

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PLANNING RETREAT**

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

8:00 A.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Lake Waccamaw State Park Auditorium, located on State Park Drive, Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina, for the purpose of conducting the annual Planning Retreat.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Mike Stephens, **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER and INVOCATION:

At 8:07 A.M., Chairman Trent Burroughs called the Planning Retreat to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Charles T. McDowell. A delicious breakfast was served buffet style.

WELCOME/OVERVIEW of PLANNING RETREAT:

Chairman Burroughs welcomed everyone in attendance and stated staff has prepared a compilation of information and details relative to the operations of Columbus County Government, and to set a stage for coming years.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, presented the following.

Overview of Finances

Columbus County, over time, has been able to increase its unrestricted fund balance from \$3,498,471 (6.22%) in 2007, to \$29,854,100 (55.33%) in 2018. The strong Unrestricted Fund Balance allows the County to look at needed projects/buildings. Currently, a building assessment is being completed to give the staff and Commissioners an overview of buildings' conditions and a plan of move forward with replacement of buildings.

Columbus County Water Districts I - V have accomplished several of the goals set out for them. One was a Water Rate Study which give them structure on how and when to implement rate increases in order to continual grow the systems.

Current Water District I is debt free having paid its general obligation bonds off in 2014. The current fund balance for the Water District I is \$1,466,884.48, however we do not set aside funds for depreciation. If the Water Districts were to start a policy on setting aside funds for replacement of the aging lines, Water District I spendable fund balance would be: \$250,717.16.

Water District II has debt of \$4,196,217.35 and a spendable fund balance of \$1,869,697.23, however if depreciation was funded the Water District II fund balance would be: (\$3,673,620.82).

Water District III has debt of \$4,890,000 and a spendable fund balance of \$1,006,815.90, however if depreciation was funded Water District III fund balance would be: (\$1,289,570.88).

Water District IV has debt of \$4,988,000 and a spendable fund balance of \$548,704.81 and again, if deprecation was funded, Water District IV would have a fund balance of: (\$1,317,101.95).

Water District V has debt of \$3,965,000 and a spendable fund balance of \$1,458,492.21 and if depreciation was funded Water District V would have a fund balance of: (\$31,413.98).

Debt Capacity

Columbus County currently has outstanding debt of \$25,851,047.53 of which \$8,020,665.30 is General Fund Debt and \$18,039,217.35 is Water District debt. To further classify the General Fund debt, \$2,088,358.30 (QSCB-2028) is owed by the school systems and the remaining balance of the installment finance of \$5,932,307.00 is owed by the General Fund for the Detention Center Project (final payment in 2020) and the Courthouse Annex Project (2027).

Currently, the County is working on borrowing funds from USDA (\$14,609,922) to replace and renovate some buildings on Whiteville High School campus, total construction budget is estimated at \$22,270,422.

Columbus County Schools are proposing to combine Tabor City Elementary and Tabor City Middle School onto the campus where Tabor City Elementary is currently located and combine Cerro Gordo School, Evergreen School and Chadbourn School onto the current campus of Cerro Gordo Elementary, and renaming it West Columbus Pre-K - 8 School, the total estimated cost of these projects are \$55,112,578 of which \$34,440,078 will be borrowed. We will pursue a loan from USDA for this as well.

By state statute, Columbus County has the ability to issue up to 8% of the assessed tax value in debt with the approval of the LGC.

SECURITY UPDATES:

Mike Stephens, County Manager, stated the following:

1. If an organization wants to hack our computer system, it can be done;
2. Alan is very proactive in creating firewalls in our computer system;
3. We are trying to update our computers which will take money;
4. We are working on security for the County buildings;
5. In the administration building, we are working on installing a card reader system which is the best of the systems I have been informed about;
6. We are also looking at bullet-proof glass in the front; **and**
7. The utilization of prison labor and/or Sheriff's Department inmates to clean up trash along the highways and/or other tasks that need to be done.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

Gary Lanier, Economic Development Director, stated the following:

