

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Wednesday, January 27, 2021
9:00 A.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 Special Called Meeting.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**

APPOINTEES ABSENT:

Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**
(By telephone)
Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Chris Smith **(By telephone)**

MEETING CALLED to ORDER:

At 9:00 A.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the meeting to order.

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

At 9:01 A.M., Commissioner Charles T. McDowell 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 Commissioner Lavern Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:

At 9:50 A.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Vice Chairman Jerome McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

CLOSED SESSION GENERAL ACCOUNT:

In the absence of Amanda B. Prince, County Attorney, Chairman Bullard stated that personnel matters were considered. No official action was taken.

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

PERSONNEL:

Commissioner Lavern Coleman made a motion to hire Edwin H. Madden, Jr., of Bladen County, as the County Manager for Columbus County, with a start date of March 29, 2021, and the Employment Agreement has not been finalized, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Byrd stated the following:

1. This is a three (3) year Agreement;
2. This Agreement is a very one (1) sided Agreement; **and**
3. From the contents of the Agreement, the County has sold out.

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

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AYES: Chairman Bullard, Vice Chairman McMillian, Commissioners Cole, McDowell, Smith (**by telephone**), and Watts; **and**
NAYS: Commissioner Byrd.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:55 A.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman