

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS****July 20, 2021****6:30 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose of conducting the Regular Session, it being the third Tuesday.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

Edwin H. Madden, Jr., **County Manager**  
 Amanda B. Prince, **County Attorney**  
 Jay Leatherman, **Interim Finance Officer**

**APPOINTEE ABSENT:**

June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board (Excused)**

**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 Tuesday, July 20, 2021 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order. The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Charles McDowell. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioners Brent Watts.

**Board Attorney Boyd Worley:** stated the following:

I want the public to be aware that our Commissioners have been apprised of a certain situation taking place in Elizabethtown. It is our understanding that a Whiteville Dixie Youth Minors team is playing tonight in Elizabethtown and we have become aware that certain individuals associated with that team have tested COVID positive. There has been consultation by the Dixie Youth Association along with Bladen County Youth Sports consulting with Health Department officials in Bladen County and Columbus County as to how they are to proceed as a result of this situation. With the information that they have garnered from both Bladen and Columbus County Health officials, they have made a determination and that determination rests with Bladen County and also the Dixie Youth Sports Association of North Carolina. I understand there has been a lot of consternation received by the County Commissioners, but ultimately it is a Bladen County and Dixie Youth Sports issue.

**Agenda Item #4: APPROVAL OF JULY 20, 2021 AGENDA:**

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the July 20, 2021 agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #5: PUBLIC INPUT:**

Chairman Bullard opened the floor for Public Input. Board Attorney Boyd Worley read instructions for public comment. The following spoke:

**Anthony Myles Cartrette, 710 N Oak St, Chadbourn, NC 28431:** stated the following:

- We want to make you aware that we are diligently striving to make Chadbourn a better place to live for our youth and for our community.
- There are some items coming up concerning the Board of Education and a building in Chadbourn and we have a plan, not to present tonight, but to let you know that with your help, and with the help of every parent and every citizen and the City Council of Chadbourn, we can make Chadbourn a great place to live.
- We believe we are not living up to our abilities and we believe we can do much better.

- We are genuinely compassionate and eager about our town and our desire is that we do everything possible to make Chadbourn safe.

**Willard Carr McPherson, 3068 Thompson Town Rd, Whiteville, NC 28472**

- I am here to support the Christian Recovery effort taking place in the County. Brunswick Recovery is doing a fine job of addressing the opioid crisis but they need another facility to be able to expand their current treatment program into our region. They are looking to acquire the Acme Delco Middle School to establish a post-treatment center where people can come after they detox.
- If we can establish a place where these folks can be housed, trained and get some job skills, then when they are released back into the community they can be productive members and I support that.
- We need to find a solution to this opioid epidemic.
- It takes about a year for these people to get their lives back on track and 30-day programs just don't work as well.
- Our county needs this, we have a drug problem here and if we do nothing it will only continue.

**Marlando Demonté Pridgen, 820 Toon Rd, Whiteville, NC 28472**

- Thank you for the opportunity to come before you today.
- I'm here representing a town and a group of people who come before you today because four (4) young adults were targeted and three (3) ended up getting killed.
- These kids were under the age of twenty-eight (28) and it pulled on the heart of Chadbourn, so many of the faith leaders and community leaders of all backgrounds came together a few weeks ago.
- The one thing we respect about Columbus County is that we have a heart for life, and the one thing that unites us is our children and our love for making sure life happens.
- We came together because we want to make sure that something like this never happens again. We are united to make sure our children never have to go through that again.
- We've come together, we've laid down our alms, and are here asking for your partnership in that effort with us.
- This is the first time we've pulled together both public and private participation including the Town, the police chief and even the Sheriff was in attendance at the press conference because we want to make sure our children are safe.
- So tonight you'll hear from many members of the community, from different backgrounds united because we all have one heart and we want Chadbourn to be a safe place for our children. That is why we have named ourselves "Unite Chadbourn".
- We're asking for your partnership so that our kids can grow up to have the life God intended them to have.

**Jerrod Mustaf, 12138 Central Avenue, Bowie, MD 20721**

- I was born and bred in Whiteville, NC and spent a lot of time in Chadbourn.
- I'm here tonight representing Columbus County Legends, a diverse group of professionals who are natives of Columbus County and actually care about this community.
- We want to see it thrive and live up to its potential.
- We would like to acquire the Chadbourn Middle School property and build it into a community hub where our children can learn, play, work and enjoy themselves in a safe environment.
- We also want to make sure our adults have a place to learn job skills and we believe we have a team with the capacity to realize this.
- We are in support of anyone in Columbus County receiving this property. We believe it should be maintained and managed by someone who lives in Columbus County, specifically in the Chadbourn area.
- I have spoken with some Commissioners about putting together a task force for violence prevention and we would like to enlist each of you members here.
- Thank you for your time and I hope you will consider everything I ask.

**Jean H. McDonald, 1021 Toon Rd, Whiteville, NC 28472**

- I would like make an announcement in reference to what has been discussed about what happened in Chadbourn.
- Reginald Williams will be holding a workshop on Community Conversation and Gun Strategy on August 5, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. at the Westside Alumni building in Chadbourn.
- Reginald is a native of Chadbourn and he was here visiting the weekend of the shooting.

- He is a book writer, a behavior interventionist, a national speaker, consultant and personal development trainer. He has dedicated the last eighteen (18) years to educating and being educated by young men of color trapped in impoverished predicaments.
- The workshop is open to everyone from every county and the it will be broken down into different segments.
- We ask that you support this event.

**Tony Edward Shipman, 3557 Tom Sessions Rd, Whiteville, NC 28472**

- I am the Director of Columbus County Teen Court and I'm also a resident of Whiteville.
- I am from Whiteville but I moved away for forty-two (42) years and lived in Durham and had a thirty-seven (37) year career in law enforcement.
- I came back to serve my community.
- I am a member of Columbus County Legends and we have a survey for the people in the audience and also the Commissioners to gather information so that we can move forward with our mission to educate the community.
- As Mr. Mustaf said we have a plan and we would like your input on the survey.
- Let us know what your feelings are and what your interests and concerns are and we will use that information to build our programs to make Columbus County a better place to live.
- Also, as the director of Columbus County Teen Court I invite you all to visit Teen Court, held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at the Columbus County Courthouse.

**Lisa Blake, 2166 Andrew Jackson Hwy SW, Chadbourn, NC 28431**

- I am a business owner, working to open in 2023.
- I am here to support Chadbourn Middle School, which is a part of our ancestry.
- I am a member of two (2) revitalization groups and we look at historical buildings in the community.
- The middle school is one hundred (100) years old and it has a very rich history and if you look at the history it is the hub of the Westside Community.
- It is sitting there waiting for children to come and play.
- We have little activity right now in Chadbourn for children to play and when children are idle they get in trouble.
- Please support giving this school back to our community, maybe through an organization that is a 501(c)(3) and can support it, but please don't sell it to an outsider who doesn't care about Chadbourn.
- You can see the support here, these people love Chadbourn and we want to change its reputation.

**Clio Hunter, 226 Stanley Circle, Whiteville, NC 28472**

- I'm here on behalf of myself and my neighbors.
- What I've seen for the last couple of years is very bad flooding on my road and people can't even use that road to get out when it does.
- Emergency vehicles and boats had to be used to rescue people.
- I'm here to support my neighborhood and we really do have a bad problem with the road and even though we pay taxes like everyone else, it's almost like we don't exist.

**Greg Thompson, Winter Garden, FL**

- I was born and raised in Chadbourn
- Chadbourn has had a reputation for years but it's starting to turn.
- One thing I did is I put my money where my mouth is and I purchased a building in Chadbourn and I'm going to make a business out of it and it will be there for the community.
- I was excited to hear that there was going to be a decision about Westside, I went to school there and I just ask you to make the right decision.
- The people of Chadbourn are behind this and we're turning a corner and it's going to come back strong.

