

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING (RESUMED)  
Tuesday, January 19, 2021  
5:30 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 (Resumed) Special Called Meeting.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman / Interim County Manager**  
Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**  
Chris Smith  
Giles E. Byrd  
Lavern Coleman  
Brent Watts  
Charles T. McDowell

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**RESUMED MEETING CALLED to ORDER:**

At 5:30 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the Resumed Special Called Meeting to order, and stated this meeting is in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (6) Personnel.

**RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (6) PERSONNEL:**

At 5:31 P.M., Commissioner Lavern Coleman made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in Accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (a) (6) Personnel, seconded by Vice Chairman Jerome McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:**

At 6:25 P.M., Commissioner Giles Byrd made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Chris Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

**READING and APPROVAL of CLOSED SESSION GENERAL ACCOUNT:**

Chairman Bullard requested that Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney, orally read the Closed Session General Account. Ms. Prince orally read the following: *“The Commissioners discussed personnel matters. No official action was taken”*.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 6:27 P.M., Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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**JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board**

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**RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS****Monday, January 19, 2021****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 Regular Session Meeting, it being the third Monday.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman / Interim County Manager**  
 Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**  
 Chris Smith  
 Giles E. Byrd  
 Lavern Coleman  
 Brent Watts  
 Charles T. McDowell

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

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

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the January 19, 2021 Regular Session Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Lavern Coleman. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Giles E. Byrd.

**Agenda Item #4: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:**

Commissioner Cole made a motion to approve the January 04, 2021 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #5: PUBLIC INPUT (by TELEPHONE, E-MAIL or LETTER):**

Chairman Bullard opened the floor for Public Input. No Public Input was received.

**Agenda Item #6: COOPERATIVE EXTENSION - REQUEST for FUNDING for GIANT SALVINIA INVASIVE WEED:**

Dalton Dockery, Extension Director, will explain the request for funding regarding the eradication of the Giant Salvinia Invasive Weed.

After lengthy and detailed discussion relative to the noxious and invasive weed salvinia, and the cost of the eradication of the same, Commissioner Watts made a motion to table this item until the February 01, 2021 Meeting, and have affected farmers present, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #7: EMERGENCY SERVICES - FIBER CONNECTIVITY for VIPER/PAGING RADIO PROJECT:**

Kay Worley, Emergency Services Director, requested funding from Fund Balance for the fiber connectivity for the Viper/Paging Radio Project.

Ms. Worley stated the following:

1. Some of the tower sites for the fiber connectivity for the VIPER/Paging Radio Project did not measure up to the analysis;
2. One (1) of the towers that did not pass was at Fair Bluff, and needs modifications done; **and**
3. Motorola Solutions has given the County a Change Order in the amount of \$29,160 which needs Board approval.

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the Change Order in the amount of \$29,160, to Contract Number 254458 with Motorola Solutions, seconded by Commissioner Watts, to be taken from Fund Balance. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda #8: EMERGENCY SERVICES - RESOLUTION to DONATE VIPER EQUIPMENT to the NORTH CAROLINA STATE HIGHWAY PATROL for VIPER:**

Chairman Bullard requested Board approval of the following resolution to approve the donation of VIPER radio tower equipment.

**RESOLUTION to DONATE VIPER EQUIPMENT  
to the  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE HIGHWAY PATROL**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners for Columbus County desire to donate the following equipment to the North Carolina State Highway Patrol;

Whiteville	IR System Expansion	\$128,861.00
Nakina	IR System Expansion	\$104,201.00
Delco	IR System Expansion	\$30,960.00
Proctorville	IR System Expansion	\$30,960.00
Fair Bluff	IR System Expansion	\$342,384.25
	Microwave System	<u>\$181,116.00</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$818.482.25; and</b>

**WHEREAS**, the above system expansions will enhance the current radio signal for the North Carolina State Highway Patrol and be used by Columbus \County First Responders;' **and**

**WHEREAS**, the system expansions will benefit the citizens of Columbus County by improving emergency services provided by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol and Columbus County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, we, the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, do hereby donate the above named equipment to the North Carolina State Highway Patrol.

**ADOPTED** this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
/s/ **RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

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

After lengthy and in-depth discussion was conducted relative to the legality of the donation of VIPER radio tower equipment, a roll-call vote was taken with the following results:

**AYES:** Chairman Bullard, Vice Chairman McMillian, Commissioners Coleman, Smith, Watts; **and**

**NAYS:** Commissioner McDowell (**going by legal advice**) and Commissioner Byrd.

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

**Agenda Item #9: EMERGENCY SERVICES - UPDATE ON CAINES CONSTRUCTION:**

Amanda Prince delivered the following update on the contract with Caines Construction to install a storage building at Emergency Services.

1. I spoke with Caines Construction last week;
2. According to the School of Government, we will need a written contract; **and**
3. Caines Construction stated they will be very busy until the first of the month.

**Agenda Item #10: SOCIAL SERVICES - MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE:**

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

Columbus County DSS continues to participate in the Covid-19 planning calls three times a week. We receive updates on the County's and State's Covid-19 status. Information is often shared about

resources for staff and citizens.

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) began on December 1, 2020 for those households with individuals age 60 or older, and those with medical conditions. We are receiving many phone calls about the program. Applications remain available in our lobby and online for individuals to apply for assistance. Staff are also conducting phone interviews to complete the process. Beginning in January 2021 applications should be available to be completed through the state e-Pass system. This will allow for increase social distancing while allowing individuals to apply without coming to pick up and return applications. This program will end March 31, 2021 or when funds are exhausted.

We are also taking applications for the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) which also provides assistance to households who are experiencing a heating crisis. Eligibility is based on household income, which must be verified. Individuals can receive up to \$600.00 max based on their situation. Individuals may be eligible to receive both LIEAP and CIP. The Crisis Program ends June 30, 2021 or when funds are exhausted.

During the month of December, the program manager, APS & CPS supervisor's, and I participated on conference calls with our Adult Services and Child Protective Services representatives. During these calls we discussed policy updates and reviewed program case stats. Records in these program areas are reviewed virtually or uploaded due to the pandemic. Adult and Child Protective Services social workers are continuing to make mandated in person visits with protective equipment and observing social distancing.

On December 10, 2020 I participated in the Director's Association's monthly Executive Board meeting via webinar. During the webinar we were informed that there would be some changes to the way deposits are handled for county wards/guardianship cases by local DSS agencies. These funds that wards receive will need to be budgeted in 2022. The state will work with county DSS agencies and county finance officers around this change. We also received an update on Medicaid Transformation which will go live July 2021. Open enrollment will begin March 1, 2021 for individuals to select a health care plan with one of the health plans under the statewide system. The enrollment brokers will do outreach to the public and each county will have a liaison assigned to assist with questions about Medicaid Transformation. This meeting will be held monthly via webinar until further notice.

Columbus County DSS continues to provided needed services and benefits to our citizens during this difficult time. Staff continues to work hard to get applications processed as timely as possible. We continue to provide personal protective equipment and clean common areas throughout the day. During the month of December hand sanitizer has been secured for each employees and placed at the entrance areas along with temperature gauges. The building is sanitized each morning using an eco-friendly system prior to employees entering the building as an additional effort to keep staff safe. Air vents throughout the building are also being cleaned. Washing hands, wearing mask, and social distancing continue to be stressed during work hours.

### November 2020

#### Human Services

SERVICE	STATISTICS
<b>Adult Services (APS)</b>	APS Reports Accepted: 25 County Wards: 28 Number of Payee Cases: 22 Adults Served APS: 6 Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: 693 Amount Requested for Reimbursement: \$7,318.91
<b>Children's Protective Services (CPS)</b>	Reports Accepted: 17 Reports Screened out: 27 Families Receiving In-Home Services: 42 Children Served: 72 Contacts with Families Monthly: 432 Assessments: 15

<b>Foster Care</b>	Foster Children in Foster Homes: 70 Children Placed Outside County: 9 Agency Adoptions: 0 Pending Adoptions: 2 Total Foster Homes Licensed: 5 Total Children in Foster Care: 75
<b>Work First Employment (TANF)</b>	Applications Taken: 18 Applications Approved: 6 Individuals Receiving Benefits: 243 Entered Employments: 0 Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 0
<b>Program Integrity</b>	Collections for Fraud: \$855.00 New Referrals: 13 Cases Established: 7
<b>Day Care</b>	Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 347 Children on the Waiting List: 445 Amount Spent on Day Care Services: \$156,577.00

**November 2020  
Economic Services**

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
<b>Food &amp; Nutrition</b>	Applications Taken: 127 Applications Approved: 134 Active Cases: 5,940 Benefits Issued: \$2,198,551.00 Participants Served: 11,963
<b>Adult Medicaid</b>	Applications Taken: 92 Cases Terminated: 7 Redeterminations: 317 Applications Processed: 115
<b>Family &amp; Children's Medicaid</b>	Applications Taken: 187 Applications Processed: 264 Redeterminations: 300 Total Medicaid Cases: 14,194 Total Individuals Receiving: 21,251
<b>Child Support</b>	Absent Parents Located: 36 Orders Enforced: 972 Active Cases: 3,675 Collections: \$485,504.84

**December 2020  
Human Services**

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
<b>Adult Services (APS)</b>	APS Reports Accepted: 12 County Wards: 26 Number of Payee Cases: 18 Adults Served APS: 3 Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: 562 Amount Requested for Reimbursement: \$4,619.97
<b>Children's Protective Services (CPS)</b>	Reports Accepted: 17 Reports Screened out: 19 Families Receiving In-Home Services: 33 Children Served: 77 Contacts with Families Monthly: 454 Assessments: 15

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Foster Care	Foster Children in Foster Homes: 65 Children Placed Outside County: 6 Agency Adoptions: 1 Pending Adoptions: 1 Total Foster Homes Licensed: 5 Total Children in Foster Care: 69
Work First Employment (TANF)	Applications Taken: 17 Applications Approved: 13 Individuals Receiving Benefits: 259 Entered Employments: 2 Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 0
Program Integrity	Collections for Fraud: \$800.37 New Referrals: 4 Cases Established: 4
Day Care	Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 395 Children on the Waiting List: 451 Amount Spent on Day Care Services: \$120,501.00

**December 2020  
Economic Services**

PROGRAM	STATISTICS
Food & Nutrition	Applications Taken: 190 Applications Approved: 205 Active Cases: 5,937 Benefits Issued: \$2,198.00 Participants Served: 11,958
Adult Medicaid	Applications Taken: 100 Cases Terminated: 28 Redeterminations: 552 Applications Processed: 143
Family & Children's Medicaid	Applications Taken: 314 Applications Processed: 347 Redeterminations: 286 Total Medicaid Cases: 14,146 Total Individuals Receiving: 21,187
Child Support	Absent Parents Located: 57 Orders Enforced: 960 Active Cases: 3,706 Collections: \$439,460.32

**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: **December 2020**

**News/Updates/Vacancies**

**Food and Nutrition:**

This team saw an increase in applications for December. USDA continues to allow for several waivers that have been in place. They still continue to give households full allotments for each month and we have been notified due to the COVID-19 Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, beginning January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 all active recipients will get a 15% increase to this maximum allotment they are already getting. Example: Food and Nutrition Family Unit Size of one gets the maximum allotment of \$204.00 monthly; effective January through June 2021 it will increase to \$234.00 monthly. Household of 2, the maximum allotment is \$374.00 monthly and will increase to \$430.00 monthly and the chart continues on as the family unit size gets

larger. We currently have 2 new hires and 1 vacancy on this team.

**Adult and Family & Children's Medicaid:**

The Family and Children's Medicaid Team is going thru training for the State to complete some of the processing of their applications and some recertifications at the State level. This process is called Straight Thru Processing. If an applicant files their application thru Epass (electronically) and the State can verify all that is needed electronically, this application is processed and the client is notified before it reaches us. It is then sent to a queue to be assigned to the ongoing worker. If all verifications cannot be electronically verified, these applications are placed in a queue for a worker here at the agency to finish the process of completing. This is the same process for the recertifications; if the State can verify all that is needed for their review to continue meeting the eligibility requirements electronically, they will complete the process. If not, the review will have to be completed by the worker here at the agency. This Team is current with their work and have 2 new hires from within the agency.

The Adult Team is very busy at the end of each year due to recipients on Social Security getting increases in their checks which causes changes each year. All Social Security recipients received a 1.3% increase this year. This team is very short staffed presently and supervisors are still having to carry caseloads and continue to keep up with reports and complete their supervisory duties. They must second party review so many cases monthly to meet our goal for the State's reporting of errors that are found. During all this, both Teams are retraining on Managed Care rollout information that will be implemented July 1, 2021. This Team currently has 3 new staff on the Long Term Care Team and 3 new staff and 2 vacant positions on the Private Living Arrangement Team and 1 clerical vacancy.

