

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**Monday, September 21, 2020****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 a Public Hearing and the regularly scheduled meeting, it being the third Monday.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

6:30 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING: **Proposed Text Amendment to Columbus County Land Use Regulation Ordinance** - the purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive oral and/or written comments from the public regarding deleting "Intensive Livestock Operation".

PUBLIC HEARING CALLED to ORDER:

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the September 21, 2020 Public Hearing to order for the Proposed Text Amendment to Columbus County Land Use Regulation Ordinance to order. Chairman Russ stated the purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive oral and/or written comments from the public regarding deleting "Intensive Livestock Operation".

COMMENTS:

Chairman Russ opened the floor for comments. The following comments were made.

1. **Cara Schildtknecht, Waccamaw Riverkeeper, 301 Allied Drive, Conway, South Carolina 29526:** started the following:

Thank you for the opportunity to publicly comment on the deletion of "Intensive Livestock Operations" from Columbus County's Land Use Regulation Ordinance. I am submitting comment on behalf of Cara Schildtknecht, Waccamaw Riverkeeper, and Jefferson Currie, II, Lumber Riverkeeper, both programs of Winyah Rivers Alliance, a 501(c)(3) non profit working to protect fishable, swimmable, drinkable water for our families and our future.

On behalf of the Waccamaw Riverkeeper and the Lumber Riverkeeper and those who love and use both of these Columbus County rivers, we want to encourage the Columbus County Board of Commissioners to consider editing the ordinance or simply not leaving the Ordinance intact to help protect the water resources of the county.

As Riverkeepers, our concern with removing the ordinance is the potential impacts to water quality. Columbus County is home to a large portion of both the Waccamaw and the Lumber River watershed and the swamps, creeks, and river miles in the county are integral to maintaining the health of the river throughout the entire watershed. Runoff from intensive swine farming operations can impact water quality with increased fecal bacteria and nutrient pollution. Regulating these operations is imperative to protecting the health of these local rivers and the communities who rely on the rivers for swimmable, fishable, and drinkable water resources.

We recognize that the State of North Carolina has eliminated the County's authority to regulate swine farms through zoning ordinances. The State statute removes the county's authority over swine farms, but it does not impact other intensive livestock operations. The county ordinance also recognizes the intensive farming of cattle, horses, sheep, goats, and poultry. The county should maintain the authority over special permitting of these operations. Editing the ordinance to remove only the swine from this special permit, given

the State's authority over swine; may be a more prudent measure than deleting the entire ordinance.

Alternatively, the county could consider leaving the ordinance intact. This would maintain the county's authority should there be changes at the state level concerning swine farming. The land-use regulations are adopted for the purpose of promoting the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Columbus County. The regulation of these intensive livestock operations certainly impacts the health, safety, and general welfare of the county's citizens and should be seriously considered before completely deleting the ordinance.

While we recognize and understand the reasoning behind deleting Intensive Livestock Operations from the land use regulation ordinance, we urge the Board of Commissioners to consider the potential for these operations to impact the health of the county's citizens and rivers. We recommend that Columbus County should maintain the authority to regulate any operations that could negatively affect the health and safety of its citizens including intensive livestock operations.

2. **Michael Sukop, no address stated:** stated the following:

I wish to express my strong opposition to deleting the requirement for a special use permit for intensive livestock operations.

As a home and landowner in Columbus County who depends on groundwater for my family's water source, the prospect of losing that invaluable resource or having to treat it to assure its safety is unacceptable.

In addition, please consider the implications on property value and the quality of life for Columbus residents, please imagine such an operation on the edge of your own living space.

3. **Robert L. Ford, Executive Director, NC Poultry Federation, 4020 Barrett Drive, Suite 102, Raleigh, NC 27609:** stated the following:

I am executive director for the North Carolina Poultry Federation, Inc. ("the Federation"). In that capacity, I send these Comments of the Federation's support of the proposed amendment to your county's land use regulation ordinance deleting "Intensive Livestock Operation" from the list of regulated uses that require a special use permit ("Proposed Amendment"). The Federation believes that the Proposed Amendment will ensure compliance with well settled North Carolina law and help further eliminate confusion impeding our state's largest industry.

The Federation is a membership organization composed of poultry processors, producers, service providers, vendors and other interested parties. The Federation is the voice of the poultry industry in North Carolina. The poultry industry is the #1 agricultural commodity in North Carolina and agriculture remains the #1 industry in North Carolina. Unquestionably, the poultry industry is a major segment of North Carolina's progressive economy.

North Carolina is fortunate to have representation from both North Carolina based and national and international companies producing poultry products. At this time, North Carolina is home to seven of the nations's largest Broiler processors, two of the nations' major turkey processors and three major commercial egg operations. Several thousand contract growers manage live production under contract with these major companies.

As the Board is likely aware, the current scheme of special use permitting regarding intensive livestock operations in Columbus County is untenable. Specifically, the North Carolina General Statutes provide that County zoning regulations may not affect property used for bona fide farming purposes. N.C. General Statute § 160D-903(a). The current land use regulations which require a special use permit be issued to conduct any intensive livestock operation are plainly inconsistent with this statute. As such, the Federation is wholly in support of the amendment as proposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. Please submit the foregoing comments to the Board for their consideration. Additionally, free to contact the undersigned if you have any questions or need any further information regarding the Federation's position.

TIME PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED:

At 6:43 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed.

**6:43 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION**

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

At 6:43 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the September 21, 2020 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Charles T. McDowell. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Trent Burroughs.

Agenda Item #4: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the September 08, 2020 Regular Session Minutes, with a correction on Page 631, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #5: PLANNING - AMEND COLUMBUS COUNTY LAND USE REGULATION ORDINANCE:

Samantha Alsup, Planning Director, requested Board approval to amend the Columbus County Land Use Regulation Ordinance to remove Intensive Livestock Operation, as following (Amendment #4), and adopt a Consistency Statement. **(The required Public Hearing was originally scheduled for September 08, 2020 and cancelled, and on this date at 6:30 P.M. before the meeting. (This will be the first reading.)**

ORDINANCE NO. _____ **(Amendment #4)**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LAND USE REGULATION ORDINANCE OF COLUMBUS COUNTY, NC, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 1; ALSO KNOWN AS CHAPTER 10, PART 2, ARTICLE 8, SECTION 2 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO DELETE THE REGULATED USE OF INTENSIVE LIVESTOCK OPERATION

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners wishes to amend the Land Use Regulation Ordinance of the County and the Code of Ordinances to delete “Intensive Livestock Operation” as a regulated use requiring a special use permit to operate; **and**

WHEREAS the Planning Board has recommended that the following language be stricken from the Land Use Regulations Ordinance and the Code of Ordinances because bona fide farm activities, including intensive livestock operations, are exempt from county zoning, as stated in GS153A-340; **and**

WHEREAS statements of both consistency and reasonableness of these provisions with the intent of future development as stated in the adopted comprehensive land use plan are approved by separate motion.

THEREFORE, Article IV, Section I, of the Land Use Regulation Ordinance is hereby amended to delete the following land use:

Section I. Regulated Uses.

Special Use permits are only required for the land uses listed below:

- Heavy Industrial uses (unless in an area already zoned as I-II – Heavy Industrial)
- Light Industrial Uses (unless in an area already zoned as I-I – Light Industrial)
- Industrial Parks
- Private and Public Utilities and related operations
- Solar Energy Generation Facilities (See Appendix A)
- Propane, Fuel Oil, Gasoline, or Other Hydrocarbon Bulk Storage Facilities
- Junk, Storage, Recycling, Reclamation, or Salvage Yards
- Electronic Gaming Operations

- Wireless Communication Towers or other steel frame structures/towers
- Firing Range (Indoor/Outdoor)
- Landfill (Demolition and Sanitary)
- Mining/Quarrying, Borrow Pits, and/or Extraction Operations
- Go-Cart, Motor Cross, and or other categories of race tracks.
- ~~Intensive Livestock Farming~~
- Meat Packing Facilities
- Land Application of Animal and Human Waste
- Adult Businesses (See Columbus County Code Dealing with Adult Business Establishments: Article II. Masseurs, Massage Parlors, Health Salons and Clubs --Section 18-16 through 18-68)
- RV Campgrounds (See The Columbus County Code Dealing with Campgrounds: Article VI. Resort Vehicle Campgrounds -- Section 18-152 through 18-255)
- Manufactured / Mobile Home Parks (See – The Columbus County Manufactured/Mobile Home Park Ordinance Adopted November 3, 2009 and as Amended)

AND THEREFORE, Article IV, Section II, of the Land Use Regulation Ordinance is hereby amended to delete the following definition of intensive livestock operation:

Section II. Definitions and Rules of Construction

...