**Ricky Mason, 1850 Mill Pond Rd, Whiteville, NC 28472**

- I've been here for 27 years.
- I lived in New York City but every summer I was not allowed to stay there. My mother would send me down South to stay with my grandmother where I read and was taught respect.
- I may be a city boy but I'm a country boy at heart. I love fatback, cornbread, collard greens, chitterlings and sweet potatoes.

- And I'm grateful to God for those things because without those ethics reared in my life I don't think I would be here tonight.
- I came home because I thought I could come some place and not have to live in fear and around tragedy that I saw in the city and when I first came here I didn't see any of those things.
- I'm going to try not to keep you long but I'm a preacher at a church in Chadbourn and I've been pastoring that town for twenty-five (25) years.
- Where I live I've seen it change dramatically with the traffic, with the drugs and with all the things that happen out there.
- And I think Sheriff Greene is doing a great job, as good as he can, dealing with that type of situation.
- Here's my question: When are we going to stop waiting until things get so bad and then we have to go in there and clean it up? We need to do something now.

**Agenda Item #6: COLUMBUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM:**

Jennifer Holcomb, Director, will deliver a Thank-You to the Board for their contribution.

**Jennifer Holcomb:** Stated the following:

- Thank you for allowing us to come before you and for your contribution
- Every community has their concerns but there is as much hope and positivity that I've ever felt since I've been here.
- Thank you for the spirit of cooperation and I am so hopeful because when we all work together great things happen.

**Heath Nance, Chairman of Columbus Chamber of Commerce:** Stated the following:

- I want to deliver a message of thanks for what you've done for the business community in Columbus County.
- Thank you for the \$150,000 small business grant that you've supported and we are humbled that you've chosen the Chamber to facilitate the upcoming grant funds.
- You are our newest Chamber Champions, meaning you are a major supporter of the Chamber.
- You have sent a strong message that you value our community and this is an exciting time in Columbus County.

**Agenda Item #7: TRILLIUM ANNUAL REPORT:**

Dennis Williams will attend a future Board Meeting to deliver this report.

**Agenda Item #8: FINANCIAL – MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Jay Leatherman, Interim Finance Director, requested Board acceptance of the Monthly Finance Report.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY  
Financial Summary  
June 30, 2021**

We have completed our fiscal year as of June 30th. Following are highlights of the unaudited financial operations for the year.

***FUND 10 – OPERATING FUND***

Revenues

Total General Fund revenue received for the current fiscal year was \$65.2 million, 85.26% of the budget.

We have collected over \$31.3 million (96.63%) in Ad Valorem taxes which is the largest single revenue source.

Several of the higher revenue departments, Aging and Social Service, are awaiting third party funds for their operations performed to date. The Health department is close to budget with their revenue receipts.

Finance staff will be monitoring all receipts on a regular basis and assist departments in collecting revenue to meet the budget.

Expenditures

Total General Fund expenditures for the fiscal year was \$64.8 million, 84.67% of the budget.

The majority of department’s expenses were in the range of 80 to 90% of their budgeted totals. The Education department had the largest total expense of \$12.77 million.

As of June 30th, the revenue in Fund 10 has exceeded the expenditures by \$448,192.

**OTHER FUNDS**

I have attached a summary of revenue and expenditures to date for several other funds. Several of these funds report expenses exceeding revenue for the first 10 months of the fiscal year. This is a result of the timing of receiving the revenue for these funds.

The Water Districts combined report revenue exceeding expenses by \$1,057,266 and Solid Waste revenue exceeding expenses by \$1,438,792. The Fire Departments and Ambulance and Rescue Funds report revenues exceeding budget with the collection of more taxes for these specific functions. The total receipts for these various organizations will be disbursed to them by the end of the fiscal year.

<b>COUNTY OF COLUMBUS FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT June 30, 2021</b>		<u>Percent of Year Complete: 100.0%</u>		
<b>FUND 10 - OPERATIONS</b>	<b><u>FY 20/21</u></b>	<b><u>ACTUAL YTD</u></b>	<b><u>BALANCE</u></b>	<b><u>% COLLECTED</u></b>
<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>REMAINING</u>	<u>YTD</u>
AD VALOREM TAXES	\$32,438,423	\$31,343,832	\$1,094,591	96.63%
LEGAL	\$108,001	\$24	\$107,977	0.02%
COURT	\$90,000	\$91,621	\$(1,621)	101.80%
SALES TAX	\$10,695,116	\$11,730,529	\$(1,035,413)	109.68%
NC JCPC PROGRAM - TEEN COURT	\$71,777	\$71,777	\$ -	100.00%
ELECTION FEES	\$1,500	\$107,162	\$(105,662)	7144.13%
COLLECTION FEES	\$39,019	\$35,187	\$3,832	90.18%
REGISTER OF DEEDS	\$478,891	\$692,600	\$(213,709)	144.63%
SHERIFF	\$2,114,450	\$1,293,458	\$820,992	61.17%
JAIL	\$139,360	\$88,551	\$50,809	63.54%
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$59,005	\$39,816	\$19,189	67.48%
FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$12,529	\$35,558	\$(23,029)	283.81%
INSPECTION	\$432,000	\$407,229	\$24,771	94.27%
ANIMAL CONTROL	\$16,200	\$20,834	\$(4,634)	128.60%
AIRPORT	\$588,500	\$344,943	\$243,557	58.61%
PLANNING	\$10,615	\$12,280	\$(1,665)	115.69%
SOIL CONSERVATION	\$36,000	\$30,499	\$5,501	84.72%
DEPARTMENT OF AGING REVENUES	\$2,401,290	\$1,475,865	\$925,425	61.46%
HEALTH DEPARTMENT	\$2,821,485	\$2,655,690	\$165,795	94.12%
SOCIAL SERVICE	\$7,328,026	\$5,921,764	\$1,406,262	80.81%
VETERANS SERVICE	\$2,000	\$2,084	\$(84)	104.19%
PUBLIC SCHOOLS	\$20,000	\$19,054	\$946	95.27%
LIBRARY	\$208,319	\$149,314	\$59,005	71.68%
RECREATION	\$11,000	\$11,555	\$(555)	105.05%
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	\$2,831,583	\$2,337,960	\$493,623	82.57%
INVESTMENT EARNINGS	\$300,000	\$42,166	\$257,834	14.06%
FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATED	\$13,293,056	\$6,300,000	\$6,993,056	47.39%
<b>Total General Fund Revenues</b>	<b>\$76,548,145</b>	<b>\$65,261,352</b>	<b>\$11,286,793</b>	<b>85.26%</b>