1. Current Climate and Challenges - we need to do all we can to support Southeastern Community College and the Cape Fear COG in their Workforce Development Efforts. Workforce and Worker Training Availability are now the top two (2) issues on any Site Selectors list when evaluating locations for a new facility.
2. Implementing the Job Creation Plan for Distressed Communities - We have to take it "One Step at a Time". While we can go after grants, and we are, it will require local investment / local matching funds as well.
3. Budgeting for Economic Development:
 - a. Sampson County Plan (a competitive example) - For FY 2018-2019, the Sampson County Board of Commissioners established a separate Economic Development fund to support economic development projects within the County. The initial set aside was \$1.5 million with a commitment from the Board of Commissioners to add \$500,000 per year to the fund until it was at a minimum of \$5 million. Having such an economic development "war chest" will enable the construction of infrastructure, the construction of shell buildings (or cover a 2 year lease requirement if a spec building is built by a construction firm like SAMET Corporation), etc.

The creation of such a fund for Columbus County could be a "game changer" for future economic growth.

- b. Article 44 Sales Tax Allocation for Economic Development - this could be the source of funds to build an economic development reserve fund as described above. Initially, 25% of an estimated \$1,000,000 in anticipated revenues from this source was requested in the first year of the program. EDC was budgeted for approximately \$225,000 versus the \$250,000 requested. It is my understanding that actual revenues in year one came in at a level in excess of \$1MM, and with the continued growth of the economy it is expected that the revenue stream from the sales tax on services is now much more than \$1MM annually. In year 2, the EDC budget allocation was

reduced to \$150,000 and was reduced to a little over \$80,000 for FY 2018-2019. If a full 25% of this funding source, which legislation dictates can only be used for economic development, public schools, and community colleges were allocated to an economic development reserve fund, we could have another tool to help Columbus County compete with surrounding counties.

- c. Lack of Buildings throughout the County - one of our weak points
 - i. Unable to respond to 14 RAO's (requests for proposals) for buildings in the 75,000 to 100,000 sq ft range in 2018. These potential new client leads came from North Carolina's Southeast and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. Some of the inquiries for available buildings involved 300 jobs or more. We had no available buildings to offer for consideration, so we were not even in the competition for those jobs and the investment involved.
 - ii. Spec Building Options - Samet Corporation and others - several options to explore if permitted. There are a number of companies that will build spec buildings in a county as long as the local government or others have "skin in the game". The construction of such buildings often involves a local commitment to cover carrying costs for a maximum of 2 years on a spec building. A typical spec manufacturing building that is 100,000 square feet in size will cost approximately \$4MM. Carrying costs for a building of this sort at 5% annually would run \$200,000 per year. If such a building had existed anywhere in Columbus County in 2018, we could have competed for 143 possible new companies interested in locating in Southeastern NC.

Major Grant Projects Underway:

1. EDA Grant application (U.S. Economic Development Administration) nearing completion to build 2 new wells and extend the 16 inch water main into the International Logistics Park of NC. Total project cost is \$3,244,236 and we are going after an 80/20 grant with EDA.
2. EDA grant application nearing completion for a manufacturing incubator for Bolton. Total project cost estimated at approximately \$1,000,000 and this will also be an 80/20 grant.
3. Water line extension grant with the State Utility Fund (NC Commerce Rural Development Authority) in support of the new Helena Chemical Site. This grant is a 100% state funded grant and is for approximately \$900,000. It will go before the utility authority board in April.
4. Work is moving forward with site evaluations of several downtown buildings as part of the \$300,000 Brownfields grant the EDC office received last fall from the US Environmental Protection Agency. Columbus County was one of 19 grants funded in the Southeastern US out of 98 applicants in 2018.

We need natural gas line endorsements from our legislators.

PUBLIC UTILITIES/SOLID WASTE UPDATE:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, stated the following.