~~Intensive Livestock Operation/Animal Operation: Any enclosure, pen, feedlot, building, or group of buildings intended to be used, or actually used, to feed, confine, maintain, or stable a concentration of cattle, horses, sheep, poultry, or swine and that meet the following criteria as defined by N.C.G.S. 143-215.10B:~~

~~1. Anytime the total number of animals meets or exceeds the following threshold level:~~

- ~~• Cattle - minimum 100 animals~~
- ~~• Swine - minimum 250 animals~~
- ~~• Horses - minimum 75 animals~~
- ~~• Sheep/goats - minimum 1000 animals~~
- ~~• Poultry - minimum 30,000 animals~~

~~2. Where dietary needs are met primarily by means other than grazing; and,~~

~~3. Where liquid animal waste is primarily handled through a liquid waste management system, or any agriculture feedlot activity with a liquid animal waste management system that discharges to the surface waters of the State.~~

~~Intensive livestock operations include any buildings, structures, excavations, or enclosed areas directly involved therein, including land used for pasture or feedlot purposes, and any animal waste storage structures, excavations or areas directly connected to or associated with such operations.~~

~~Intensive livestock operations typically include an enclosure, pen, feedlot, building or group of buildings intended for the confined feeding, breeding, raising or hold of animals where animal waste may accumulate or where vegetative cover cannot be maintained due to the concentration of animals.~~

AND THEREFORE, Article 8, SECTION 2 of the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10, Part 2, is hereby amended to delete the following land use:

Section 2. Regulated Uses.

Special Use permits are only required for the land uses listed below:

- Heavy Industrial uses (unless in an area already zoned as I-II -Heavy Industrial)
- Light Industrial Uses (unless in an area already zoned as I-I -Light Industrial)
- Industrial Parks
- Private and Public Utilities and related operations
- Solar Energy Generation Facilities (Subject to STANDARD A)
- Propane, Fuel Oil, Gasoline, or Other Hydrocarbon Bulk Storage Facilities
- Junk, Storage, Recycling, Reclamation, or Salvage Yards
- Electronic Gaming Operations
- Wireless Communication Towers or other steel frame structures/towers
- Firing Range (Indoor/Outdoor)
- Landfill (Demolition and Sanitary)
- Mining/Quarrying, Borrow Pits, and/or Extraction Operations
- Go-Cart, Motor Cross, and or other categories of race tracks.
- ~~Intensive Livestock Farming~~
- Meat Packing Facilities

- Land Application of Animal and Human Waste
- Adult Businesses (Subject to Columbus County Code of Ordinances Chapter 6 - Regulation of Certain Businesses, specifically Article 1 - Masseurs, Massage Parlors, Health Salons and Clubs and Article 2 – Sexually Oriented Businesses)
- Resort Vehicle Campgrounds (Subject to STANDARD “B” herein)
- Manufactured / Mobile Home Parks (Subject to STANDARD “C” herein)

AND THEREFORE, Article 10, SECTION 3 of the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10, Part 2, is hereby amended to delete the following definition:

Section 3. Definitions Related to the General Use District Zoning Area.

....

~~Intensive Livestock Operation/Animal Operation. Any enclosure, pen, feedlot, building, or group of buildings intended to be used, or actually used, to feed, confine, maintain, or stable a concentration of cattle, horses, sheep, poultry, or swine and that meet the following criteria as defined by N.C.G.S. 143-215.10B:~~

~~1. Anytime the total number of animals meets or exceeds the following threshold level:~~

~~—Cattle - minimum 100 animals~~

~~—Horses - minimum 75 animals~~

~~—Swine - minimum 250 animals~~

~~—Sheep/goats - minimum 1,000 animals~~

~~—Poultry - minimum 30,000 animals~~

~~2. Where dietary needs are met primarily by means other than grazing; and,~~

~~3. Where liquid animal waste is primarily handled through a liquid waste management system, or any agriculture feedlot activity with a liquid animal waste management system that discharges to the surface waters of the State.~~

~~Intensive livestock operations include any buildings, structures, excavations, or enclosed areas directly involved therein, including land used for pasture or feedlot purposes, and any animal waste storage structures, excavations or areas directly connected to or associated with such operations.~~

~~Intensive livestock operations typically include an enclosure, pen, feedlot, building or group of buildings intended for the confined feeding, breeding, raising or hold of animals where animal waste may accumulate or where vegetative cover cannot be maintained due to the concentration of animals.~~

This amendment shall become effective upon adoption. Adopted this 21st day of September, 2020.

/s/ **EDWIN P. RUSS**, Chairman

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved as to Form:

/s/ **AMANDA B. PRINCE**, Columbus County Attorney

ATTEST:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve Amendment Number 4 to the Columbus County Land Use Regulation Ordinance, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian, on its first reading. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #6: ANIMAL CONTROL - DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

Loretta Shipman, Animal Control Director, delivered the following departmental Update.

There have many changes at the animal shelter this year we have increased our staff. We now have 3- ACO on the road covering the entire Columbus County.

We have an on call/Animal Cruelty ACO.

The total animals in 2019 from August –December: 458-dogs- 612-cats

The total of animals in 2019: 1070

Euthanzation total for dogs :31

Euthanzation total for cats:76

That was a total of 107 animals euthanized in 2020

The total animals in 2020: January-August:465-dogs-520-cats

The total of animals in 2020: 985

Euthanzation total for dogs :26

Euthanzation total for cats: 38

That was a total of 64 animals euthanized in 2020

Dogs and cats were euthanized at the request of owners, sickness, severe injury, or being extremely vicious animals.

Columbus County Animal shelter was cited in January for neglecting vet treatment of animals. We now have a 24hr Veterinarian in Wilmington, Animal Emergency and Trauma Hospital. In February the State Compliance was 100%.

North Carolina still stands as the lowest euthanization rate in 2019.

We are still continuing to working hard with local adopters and rescue groups to help keep the flow of the animals moving out of the shelter. It has really been hard at times closing the doors to intakes because of the mass amount of dogs coming in daily. We usually stop intakes for 72 hrs and reopen afterwards for intakes. The Columbus County Residents have been really good allowing this to happen and work with us without issues. I'm hoping with this year's budget to make more outdoor space available for the dogs.

We are still continuing to do Rabies vaccines at the shelter for Columbus County Residents. I myself, the Director, have allotted one day each month to go out to disabled residents and vaccinate their animals.

We are still having had several animal cruelty complaints that we were able to handle with the owners without involving law enforcements and charges. We will continue to investigate and follow up on prior complaints. We have had some complaints that is out of the scope Animal Control so we have coordinated with the Sheriff department. Per State Guidelines we do not supposed to handle any horse complaints or except offering the info for horse fosters. We also do not suppose handle livestock, fowl, or wildlife issues. Due to the County Ordinance not being updated we now have to handle ALL animal calls.

I would just like to say I have made it another year in this position as an Animal Control Director. I can't even start to tell you how challenging this job is but at the end of a day it's all about the animals and I enjoy what I'm doing to help them.

Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to accept the Animal Control Departmental Update, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #7: SOCIAL SERVICES - ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE FOR AUGUST 2020:

Algernon McKenzie, Social Services Director, delivered the following Administrative Update for August 2020.

Columbus County DSS continues to participate on Covid-19 Planning Calls each week at 9am.

On August 6, 2020 I participated in a webinar sponsored by DHHS concerning CARES Act funding. DHHS has contracted with several organizations to provide a Community Health Worker to counties with a high Covid-19 caseload. There have been 50 counties identified for the project; including Columbus County. This Community Health Worker will work closely with local health departments, DSS and other organizations to assist individuals suffering with Covid-19 with access need services. These services will include contact tracing case management, connecting individuals, behavioral health services, financial assistance, testing, etc. This project is starting in August and is projected to end December 2020. The Community Health Worker assigned to our area will serve Bladen, Columbus, Duplin, Pender, Robeson and Sampson counties.

During the month of August, we implemented the use of automated day sheets. Previously, paper day sheets were completed by workers weekly and keyed into the State system; which is used to capture daily program activity by workers. These day sheets are used to claim reimbursement for staff salaries in the various program areas; which comes back to the county. Transitioning to the automated day sheet program will help ensure accuracy of the staff time, require less time for keying, assist with County audits and assist with proper reimbursement to the County. Staff and Supervisors have received online training on this new system.

On August 26, 2020 the Program Managers and I participated on a 100 county call with DHHS. During this call, we received updates on some changes the State is working on due to Covid-19. The State and many counties are continuing to conduct business virtually. They are providing more

mandated training online due to the pandemic in an effort to keep staff safe and provide needed training.

We learned there may be some additional Federal Funds to supplement payments to licensed facilities who house Foster Children in August.

We also learned DHHS has been working on Medicaid Transformation. The plan is to have a statewide roll-out July 1, 2021. Open enrollment for Medicaid beneficiaries will begin March 12, 2021 using the same five health insurance providers that were previously selected.

We have received information from DHHS about funding to be allocated to counties through the 2020 Covid-19 Recovery Act. These funds are to be used to support additional Adult Protective Services and Child Protective Services needs. The funds are restrictive in their use and at this time we are exploring if we will be able to claim any reimbursement based on the guidelines from the State. DHHS is continuing to provide guidance and clarification on the use of these funds.

We were informed starting September 1, 2020 the Division of Child Development and Early Education would no longer be waiving parent fees for child care. Therefore, parents will have to resume paying their fees to the child care facilities and facilities will be paid according to attendance.

Our office continues to be closed to the public with limited access to our foyer to pick up and return applications for assistance or services. We continue to make mandated face to face visits in Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services and Foster care; as required by State policy.

Lastly, we continue to provide staff with access to personal protective equipment and clean common areas throughout the day. Washing hands, wearing masks and social distancing continue to be stressed to employees during work hours.