	<b><u>FY 20/21</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>	<b><u>BALANCE</u></b>	<b><u>%</u></b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURES</u></b>	<b><u>BUDGET</u></b>	<b><u>TOTALS</u></b>	<b><u>REMAINING</u></b>	<b><u>EXPENSED</u></b>
				<b><u>YTD</u></b>
GOVERNING BODY	\$272,154	\$252,006	\$20,148	92.60%
ADMINISTRATION	\$279,776	\$263,424	\$16,352	94.16%
PERSONNEL	\$166,226	\$147,950	\$18,276	89.01%
PURCHASING	\$130,643	\$119,224	\$11,419	91.26%
FINANCE	\$435,650	\$378,157	\$57,493	86.80%
TAX DEPARTMENT	\$1,655,110	\$1,563,877	\$91,233	94.49%
LEGAL DEPARTMENT	\$270,412	\$185,401	\$85,011	68.56%
NC JCPC PROGRAM - TEEN COURT	\$71,777	\$71,004	\$773	98.92%
MAINTENANCE	\$1,890,294	\$1,594,739	\$295,555	84.36%
ELECTIONS	\$464,507	\$431,470	\$33,037	92.89%
REGISTER OF DEEDS	\$629,178	\$573,791	\$55,387	91.20%
SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$572,815	\$445,377	\$127,438	77.75%
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM	\$427,943	\$421,544	\$6,399	98.50%
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$166,739	\$146,242	\$20,497	87.71%
CENTRAL GARAGE	\$61,600	\$35,430	\$26,170	57.52%
PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WATER	\$55,956	\$52,307	\$3,649	93.48%
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT	\$7,837,581	\$7,524,534	\$313,047	96.01%
LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER	\$3,513,410	\$2,834,910	\$678,500	80.69%
EMS	\$15,350	\$15,136	\$214	98.61%
EMERGENCY SERVICES	\$1,632,700	\$1,454,422	\$178,278	89.08%
FIRE MARSHALL	\$160,948	\$154,651	\$6,297	96.09%
CORONER MEDICAL EXAMINER	\$73,000	\$61,250	\$11,750	83.90%
ANIMAL CONTROL	\$511,890	\$466,489	\$45,401	91.13%
AIRPORT	\$638,567	\$423,405	\$215,162	66.31%
INSPECTIONS	\$374,029	\$355,867	\$18,162	95.14%
PLANNING	\$204,650	\$157,247	\$47,403	76.84%
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$252,437	\$187,033	\$65,404	74.09%
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION	\$530,626	\$450,442	\$80,184	84.89%
SOIL CONSERVATION	\$256,877	\$253,757	\$3,120	98.79%
DEPARTMENT OF AGING	\$2,611,174	\$1,770,492	\$840,682	67.80%
HEALTH DEPARTMENT	\$5,186,492	\$3,881,464	\$1,305,028	74.84%
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	\$8,882,033	\$7,965,627	\$916,406	89.68%
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS	\$2,903,228	\$2,427,433	\$475,795	83.61%
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER	\$147,435	\$143,301	\$4,134	97.20%
EDUCATION	\$14,289,703	\$12,770,422	\$1,519,281	89.37%
LIBRARY	\$1,516,235	\$1,469,730	\$46,505	96.93%
RECREATION	\$540,927	\$472,387	\$68,540	87.33%
TRANSFER TO	\$13,254,677	\$11,120,974	\$2,133,703	83.90%
NON DEPARTMENTAL	\$3,663,396	\$1,770,244	\$1,893,152	48.32%
<b>Total General Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>\$76,548,145</b>	<b>\$64,813,160</b>	<b>\$11,734,985</b>	<b>84.67%</b>
<b>Total Revenue over/(under) Expenditures</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$448,192</b>	<b>\$(448,192)</b>	

<b>TAX REVALUATION FUND</b>		<u>FY 20/21</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>	<u>% Collected</u>
<i>REVENUES</i>		<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>REMAINING</u>	<u>YTD</u>
REVALUATION FUND		\$ 99,000	\$ 78,281	\$ 20,719	79.07%
<i>EXPENDITURES</i>					
REVALUATION FUND		\$ 99,000	\$ 78,281	\$ 20,719	79.07%
<b>HUD SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE</b>					
<i>REVENUES</i>		<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>REMAINING</u>	<u>YTD</u>
HUD SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE					
ANNUAL CONTRA EARNED		\$ 1,596,000	\$ 1,213,675	\$ 382,325	76.04%
OTHER REVENUES		\$ 316,317	\$ 277,857	\$ 38,460	87.84%
TOTAL HUD REVENUES		\$ 1,912,317	\$ 1,491,532	\$ 420,785	163.89%
<i>EXPENDITURES</i>					
HUD Expenditures		\$ 1,912,317	\$ 1,727,862	\$ 184,455	90.35%
Excess revenue over/(under) expenditures		\$ -	\$ (236,330)		
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>					
<i>REVENUES</i>		<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>REMAINING</u>	<u>YTD</u>
REVENUES		\$ 1,262,759	\$ 737,488	\$ 525,271	58.40%
<i>EXPENDITURES</i>					
EXPENDITURES		\$ 1,262,759	\$ 766,466	\$ 496,293	60.70%
<b>EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM</b>					
<i>REVENUES</i>		<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>REMAINING</u>	<u>YTD</u>
REVENUES		\$ 325,811	\$ 244,358	\$ 81,453	75.00%
<i>EXPENDITURES</i>					
EXPENDITURES		\$ 325,811	\$ 248,102	\$ 77,709	76.15%
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>					
<i>REVENUES</i>		<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>REMAINING</u>	<u>YTD</u>
REVENUES		\$ 2,769,753	\$ 2,702,188	\$ 67,565	97.56%
<i>EXPENDITURES</i>					
EXPENDITURES		\$ 2,769,753	\$ 2,769,750	\$ 3	100.00%
<b>WATER DISTRICTS I-V</b>					
<i>REVENUES</i>		<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>REMAINING</u>	<u>YTD</u>
COLUMBUS COUNTY COMBINED WATER DISTRICTS		\$ 3,853,849	\$ 4,215,495	\$ (361,646)	109.38%
<i>EXPENDITURES</i>					
COLUMBUS COUNTY COMBINED WATER DISTRICTS		\$ 3,853,849	\$ 3,158,229	\$ 695,620	81.95%
Excess revenue over/(under) expenditures		\$ -	\$ 1,057,266		
<b>SOLID WASTE</b>					
<i>REVENUES</i>		<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>REMAINING</u>	<u>YTD</u>
REVENUES		\$ 5,035,404	\$ 5,672,221	\$ (636,817)	112.65%
<i>EXPENDITURES</i>					
EXPENDITURES		\$ 5,035,404	\$ 4,233,429	\$ 801,975	84.07%
Excess revenue over/(under) expenditures		\$ -	\$ 1,438,792		
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENTS</b>					
<i>REVENUES</i>		<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>REMAINING</u>	<u>YTD</u>
REVENUES		\$ 1,876,163	\$ 1,885,147	\$ (8,984)	100.48%
<i>EXPENDITURES</i>					
Ad Valorem Taxes		\$ 1,876,163	\$ 1,842,574	\$ 33,589	98.21%
Special Appropriations		\$ 253,917	\$ 178,357	\$ 75,560	70.24%
		\$ 2,130,080	\$ 2,020,931	\$ 109,149	168%
<b>AMBULANCE AND RESCUE</b>					
<i>REVENUES</i>		<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>REMAINING</u>	<u>YTD</u>
REVENUES		\$ 783,873	\$ 770,076	\$ 13,797	98.24%
<i>EXPENDITURES</i>					
Ad Valorem Taxes		\$ 783,873	\$ 649,564	\$ 134,309	82.87%
Special Appropriation		\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ -	100.00%
		\$ 1,008,873	\$ 874,564	\$ 134,309	183%

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to accept the Monthly Finance Report, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #9: VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK UPDATE:**

Angela Norris delivered the following update concerning the Veterans Memorial Park:

- A lot of people have forgotten what happened on September 11, 2001 but we are bringing it back to people's memory this year.
- On September 11, 2021 we will be honoring and remembering the Fallen of 2001 by holding a community event entitled "Freedom isn't Free". There will be a 5K and a motorcycle run that morning and a parade starting at 1:00 P.M.
- We are looking for vendors and entertainment.
- We are planning a kids corner for our children, such as bounce houses and educational pieces to teach them about 9/11.
- On the Veteran's Memorial Park of America Facebook page there are t-shirts available for sale as one of the fundraisers for this event.
- The proceeds from this event will go to the Park towards construction and installation of a 9/11 Memorial in our "Never Forget Garden"
- The Park is located on highway 701 South, approximately three (3) miles South of Whiteville.
- We have 15 and ½ acres that we are developing.
- I just want to assure you that this Park will be get done, but it won't happen overnight, it will take time.
- Everything that we have purchased or done so far for the Park has been paid for. The Veteran's Memorial Park has no debt.
- We work hard, we hold plate sales, golf tournaments, we stand in the streets to make sure whatever project we're working on is taken care of.
- This event is just one of the ways we are trying to give back to our community.
- The registration form for this event can be picked up at Nautilus, the Town of Lake Waccamaw, The Columbus County News and the State Park at the Lake.
- Our committee is made up of Board members from the Veteran's Memorial Park but also law enforcement officers, fire and rescue staff and veterans.
- COVID and bad weather has delayed our progress.
- Once our contractor gets back into the County he will be finishing the grating. We will be hauling in 755 tons of rock for the road into the Park.
- Next will be the construction of our Freedom Circle. This will be a circle with five (5) monuments representing the five (5) branches of services with five (5) flag poles and it will contain the history of each branch of service.
- Our Veterans Memorial Park, here in Columbus County, is the only one in the nation that will represent all Veterans from the American Revolution, from the time our country started, forward, regardless of where or what branch you served in. And we are now including our fire and rescue so we don't forget anybody who has served our country.
- We are asking for your support. We're only asking for five (\$5) dollars per citizen, but if you can give more that's great.
- If anyone has any questions, please call me. I will sit down with anyone. I will show you our conceptual drawings and I will show you our budget.
- I will be back because we have a family in Columbus County whose brother was killed in Vietnam and they have been trying to get something named for their brother but DOT keeps placing barriers in their way. I think that we should be able to put up a monument in this county to honor this man who gave his life for his country.