1. **Generators for all Well/Tank Sites:**
Several of the well/tank sites do not have generators. In the event of a hurricane, snow storm, or power outage these locations will not have power and these well/tank sites cannot be utilized. This would mean that all customers in that district will not have access to the county water supply system in the event of an emergency. This is very important to the well-being of our customers and this equipment needs to be purchased as quickly as possible. Funding would come from the fund balance for the Public Utilities Department.
2. **Pressure Gauges/Switches (\$5,000 per well):**
Pressure gauges and switches are important in the everyday operation of our water supply system. When the SCADA system is down, the equipment assists staff with the operation of the well/tank sites in the event of an emergency. Without this equipment, it is very difficult to ensure that customers will continue to receive the proper water supply. Funding would come from the fund balance for the Public Utilities Department.
3. **System connection at Union Valley:**

This project would connect the water systems in Water District II and Water District III. With this connection, Water District III could provide water to Water District II in the event of an emergency. Plans are to apply for potential grant funding to make this connection possible. However, if grant funding is not available then this project would have to be funded from the Public Utilities Department budget.

4. **Chlorine Tank:**

A chlorine tank is necessary during emergency situations due to chlorine suppliers not being able to access County roads when they are flooded or damaged due to storms. Without chlorine, the state will shut the public water supply system down due to potential contamination. Chemicals were supplied by the Town of Whiteville during Hurricane Florence; however, their supply cannot always be relied upon due to their WWTP operations. Funding would come from the fund balance for the Public Utilities Department.

5. **Trucks (4 x 4):**

The Public Utilities Department is in need of two (2) 4 x 4 trucks. Several of our trucks are old and are starting to require more and more repairs. These type trucks are necessary because of some of the areas that staff has to travel through. Staff also pulls large equipment and two wheel trucks become damaged due to the strain that the equipment puts on the truck. This purchase would be requested in the budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020.

6. **Wells for Hallsboro and Water District IV:**

The Public Utilities Department is in need of a well in the Hallsboro area and in Water and Sewer District IV. The wells in Water District IV are currently experiencing longer run times due to providing water to West Frasier and the Riegelwood Sanitary District. If there are plans to continue providing water to this business and/or the RSD, then a new well will have to be installed. If not, adequate water flow and/or equipment issues could arise.

List of Future Projects

1. **International Logistics Park of North Carolina**

Columbus County Public Utilities and Columbus County Economic Development have been discussing the option of supplying water to the International Logistics Park of North Carolina. This project would include two wells that would provide a water supply to the park as well as additional water supply to Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV. Green Engineering has submitted a cost estimate in the amount of \$3,244,236.

2. **Asset Inventory and Assessment - Water District I**

Columbus County has been notified that the Application for an Asset Inventory and Assessment Grant (AIA) for Columbus County Water and Sewer District I has been approved for funding. The State Water Infrastructure Commission will make the award in the amount of \$150,000. This project will provide Public Utilities with accurate, digital records of all the existing water system components in Water District 1.

3. **Public Water Supply System Extensions**

Water petitions have been submitted to Green Engineering to see if it would be feasible to extend water services to customers throughout several of the water districts in Columbus County. Leo Green is in the process of mapping all these areas and will be preparing a cost estimate to see if this project would be feasible for the Public Utilities Department. Unfortunately, the cost estimate is not available at this time.

4. **Public Water Supply System Extension - Union Valley Road**

Columbus County Public Utilities would like to extend the existing 8" water main along Union Valley Road over to Chadbourn Highway where there is an existing 12" water main. This project would require a directional bore of approximately 1,450' and a booster pump station. Green Engineering has prepared a cost estimate of approximately \$750,000.

SOLID WASTE UPDATE

1. **Transfer Station Repairs:**

The Transfer Station is in need of some repairs as required by the NC Division of Waste Management - Solid Waste Section. These repairs are necessary and need to be done as soon as possible to preserve the facility. Funding would come from the fund balance for the Solid Waste Department.

2. **Dump Truck:**
A dump truck is necessary to haul dirt, stone, and equipment for the Solid Waste Department. This purchase would also assist with litter complaints so that our regular trucks are not damaged. Funding would come from the fund balance for the Solid Waste Department.
3. **Trailer 24' for Hauling Equipment:**
A 24' trailer is needed to haul large equipment on. This purchase is necessary not only to haul the equipment properly but for safety issues as well. Funding would come from the fund balance for the Solid Waste Department.
4. **Maintenance/Repair to Convenience Site Buildings:**
Several of the Convenience sites are in need of repairs. If repairs are not made, then these facilities will need to be completely replaced over time. Funding would come from the fund balance for the Solid Waste Department.