**August 2020
Economic Services**

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Food & Nutrition	Applications Taken: 148 Applications Approved: 85 Active Cases: 6,029 Benefits Issued: \$2,124,705,00 Participants Served: 12,207
Adult Medicaid	Applications Taken: 78 Cases Terminated: 11 Redeterminations: 296 Applications Processed: 95
Family & Children's Medicaid	Applications Taken: 184 Applications Processed: 146 Redeterminations: 774 Total Medicaid Cases: 13,834 Total Individuals Receiving: 20,714
Child Support	Absent Parents Located: 47 Orders Enforced: 1,184 Active Cases: 3,651 Collections: \$536,508.25

**August 2020
Human Services**

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Adult Services (APS)	APS Reports Accepted: 14 County Wards: 24 Number of Payee Cases: 16 Adults Served APS: 2 Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: 1,119 Amount Requested for Reimbursement: \$23,582.53

Children's Protective Services (CPS)	Reports Accepted: 24 Reports Screened out: 29 Families Receiving In-Home Services: 51 Children Served: 88 Contacts with Families Monthly: 575 Assessments: 11
Foster Care	Foster Children in Foster Homes: 73 Children Placed Outside County: 12 Agency Adoptions: 0 Pending Adoptions: 1 Total Foster Homes Licensed: 4 Total Children in Foster Care: 74
Work first Employment (TANF)	Applications Taken: 13 Applications Approved: 5 Individuals Receiving Benefits: 224 Entered Employment: 3 Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 0
Program Integrity	Collections for Fraud: \$962.00 New Referrals: 12 Cases Established: 5
Day Care	Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 411 Children on the Waiting List: 393 Amount Spent on Day Care Services: \$159,538.00

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: **August 2020**

News/Updates/Vacancies

Work First Cash/Medicaid Transportation/Interpreter/Maintenance and Housekeeping/Deputy:

- Work First Cash was monitored this year and we have just received results from this monitor. All cases were correct except for 5 cases that had no documentation of whether we offered the client to register to vote. Pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act, it is mandatory that Public Assistance Agencies must provide every person that applies for benefits, renews their benefits or makes a change of address to their case the opportunity to register to vote. The below statements **MUST** be discussed and documented at every application, recertification and change of address:
 1. If you are not registered to vote where you live now, would you like to apply to register to vote here today.
 2. Applying to register or declining to register to vote will not affect the amount of assistance that you will be provided by this agency. If you would like help in filling out the voter registration application form, we will help you. The decision whether to seek or accept help is yours. You may fill out the application form in private.
 3. If you believe that someone has interfered with your right to register or to decline to register to vote, your right to privacy in deciding whether to register or in applying to register to vote, or your right to choose your own political party or other political preference, you may file a complaint with the NC State Board of Elections or call them.

All in-person applicants must be handed a voter registration application; if they mail-in or complete an application for services on-line and leave the question blank about would you like to register to vote and the worker cannot get the client on the phone, they must mail the applicant a cover letter and a voter registration application. There are specific application forms that DSS has to use because the NC State Board of Elections tracks how many transactions (applications, recertification and changes of addresses) we complete and then how many applications we mailed or handed directly to the client. Reports are run quarterly and sent out to all counties to review.

2. Our Interpreter is continuing to help with the Energy programs while not interpreting.
3. Our Deputy remains in the lobby where all applications for programs are on a table for clients to enter in the foyer and pick up. A drop box is also available for them to drop any information back off to us or they can mail it in. This drop box is checked throughout the day and mail/applications are passed on.
4. Housekeeping and Maintenance continue to keep our building sanitized and cleaned throughout the day.
5. Our new hire in Medicaid Transportation has completed her first month of the complete billing in NCTRACKS.

Food and Nutrition:

USDA has approved telephonic signatures on applications and recertifications between the months of September 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 due to the pandemic. This means if we get an application or recertification that was not signed by the client; we do not have to wait for them to sign it as prior to September 1, 2020. Workers must make at least one attempt to contact the household by phone and if they are able to make contact to go over the application, we can accept them without the signature, document it and go ahead and process them for benefits. Prior to we had to mail the application or recertification back to the client and it was not accepted until the client had signed it and sent it back in. USDA has also approved for active recipients to receive the maximum allotments for each household for another month. The State is also working on an online Disaster Food and Nutrition Application soon to be released in case there is a disaster. This will greatly help the flood of clients that have to stand in line outside of our building and will definitely promote social distancing. This team has 1 vacancy.

Adult and Family & Children's Medicaid:

Both Medicaid Teams are going through our Local Medicaid Audit. The State has also shared with us that recertifications that were automatically extended by the State due to COVID-19 will end October 2020 and workers will have to begin this month working those recertifications and make a good faith effort to evaluate cases that have been extended in previous months. Our plan to the State is to take as many as possible and work them each month along with other regular recertifications until they are complete. With this being said; workers still cannot terminate any active cases unless they are deceased; move out of state or voluntarily request for the Medicaid to terminate. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) gave states the option to add a new optional Medicaid eligibility group for uninsured individuals, which covers COVID-19 testing during the pandemic. The application is on the State Website and will be sent to the State office for processing however if the State cannot process it for some reason, it will be sent through NCFAST to a worker at the agency to finish processing. This application process will begin September 1, 2020 and will end the date the Public Health Emergency ends. This program covers a limited benefit of testing and diagnosis of COVID-19 and does not cover treatment for COVID-19. The eligibility requirements are: 1. Applicant **MUST NOT** have health insurance and this includes Medicaid and Medicare—the only program it will allow for applicants to be covered is the Family Planning Program that only pays for an annual exam for recipients and birth control. 2. Must be a NC resident. 3. Must be a US Citizen or have eligible immigration status which qualifies individuals for the Medicaid programs. This team has 2 vacancies; one has been interviewed and recommended for hire.

Child Support and Paralegal:

Our Chief Judge has started to give us 4 court days in order for us to try to “catch up” cases when courts were closed. Child Support continues to hold court in the Hallsboro Elementary Cafeteria with Judge Jolly, who is retired. He has completed Child Support Court in the past and has been an excellent Judge to enforce the Child Support policies. 410 cases were prepared for August court and the paralegal prepared 192 Orders and reviewed 87 Orders that the attorney prepared. Along with preparing these orders, the paralegal has to go into the Child Support System and document each order. There are 2 agents and 1 clerical vacancies on this Team.

NOTE: During times when certification periods were extended by the State, workers have been purging files which has given us a lot more room. Thanks to the scanners we have received, we can start scanning in and attaching verifications to NCFAST and hopefully soon become paperless.

Intake/Investigation/Assessment:

The Intake/Investigation/Assessment Unit is now short-staffed with three vacancies - one worker retired and two resigned. These positions have been posted. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts and to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. Regular updates continue to be provided from the state regarding guidance and information as things evolve. Referrals continue to be up with an increase in screened-in assessments. The amount of open cases is increasing again and staff are working diligently, although short-staffed, to initiate cases in a timely manner, assess for risk and needs, put services in place, and close in a timely manner. Other Services' Unit will be assisting as needed.

In-Home Services:

The In-Home Services Unit continues to have one vacancy. This position was posted, an applicant interviewed and recommended for hire, but the applicant declined. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts, although short-staffed, and to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. Regular updates continue to be provided from the state regarding guidance and information as things evolve. The amount of cases is again increasing.

Foster Care:

The Foster Care/Adoptions Unit continues to be fully staffed. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts and to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. DHHS does continue to make some allowances for cases that are stable and with parent visitation by allowing the use of Facetime, video chats, etc., although more face-to-face visits are now being conducted. Regular updates continue to be provided from the state regarding guidance and information as things evolve. This Unit continues to participate in some "virtual court," but more in-court cases are beginning to be conducted. The foster care caseload has greatly increased this month. Most of these new foster children are newborns that are affected by substance abuse.

Transitional Unit:

The Transitional unit continues to be fully staffed. Staff are working caseloads while completing as much mandatory first year training as they can with what has been made available on-line by the state. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts and to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. Regular updates continue to be provided from the state regarding guidance and information as things evolve. The Foster Home Licensing worker continues to begin to move forward slowly with getting more foster homes licensed since COVID-19 has also affected getting all of the required parts of the licensure packet completed. They are conducting one-on-one time for those that might be interested in completing Deciding Together, instead of the MAPP classes. They have sent out packets in an attempt to recruit and train new prospective foster parents.

Adult Services:

The Adult Services Unit continues to be fully staffed, although the Supervisor has been on medical leave. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts and to provide needed services to the elderly and disabled while utilizing precautions due to COVID-19. Referrals continue to show an increase. Regular updates continue to be provided from the stated regarding guidance and information as things evolve.

Work First Employment:

This Unit continues to be fully staffed. COVID-19 continues to make an impact on how this Unit conducts day to day business. Telephone interviews for Work First applications, recertification's, short-term services and benefits continue to be allowed. Certain necessary application documentation can be mailed to individuals that wish to apply and when received back the worker can conduct telephone interviews to complete that application. Some application information is also being provided for pick-up in the foyer area of the agency. Workers are encouraged to make weekly telephone contacts with clients to ensure they are meeting the components of their mutual responsibility agreements.

Child Day Care:

The Child Day Care Unit continues to be fully staffed. COVID-19 continues to make an impact on how this Unit conducts day to day business. Day Care services are continuing to be provided and the state is working with county agencies and day cares to help them stay open as much as possible while providing a safe environment for children. DSS staff continue to work with families to ensure their services stay in place while limiting contact to the telephone as much as possible. This Unit and parents of children being assisted with Day Care have been notified that effective September 1 the parents will again be responsible for parent fees. These fees had previously been waived due to COVID.