**Agenda Item #10: PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION to MISSION SERVE:**

Chairman Ricky Bullard requested Board approval and adoption.

**PROCLAMATION HONORING MISSION SERVE**

**WHEREAS**, Mission Serve was founded in the Fall of 2003 by Andy Morris and Chuck Morris as a faith-based 501(c)3 nonprofit seeking to strengthen neighborhoods by partnering with organizations and empowering individuals to address physical, spiritual and emotional needs through volunteerism and community involvement; and

**WHEREAS**, in seeking to make meaningful and lasting impacts on the world Mission Serve did add the following two programs in continuation of their service to the community: YouthBuild, a HUD program, aimed at helping 16-24 year old high school dropouts earn money while working on homes and studying for their GED; and Serve 365, a year-round mission experience, allowing churches to schedule and customize mission experiences in different cities throughout the year; and

**WHEREAS**, being led by their faith, and through partnerships with local city governments and churches, Mission Serve has inspired over 50,000 volunteers to act and be a life-changing force for good in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, in furtherance of their goal to mobilize multiple groups to bring hope to communities through rehabilitation and revitalization did come to Columbus County in 2016, following the destruction of Hurricane Matthew, and have remained here since to help rebuild and restore hope to residents impacted by the storms; and

**WHEREAS**, through fellowship and physical labor Mission Serve volunteers have offered Columbus County residents safe shelter and the emotional support and encouragement needed to make it through a most difficult time.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, we the Columbus County Board would like to thank Mission Serve for their dedication to doing God’s work, for their commitment to public service, and their genuine love for community and the citizens of Columbus County.

**APPROVED** and **ADOPTED** this the 20th day of July, 2021.

#### **COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

/s/ **RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

**Attested by:**

/s/ **JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to the Board**

#### **MOTION:**

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve and adopt the Proclamation of Appreciation to Mission Serve, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

#### **Agenda Item # 11: PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION to SAMARITAN’S PURSE:**

Commissioner Chris Smith is requesting Board approval and adoption.

#### **PROCLAMATION HONORING SAMARITAN’S PURSE**

**WHEREAS**, Bob Pierce founded Samaritan’s Purse in 1970 after being so moved by the suffering of children on the island of Koje-do, that he wrote this prayer, “Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God”; and

**WHEREAS**, Pierce, following the parable of the Good Samaritan, founded Samaritan’s Purse on the principle command of “Go and do likewise” rooted in helping those in need and spreading God’s Word; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1978 Pierce’s successor, Franklin Graham, became the President and Chairman of the Board of Samaritan’s Purse and has seen the organization experience explosive growth over the past 40 years, aiding the world’s poor, sick, and suffering through earthquakes, hurricanes, wars and famines; and

**WHEREAS**, Samaritan’s Purse in furtherance of their commitment to helping those in need, did come to Columbus County offering hope to citizens rendered hopeless following the aftermath of Hurricane Florence; and

**WHEREAS**, through the dedication and perseverance of numerous volunteers, Samaritan’s Purse has restored, rebuilt or provided new homes for Columbus County residents impacted by severe weather and flooding; and

**WHEREAS**, Samaritan’s Purse, has not only offered physical support but emotional support as well by bringing relief, compassion, and kindness to Columbus County and its citizens.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, we the Columbus County Board would like to thank Samaritan’s Purse for their dedication to doing God’s work, for their commitment to public service, and their genuine love for community and the citizens of Columbus County.

**APPROVED** and **ADOPTED** this the 20th day of July, 2021.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

/s/ **RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

**Attested by:**

/s/ **JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to the Board**

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve and adopt the Proclamation of Appreciation to Samaritan’s Purse, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #12: NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT of TRANSPORTATION – REQUEST for ADDITION to STATE MAINTAINED SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM:**

Kenneth Clark, PE, District Engineer, requested Board approval to SS Stanley Circle (Cherry Acres Subdivision – Brunswick, NC), to the State Maintained Secondary Road System. Eddie Madden, County Manager, was present and available to answer any questions.

**North Carolina Department of Transportation  
Division of Highways  
Request for Addition to State Maintained Secondary Road System**

North Carolina

County: Columbus

Road Description: Stanley Circle (Cherry Acres Subdivision) – Brunswick, NC

**WHEREAS**, the attached petition has been filed with the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Columbus requesting that the above described road, the location of which has been indicated in red on the attached map, be added to the Secondary Road System; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners is of the opinion that the above described road should be added to the Secondary Road System, if the road meets minimum standards and criteria established by the Division of Highways of the Department of Transportation for the addition of roads to the System;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Columbus that the Division of Highways is hereby requested to review the above

described road, and to take over the road for maintenance if it meets established standards and criteria.

**CERTIFICATE**

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus at a meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

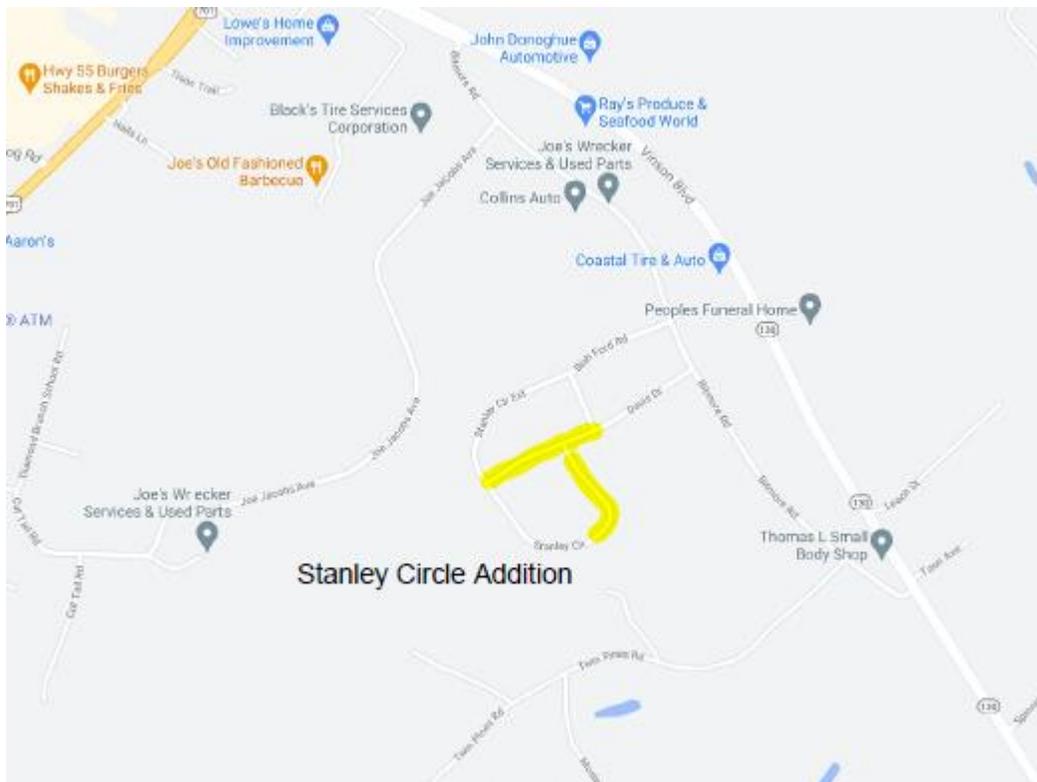
WITNESS my hand and official seal this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

/s/ **RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

**Attested by:**

/s/ **JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to the Board**



**MOTION:**

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the NCDOT request for addition of SS Stanley Circle to State Maintained Secondary Road System, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #13: EMERGENCY SERVICES – FIRE and EMS RADIO EXCHANGE and PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RADIO ACCESSORIES:**

Kay Stephens, Emergency Services Director, requested Board approval for the Fire and EMS radio exchange, as well as, approval to purchase additional radio accessories for the departments having a credit balance.