**Child Support and Paralegal:**

Child Support had one court day in December and then received a cancellation of all in-person court by an Order from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on December 14, 2020 until January 14, 2021. We had 2 court days that had to be rescheduled. They continue to utilize the telephone to interview clients and defendants. If absent parents come to an agreement with the custodial parents, they are coming to the agency parking lot and agents are going to vehicles to get these agreements/consents signed and notarized. They are also still conducting DNA testing at the agency for Establishment when paternity is in question. Our paralegal has begun to complete all orders instead of the attorney completing some and it has been working great. She completed 439 orders for December.

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

- Medicaid Transportation has had some bills to pay but recently got some rejections and are having to work again with the Help Desk to try to resolve issues again.
- WorkFirst continues to complete applications and recertification timely.
- Our Interpreter is helping with the Energy Programs as applications have greatly increased lately.
- Maintenance and Housekeeping continue to clean and sanitize the building throughout the day.
- The supervisor over this Team has given her retirement letter effective February 4, 2021.

**HUMAN SERVICES BOARD REPORT**

**Melinda H. Lane, Program Manager**

**Vacancies/Updates/News for December 2020**

**Intake/Investigation/Assessment:**

The Intake/Investigation/Assessment Unit continues to only have one vacancy, but all staff are currently at work. Interviews were completed and a recommendation made. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) is making monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

**In-Home Services:**

The In-Home Services Unit continues to have two vacancies. A recommendation was made from recent interviews but that person withdrew their application. Positions have been re-advertised. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts, although short-staffed, to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) is making monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

**Foster Care/Permanency Planning:**

The Foster Care Unit continues to be fully staffed. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. DHSS does continue to make some allowances for cases that are stable and with parent visitation by allowing the use of Face time, 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 Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) is making monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

**Transitional Unit:**

The Transitional unit currently has one worker on medical leave and that worker, has in fact acquired a new position which she will begin February 1. Staff are working caseloads while assisting the other Child Welfare Units as needed. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. 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. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) is making monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

**Adult Services:**

The Adult Services Unit continues to be fully staffed. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts to provide needed services to the elderly and disabled while utilizing precautions due to COVID-19. Referrals were down in December.

**Work First Employment:**

This Unit continues to be fully staffed. The Supervisor position has been filled, however, that person is currently on medical leave and plans to fill that position February 1. 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 telephone contacts with clients at least every two weeks to offer support and resources to clients

**Child Day Care:**

The Child Day Care Unit continues to be fully staffed. The Supervisor position has been filled, however, that person is currently on medical leave and plans to fill that position February 1. 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.

**Program Integrity:**

Program Integrity continues to be fully staffed with three workers. COVID-19 continues to limit office visits, encouraging telephone contact. Repayment agreements are being relaxed to help clients during this time.

December began the heating assistance season for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program for those persons that are 60 and older. The Crisis Intervention Program continues. Electric companies continue to enforce past due bills and disconnections. BEMC is attempting to work with families with past due amounts and Duke Energy has in place an opportunity for customers to ask for a 6 to 12-month payment plan for their past due bills. Duke Energy customers must make a payment arrangement and then fail to meet that requirement before they are eligible to apply for assistance. After the next disconnect notice is received customers only have a couple of days to prevent their services from being disconnected.

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program opens up to all ages beginning January 1. Both of these programs applications are now available on EPASS.

**Agenda Item #11: PLANNING - DISCUSSION OF SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE:**

Samantha Alsop, Planning Director, delivered an update on the Columbus County

Subdivision Ordinance. Ms. Alsup stated the following:

1. There are discrepancies in the Subdivision Ordinances; **and**
2. In accordance with N.C.G.S Chapter 160D, there are multiple areas that need to be tweaked.

Lengthy and in-depth discussion was held, and it was the general consensus of the Board to schedule a meeting for bullets to be provided listing the areas that need to be tweaked, added or changed, to get lawyers who deal with land transactions involved, and land surveyors to determine the best verbiage to be used for Columbus County.

**Agenda Item #12      ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - RESOLUTION of SUPPORT for a BUILDING REUSE and RESTORATION GRANT APPLICATION for PROJECT CHILL:**

Dr. Gary Lanier, Economic Development Director, requested Board approval and adoption of a Resolution of Support.

