisions of subsection (A) above, and during the period of relocation hereunder the civil penalties so imposed shall continue until the possessor presents documentation or other satisfactory proof to the Animal Control Department that the animal has been relocated as required herein.
 6. Unless otherwise prohibited by the Federal Endangered Species Act or other applicable Federal or State law, the Animal Control Department may immediately destroy an inherently dangerous exotic animal in a humane manner if:
 - a. The Animal Control Department determines in its discretion that the animal cannot be taken up and impounded within the requirements of subsection (1) above, and further determines in its discretion not to proceed under the provisions of subsection (5) above; or
 - b. In the event of applicability of subsection (2) above, the possessor of the animal fails to timely post the security bond or cash deposit as required therein; or
 - c. In the event of applicability of subsection (3) above, proper and safe housing cannot be found for the animal as set forth therein; or
 - d. The animal has escaped or been released from an exempt entity or person but does not fall within the provisions of subsection (4) above.
- (F) **Penalty For Violation.** The penalty for a violation under this Article II Section 6-50.1 shall be set forth in Article II Section 6-53.

Section 6-53. Penalty for Violation

- (a) The violation of any provision of this Chapter shall constitute a Class 3 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$300.00 and imprisonment of not more than 20 days.
- (c) In addition to and not in lieu of the criminal penalties and other sanctions provided in this Chapter, the offender may also be subject to the civil penalties hereinafter set forth. The civil penalty for a violation of this Chapter shall be \$100.00 for a first violation or for a violation more than 12 months after a previous violation. For subsequent violations within twelve (12) months of a previous violation, the penalty shall be \$200.00 for a second violation and \$300.00 for a third or subsequent violation within a twelve-month period of the first violation.

ADOPTED by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners this 18th day of April, 2016.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ **GILES E. BYRD, Chairman**

ATTESTED BY:
/s/ **JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board**

Vice Chairman McDowell made a motion to approve and adopt the ordinance so entitled “An Ordinance of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners Amending chapter 6, Animals of the Columbus County Code”, on the first reading, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #13: APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS/REPLACEMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL AND BOARDS:

June B. Hall requested appointments/re-appointments/replacements to the following Council and Boards.

COMMITTEE	ZONE /EB	PERSON(S)	EXPIR. DATE	BOARD ACTION
Animal Control Advisory Council	III V VI	Rick Hammonds Phillip Cox Pat Christley	01/17/2016 01-06/2016 12/05/2015	HOLD RE-APPOINT HOLD
Brunswick Zoning, Planning Board and Board of Adjustments Motion: McDowell Second: Russ	EB	Caletta Faulk (ETJ)	05/17/2016	REAPPOINT
Community Advisory Council Motion: Russ Second: Prevatte	EB	Patsy Eason	03/16/2016	RE-APPOINT
Tabor City Planning and Zoning Board Motion: Burroughs Second: Bullard	EB	Patrick Milligan (ETJ)	April, 2016	RE-APPOINT
Tabor City Zoning Board of Adjustments Motion: Burroughs Second: Bullard	EB	Kenny Stanley (ETJ) (Replaces Timmy Canady)	April, 2016	APPOINT

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

At 7:17 P.M., Commissioner Bullard 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 McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

April 04, 2016 **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 2 for each Water District, respectively.

COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT II - STATUS of SOUTHWOOD PROJECT:

Vice Chairman McDowell requested to know the status of the Southwood Project. Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, replied stating the contractor has moved back in, one half of the pipe has been installed, and the contractor is doing a good job of cleaning up after his work.