UPDATE on AIRPORT:

Mike Stephens, County Manager, delivered the following update on the Columbus County Municipal Airport.

1. I have talked to Phil Edwards, Airport Manager, and he has stated there is a \$500,000 available from the State for a new terminal;
2. We would have to come up with the rest of the money,
3. They are estimating \$100,000 to repair a roof at the Airport;
4. Before we spend that \$100,000 money, we need to decide if we are going after this money;
5. Phil is of the opinion that \$500,000 is sitting there in DOT Aviation Department, and we could come up with the money; **and**
6. Phil stated that we need to contact Danny Britt and Brendon Jones to see if they come up with any money.

After discussion was conducted, it was the general consensus of the Board to request \$1.5 million dollars for this project.

TOP FIVE PRIORITIES DISCUSSION:

After lengthy and in-depth discussion, the following top five (5) priorities were chosen:

1. Sheriff's Department Building;
2. Natural Gas Accessibility;
3. Airport Funding;
4. Water Infrastructure; **and**
5. Additional Funding for Drainage (Waccamaw River, Lumber River, tributaries and outlets).

BUILDING FEASIBILITY STUDY:

Mike Stephens, County Manager, stated the following:

1. This is the Columbus County Facility Assessment that was prepared by Chris May, Larry Bergman, Carin Z. Faulkner, with technical assistance from Larry Hayes and Stuart Carroll;
2. Twenty-nine (29) facilities were identified as the focus based on their current and/or past usage;
3. Of these facilities, eighteen (18) are twenty (20) years or older, and ten (10) of those are fifty (50) years or older;
4. Construction band-aids have been put on these buildings, but it is time for major repair or replacement to be done, and that will take dollars;
5. The ratings in the study were centered around Structural Integrity, Roof, HVAC, Space Needs People, Space Needs Storage and Overall;
6. Most of the buildings need security upgrades; **and**
7. The following items should be considered high priority needs for the FY20 budget: roof replacement, space needs, HVAC needs and miscellaneous.

INVOCATION and LUNCH:

At 12:00 Noon, Commissioner Ricky Bullard delivered the invocation and a delicious lunch was served.

RESUME PLANNING RETREAT:

At 12:37 P.M., the Planning Retreat was resumed.

DRAINAGE ISSUES DISCUSSION:

Edward Davis, Soil and Water Conservation Director, presented the following information

North and South Carolina are very attractive places to live, work and play. These areas are also prone to a lot of rainfall and severe storms. Columbus County's average annual rainfall is 49.83 inches. On average, 82 days per year will receive 1/10 of an inch or more of rain in a 24-hour period. Also, 2 years out of 10 will have less than 44.16 inches of rain, and 2 years out of 10 will have more than 55.91 inches of rainfall. (According to the published Soil Survey of Columbus County.)

Columbus County is also relatively flat and being as flat as we are, drainage is very important for our citizens to be able to live and function. When drainage systems are not working properly, roadways become impassable during some storm events, septic systems fail, homes flood, mosquitoes breed, even other infrastructure such as utilities are in jeopardy.

The Columbus Soil and Water Conservation District constantly receives calls concerning drainage issues. Sometimes these issues stem from beaver and the dams that they have built; sometimes the issues are silt and sediment in a stream or waterway; sometimes the problem, is where trees have fallen and blocked the stream; and other times the issue is simply lack of maintenance on the landowner's part. Whatever the reason for a person's drainage concerns, when a drainage system is not working properly, many public health and human safety situations arise.

Because of the proactiveness of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, many of the beaver issues are being addressed. We still have a long way to go in beaver management, but the bounty program, along with the USDA Beaver Management Assistance Program, are working.

Since 2012-2013, we have collected 3,075 beavers under the bounty program.

Since Tropical Storm Hermine and Hurricane Matthew in 2016, the Columbus Soil and Water Conservation District has been working on storm debris removal from several streams and waterways. We received \$1,701,045.00. We have paid contractors \$753,691.80 for completed work. We currently have a balance of \$947,353.20 under the program.

The Columbus Soil and Water Conservation District has also applied for \$966,000.00 under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program for sediment and storm debris removal.