Dr. Lanier stated this was no longer a Reuse Grant Application and I am recommending that this item be tabled until I can get the new numbers that will be needed.

Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to table this Agenda item until the new numbers could be obtained, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #13:      GOVERNING BODY - DISCUSSION OF HISTORIC COURTHOUSE:**

Chairman Bullard will hold a discussion on the Columbus County Historic Courthouse. Chairman Bullard stated the following:

1. Last week, I reached out to Judge Sasser to discover what the Commissioners needed to do to help with this situation;
2. We had a good conversation with Jess Hill and Judge Sasser;
3. **First Floor:** replace the flooring, paint the interior walls, repair and replace some of the ceiling, add a handicap bathroom for men and ladies on the first floor, get the air conditioners outside up and running;  
**Second Floor:** remove petition, leave it as it is, make a Judicial Library, have one (1) or two (2) offices; repair the floor and paint;
4. Jess Hill has stated he will take the first floor; **and**
5. We have \$1.7 million in escrow, and this will satisfy our judicial obligations.

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to move forward with the renovation of the Columbus County Historic Courthouse, seconded by Commissioner Watts. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #14:      GOVERNING BODY - NEEDS LIST:**

Chairman/Interim County Manager Ricky Bullard requested Board approval of the following **Needs List** to submit to Representative Brenden Jones.

New Sheriff's Office	\$10 Million
Funding for the Historic Courthouse	\$4 Million
New terminal Building for Airport	\$4 Million
Corporate Hangar and Taxilane	\$1.3 Million
Water and Sewer Line Extensions	\$5 Million
County Garage	\$250,000
Sheriff's Satellite Office	\$350,000
EMS 911 Center/EOC	\$5 Million
Giant Salvinia Eradication	\$120,000

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Needs List to be submitted to Representative Brenden Jones, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #15:      APPOINTMENTS - COMMITTEES/BOARDS/COMMISSIONS:**

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

COMMITTEE	ZONE/ EB	PERSON(S)	EXPIR. DATE	BOARD ACTION
Cape Fear Council of Governments <b>M = McDowell S = Smith</b>	EB	Trent Burroughs	Term	Brent Watts Jerome McMillian = <b>Alternate</b>
Cape Fear Rural Transportation Planning Organization <b>M = Byrd S = McMillian</b>	EB	Edwin Russ	Term	Lavern Coleman
Health (Board of) <b>N.C.G.S. 130A-35 - Requires Dentist</b>	II	Darryl J. Diefes, D.D.S. <b>(Resigned)</b>	12-31- 2020	<b>HOLD</b>
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council	III VII	-Vacant- Dr. Darrin Moore	<b>HOLD</b> <b>HOLD</b>	<b>HOLD\</b> <b>HOLD</b>
Local Emergency Planning Committee <b>M = Byrd S = Smith</b>	EB	Edwin Russ	Term	Lavern Coleman
Trillium Southern Regional Board <b>M = McMillian S = Smith</b>	EB	James E. Prevatte	<b>HOLD</b>	Dr. Paul Gerald

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

At 8:16 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 #16**     **COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

January 04, 2021 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.

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

At 8:17 P.M., Commissioner McDowell 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 #17:     Consent Agenda Item:**

**Budget Amendment.**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the following Budget Amendment, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

TYPE	ACCOUNT	DETAILS	AMOUNT
<b>Expenditures</b>	10-4310-535300	M & R Vehicles	3,781
<b>Revenues</b>	10-3431-489000	Misc. Revenues	3,781

**Agenda Item #18:     COMMENTS:**

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

A. **Department Managers:**

1. **Dalton Dockery:** stated there will be many people at the next meeting to discuss the salvinia weed.
2. **Gary Lanier:** stated the following:\
  - We have heard back from USDA relative to the grant for the water extension which entails two (2) wells;
  - USDA is stating they will not approve this grant until an \$8 million building is there; **and**
  - We have reached out for help from our representatives.
3. **Gail Edwards:** stated the internet was down for about fifteen (15) minutes during this meeting in the event you receive any calls.