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

At 7:19 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn the **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 #15: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Items, **seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion unanimously passed.**

A. Budget Amendment:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditures	10-6120-550000	Capital Outlay	\$15,705
Revenues	10-3991-499101	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$15,705

B. Tax Releases:

<i>Property Value</i>	Amount:	\$15.13		
Cox, Carlton Henry	PROPERTY:	00000	Total:	\$18.51
Value: \$1,880.00	Year: 2015	Account: 03-01315	Bill#:	27064
Release value of boat. Sold 3 years ago. Release Brunswick Fire(1.32) release Whiteville Rescue(.38) release late list(1.68)				
<i>Property Value</i>	Amount:		\$327.63	
Freeman, Della Renee	PROPERTY:	79290	Total:	\$568.87
Value: \$40,200.00	Year: 2007	Account: 04-04518	Bill#:	50917
Release value of D/W/ Repoed. Release Bolton Fire(40.20) release Columbus Rescue(8.04)				
<i>Property Value</i>	Amount:		\$35.34	
McCollum, Eric	PROPERTY:	00000	Total:	\$257.29
Value: \$4,390.00	Year: 2015	Account: 13-00168	Bill#:	45620
Release value of mobile home. DBL Act#13-25263 Release Klondyke Fire(3.07) release Columbus Rescue(.88)				
<i>Property Value</i>	Amount:		\$16.91	
McCollum, Eric	PROPERTY:	00000	Total:	\$236.80
Value: \$2,100.00	Year: 2015	Account: 13-01015	Bill#:	45621
Release value of mobile home. DBL Act#13-25263. Release Klondyke Fire(1.47) release Columbus Rescue(.42)				
<i>Property Value</i>	Amount:		\$30.35	
Washington, Linda	PROPERTY:	00000	Total:	\$37.11
Value: \$3,770.00	Year: 2015	Account: 13-42677	Bill#:	64016
Release portion of value on S/W. Home burned 3/31/14. Release Klondyke Fire(2.64) release Columbus Rescue(.75) release late list(3.37)				
<i>Property Value</i>	Amount:		\$4.03	
Wilson, William Herbert (DEC)& Elvira	PROPERTY:	00000	Total:	\$4.87
Value: \$500.00	Year: 2015	Account: 11-30440	Bill#:	66331
Release entire value of farm equipment. Sold 4 years ago. Release Hallsboro Fire(.30) release Columbus Rescue(.10) release late list(.44)				
<i>User Fee</i>	Amount:		\$218.00	
Hobbs, Clint	PROPERTY:	00000	Total:	\$436.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2015	Account: 09-03602	Bill#:	36841
Release portion of user fee. Prepayment was made.				
<i>User Fee</i>	Amount:		\$0.00	
J P Morgan Chase Bank NA	PROPERTY:	60301	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2015	Account: 12-04335	Bill#:	41655
Release user fee. Dwelling vacant.				
<i>User Fee</i>	Amount:		\$0.00	
MCPerson, Willie Paul	PROPERTY:	87540	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2015	Account: 02-00619	Bill#:	46985
Release user fee. No Can				
<i>User Fee</i>	Amount:		\$0.00	
Nobles, Sabrina E.	PROPERTY:	00000	Total:	\$218.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2015	Account: 13-01325	Bill#:	49533
Release user fee. House is vacant.				

Agenda Item #16: COMMENTS:

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

A. Department Managers:

Kimberly Smith, Health Director: stated the following:

1. The Health Department is part of the State Health Department, and they mandate that we have certain programs;
2. The State funds these programs that we are mandated to have in partial, and the remaining funds are out of the County budget; **and**
3. The Home Health funds were generated by the amount that was made.

2. **Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director:** stated the following:

- My workers accumulate large amounts of compensatory time, and I do send them home when the opportunity arises to absorb some of the compensatory time; **and**
- There is no way to use all of the compensatory time as it is accumulated and keep enough employees to cover the work.

B. Board of Commissioners:

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

- We all need to work together on Home Health;
- We need soccer fields in our parks;
- The Social Services Building needs to pressure washed; **and**
- The County workers that have talked to me have stated they prefer to have the money in lieu of compensatory time.