Program Integrity:

Program Integrity now has three workers. This will hopefully greatly help with program goals of case establishment timeliness and will help during the busier energy assistance months. COVID-19 continues to limit office visits, encouraging telephone contact. Repayment agreements are being relaxed to help clients during this time.

Electric companies are now beginning to enforce past due bills and disconnections again. BEMC is attempting to work with families with past due amounts and Duke Energy is putting into place an opportunity for customers to ask for a 6-month payment plan for their past due bills. Many customers have paid nothing on their bills since the Governor ordered that public utilities not be disconnected in March-April, which means many customers have bills for over \$1000. This is a huge concern that has been voiced to DHHS because with the limits set by DHHS counties will not be able to get applicants out of their crisis and if they can they will not be able to assist in the winter months with heating assistance due to limits being met now. We continue to provide applications and information for pick-up in the foyer area of the agency and conducting telephone interviews to help determine eligibility. We have voiced to DHHS the concern we now have that clients will not have available assistance in the colder months with their heat since many will have exhausted the maximum allowance. A plan is currently being processed to assist those eligible for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program from this previous year so they will not have to complete applications this December, but will automatically receive assistance.

Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to accept the Social Services Administrative Update for August 2020, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item 8: FINANCE - DOCUMENTS for CERRO GORDO and TABOR CITY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:

Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, requested Board approval of the following eleven (11) documents for the financing of Cerro Gordo and Tabor City School construction projects:

1. Form RD 1942-27-1 Loan Resolution;
2. Form RD 1942-46 Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions;
3. Form RD 442-7 Operating Budget;
4. Form RD 400-1 Equal Opportunity Agreement;
5. Form RD 400-4 Assurance Agreement;\
6. Form RD 1940-1 Request for Obligation of Funds;
7. Form RD 1910-11 Applicant Certification Federal Collection Policies;
8. Form AD-1047 Certification Regarding Debarment Primary Covered Transactions;
9. Form AD-1048 Certification Regarding Debarment Lower Tier Covered Transactions;
10. 1940-Q, Exhibit A-1 Certification for Contracts, Grants and Loans; **and**
11. Unnumbered Form Certifications of Compliance.

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to approve the above listed eleven (11) documents of the financing of Cerro Gordo and Tabor City School construction projects, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion unanimously passed. A copy of these documents will be kept on file in the Columbus County Finance Department for review.

Agenda Item #9: FINANCE - EMPLOYEE SOCIAL SECURITY TAX DEFERRAL:

Bobbie Faircloth, Finance Director, requested the Board not to participate in the deferral of the Social Security Tax.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion not to participate in the deferral of the Social Security Tax, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #10: ADMINISTRATION - CDBG-CV CALL for PUBLIC HEARING:

Mike Stephens, County Manager, requested the establishment of a Public Hearing for the 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coronavirus (CV) Funding.

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to schedule the first Public Hearing for the 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coronavirus (CV) Funding, on October, 05, 2020, at 6:30 P.M., seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #11: APPOINTMENT / RE-APPOINTMENT / REPLACEMENT to WATER and SEWER ADVISORY COMMISSION:

June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, requested the following appointments/re-appointments/replacements be made.

Water and Sewer Advisory Commission: II Chris Smith 06/02/2020 HOLD

Economic Development Commission: EB Mitchel Tyler 06/30/2020 Re-Appoint
Motion: Commissioner Byrd
Second: Commissioner Prevatte

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

At 6:59 P.M, Commissioner McDowell 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 Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

September 08, 2020 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.

Agenda Item #13: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - MONTHLY BILLING ADJUSTMENTS:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the July and August 2020 monthly billing adjustments for each Water District, respectively.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 2 for each Water District, respectively.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - DISCUSSION of FIVE DOLLAR (\$5.00) FEE:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested a discussion of the five dollar (\$5.00) fee for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 2 for each Water District, respectively.

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V - DELINQUENT-PENALTY REVISION \$35.00:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested a discussion on the Delinquent-Penalty Revision.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 2 for each Water District, respectively.

Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - WATER LINE EXTENSIONS:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the amended contract with Green Engineering.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 2 for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III and V.

Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT III - ASSET INVENTORY and ASSESSMENT PLAN:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following Resolution By Governing Body of Applicant for the Asset Inventory and Assessment Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III.

This information will be recorded in Minute Book Number 2 for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III.

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

At 7:19 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #18: PUBLIC INPUT (by TELEPHONE, E-MAIL or LETTER).

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

Doris Strickland, no address listed: stated the following, by e-mail and orally read by Amanda Prince, County Attorney:

Please be advised that your stubbornness in allowing the public or department heads into your monthly meetings is well noted. It is obvious your reason for not opening up your meetings is because of your dislike for Sheriff Jody Greene. You are disregarding the general public by your inability to act professionally towards Sheriff Greene. Your unwillingness to work with the Sheriff and his department has shown that Columbus County does not need leaders like you. You have caused unnecessary bad publicity for our county.

I am requesting in the few Commissioner meetings left for 2020, you allow 50 Columbus County citizens inside the County Commissioners Chambers and provide free, disposable face masks. The NCDHHS recommends to **FOLLOW the THREE (3) W'S. Wear** a face covering, **Wait** six (6') feet apart, and **Wash** your hands.

Brunswick County has reopened their County Commissioners meetings to the public. No more than fifty (50) people are allowed in the chambers at one time. They provide free face coverings for their attendees. There is no reason why Columbus County can not do the same.

Agenda Item #19: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

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

A. Budget Amendments:

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Expenditures	10-9600-560062	Special Child Adoptions	94,750
Revenues	10-3991-499115	Various Fund Balance	(94,750)
Expenditures	10-5170-526007	WIC MISC Support C/S	19,140
Revenues	10-3510-430055	WIC	19,140
Expenditures	17-4213-512100	COVID-19 Salaries	30,000
	17-4213-512700	COVID-19 Longevity	1,000
	17-4213-518100	COVID-19 FICA	15,000
	17-4213-518300	COVID-19 Insurance	10,000
	17-4213-518200	COVID-19 Retirement	8,000
	17-4213-526001	COVID-19 Departmental Supplies	17,577
Revenues	17-3581-430172	COVID-19 Grant	81,577

Expenditures	10-5115-523900	Infant Mortality Drugs and Medical	2,406
Revenues	10-3510-430167	Infant Mortality State Grant	2,406

B. Tax Refunds and Releases:

<i>Property Value</i>			Amount:	\$22.31
Conterra Ultra Broadband LLC	PROPERTY: 00000		Total:	\$25.63
Value: \$3,519.00	Year: 2020	Account: 10-04845	Bill#:	65313
Release portion of value correction. Release Cole Service(2.77) release Columbus Rescue(.55)				
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount:	\$68.22
Davis, W L	PROPERTY: 25237		Total:	\$70.62
Value: \$0.00	Year: 17-19	Account: 13-00032	Bill#:	99999
Release value sold at tax sale. Release Columbus Rescue(2.40)				
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount:	\$541.77
Evans, Shirley	PROPERTY: 6323		Total:	\$555.23
Value: \$67,300.00	Year: 2020	Account: 01-02995	Bill#:	69500
Release portion of value. Putting in elderly exemption . Attorney Alan High corrected deed. Release Whiteville Rescue(13.46)				
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount:	\$230.15
Gore, Bryan Sterling	PROPERTY: 00000		Total:	\$264.46
Value: \$28,590.00	Year: 2020	Account: 07-02227	Bill#:	73279
Release value of truck.Release Yam City(28.59) release Columbus Rescue(5.72)				
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount:	\$429.07
Graham, Leon	PROPERTY: 79881		Total:	\$503.69
Value: \$53,300.00	Year: 2020	Account: 15-16429	Bill#:	74239
Release portion of value putting in elderly exemption . Release Acme Delco(63.96) release Columbus Rescue(10.66)				
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount:	\$290.45
Haywood, Clifton	PROPERTY: 00000		Total:	\$322.92
Value: \$17,091.00	Year: 19-20	Account: 13-01729	Bill#:	99999
Release value of truck. Sold in Virginia. Release Klondyke Fire(25.25) release Columbus Rescue(7.22)				
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount:	\$8.05
Hewett, Chasity	PROPERTY: 00000		Total:	\$209.08
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	Account: 03-05256	Bill#:	77192
Release user fee. Sold with SWMH to Act#03-02027Release Columbus Rescue(.20) release late list(.83)				
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount:	\$14.49
Johnson, Retha L.	PROPERTY: 75947		Total:	\$16.65
Value: \$75,947.00	Year: 2020	Account: 06-21283	Bill#:	80695
Release value should have been 100% exempt. Release Yam City(1.80) release Columbus Rescue(.36)				
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount:	\$121.65
McDuffy, James	PROPERTY: 25237		Total:	\$124.65
Value: \$3,000.00	Year: 10-14	Account: 13-02722	Bill#:	99999
Release value sold at tax sale. Release Columbus Rescue(3.00)				
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount:	\$252.77
Morales Eulizer Aricel Perez	PROPERTY: 96424		Total:	\$477.89
Value: \$31,400.00	Year: 2020	Account: 01-07294	Bill#:	88650
Release value purchased from Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Release Williams Fire(18.84) release Whiteville Rescue(6.28)				
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount:	\$5.10
Neopost USA Inc Tax Dept	PROPERTY: 00000		Total:	\$5.23
Value: \$633.00	Year: 2020	Account: 01-29990	Bill#:	89544
Release value billed on Acct#1-08994. Release Whiteville Rescue(.13)				
<i>Property Value</i>			Amount:	\$143.56
Rogers, Glenn W	PROPERTY: 00000		Total:	\$185.38
Value: \$17,833.00	Year: 2020	Account: 15-03270	Bill#:	94884
Release value of boat. Sold 4/2019. Release Acme Delco(21.40) release Columbus Rescue(3.57) release late list(16.85)				