Radio Exchange

Department	Mobile Exchange	Mobile \$3,150	Portable Exchange	Portable \$4,483	Credit to County	Dept Pays Vendor
Old Dock Fire	3	9,450	2	8,966	484	0
Tabor City Rescue	3	9,450	2	8,966	484	0
St. James	4	12,600	2	8,966	3,634	0
Chadbourn	3	9,450	2	8,966	484	0
Williams	4	12,600	3	13,449	0	849
Whiteville Rescue	4	12,600	3	13,449	0	849

Roseland Fire	2	6,300	1	4,483	1,817	0
Nakina	4	12,600	3	13,449	0	849
Lake Waccamaw Fire	3	9,450	2	8,966	484	0
White Marsh	2	6,300	1	4,483	1,817	0
**Departments would like to be able to use their credit to purchase accessories if the county approves						

**MOTION:**

Commissioner McDowell made a motion accept Board approval of the Fire and EMS radio exchange, seconded by Commissioner Watts. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #14: DISCUSSION – on the TRANSFER OF PATIENT CARE at NEW HANOVER REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER/NOVANT HEALTH:**

Commissioner Lavern Coleman wishes to discuss the transfer of Patient Care.

**Commissioner Coleman:** I was approached by several units about the delay in transfer of patients to the hospital. I think one time we were waiting at one time one and one-half hour to three hours.

**Chairman Bullard:** This is not Columbus County Hospital, correct?

**Commissioner Coleman:** It is not in Columbus County; it is New Hanover Hospital. Mr. Camlin would you mind stepping up and addressing this issue?

**Steve Camlin, Acme Delco-Riegelwood Fire Rescue Chief:** A lot of people in our community like to go to New Hanover. The issue that we're having isn't a new issue; it goes back a while. I've personally stayed at New Hanover County Hospital over two (2) hours waiting with an ambulance. We take all kinds of patients there with the exception of psychiatric patients, who go to Columbus Regional at Dr. Dell'Aria's request. Before New Hanover expanded, Dr. Dell'Aria and I went down there to address our issues with them and they promised us that there would be systems in place to handle Columbus County patients. Dr. Dell'Aria explained to them that federal regulation dictates when a squad hits the ground a nurse has five (5) minutes to triage that patient and if the nurse can't do it then the charge nurse is supposed to handle it. That has not been happening. So we put our own system into place that if one of our crews were there thirty (30) minutes waiting I had telephone numbers of people at the hospital to call to see what was holding up patient transfer. We made them understand that there's only three (3) squads that protect the east end from Whiteville to Delco. If all three get a call, which happens quite often, and all units are tied up waiting for patient transfer at New Hanover, there isn't a squad available to protect the East End of the County. So, we explained that to them and it helped for a while. But then, my contact person at New Hanover moved to different role and the hospital changed over to a different owner and now their form statement of response is basically "we accept all patients, we bed all patients as quickly as we can and we're open 24/7". We had a situation a couple of weekends ago where we waited for over one hour and a half. New Hanover's system is they triage their trucks first and then all other counties have to wait. We're still not getting responses from New Hanover when we try to address the issue and we couldn't get up with the Medical Director so I talked to Kay Stephens and David Ransom. I asked Kay if she can get the County Manager to pull some weight so New Hanover Regional Medical Center/Novant Health can understand what kind of predicament they're putting us in. Because if there is a wreck or chemical spill or fire at the plant and all of our ambulances are tied up waiting at New Hanover that leaves no one available to answer those calls.

So I've talked with Kay, and in order to avoid the long waits we've started transporting patients to ED North, Novant Health in Supply, Bladen County and Columbus Regional.

We're asking you for help with this situation, to talk to New Hanover and find out what the problem is. Is it staffing, is this something that will be solved in the future or is this just the way things are going to be? If you make volunteers wait that long for a non-emergency call, the next time you have a call you're not going to be able to get anyone to answer it.

**Chairman Bullard:** Maybe Mr. Madden can see if the office can write a letter to New Hanover County to see if they can't speed up the process.

**Commissioner McDowell:** Can you think of any state agency that we can contact about this situation?

**Chairman Bullard:** I would say we should start trying to get more patients to go to Columbus Regional.

**Commissioner McDowell:** Kay, it would seem that Dr. Dell'Aria's inaccessibility might be a problem, so could you maybe touch base with him to see if there was a problem, and has that problem been eliminated because we do need to be able to make contact with him when we need him.

**Agenda Item #15: SOCIAL SERVICES – MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:**

Algernon McKenzie, Social Services Director, delivered the Monthly Administrative Report.

**Monthly Administrative Update  
For June 2021  
July 19, 2021 Meeting**

Columbus County DSS continues to participate in the Covid-19 planning team calls, which are now being held every two weeks. We continue to receive updates on the status of Covid-19 cases in North Carolina and in Columbus County.

On June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 we had a record review of Child Protective Services Intake cases. This review was conducted by our Regional Child Welfare Consultant and two others with Division of Health and Human Services. After the record review was completed we received feedback on areas that need improvement and areas that were on target with policy. Our representative will work with us to develop a continuous quality improvement plan and will provide some training on documentation with staff.

On June 11, 2021, I participated in a Table Top Exercise at Emergency Management. This exercise deals with being prepared for natural disasters before, during, and afterwards. It covered every area of an Emergency Operation Center and how it's to operate during an event. This was a very informative exercise.

On June 21, 2021, the transitional unit began a class to begin the licensing process for potential foster parents. There are six individuals enrolled in this class, which is being taught by our staff. This class is call MAPP, which stands for Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting. There will be ten sessions held from 6pm to 9pm on Monday and Thursday in our large conference room. Presently there are only three licensed homes with DSS, which causes us to seek placement inside and outside of the county. We are hopeful that this class will be successful as the need for foster parent/home placements are on the rise in child welfare.

On June 23, 2021 the program managers and I participated on the 100 County Director Call. We were given updates in several program areas. The Division of Child Development and Early Education has updated the income limits for day care assistance. They are also extending the 20-day grace period for recertification through December 2021 and will continue to pay parent fees through October 2021. This will help families as well as child care providers.

We also received an update on the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). North Carolina was awarded \$38,930,984.00 from the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 and the American Rescue Plan act of 2021. These funds must be obligated by September 30, 2023 and there is no program cost share/matching required. A work group of state and county staff is being established to develop a plan to spend these funds. The purpose of these funds is to ensure that low-income households have access to safe and clean drinking water and waste water. They will also provide assistance to low-income households that pay a high proportion of household income for drinking and waste water services.

During the month of June, I attended and participated in eight zoom meetings, webinars, or in person meetings.

Lastly, our building continues to be fogged each morning prior to staff arriving. Personal protective equipment is provided and common areas are cleaned throughout the day. Washing hands, wearing mask, and social distancing continues to be stressed during work hours.