We are working on obtaining a grant to fund a Watershed Stream Management Coordinator position for up to three (3) years along with a Stream Planner/Engineer for up to \$75,000.00 for the position. We hope to hear something on this grant soon.

The Columbus Soil and Water Conservation District is requesting Congressman Rouzer's office to work across the state line with the Congressman in Horry County to assist in developing a plan for proper water management for Columbus and Horry County.

The Columbus Soil and Water Conservation District would like to encourage the Columbus County Board of Commissioners and Columbus County's municipalities and communities to work together to develop a Storm Water Management Committee that can develop a solid, Storm Water Management Plan for ALL areas of the county.

CAPITAL PROJECTS (CURRENT and FUTURE) DISCUSSION and PRIORITIES:**A. Columbus County Schools and Whiteville City Schools Building Project:**

Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Officer, stated the following:

-On Whiteville City Schools, we are waiting on USDA to give us a letter of commitment or letter of conditions for their funding so we can take it to the LGU, and get on their agenda, and we hope within thirty (30) days we have that form in and then we can apply to the LGU and go ahead and do that loan;

-We have to do an interim loan while construction is going on, and I have a financial advisor

working with me;

-Columbus County Schools - they actually just gave the word last week that their Board approved the payback plan that we presented;

-I talked with Larry at USDA and got the information from him and we are working on this information to send to him; **and**

-County Schools will go out to bid in July.

B. Historic Courthouse:

- 1) Projects completed to date
- 2) Current projects at the courthouse
- 3) Plans/goals for the courthouse this budget year
- 4) Who should occupy the building
- 5) Funds currently set aside for this project
- 6) Timeline to accomplish goals

Mike Stephens, County Manager, stated the following:

-These topics have been discussed for a lengthy time, and we need to take some action on these topics.

C. Sheriff's Offices:

- 1) Issues with current building
- 2) Plans for old Detention Center offices
- 3) New Sheriff's Office building timeline

After lengthy and in-depth discussion relative to the Historic Courthouse and the Sheriff's Offices, one (1) consensus was stated as follows:

Renovate Historic Courthouse for DA's and Judges, move probation and parole to DA's Office, and move Board of Elections and HUD to the Courthouse Annex. Not all Board members were in favor of the consensus.

D. Elections/HUD Offices:

- 1) Should we continue to lease property
- 2) Options to moved Elections/HUD offices
- 3) Old Elections/HUD building discussion

E. Update on New Courthouse

- 1) Unresolved issues/humidity issues
- 2) Update on current litigation

F. Five year plan for building needs discussion

REVIEW of EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:

Mike Stephens, County Manager, stated the top five (5) priorities/goals for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 are the following:

1. New Emergency Operations Center is needed for the County;
2. Fiber is needed for the Emergency Operations Center;
3. Fire/EMS new radio communications paging system (VIPER);
4. Complete overhaul of shelter trailers. Need manpower and equipment; **and**
5. Update County Emergency Operations Plan, Addressing Ordinance and Fire Prevention Ordinance.

REVIEW of HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT:

Michael Stephens, County Manager, stated the following:

1. Human resources is currently doing Random Drug Testing on safety sensitive positions;
2. There is a total of 479 full-time employees, 47 part-time employees, 61 terminations;
3. Exit interviews are performed on employees that come to the office before they exit;
4. Beginning June 01, 2019, the Retirees Supplement will change from Plan F to Plan G; **and**
5. If exit interviews are being done, I have not received any.

Bobbie Faircloth discussed in-depth information relative to the cost for retiree insurance.

REVIEW of PLANNING UPDATE/CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORTS

Michael Stephens, County Manager, and Chairman Trent Burroughs stated the following:

Future Projects of the Planning Department for FY 2019-2020 are as follows:

- Abandoned Structures;
- Land Use Regulations;
- Regulations addressing locating RVs, campers, etc. on a single tract; **and**
- Editing the Planning Department webpage.

REVIEW of all DEPARTMENT MANAGER CURRENT PROJECTS and GOALS/REQUESTS for FY 2019/2020:

Aging Department:
Current Update

Computer Update: updating all computers to Windows 10.