<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$19.00
Russell Randolph	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$21.44
Value: \$590.00	Year: 17-20	Account: 05-01211	Bill#: 99999
Release value of boat. Sold 8 years ago. Release Whiteville Rescue(.48) release late list(1.96)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$10.23
Smith, Gayle Patrick	PROPERTY: 30583	Total:	\$211.75
Value: \$1,270.00	Year: 2020	Account: 16-13240	Bill#: 98085
Release value of SWMH. Sold 2019. Release Cerro Gordo Fire(1.27) release Columbus Rescue(.25)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$417.80
Smith, Seth L. (Heirs)	PROPERTY: 101095	Total:	\$469.70
Value: \$51,900.00	Year: 2020	Account: 05-02048	Bill#: 98546
Release value SHB listed to James Smith Act#05-04743 Release North Whiteville(41.52) release Whiteville Rescue(10.38)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$13.69
Strickland Fronis(Heirs)	PROPERTY: 101189	Total:	\$15.73
Value: \$1,700.00	Year: 2020	Account: 16-03745	Bill#: 995
Release value of cemetery. Release Cole Service(1.70) release Columbus Rescue(.34)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$595.53
Sykes, Patrick Adam	PROPERTY: 29540	Total:	\$899.10
Value: \$73,979.00	Year: 2020	Account: 15-03855	Bill#: 1628
Release value. Overbilled. Not transferred to Act#15-01869 in time for 2020. Release Acme Delco(88.77) release Columbus Rescue(14.80)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$201.25
Ward, Jerry Elmore & Judy	PROPERTY: 8298	Total:	\$223.75
Value: \$25,000.00	Year: 2020	Account: 03-26980	Bill#: 4815
Release value. SHB getting exemption. Release Brunswick Fire(17.50) release Whiteville Rescue(5.00)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Ward, Robert Sterling Jr	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$10.25
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	Account: 03-05664	Bill#: 5108
Release late list. Listed on 1/2/2020. Release late list(10.25)			
<i>Property Value</i>		Amount:	\$342.78
Wright, Karl Jefferson Lori	PROPERTY: 79878	Total:	\$385.34
Value: \$21,290.00	Year: 19-20	Account: 09-01166	Bill#: 99999
Release value 10% bonus room unfinished. Release Roseland Fire(34.06) release Columbus Rescue(8.50)			
<i>Refunds</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Butler, Crystal Coleman	PROPERTY: 30009	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2019	Account: 16-03354	Bill#: 90164
Refund user fee to Lumbee Guaranty Bank, 301 N Walnut Street, Fairmont, NC 28340 can billed to SWMH and land.			
<i>Refunds</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Nance, Kenneth Lee	PROPERTY: 92086	Total:	\$400.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 18-19	Account: 12-02550	Bill#: 99999
Refund user fees. Billed to Act#12-19623			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Barnhill, Tiffany	PROPERTY: 17304	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	Account: 09-03123	Bill#: 57853
Release user fee. Vacant			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Beck, Gerald (ETAL)	PROPERTY: 15330	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	Account: 09-05064	Bill#: 58454
Release user fee. Vacant Farm Land			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Beck, Gerald (ETAL)	PROPERTY: 98236	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	Account: 09-05064	Bill#: 58452
Release user fee. Vacant Farm Land			
<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Boone, Delbert O'Neil	PROPERTY: 18653	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	Account: 11-03180	Bill#: 59877

648

Release user fee. Unliveable

User Fee

Britt, Billy M & Alice R
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020
Release user fee. Dbilled to land.

PROPERTY: 23366
Account: 12-05038

Amount: \$0.00
Total: \$200.00
Bill#: 60607

User Fee

Butler, Crystal Coleman
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020
Release user fee. Billed to SWMH

PROPERTY: 30009
Account: 16-03354

Amount: \$0.00
Total: \$200.00
Bill#: 62335

User Fee

Cance, Michael J & Rebecca
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020
Release user fee. No Can.

PROPERTY: 25767
Account: 13-01424

Amount: \$0.00
Total: \$113.00
Bill#: 63145

User Fee

Cerro Gordo Vol Fire & Rescue
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020
Release user fee. Uses commercial hauler

PROPERTY: 00000
Account: 16-50100

Amount: \$0.00
Total: \$113.00
Bill#: 63980

User Fee

Demery, Larry Gene & Roberta
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020
Release user fee. House removed.

PROPERTY: 95763
Account: 14-02260

Amount: \$0.00
Total: \$200.00
Bill#: 67221

User Fee

Duncan, Dewey (ETALS)
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020
Release user fee. Vacant land

PROPERTY: 15692
Account: 09-00536

Amount: \$0.00
Total: \$200.00
Bill#: 68095

User Fee

Esterak, Cecilia Diane
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020
Release user fee. MH unliveable.

PROPERTY: 86319
Account: 09-05681

Amount: \$0.00
Total: \$200.00
Bill#: 69290

User Fee

Formyduval Marie
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020
Release user fee. Paid with land act#03-07705

PROPERTY: 6869
Account: 03-07620

Amount: \$0.00
Total: \$200.00
Bill#: 70817

User Fee

Frink, Jennie
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020
Release user fee. Vacant

PROPERTY: 00000
Account: 03-03665

Amount: \$0.00
Total: \$200.00
Bill#: 50001

User Fee

H & D Jenkins Farms, LLC
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020
Release user fee. Dbilled.

PROPERTY: 30354
Account: 16-04442

Amount: \$0.00
Total: \$200.00
Bill#: 75186

User Fee

Hall, Meredith P
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020
Release user fee. Dbilled.

PROPERTY: 27747
Account: 15-04266

Amount: \$0.00
Total: \$200.00
Bill#: 75304

User Fee

Hayes, Kenneth Earl & Bonnie
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2019
Release user fee. Double billed.

PROPERTY: 24496
Account: 13-18360

Amount: \$0.00
Total: \$200.00
Bill#: 4198

User Fee

Haynes, Cassandra Jill
Value: \$0.00 Year: 19-20
Release user fees. Dbilled.

PROPERTY: 75988
Account: 12-47821

Amount: \$0.00
Total: \$400.00
Bill#: 9999

User Fee

Hinson, Oscar Odell & Pearl
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020
Release user fee. Overbilled.

PROPERTY: 88853
Account: 09-01807

Amount: \$0.00
Total: \$200.00
Bill#: 78032

User Fee

Jenkins Property Management

PROPERTY: 92815

Amount: \$0.00
Total: \$200.00

Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	Account: 03-01229	Bill#: 80214
Release user fee. SWMH Dblisted.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Kennedy, David Eugene			Total: \$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	PROPERTY: 21454	Bill#: 81733
Account: 12-13940			
Release user fee. Overbilled			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
King, Lemuel Winford			Total: \$400.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	PROPERTY: 81859	Bill#: 81918
Account: 07-09965			
Release user fee. Overbilled for cans.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Mallory, Christine			Total: \$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	PROPERTY: 28859	Bill#: 84794
Account: 15-25260			
Release user fee.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
McPherson, Franklin Delane			Total: \$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	PROPERTY: 16387	Bill#: 86841
Account: 09-18580			
Release user fee. Vacant Farm Land			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Peterson, D J & Joyce			Total: \$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	PROPERTY: 78201	Bill#: 91431
Account: 15-05122			
Release user fee. Vacant land.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Register, Randy Guy			Total: \$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	PROPERTY: 00000	Bill#: 94090
Account: 03-19417			
Release user fee.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Rivera Luis Daniel			Total: \$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	PROPERTY: 100535	Bill#: 94530
Account: 15-02792			
Release user fee. Dbilled in error.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Simmons, Howard Keny & Tila Kay			Total: \$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	PROPERTY: 16783	Bill#: 97207
Account: 09-03372			
Release user fee. Sold			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Smith, Gayle Patrick			Total: \$800.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	PROPERTY: 30583	Bill#: 98085
Account: 16-13240			
Release all user fees. Mobile homes no longer there.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Stewart, Monica			Total: \$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	PROPERTY: 84268	Bill#: 568
Account: 16-03704			
Release user fee. Used for storage.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Ward, Sharon Kay Dew			Total: \$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	PROPERTY: 85191	Bill#: 5173
Account: 11-00024			
Release user fee. SWMH unliveable.			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Watts, Robert W			Total: \$200.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	PROPERTY: 8382	Bill#: 5666
Account: 03-28662			
Release user fee. Unliveable			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Watts, Robert W			Total: \$600.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 2020	PROPERTY: 7135	Bill#: 5652
Account: 03-28663			
Release user fee. Overbilled			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00
Webb, Christopher M & Camellia			Total: \$600.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 18-20	PROPERTY: 84487	Bill#: 99999
Account: 08-01861			
Release user fees. Billed to SWMH			
<i>User Fee</i>			Amount: \$0.00

Williams, Wade Lenwood(ETAL)	PROPERTY: 96998	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 09-02261	Bill#:	7131

Release user fee. Dbilled.