**June 2021**  
**Human Services**

**Adult Services (APS)**

APS Reports Accepted: 8  
County Wards: 29  
Number of Payee Cases: 22  
Adults Served APS: 0  
Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: 1,393  
Amount Requested for Reimbursement: \$23,517.56

**Children's Protective Services (CPS)**

Reports Accepted: 29  
Reports Screened out: 17  
Families Receiving In-Home Services: 55  
Children Served: 122  
Contacts with Families Monthly: 809  
Assessments: 23

**Foster Care**

Foster Children in Foster Homes: 85  
Children Placed Outside County: 34  
Agency Adoptions: 1  
Pending Adoptions: 3  
Total Foster Homes Licensed: 3  
Total Children in Foster Care: 88

**Work First Employment (TANF)**

Applications Taken: 15  
Applications Approved: 10  
Individuals Receiving Benefits: 235  
Entered Employments: 0  
Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 0

**Program Integrity**

Collections for Fraud: \$1,897.70  
New Referrals: 9  
Cases Established: 9

**Day Care**

Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 341  
Children on the Waiting List: 440  
Amount Spent on Day Care Services: \$183,307.00

**June 2021**  
**Economic Services**

**Food & Nutrition**

Applications Taken: 138  
 Applications Approved: 134  
 Active Cases: 6,542  
 Benefits Issued: \$3,073,418.00  
 Participants Served: 13,058

### **Adult Medicaid**

Applications Taken: 112  
 Cases Terminated: 22  
 Redeterminations: 385  
 Applications Processed: 114

### **Family & Children's Medicaid**

Applications Taken: 108  
 Applications Processed: 275  
 Redeterminations: 1,238  
 Total Medicaid Cases: 14,487  
 Total Individuals Receiving: 42,086

### **Child Support**

Absent Parents Located: 29  
 Orders Enforced: 854  
 Active Cases: 3,837  
 Collections: \$487,284.86

### **HUMAN SERVICES BOARD REPORT**

**Melinda H. Lane, Program Manager**  
**Vacancies/Updates/News for June 2021**

#### **Intake/Investigation/Assessment:**

The Intake/Investigation/Assessment 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. Fortunately, this Unit has seen a decrease in referral from May to June (69 to 46) and a decrease in the amount of open assessments (46 to 29). This Unit also saw a decrease in the amount of petitions and non-secures filed bringing children into custody due to severe neglect, abuse, and dependency (14 to 2). Drug abuse continues to be the biggest contributing factor. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) is making monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework. An on-site record review of this Units cases by the RCWC and other state consultants was completed in June. Although the formal report has not been received, an overview showed improvements in some areas and issues to be addressed in others.

#### **In-Home Services:**

The In-Home Services Unit continues to be fully staffed. 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. This Unit saw an increase in the amount of open cases (45 to 55) in June as a probable result of May's increase in the Investigation/Assessment Unit and a need for continued services. 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 has one vacancy. That vacancy has been advertised and due to a lack of applicants is being re-advertised. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19.

This Unit is slowly beginning to make more and more in-person contacts with children and families due to allowances by DHHS. This Unit continues to have one of the largest amounts of children in custody as seen over the past several months. Drug abuse, sexual abuse, and severe neglect appear to be the biggest contributing factors. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) is making monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

**Transitional Unit:**

The Transitional unit is now fully staffed. Staff are working caseloads while assisting the other Child Welfare Units as needed, particularly in the areas of courtesy requests from other counties and assisting with supervising visits and transporting children in custody. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts to provide needed services to families and children while continuing to utilize precautions due to COVID-19. Foster Home Licensing classes (MAPP) began in June and has a good turn-out of attendees. Hopefully this is the beginning of getting more foster homes licensed for Columbus County. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) is making monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

**Adult Services:**

The Adult Services Unit has one vacancy due to a worker moving out of state. This Unit continues to make mandated contacts to provide needed services to the elderly and disabled while utilizing precautions due to COVID-19. This Unit continues to be busy in its day-to-day activities of contacts with the elderly and disabled and resource agencies. This can be a difficult population to work with at times because of their various needs, the lack of resources, and the adult's right to self-determination.

**Work First Employment:**

This Unit continues to be fully staffed. The agency is now open for in-person applications. However, 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 and staff are currently working the over and under payment report to ensure proper payment has been made to county daycare providers over the past several months. The agency is now open for in-office visits by clients. 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 is currently sending out surveys to those on the waiting list to determine the continued need for services.

**Program Integrity:**

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

The Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) continues to have available funds. With the beginning of the new fiscal year in July, new funds will be awarded to all counties. Applications are now available on EPASS where applicants can complete and submit applications on-line. Due to CIP being the only program with available funds right now and applications being low one in-house staff person is processing applications at this time. In June 46 applications for CIP were completed with 27 approvals. Duke Energy continues to have a moratorium in place for some customers that prevents them from being disconnected. The moratorium has been extended until August 3.

The Department of Social Services employs around 150 employees who work in various program areas.

Our annual operating budget is around \$10,868,481.00. This consist of Federal, State and Local Funds. Many of the programs administered by DSS are mandated and monitored by the Department of Health and Human Services. These programs assist many citizens with needed services.

During the past year, we have been preparing for the roll-out of Medicaid Transformation/ Medicaid Managed Care. This requires individuals who were receiving Medicaid to enroll in a new system and chose a health care provider. Medicaid staff and supervisors have attended webinars and training sessions to prepare for this change. The statewide roll-out of Medicaid Managed Care will be July 2021

We have partnered with the Columbus County Partnership for Children on the Resilient Columbus Project. The goal is to develop a plan to combat adverse childhood experiences and child abuse. This project will involve many agencies and provide resources to help families to achieve well-being.

During the past year the Covid-19 Pandemic has impacted our agency in many ways. Due to the pandemic our agency was closed to the public. Although our agency was closed to the public, we were still able to provide services and opportunities for the citizen to apply for needed benefits. Our lobby was open for citizens to pick up and return applications for our various programs. Most of our applications were also online.

The Child Protective and Adult Protective Services staff continued to make mandated visits to initiate referrals with protective equipment. During this time the Department of Health and Human Services allowed and continues to allow staff to conduct phone interviews to help citizens access services safely. During the pandemic we experienced an increase in applications for assistance.

In September of 2020, during the Covid-19 Pandemic we received some Federal Cares Act Funds from the Department of Health and Human Services. These funds were to be used for assisting Adult Protective and Child Protectives Services to be able to continue to complete mandated visits and services to families safely. We received \$41,682.00, which was used to upgrade and purchase laptops for social workers to work remotely and to participate in virtual court sessions, court ordered foster care visits, etc. We were also able to purchase some personal protective equipment and pay some overtime expenses directly related to Covid-19 in Child Protective Services.

The Department of Health and Human Services made funds available to children in Foster Care and the Links Program to assist children with supplies and equipment to participate in virtual learning. All of these funds were restricted in use and time limited.

During the past year there have been many waivers put in place by DHHS to allow for additional Food & Nutrition, TANF, and Day Care benefits for the citizens of North Carolina. Many policy changes have been implemented to help local DSS agencies to continue to serve families during this difficult time.

The Columbus County Department of Social services strives to provide services to our citizens as effectively as possible in the mist of these changing times, while also striving to meet state performance requirements.

We provided the following benefits and services during the past twelve months.