B. **Board of Commissioners:**

1. **Commissioner Coleman:** stated the following:
  - We need internet and water in the eastern end of Columbus County; **and**
  - We need to start looking at opening up our meetings.
2. **Commissioner McDowell:** stated the following:
  - I have been keeping updated on the COVID-19 vaccinations, and we need to send a letter and ask if Columbus County is receiving the correct number of doses; **and**
  - We need to send a letter to the appropriate sources, as recommended by Kimberly Smith, Health Director.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to send a letter to our representatives and the appropriate people recommended by Kimberly Smith, Health Director, and ask if Columbus County is receiving the correct number of doses for the COVID-19 virus, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

3. **Commissioner Watts:** stated the following:
  - I have been informed by several citizens that the Health Department is doing a good job dispensing the vaccine for the COVID-19 virus;; **and**
  - I need to know the importance of the fire hydrants that are located in the County that are outside of the city limits, on our insurance premiums.
4. **Commissioner Byrd:** stated the following:
  - We have been working on a Rail Plan for a long time, and we have heard from Wilmington relative to their proposal;
  - Eddie Morgan is now deceased and in recognition, I would like for this Board to present a Proclamation of Appreciation to the family.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Coleman made a motion for a Proclamation of Appreciation for Eddie Morgan to be prepared and presented to the family, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

5. **Vice Chairman McMillian:** stated the following:
  - I have talked to Harold Nobles relative to the water extensions, and he may be at the first meeting in February to deliver an update on the water extensions;
  - We are experiencing excessive water; **and**
  - I thank Gail Edwards for all of her help.
6. **Chairman Ricky Bullard:** stated the following:
  - We need to set dates for meetings with the two (2) school systems;
  - The Board Retreat has been set for February 08, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. and we will check with Southeastern Community College;
  - We will tentatively set February 9, 2021 and February 22, 2021 for the two (2) school systems;
  - Bobby, will the audit be ready for the next meeting?;
  - Gary, how is the Dashboard coming?

**RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (5)(i) PROPERTY ACQUISITION, and (6) PERSONNEL:**

At 8:45 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (5)(i) Property Acquisition, and (6) Personnel, with a five (5) minute recess, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #19: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (5)(i) PROPERTY ACQUISITION, and (6) PERSONNEL:**

No official action was taken.

**ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:**

At 9:45 P.M., Commissioner Byrd 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 Bullard requested that Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney, orally read the Closed Session General Account. Ms. Prince orally read the following: *“The County Commissioners discussed property acquisition with Economic Development, and the County Commissioners discussed personnel matters”*.

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

**PERSONNEL:**

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to hire a full-time Administrative Assistant position, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #20: ADJOURNMENT:**

At 9:49 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

**JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board**

**RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V  
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING  
Monday, January 19, 2021  
8:16 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:**

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman/Interim County Manager**  
Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**  
Chris Smith  
Giles E. Byrd  
Lavern Coleman  
Brent Watts  
Charles T. McDowell

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 8:16 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

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

January 04, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the January 04, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:17 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**


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**JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board**

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**RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V  
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING  
Monday, January 19, 2021  
8:16 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:**

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman/Interim County Manager**  
Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**  
Chris Smith  
Giles E. Byrd  
Lavern Coleman  
Brent Watts  
Charles T. McDowell

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 8:16 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

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

January 04, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the January 04, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:17 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**


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**JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board**

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**RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

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

**Monday, January 19, 2021**

**8:16 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:**

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman/Interim County Manager**  
Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**  
Chris Smith  
Giles E. Byrd  
Lavern Coleman  
Brent Watts  
Charles T. McDowell

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 8:16 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

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

January 04, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the January 04, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:17 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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**JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board**

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**RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

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

**Monday, January 19, 2021**

**8:16 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:**

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman/Interim County Manager**  
Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**  
Chris Smith  
Giles E. Byrd  
Lavern Coleman  
Brent Watts  
Charles T. McDowell

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 8:16 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

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

January 04, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the January 04, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:17 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

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**JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board**

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**RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V**  
**COMBINATION BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday, January 19, 2021**  
**8:16 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:**

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman/Interim County Manager**  
 Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**  
 Chris Smith  
 Giles E. Byrd  
 Lavern Coleman  
 Brent Watts  
 Charles T. McDowell

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 8:16 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting to order.

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

January 04, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting (5 Sets)

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the January 04, 2021 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, as recorded, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:17 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**


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**JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board**


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**RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**