Projects for 2019/2020

1. AED
2. Landscaping
3. Signs

Projects for 2020/2021

1. AED
2. Phone System
3. Security
4. Key Enhancement

Columbus County Airport

1. Perimeter Fencing (Safety Improvements)
2. Generators (Efficiency/Infrastructure Health/Emergency Operations)
3. New Terminal Building/Disaster Recovery Center (Improvements, Efficiency, Infrastructure Health)
4. Apron Expansion (Improvements/Infrastructure Health)
5. Hangar Taxiways (Phase II) (Improvements/Infrastructure Health)

Animal Shelter

New Year 2020/2021: Expanding the back room for more dog kennels and a possible van to transport Columbus County Animal Shelter animals to a free spay/neuter clinic so all proceeds will go back to the County for the Animal Shelter.

Board of Elections

1. Reclassifications for 2 present position descriptions (1 Sr. Elections Specialist, 2 Elections Specialists) \$15,500.00
2. Workstations \$7,500.00 - 6 due to WINDOWS 7 operating systems security updates no longer available and 1 for Implementation of Voter ID Equipment
3. 42 Laptops and printers to be replaced to Windows 10 \$31,500.00
4. A permanent office

Building Inspections

1. Hire one (1) additional inspector - enrolling inspectors in code classes as soon as practical;
2. Increase permit fees so department covers its budget, permit enough for two (2) new trucks at cost of \$30,000 each;
3. Buy updated computers and tablets for trucks, so inspector can enter the inspections in on the job site to send over to contractors;
4. Once inspectors are trained properly to proper levels, work entire County each day to give prompt inspections as possible; **and**
5. Increase in fees, followed will generate funds to accomplish this.

DSS

1. To upgrade our current phone system;
2. Purchase some I-pads and scanners that we need;
3. Two (2) new vehicles (home visits);
4. Replace carpet in DSS Conference Room; **and**
5. Visiting room chairs and seats in vehicles need to be cleaned and/or replaced.

COOPERATIVE SERVICE

1. To focus on better marketing for the NC Cooperative Extension;
2. To deliver programs to under served communities;
3. To provide better training for staff;
4. To continue to focus on better customer service; **and**
5. To continue to focus of using the budget the County has allotted to Extension in the most economical and efficient way to provide the services that we are tasked to provide.

HEALTH

1. Give the inside of the Health Department a “facelift” to include replace flooring, ceilings, and blinds;
2. Bring employee salaries up to surrounding county salaries;
3. Replace two (2) vehicles;
4. Upgrade computers (will need 40), servers, sonic walls, etc. to maintain patient confidentiality as required by federal standards; **and**
5. Have old medical records and septic/well records scanned so that valuable space can be used for office space in our department rather than storage space.

HUD

1. New Car, Tax, Tags and Signage; **and**
2. Trainings for all employees.

LIBRARY

1. Pave/extend parking lot to compensate for 10 lost parking spaces due to state road construction;
2. 8 New computers for Tabor City Library, 2 new staff computers at Main Library;
3. Data plans for hotspots;
4. Windows software upgrade to Windows 10 for 100 computers;
5. Static IP addresses needed to allow branches to better connect to Main Library server.

MAINTENANCE

1. Restructure Maintenance to better serve Columbus County as well as County Government restructure that would include a means to divide Administration activities and Lead/Supervisory type activities;
2. Implement Maintenance as a Category III employees according to the Columbus County Personnel Policy #3210 which allows overtime pay on certain occasions;
3. Upgrade the Maintenance Building to make it more useful during extreme weather @ hot, cold, stormy;
4. Implement a quicker and easier way to dispose of surplus items coming through maintenance; **and**
5. Implement a quicker and easier way to bring in contract work.

M.I.S.

1. Phased update of all County computer assets to new operating system prior to 2/1/2020;
2. Strengthen network security as needed using update firewall technology;
3. Update/Replace Scanner Plotter in the GS section;
4. Purchase device to render old storage drives unrecoverable; **and**
5. Upgrade GIS Software to newest version.