**June 2020 – June 2021**  
**Economic Services**

**Food & Nutrition**

Applications Taken: 1,746  
 Applications Processed: 1,913  
 Benefits Issued: \$28,424,208.00  
 Participants Served: 12,984

### **Adult Medicaid**

Applications Taken: 1,206  
 Applications Processed: 1,596

### **Family & Children's Medicaid**

Applications Taken: 2,265  
 Total Individuals Receiving Medicaid: 46,775  
 Total Medicaid Cases: 14,460  
 Applications Processed: 2,874

### **Child Support**

Absent Parents Located: 586  
 Orders Enforced: 11,960  
 Active Cases: 3,839  
 Collections: \$5,843,383.34

## **June 2020 – June 2021** **Human Services**

### **Adult Services (APS)**

APS Reports Accepted: 130  
 County Wards: 30  
 Adults Served APS: 29  
 Number of Payee Cases: 22  
 Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: 11,849  
 Monthly Average of Trips: 987  
 Monthly Average Served on Transportation: 125  
 Amount spent on Medicaid Transportation: \$197,091.80

### **Children's Protective Services (CPS)**

Reports Accepted: 330  
 Reports Screened Out: 293  
 Families Receiving In-Home Services: 52  
 Children Served: 110  
 Contacts with Families Monthly: 6,509  
 Assessments: 221

### **Foster Care**

Foster Children in Foster Homes: 92  
 Children Placed Outside County: 36  
 Agency Adoptions: 1  
 Pending Adoptions: 4  
 Total Foster Homes Licensed: 5

### **Work First Employment (TANF)**

Applications Taken: 191  
 Applications Approved: 107

Individuals Receiving Benefits: 259  
 Entered Employment: 15  
 Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 0

### **Program Integrity**

Referrals for Fraud: 112  
 Fraud Cases Established: 90  
 Collections for Fraud: \$28,656.22

### **Day Care**

Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 446  
 Children on the Waiting List: 478  
 Amount Spent on Day Care Services: \$1,961,361.00  
 Total Subsidy Funds Received: \$2,152,269.00

### **Energy Programs**

CIP – Crisis Intervention Program: \$354,304.95  
 LIEAP – Low Income Energy Assistance Program: \$414,085.33  
 PLIEAP – Pandemic Low Income Energy Assistance Program: \$198,803.86

We were able to serve 648 applicants with CIP funds and 1,371 with LIEAP; for a total of 1,965.

### **Other**

DSS has issued 506 fishing licenses to recipients of Medicaid, Work First and Food & Nutrition.

118 Citizens were registered at DSS to vote.

### **Economic Services Program Narrative**

**Family and Children's Medicaid; Adult Medicaid including Nursing Homes/Special Assistance/Community Alternatives Program (CAP); Medicaid Transportation; Food & Nutrition; Child Support/Paralegal and Housekeeping**  
**Submitted by Cyndi Hammonds, Income Maintenance Administrator**  
**Reporting Month: June 2021**

### **News/Updates/Vacancies**

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

The Medicaid Team has completed their third month of State Auditing. No applications were found to be ineligible which means no chargebacks however there was one case that did not get evaluated for the Family Planning Program again. We have corrected the case and put the client on this program and have put some preventative measures in place to hopefully prevent any recurring errors. Two technical errors were cited on another case. Workers strive to be totally error free however the Adult Department is still short staffed by 2 workers and have 2 workers still in the early stages of training. During the pandemic, Medicaid cases could not be terminated except for request from the client, move out of state or client deceased. The State has now given guidance that will allow some movement of programs within Medicaid as long as the client is considered to have Minimum Essential Coverage. We are required to send of list of the cases we take action on to the State office by the third to the last workday of each month. Medicaid workers continue to gear up and get numerous phone calls from clients that will be transitioning to Medicaid Managed Care effective July 1, 2021. These teams have 2 vacancies and 2 in the early stages of training. We are thankful for the 7% increase in salary and are hopeful that this will draw more qualified applicants and current workers will want to remain in Columbus County to work.

#### **Medicaid for Long Term Care; Medicaid Transportation and Housekeeping:**

- Long Term Care Medicaid continues to remain busy with applications for those going into facilities. This team is fully staffed and continues to have 2 workers still training for the different changes in Long Term Care, Special Assistance and the Community Alternatives Program.
- Medicaid Transportation had numerous calls concerning the transition for their transportation services. If they are enrolled in a Managed Care Plan they had to begin to call their Health Plan to arrange transportation in June for July visits. Some were a little frustrated with a change because they have dealt with us for a while.
- A vacancy for one housekeeper has been filled and he began his duties with enthusiasm.

#### **Food and Nutrition:**

Food and Nutrition recipients continue to receive the maximum allotment for their household size as well as an additional 15% each month in benefits. Waivers for the pandemic continue which allows more families to be eligible to receive bringing larger caseloads. This team is fully staff except one still in the early stages of training.

#### **Child Support and Paralegal:**

Child Support prepared 226 cases for 3 days of court in June while the paralegal prepared 252 Orders to served. They continue to strive to meet the goals the State has set but for 2020-2021 some of those goals were not met due to the pandemic and staff shortage. This team has 4 vacancies and each time it is posted we sometimes do not get any qualified applications. Again, we are very thankful for the 7% increase and are hopeful that this will draw more qualified applicants.

#### **Agenda Item #16: SOCIAL SERVICES – UPDATED ENERGY PROGRAMS OUTREACH PLAN 2021-2022:**

Algernon McKenzie, Social Services Director, requested Board approval and a signature by the Board Chairman.

### **COLUMBUS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES ENERGY PROGRAMS OUTREACH PLAN 2021-2022**

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded block grant program that is comprised of three different programs – Crisis Intervention Program (CIP), Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP), and Weatherization. There are also non-Federal Crisis Intervention Programs – Energy Neighbor, Share the Warmth, Wake Electric Round Up, and Helping Each Member Cope.

To maximize the success of this program, outreach to county residents through key community partner stakeholders, each county department of social services is required to develop and implement an Energy Outreach Plan (EPOP). This plan is a framework to assure that eligible households are made aware of the assistance available through these programs.

The county director and his/her designee are required to develop the EPOP, which addresses outreach and application activities related to the Energy Programs. The Outreach Plan is due to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) by August 1, 2021.

Each county must form an outreach planning committee that creates the opportunity for county level collaboration to discuss and plan how to effectively reach county residents to inform them of the services provided by the energy programs. The committee should meet at least twice yearly; September for outreach planning related to LIEAP and April to review the outcomes related to LIEAP and to plan for outreach activities for summer weather.

#### **Committee Membership:**

The Director of Social Services should engage a number of various community partners such as Vendors, Housing Authority, Public Libraries, Public School System/Local Colleges/Head Start, Legal Services, Meals on Wheels, Media, Public Health/Health Centers, Churches, Food Banks, Councils on Aging/Senior Centers, Community based Indian organizations, Volunteer

Programs, Vocational Rehabilitation Offices, Transportation services, etc. The following agencies or groups will be contacted to encourage their participation on an interagency committee for CIP (Crisis Intervention Program) and LIEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program):

- 1) The following are a list of tentative agencies that will serve as community partners:

Bureau of Indian Affairs/Waccamaw Siouan Tribe, Help Mission, Columbus County Transportation, Columbus County Health Department, Columbus County Department of Aging, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Southeastern Community and Family, Inc., Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation, The News Reporter

- 2) Committee Meetings will tentatively be scheduled for the following:

- September 2021 - conference call/meeting - will discuss outreach methods, vulnerable populations, problems related to COVID-19 restrictions.
- April 2022 - conference call/meeting - will discuss outcomes from LIEAP season, possible changes, etc.

### **Committee Collaboration and Outreach:**

Columbus County is a low-income, rural community with limited technology. Community Partners must collaborate to reach the citizens through forms of communication that are readily available. Partners will work together to provide outreach services via local radio stations, newspapers, and churches to provide information regarding eligibility, criteria, the current application process, timeframes, etc. – considering COVID-19 limitations. Informational flyers, mailings, and in-service trainings will be provided to any agency and community organization that requests additional information.

- 1) Columbus County DSS and Community Partners will collaborate to ensure customers are aware of eligibility criteria and the current application process. Information will be provided through flyers, mailings, radio, newspaper, churches, and in-services so that customers will be aware of the process to apply, possible benefits, contact persons. County agencies will be provided informational flyers along with instructions on the application process.
- 2) Collaborative efforts will continue with community partners through at least twice a year meetings, along with individual one-on-one meetings on a more regular basis to update community partners on outreach activities targeting potential eligible households
- 3) Columbus County DSS will conduct activities to target households with vulnerable members, children under 5, adults age 60 and older, and the disabled, by targeting specifically those agencies and communities that provide services to those populations, such as daycares, apartment complexes, Senior Centers, and Head S-tarts. We will utilize media, newspaper, social media, and radio, along with targeted informational meetings and in-services with flyers.