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

- With compensatory time, it should only be used in a time of emergency;
- I would like for this Board to send a letter to Drew Cox and ask him to schedule Highway 410 to be re-paved through the Town of Chadbourn;

MOTION:

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion for the Board to send a letter to Drew Cox, District Engineer, NC Department of Transportation, and ask him to schedule Highway 410 to be re-paved through the Town of Chadbourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

- Mr. Prince, I would like for you to look at a leash law in Columbus County; **and**
- The Health Department and Home Health needs to work hand-in-hand.

3. **Commissioner McKenzie:** stated the following:

- I would like to thank my colleagues for their help in trying to keep Home Health alive; **and**
- We need to send Drew Cox, District Engineer, NC Department of Transportation, a letter of appreciation for all that he does for the County of Columbus.

MOTION:

Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to send a Letter of Appreciation to Drew Cox, District Engineer, NC Department of Transportation, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

4. **Commissioner Bullard:** stated the following:

- Ms. Kim, I have confidence in Home Health; **and**
- Ms. Jennifer, you have a good chairman.

5. **Vice Chairman McDowell:** Mr. Clark, I would like for you to check into getting our microphone fixed or replaced.

6. **Chairman Byrd:** stated the following:
 -I was not sure if Commissioner Burroughs or myself should vote on the Home Health issue since we are on the Board of Trustees at the hospital; **and**
 -I have a question for Kay Worley and Julie Strickland but I do not see them here tonight.

Christine Ellis, Waccamaw River Keeper Program: stated the following:

1. Thank you so much for your support of our volunteer water quality monitoring program at Lake Waccamaw and Waccamaw River;
2. We started our volunteer water quality monitoring program in late 2011 and we now have over four (4) years of data;
3. For the most part, we have a beautiful and clean water shed;
4. We have had some challenges since October, 2015;
5. We have seen some issues, not persistent, but once;
6. We have sampled two (2) times per month;
7. One (1) issue that has been persistent since November is increasing sediment at all of our locations; **and**
8. We are grateful for your support.

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

- We need to set a date for our Board Retreat; **and**
- The dates I have suggested are May 04, 2016 and May 11, 2016, will be from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., and will involve a NCACC attorney.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and ENTER into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A) (4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

At 7:45 P.M., Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (4) Economic Development, after a five (5) minute recess, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #17: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A) (4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

No official action was taken.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and RESUME REGULAR SESSION:

At 8:07 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Vice Chairman McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

READING and APPROVAL of CLOSED SESSION GENERAL ACCOUNT:

Chairman Byrd requested that Michael H. Stephens, County Attorney, orally read the Closed Session General Account. Mr. Stephens orally read the following, "The Economic Development Director, Gary Lanier, discussed with the Board of Commissioners the sub-lease and lease for the Project Alexander in the Tabor City Incubator Building".

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

MOTION:

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to make the adjustments to the lease for Project Alexander, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #18: ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:09 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, April 18, 2016
7:17 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:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:17 P.M., Chairman Giles E. Byrd called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

April 04, 2016 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the April 04, 2016 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:19 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, April 18, 2016
7:17 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:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:17 P.M., Chairman Giles E. Byrd called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

April 04, 2016 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the April 04, 2016 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

STATUS of SOUTHWOOD PROJECT:

Vice Chairman McDowell asked the status of the Southwood Project. Danny Fowler, Public Utilities Director, replied stating the following:

1. The contractor has moved back in;
2. One-half (½) of the pipe has been installed; **and**
3. The contractor is doing a good job with cleaning up the work areas.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, April 18, 2016
7:17 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:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:17 P.M., Chairman Giles E. Byrd called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

April 04, 2016 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the April 04, 2016 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:19 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, April 18, 2016
7:17 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:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:17 P.M., Chairman Giles E. Byrd called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

April 04, 2016 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (**5 sets**)

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the April 04, 2016 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:19 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman

COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, April 18, 2016
7:17 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:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:17 P.M., Chairman Giles E. Byrd called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - APPROVAL of BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

April 04, 2016 **Combination Meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 sets)

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the April 04, 2016 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:19 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Russ. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

GILES E. BYRD, Chairman