PARKS and RECREATION

1. New 4 x 4 F-250 to replace 1992 4 x 4 Chevy, current mileage 182,000.
2. Implement phase three (3) of updating countywide playground facilities.
3. Construct a 12' x 32' (labor provided by recreation staff) covered shelter to secure and protect tractors, mowers and equipment attachments.
4. To maintain level of services for the citizens of the county, especially the physical and/or developmental disabled citizens.
5. To offer competitive salaries to employees and establish career employees.

PLANNING

1. Junkyard Ordinance (mandates).
2. Updates to Abandoned Structure Ordinance (mandates).
3. Create a website for Floodplain Management that public can go to for information.
4. Create a flowchart showing permitting process for development in SFHA.
5. Update Mobile Home Park Ordinance;

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

1. Replace two (2) lift vehicles and one (1) minivan.
2. Update and increase the number of security cameras we have on the building and parking lot.
3. Automatic gate installed on the fence to keep people from driving behind the building instead of coming in through the front door.
4. Replace printer.
5. Shelves in our storage building where we store older files that need to be kept for up to five (5) years.

REGISTER OF DEEDS

1. Conservation Project for Marriage Licenses from 1898 - 1970.
2. Credit Card terminals installed on our computer system so we can provide credit/debit services to our citizens.

SHERIFF

1. Pay increase for employees;
2. Equipment upgrades (ie: computers, computer programs, safety equipment);
3. Training (advanced training, defense training, pursuit driver training);
4. Improve Detention grounds security (ie: install fencing around jail); **and**
5. Research and obtain an office area in the eastern area of our county.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

1. Implement best management practices to reduce non-point source pollution on a voluntary basis;
2. Work with contractors to remove storm debris from streams across Columbus County;
3. Work with landowners to reduce damage from beaver;
4. Work with landowners to implement water management measures to reduce flooding; **and**
5. Work to develop Watershed/Stream Management Coordinator positions to prioritize streams for evaluations to be made on a regular basis.

TAX OFFICE

1. Need a new Tax Clerk position;
2. Need a new position for GIS/Mapper;
3. Look at and appraise all 49,000 parcels/houses and structures for revaluation;
4. Focus more on our businesses (audit programs); **and**
5. Upgrade billing software that is over 30 years old.

VETERAN SERVICES

1. Improving the lives of our county's veterans and their families by assisting them in obtaining

- the maximum VA benefits they are eligible for;
2. Training is the key to accomplishing our number one goal;
 3. Maintaining current service levels our veterans are accustomed to and deserve by providing courteous and accurate information to them;
 4. Providing a safe working environment for ourselves and our veterans by complying with county safety policies, identifying and correcting potential safety hazards and participate in county safety programs; **and**
 5. Being good stewards of taxpayers money by maintaining and protecting county property and providing a valuable service to our county.

FY 2019/2020 BUDGET GOALS/REQUESTS DISCUSSION:

- A. Salary Increases
- B. Insurance overview/Retirees Pre-65
- C. Departmental Vehicle Requests
- D. Requests from Whiteville City Schools, Columbus County Schools and SCC

HURRICANE FLORENCE UPDATE:

- A. Update presented by Bobbie Faircloth
- B. Current housing projects for both hurricanes

LEGISLATIVE GOALS REQUESTS/DISCUSSION

1. Sheriff's Department \$5 million
2. Natural Gas
3. Airport - \$500,000 additional funds
4. Infrastructure
5. Drainage -any sources available

REVIEW of PLANNING RETREAT DISCUSSION:

- A. New Schools Timeline:
Whiteville City (May), Columbus County-December (Bids in July)
- B. Historic Courthouse Plans/Timeline -
Open decision - need to make decision
- C. Elections/HUD Offices (Old BOE/HUD and current offices)-
Work in progress
- D. Water Projects
- E. Employee Raises
2% or 3%
- F. Economic Development -
Case by case basis
- G. Radio System -
\$2 Million set aside
- H. Sheriff's Office Building -
Do something
- I. Emergency Services Building -
On hold
- J. Additional Priorities

ADJOURNMENT:

At 4:19 P.M., Chairman Burroughs stated the Board Retreat was adjourned.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

TRENT BURROUGHS, Chairman