<i>User Fee</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Williamson, Douglas Wright	PROPERTY: 00000	Total:	\$200.00
Value: \$0.00 Year: 2020	Account: 12-00334	Bill#:	7250

Release user fee. Unliveable.

Agenda Item #20: COMMENTS:

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

B. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Commissioner Prevatte:** Mr. Robert Adams called me today to check the status of the Resolution being prepared relative to help with low fines and bonds for criminal drug activities. June B. Hall, Clerk to the Board, stated this was in process.
2. **Commissioner McDowell:** I read a report today stating that seat belt usage in Columbus County is very low.
3. **Vice Chairman McMillian:** I would like to remind everyone about the 2020 Census that Dalton Dockey has been working diligently on.
4. **Commissioner Burroughs:** stated the following:
 -I would like to ditto what was stated relative to the 2020 Census importance; **and**
 -I would like to give a shout to the Water Department who handled a problem on Friday of last week within thirty (30) minutes.
5. **Chairman Russ:** stated I would like to emphasize the importance of wearing seat belts.

- C. **County Manager (Michael H. Stephens):** stated the following:
 -I received some information relative to a very aggressive noxious aquatic weed; **and**
 -We will try to gather information on this.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (a) (4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and (5) (i) REAL ESTATE:

At 7:30 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in Accordance with N.C.G.S § 143-319.11 (a) (4) Economic Development and (5) (i) Real Estate, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #21: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and (5) (i) REAL ESTATE:

No official action was taken.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and RESUME REGULAR SESSION:

At 8:36 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

READING and APPROVAL of CLOSED SESSION GENERAL ACCOUNT:

Chairman Russ requested that Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney, orally read the Closed Session General Account. Ms. Prince orally read the following: *“The County Commissioners discussed acquisition of real property with Mike Stephens, County Manager. The County Commissioners discussed Economic Development matters with Gary Lanier,*

Economic Development Director, by telephone. No action was taken by the Board of Commissioners”.

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

Agenda Item #22: ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:37 P.M., Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, September 21, 2020
6:59 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, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Mike Stephens, **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 6:59 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

September 08, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the September 08, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #13: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - MONTHLY BILLING ADJUSTMENTS:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the July and August 2020 monthly billing adjustments for Columbus County Water and Sewer District I, as follows:

DISTRICT I ADJUSTMENTS FOR JULY & AUGUST 2020

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
7/21/2020	103860.00 98	GERALDINE WARD	\$55.62	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
7/21/2020	104640.00 98	HAROLD BELLAMY	\$(76.03)	BILLING ERROR

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
7/21/2020	200010.00 96	ALLEN STRICKLAND	\$64.69	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
7/21/2020	405035.00 98	DONALD CRIBB	\$(20.51)	BILLING ERROR
7/21/2020	601275.00 97	MICHAEL STANLEY	\$(63.97)	BILLING ERROR
7/21/2020	603030.00 97	KRISTOPHER LOWERY	\$(1,893.04)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT
8/25/2020	141350.00 98	CECIL SIMMONS	\$(17.57)	BILLING ERROR
8/25/2020	101094.00 98	TED FLOYD	\$116.40	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
8/25/2020	103830.00 97	RAVEN GRAINGER	\$57.53	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
8/25/2020	200010.00 96	ALLEN STRICKLAND	\$68.88	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
8/25/2020	103195.00 98	CHRISTOPHER HARRELSON	\$(146.08)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT
8/25/2020	206230.00 98	JOEY MILLS	\$(288.32)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT
8/25/2020	100614.00 98	GEORGE SMITH	\$(50.00)	POSTING ERROR
8/25/2020	10464000 98	HAROLD BELLAMY	\$(120.78)	BILLING ERROR
8/25/2020	105390.00 98	LEON FONVIELLE	\$(187.68)	BILLING ERROR
8/25/2020	405035.00 98	DONALD CRIBB	\$(18.80)	BILLING ERROR

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the monthly billing adjustments for July and August, 2020, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - DISCUSSION of FIVE DOLLAR (\$5.00) FEE:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested a discussion of the five dollar (\$5.00) fee for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

Commissioner Prevatte requested that Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney, read the information so the public will understand the five (\$5.00) dollars fee. Ms. Prince orally read the following information.

Please be advised that if the Customer service Fee of \$5.00 is approved, it **DOES NOT** apply to the following situations:

- If a customer contacts the Public Utilities Department with questions or concerns regarding their water service account, the customers service fee **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer walks into the office to make a payment(with any type of tender), the customer service **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer conducts business through the drive-thru window, the customer service fee **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer leaves a payment in the drop box, the customer service fee **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer pays using the Automated Telephone Payment Service, the customer service fee

DOES NOT apply.

Please be advised that if the Customer Service of \$5.00 is approved, it **DOES** apply to the following situation:

-If a customer chooses to make a payment with a credit card over the phone with a Customer Service Representative at the Columbus County Public Utilities Department, the customer service fee **DOES** apply.

The Automated Telephone Payment System cost the department a total of \$3,000.00 to implement the program. An annual monitoring fee of \$900.00 applies to this application. The \$5.00 fee to pay with a Customer Service Representative was recommended to assist the Department with providing a more pleasant face to face customer service experience, to help encourage our customers to utilize the program, and to assist with the annual monitoring fee. The department has received numerous complaints in the past regarding missed phone calls. Over 1,500 payment transactions are completed weekly in this department and the majority of these transactions occur over the phone. The automated telephone payment application has already reduced these complaints tremendously and has allowed our department to provide better customer service to our clients.

After discussion, Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the five and 00/100 (\$5.00) dollars customer service fee under the following condition - if a customer chooses to make a payment with a credit card over the phone with a Customer Service Representative at the Columbus County Public Utilities Department, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results:

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

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

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V - DELINQUENT-PENALTY REVISION \$35.00:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested a discussion on the Delinquent-Penalty Revision.

The following discussion was conducted relative to the delinquent-penalty revision:

1. If the monthly water bill is not paid by the 18th of the month, a \$5.00 delinquent fee is charged;
2. If the monthly water bill is not paid by the 25th of the month, a \$30.00 penalty fee is charged which would equate to the amount of \$35.00;
3. The two (2) charges are being combined due and payable by the 25th of the month;
4. This will afford the customers some time to be able to pay the monthly water charge.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the delinquent-penalty revision of \$35.00, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - WATER LINE EXTENSIONS:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the amended contract with Green Engineering for water line extensions. The following information was stated:

1. In February 3, 2020, the Board approved a \$498,090 contract with Green Engineering;
2. At the September 8, 2020 Board meeting, the Board approved a down-sized version of the project; **and**
3. This is a new contract for \$337,740.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the new contract for the down-sized version of the water line extensions at the cost of three hundred thirty-seven thousand, seven hundred forty and 00/100 (\$337,740.00) dollars, W.O. Number: 19-122, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, September 21, 2020
6:59 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, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Mike Stephens, **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 6:59 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

September 08, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the September 08, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #13: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - MONTHLY BILLING ADJUSTMENTS:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the July and August 2020 monthly billing adjustments for Columbus County Water and Sewer District I, as follows:

DISTRICT II ADJUSTMENTS FOR JULY & AUGUST 2020

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
7/21/2020	110555.00 97	RONALD GUYTON	\$54.91	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
7/21/2020	111727.00 97	NICE BLENDS CORPORATION	\$942.56	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE

7/21/2020	112409.00 98	DONNA JACOBS	\$50.00	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
7/21/2020	120570.00 98	EVA WALLACE	\$(16.66)	BILLING ERROR
7/21/2020	121860.00 98	ANNIE GRIER	\$141.30	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
7/21/2020	131010.00 98	RASHEED RAHMAN	\$63.90	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
7/21/2020	132420.00 98	DAVID & ANN WILLIAMSON	\$(195.21)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT
7/21/2020	140790.00 98	BARBARA YATES	\$(317.90)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT
7/21/2020	150130.00 98	YVONNE MULLINS	\$64.86	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
8/25/2020	111485.00 97	CRYSTAL WALKER	\$62.81	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
8/25/2020	111727.00 97	NICE BLENDS CORPORATION	\$77.90	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
8/25/2020	132672.00 98	WALLADEAN MOCK	\$61.31	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
8/25/2020	133180.00 97	CASEY NEALY	\$76.34	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
8/25/2020	112440.00 98	VIVIAN GREEN	\$31.48	POSTING ERROR
8/25/2020	142199.00 96	AMANDA COLLINS	\$45.00	POSTING ERROR
8/25/2020	110370.00 98	GREGORY WILLIAMSON	\$(244.31)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT
8/25/2020	111730.00 98	JAMES STEPHENS	\$(74.74)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT
8/25/2020	132420.00 98	DAVID & ANN WILLIAMSON	\$(125.46)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT
8/25/2020	141600.00 97	OTTO MCKENZIE	\$(1,460.31)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the monthly billing adjustments for July and August, 2020, for Columbus County Water and Sewer District II, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - DISCUSSION of FIVE DOLLAR (\$5.00) FEE:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested a discussion of the five dollar (\$5.00) fee for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

Commissioner Prevatte requested that Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney, read the information so the public will understand the five (\$5.00) dollars fee. Ms. Prince orally read the following information.

Please be advised that if the Customer service Fee of \$5.00 is approved, it **DOES NOT** apply to the following situations:

- If a customer contacts the Public Utilities Department with questions or concerns regarding their water service account, the customers service fee **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer walks into the office to make a payment(with any type of tender), the customer service **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer conducts business through the drive-thru window, the customer service fee **DOES**

NOT apply;

- If a customer leaves a payment in the drop box, the customer service fee **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer pays using the Automated Telephone Payment Service, the customer service fee **DOES NOT** apply.

Please be advised that if the Customer Service of \$5.00 is approved, it **DOES** apply to the following situation:

- If a customer chooses to make a payment with a credit card over the phone with a Customer Service Representative at the Columbus County Public Utilities Department, the customer service fee **DOES** apply.

The Automated Telephone Payment System cost the department a total of \$3,000.00 to implement the program. An annual monitoring fee of \$900.00 applies to this application. The \$5.00 fee to pay with a Customer Service Representative was recommended to assist the Department with providing a more pleasant face to face customer service experience, to help encourage our customers to utilize the program, and to assist with the annual monitoring fee. The department has received numerous complaints in the past regarding missed phone calls. Over 1,500 payment transactions are completed weekly in this department and the majority of these transactions occur over the phone. The automated telephone payment application has already reduced these complaints tremendously and has allowed our department to provide better customer service to our clients.

After discussion, Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the five and 00/100 (\$5.00) dollars customer service fee under the following condition - if a customer chooses to make a payment with a credit card over the phone with a Customer Service Representative at the Columbus County Public Utilities Department, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results:

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

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

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V - DELINQUENT-PENALTY REVISION \$35.00:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested a discussion on the Delinquent-Penalty Revision.

The following discussion was conducted relative to the delinquent-penalty revision:

1. If the monthly water bill is not paid by the 18th of the month, a \$5.00 delinquent fee is charged;
2. If the monthly water bill is not paid by the 25th of the month, a \$30.00 penalty fee is charged which would equate to the amount of \$35.00;
3. The two (2) charges are being combined due and payable by the 25th of the month;
4. This will afford the customers some time to be able to pay the monthly water charge.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the delinquent-penalty revision of \$35.00, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - WATER LINE EXTENSIONS:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the amended contract with Green Engineering for water line extensions. The following information was stated:

1. In February 3, 2020, the Board approved a \$498,090 contract with Green Engineering;
2. At the September 8, 2020 Board meeting, the Board approved a down-sized version of the project; **and**
3. This is a new contract for \$337,740.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the new contract for the down-sized version of the water line extensions at the cost of three hundred thirty-seven thousand, seven hundred forty and 00/100 (\$337,740.00) dollars, W.O. Number: 19-122, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, September 21, 2020
6:59 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, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Mike Stephens, **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 6:59 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

September 08, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the September 08, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #13: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - MONTHLY BILLING ADJUSTMENTS:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the July and August 2020 monthly billing adjustments for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III, as follows:

DISTRICT III ADJUSTMENTS FOR JULY & AUGUST 2020

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
7/21/2020	340386.00 98	CHARLIE & LAURA DAVIS	\$1,200.00	DEBT COLLECTION ON ACCOUNT
7/21/2020	350200.00 97	JAMES BETTS	\$(567.10)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
7/21/2020	350656.00 93	PATRICIA DAWSON	\$(142.98)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT
7/21/2020	350705.00 93	WANDA SMITH	\$(32.46)	BILLING ERROR
7/21/2020	350975.00 91	LOUISE TURNER	\$(188.58)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT
7/21/2020	360970.00 98	ROSE HILL AME ZION CHURCH	\$(80.56)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT
7/21/2020	370758.00 98	ALFONZA ELLIS	\$(78.21)	BILLING ERROR
7/21/2020	380700.00 97	PARICIA WILLIAMS	\$(13.38)	BILLING ERROR
8/25/2020	330220.00 98	DWIGHT SIMMONS	\$(12.26)	BILLING ERROR
8/25/2020	350974.00 91	MONTRESE HAWKINS	\$(275.94)	BILLING ERROR
8/25/2020	371805.00 98	TAYLO STANLEY	\$(456.61)	BILLING ERROR
8/25/2020	340010.00 96	GALE BORCHERT	\$57.27	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
8/25/2020	350420.00 97	SHEILA SOLES	\$117.10	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
8/25/2020	350656.00 93	PATRICIA DAWSON	\$(171.00)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the monthly billing adjustments for July and August, 2020, for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - DISCUSSION of FIVE DOLLAR (\$5.00) FEE:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested a discussion of the five dollar (\$5.00) fee for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

Commissioner Prevatte requested that Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney, read the information so the public will understand the five (\$5.00) dollars fee. Ms. Prince orally read the following information.

Please be advised that if the Customer service Fee of \$5.00 is approved, it **DOES NOT** apply to the following situations:

- If a customer contacts the Public Utilities Department with questions or concerns regarding their water service account, the customers service fee **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer walks into the office to make a payment(with any type of tender), the customer service **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer conducts business through the drive-thru window, the customer service fee **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer leaves a payment in the drop box, the customer service fee **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer pays using the Automated Telephone Payment Service, the customer service fee **DOES NOT** apply.

Please be advised that if the Customer Service of \$5.00 is approved, it **DOES** apply to the following

situation:

-If a customer chooses to make a payment with a credit card over the phone with a Customer Service Representative at the Columbus County Public Utilities Department, the customer service fee **DOES** apply.

The Automated Telephone Payment System cost the department a total of \$3,000.00 to implement the program. An annual monitoring fee of \$900.00 applies to this application. The \$5.00 fee to pay with a Customer Service Representative was recommended to assist the Department with providing a more pleasant face to face customer service experience, to help encourage our customers to utilize the program, and to assist with the annual monitoring fee. The department has received numerous complaints in the past regarding missed phone calls. Over 1,500 payment transactions are completed weekly in this department and the majority of these transactions occur over the phone. The automated telephone payment application has already reduced these complaints tremendously and has allowed our department to provide better customer service to our clients.

After discussion, Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the five and 00/100 (\$5.00) dollars customer service fee under the following condition - if a customer chooses to make a payment with a credit card over the phone with a Customer Service Representative at the Columbus County Public Utilities Department, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results:

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

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

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V - DELINQUENT-PENALTY REVISION \$35.00:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested a discussion on the Delinquent-Penalty Revision.

The following discussion was conducted relative to the delinquent-penalty revision:

1. If the monthly water bill is not paid by the 18th of the month, a \$5.00 delinquent fee is charged;
2. If the monthly water bill is not paid by the 25th of the month, a \$30.00 penalty fee is charged which would equate to the amount of \$35.00;
3. The two (2) charges are being combined due and payable by the 25th of the month;
4. This will afford the customers some time to be able to pay the monthly water charge.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the delinquent-penalty revision of \$35.00, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - WATER LINE EXTENSIONS:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the amended contract with Green Engineering for water line extensions. The following information was stated:

1. In February 3, 2020, the Board approved a \$498,090 contract with Green Engineering;
2. At the September 8, 2020 Board meeting, the Board approved a down-sized version of the project; **and**
3. This is a new contract for \$337,740.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the new contract for the down-sized version of the water line extensions at the cost of three hundred thirty-seven thousand, seven hundred forty and 00/100 (\$337,740.00) dollars, W.O. Number: 19-122, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #17: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT III - ASSET INVENTORY and ASSESSMENT PLAN:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the following Resolution By Governing Body of Applicant for the Asset Inventory and Assessment Plan for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III.

RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF APPLICANT

WHEREAS, The Federal Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987 and the North Carolina the Water Infrastructure Act of 2005 (NCGS 159G) have authorized the making of loans and grants to aid eligible units of government in financing the cost of Asset and Inventory Assessments; **and**

WHEREAS, The Columbus County Water District III has need for and intends to prepare an Asset Inventory and Assessment of the water system currently under the District's operations and control; **and**

WHEREAS, The Columbus County Water District III intends to request state (loan or grant) assistance for the project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COLUMBUS COUNTY:

That Columbus County Water District III, the **Applicant**, will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the project, if approved for a State (loan or grant) award.

That the **Applicant** will adopt and place into effect on or before completion of the project a schedule of fees and charges and other available funds which will provide adequate funds for proper operation, maintenance, and administration of the system and the repayment of all principal and interest on the debt.

That the Governing Body of the **Applicant** agrees to include in the loan agreement a provision

authorizing the State Treasurer, upon failure of the Columbus County Water District III to make scheduled repayment of the loan, to withhold from Columbus County Water District III any State funds that would otherwise be distributed to the local government unit in an amount sufficient to pay all sums then due and payable to the State as a repayment of the loan.

That the **Applicant** will provide for efficient operation and maintenance of the project on completion of construction thereof.

That Mike Stephens, County Manager, the **Authorized Official**, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the **Applicant** with the State of North Carolina for a loan or grant to aid in the construction of the project described above.

That the **Authorized Official**, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

That the **Applicant** has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to Federal and State grants pertaining thereto.

ADOPTED this the 21st day of September, 2020 at Whiteville, North Carolina.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ **P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman**

CERTIFICATION BY RECORDING OFFICER

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners does hereby certify: That the above/attached Resolution is a true and correct copy of the Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the State of North Carolina, as regularly adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners duly held on the 21st day of September, 2017; and, further, that such Resolution has been fully recorded in the journal of proceeding and records in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 22nd day of September, 2020.

/s/ **JUNE B. HALL, Clerk**

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the Resolution By Governing Body of Applicant for Columbus County Water and Sewer District III, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, September 21, 2020
6:59 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, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Mike Stephens, **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 6:59 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

September 08, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the September 08, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #13: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - MONTHLY BILLING ADJUSTMENTS:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the July and August 2020 monthly billing adjustments for Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV, as follows:

DISTRICT IV ADJUSTMENTS FOR JULY & AUGUST 2020

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
7/21/2020	430117.00 98	GERLENE BROWN	\$(97.09)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT
7/21/2020	430075.00 98	WILLIE BROOKS	\$(8.70)	BILLING ERROR

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
7/21/2020	430568.00 98	ELLA BULLOCK	\$(9.87)	BILLING ERROR
7/21/2020	444350.00 98	BRANDON BRADLEY	\$(151.02)	BILLING ERROR
7/21/2020	448755.00 98	JOSEPH BRACEY	\$(4,700.77)	BILLING ERROR
7/21/2020	445600.00 98	ROBERT HOBBS SR	\$56.32	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
8/25/2020	412000.00 97	MARJORIE SIMMONS	\$(72,844.66)	BILLING ERROR
8/25/2020	430458.00 98	VERNA GAINEY	\$(258.61)	BILLING ERROR
8/25/2020	430331.00 98	MARK FLOYD	\$106.44	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
8/25/2020	445600.00 98	ROBERT HOBBS SR	\$55.54	RETURNED CHECK & FEE
8/25/2020	410260.00 98	BETTY MOSS	\$(379.50)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT
8/25/2020	444500.00 98	MARSHALL & ARIANA ALLEN	\$(97.58)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT
8/25/2020	410060.00 95	CHERYL PERRYMAN	\$(78.74)	POSTING ERROR
8/25/2020	448755.00 98	JOSEPH BRACEY	\$(64.32)	POSTING ERROR

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the monthly billing adjustments for July and August, 2020, for Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - DISCUSSION of FIVE DOLLAR (\$5.00) FEE:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested a discussion of the five dollar (\$5.00) fee for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

Commissioner Prevatte requested that Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney, read the information so the public will understand the five (\$5.00) dollars fee. Ms. Prince orally read the following information.

Please be advised that if the Customer service Fee of \$5.00 is approved, it **DOES NOT** apply to the following situations:

- If a customer contacts the Public Utilities Department with questions or concerns regarding their water service account, the customers service fee **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer walks into the office to make a payment(with any type of tender), the customer service **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer conducts business through the drive-thru window, the customer service fee **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer leaves a payment in the drop box, the customer service fee **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer pays using the Automated Telephone Payment Service, the customer service fee **DOES NOT** apply.

Please be advised that if the Customer Service of \$5.00 is approved, it **DOES** apply to the following situation:

- If a customer chooses to make a payment with a credit card over the phone with a Customer Service Representative

a the Columbus County Public Utilities Department, the customer service fee DOES apply.

The Automated Telephone Payment System cost the department a total of \$3,000.00 to implement the program. An annual monitoring fee of \$900.00 applies to this application. The \$5.00 fee to pay with a Customer Service Representative was recommended to assist the Department with providing a more pleasant face to face customer service experience, to help encourage our customers to utilize the program, and to assist with the annual monitoring fee. The department has received numerous complaints in the past regarding missed phone calls. Over 1,500 payment transactions are completed weekly in this department and the majority of these transactions occur over the phone. The automated telephone payment application has already reduced these complaints tremendously and has allowed our department to provide better customer service to our clients.

After discussion, Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the five and 00/100 (\$5.00) dollars customer service fee under the following condition - if a customer chooses to make a payment with a credit card over the phone with a Customer Service Representative at the Columbus County Public Utilities Department, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results:

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

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

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V - DELINQUENT-PENALTY REVISION \$35.00:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested a discussion on the Delinquent-Penalty Revision.

The following discussion was conducted relative to the delinquent-penalty revision:

1. If the monthly water bill is not paid by the 18th of the month, a \$5.00 delinquent fee is charged;
2. If the monthly water bill is not paid by the 25th of the month, a \$30.00 penalty fee is charged which would equate to the amount of \$35.00;
3. The two (2) charges are being combined due and payable by the 25th of the month;
4. This will afford the customers some time to be able to pay the monthly water charge.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the delinquent-penalty revision of \$35.00, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman

COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, September 21, 2020
6:59 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, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose to act as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Mike Stephens, **County Manager**
 Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 6:59 P.M., Chairman P. Edwin Russ called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #12: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

September 08, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the September 08, 2020 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #13: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - MONTHLY BILLING ADJUSTMENTS:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the July and August 2020 monthly billing adjustments for Columbus County Water and Sewer District V, as follows:

DISTRICT V ADJUSTMENTS FOR JULY & AUGUST 2020

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
7/21/2020	709929.00 98	LEUVENIA DEWITT	\$(2,113.00)	POSTING ERROR
7/21/2020	800160.00 98	DONNIE WHALEY	\$(117.14)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT

DATE	ACCT #	ACCT NAME	ADJ AMT	REASON FOR ADJUSTMENT
7/21/2020	800683.00 98	DON WATTS	\$(113.77)	LEAK ADJUSTMENT
8/25/2020	704530.00 97	MARTHA MARTINEZ	\$(109.43)	BILLING ERROR
8/25/2020	800728.00 98	ALVIN COX	\$(662.42)	BILLING ERROR
8/25/2020	700133.00 92	KELLY NOBLES	\$50.70	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
8/25/2020	700241.00 98	SUSANNE NOBLES	\$58.89	RETURNED BANK DRAFT & FEE
8/25/2020	800585.00 98	ROSCOE HEMINGWAY	\$43.22	POSTING ERROR
8/25/2020	800465.00 98	SCOTT CHESTNUTT	\$67.56	POSTING ERROR
8/25/2020	800465.10 98	TINA CHESTNUTT	\$(67.56)	POSTING ERROR

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to approve the monthly billing adjustments for July and August, 2020, for Columbus County Water and Sewer District V, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V - DISCUSSION of FIVE DOLLAR (\$5.00) FEE:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested a discussion of the five dollar (\$5.00) fee for Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

Commissioner Prevatte requested that Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney, read the information so the public will understand the five (\$5.00) dollars fee. Ms. Prince orally read the following information.

Please be advised that if the Customer service Fee of \$5.00 is approved, it **DOES NOT** apply to the following situations:

- If a customer contacts the Public Utilities Department with questions or concerns regarding their water service account, the customers service fee **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer walks into the office to make a payment(with any type of tender), the customer service **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer conducts business through the drive-thru window, the customer service fee **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer leaves a payment in the drop box, the customer service fee **DOES NOT** apply;
- If a customer pays using the Automated Telephone Payment Service, the customer service fee **DOES NOT** apply.

Please be advised that if the Customer Service of \$5.00 is approved, it **DOES** apply to the following situation:

- If a customer chooses to make a payment with a credit card over the phone with a Customer Service Representative at the Columbus County Public Utilities Department, the customer service fee **DOES**

apply.

The Automated Telephone Payment System cost the department a total of \$3,000.00 to implement the program. An annual monitoring fee of \$900.00 applies to this application. The \$5.00 fee to pay with a Customer Service Representative was recommended to assist the Department with providing a more pleasant face to face customer service experience, to help encourage our customers to utilize the program, and to assist with the annual monitoring fee. The department has received numerous complaints in the past regarding missed phone calls. Over 1,500 payment transactions are completed weekly in this department and the majority of these transactions occur over the phone. The automated telephone payment application has already reduced these complaints tremendously and has allowed our department to provide better customer service to our clients.

After discussion, Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the five and 00/100 (\$5.00) dollars customer service fee under the following condition - if a customer chooses to make a payment with a credit card over the phone with a Customer Service Representative at the Columbus County Public Utilities Department, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results:

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

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

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V - DELINQUENT-PENALTY REVISION \$35.00:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested a discussion on the Delinquent-Penalty Revision.

The following discussion was conducted relative to the delinquent-penalty revision:

1. If the monthly water bill is not paid by the 18th of the month, a \$5.00 delinquent fee is charged;
2. If the monthly water bill is not paid by the 25th of the month, a \$30.00 penalty fee is charged which would equate to the amount of \$35.00;
3. The two (2) charges are being combined due and payable by the 25th of the month;
4. This will afford the customers some time to be able to pay the monthly water charge.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the delinquent-penalty revision of \$35.00, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #16: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III and V - WATER LINE EXTENSIONS:

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities Director, requested Board approval of the amended contract with Green Engineering for water line extensions. The following information was stated:

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1. In February 3, 2020, the Board approved a \$498,090 contract with Green Engineering;
2. At the September 8, 2020 Board meeting, the Board approved a down-sized version of the project; **and**
3. This is a new contract for \$337,740.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the new contract for the down-sized version of the water line extensions at the cost of three hundred thirty-seven thousand, seven hundred forty and 00/100 (\$337,740.00) dollars, W.O. Number: 19-122, seconded by Commissioner Prevatte. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

P. EDWIN RUSS, Chairman