### **Media:**

Columbus County is a low-income, rural community with limited technology. Local news and information is best distributed through local radio, social media, and the local newspapers. Television stations provide good information, but, the biggest way to distribute information in Columbus County is through word of mouth, which is how most citizens receive news and information. Most citizens in Columbus County do not rely on televisions stations that are not based in this county as much as smaller forms of media.

- 1) Media outlets in Columbus County are usually provided information regarding Energy Programs each year in the early part of the fiscal year, but particularly right before the heating season.

The News Reporter

WENC-Radio Whiteville

Tabor City Tribune

WVOE-Radio Chadbourn

WTXY-Radio Whiteville

**Organizational Structure:**

1. Columbus County DSS utilizes in-house staff along with some temporary staff to complete applications on site:  
 Columbus County Department of Social Services  
 P.O. Box 397/40 Government Complex Road  
 Whiteville, NC 28472  
 9:00 am – 4:30 pm (although hours vary depending on applicants waiting to be seen)

**Best Practices:**

Although CIP is a year round program, Columbus County utilizes these funds during the more critical months of the year (i.e. late fall, winter) when county citizens appear to have a greater and more varied need for energy assistance. However, CIP and other Energy Programs will be available to assist during other times of the year. Staff with the Department of Aging, Cypress Village Apartments, and Madison Hills Apartments assist with the applications of their elderly/disabled clients/residents as needed. Although CIP and LIEAP are available during particular times of the fiscal year, funds are utilized according to policy until they are exhausted. LIEAP funds are targeted specifically toward the elderly and disabled during the month of December. Outposts have been utilized in the past at county Senior Centers, however, a lack of available staff and limited administrative funds prohibit utilizing outposts on a regular basis. Meetings are conducted with local vendors to review Energy Provider Agreements and other issues as needed. In past years Columbus County DSS has attempted to work with crowd control through informational sessions at the beginning of each day along with screenings to help expedite the application process. With COVID-19 being a major contributing factor this year, our process of notifying the community that applications are available on-line and in our agency foyer with instructions as to the application process has worked well thus far.

**Contact Information:**

**Name:** Melinda H. Lane  
**Address:** Columbus County Department of Social Services  
 P.O. Box 397/40 Government Complex Road  
 Whiteville, NC 28472  
**Telephone:** 910-641-3205  
**Email:** [mlane@columbusco.org](mailto:mlane@columbusco.org)

- ✓ LIEAP
- ✓ CIP

**This plan must be approved by the local Board of Social Services or local agency governing body prior to submission.**

---

Director’s Signature

---

Date

---

County Commissioner Chairman’s Signature

---

Date

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the Updated Energy Programs Outreach Plan, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #17: MAINTENANCE – MOWING CONTRACT for BB&T NORTH CAMPUS:**

Stuart Carroll, Maintenance Director, requested Board approval of low bid of \$14,880 from County Plants & Trim Inc.

**BIDS RECEIVED**

County Plants & Trim Inc. - \$14,880

Monk's Lawn Service - \$20,400

JTS Group Inc. - \$30,480

Bullards Landscaping - \$31,800

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the low bid of \$14,880 from County Plants & Trim Inc., seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #18: DISCUSSION – CHADBOURN MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

Rodney Singletary made a presentation on the possible uses of Chadbourn Middle School. The following presentation/discussion was made:

**Rodney Singletary:** I was born and bred in Mount Olive. I attended Chadbourn Schools growing up and it did a lot of good for me. This school is near and dear to our hearts. I know everyone has heard about the tragedy that occurred and the young people who were killed. We are trying to curb some of the violence and provide a safe haven for our young people. I also want to bring some clarity, there were a lot of people who spoke earlier and it may have sounded like there were a lot of different organizations but we are together, a collaboration of multiple organizations and non-profits. I am pleading with you to please help up bring this idea into fruition. I'm a behavior support specialist with Columbus County Schools and I've been in that role for about seventeen (17) years now. We have to do something in our county to provide our kids a safe haven. We need to offer some occupational courses, after school programs, or something similar to help curb some of this violence. We are asking you guys to partner with us to help make this a better place to live. Mr. Demonte Pridgen is here and he will provide some more details about what we're trying to do.

**Demonte Pridgen:** This is not the first time we've had tragedy in this area, but when the violence of that weekend happened it woke the community up. Everybody came together because we wanted to bring the community back to a place of peace and prosperity. We had a meeting and there were a lot of emotions but also a lot of solutions. We wanted to come out of that meeting with something that we could move forward on and we left with two (2) main points:

1. We wanted to make sure that there was a committed effort to fighting violence and crime in that area so that we don't lose any more young people.
  - a. Chadbourn Community Policing Program – We have been talking with our Chadbourn Police Department, who have been working heavily with the Sheriff's Department to start a Chadbourn Community Policing Program. The program will be led by Chief Ken Elliott who has already pushed two (2) of his officers towards getting Community Policing training that will begin to build relationships with children and families in the community, but will also increase the roles of acceptance of law enforcement in the community. The goal of this program is to address juvenile delinquency prevention, to ensure that we capture the lives of our young people before they get involved in crime that could affect their lives later on.
    - i. Address Substance and Opioid Abuse – We also want to make sure we address substance/opioid abuse in our community. We understand that this is a big issue in the county.
    - ii. Second Chance Re-Entry Program – there are many times when individuals are released back into our communities and they don't have the ability to adapt to society, obtain employment, housing, etc. What we're describing will help to address this issue.
2. We want to be a family wellness and recreation support service – We noticed that violence has taken so many lives particularly in the area surrounding Chadbourn Middle School, so

we believe that the partnerships we've established both public and private to be the best approach for addressing our concerns.

So tonight, we are asking the Board to do two (2) things:

1. We are asking that you pause the bid on Chadbourn Middle School to allow the community time to see this solution for violence in our community to come to pass through our partnerships with our law enforcement; and
2. We are asking for exclusivity for us to have the purchasing capability to provide the solutions to those issues as far as crime in that area.

If you allow us to do those two things we believe we can make some major things happen. Finally, since this is so dear to our hearts, based on the partnerships we have, and because we don't want this to happen to any more lives, if you could find the way to give this school to us as a community to make these changes happen. And we understand that if you could do this, it would be in a partnership and we would need to show accountability for those changes we want to see.

**Vice Chairman McMillian:** I commend you all for coming out to the meeting tonight. It's awesome to see the community coming together. It's sad that the occasion is the loss of so many young lives. I can assure you that I, myself, will do my part to partnership with you all and try to curb some of this violence and get you the help that you need. We will do whatever we can to help you accomplish that.

**Chairman Bullard:** I would just like to say thank you for what you're trying to do, not just for the Town of Chadbourn but for all the community. Chadbourn is like home for me too, I stay just down the road. So I just want to say thank you.

**Agenda Item # 19: BOARD OF ELECTIONS – GUIDEWAY SCHOOL as a VOTING PRECINCT LOCATION:**

Carla Strickland, Board of Elections Director, requested Board approval to use Guideway School as a Voting Precinct.

I had an opportunity to visit the Guideway School and the most accessible building is the cafeteria. I took pictures and did a survey for ADA accessibility and it meets that. With the merge we're doing between Bughill 1 and Bughill 2 precincts, I would like to get permission to utilize that cafeteria building as a precinct voting place. We will be using it in even years beginning in 2022 for 2-3 days out of the year.

**Commissioner McDowell:** We're consolidating five (5) areas of the county and three (3) of them are in the Southern end. I understand the numbers determine this. I just want to know for sure where the polling stations are going to be. So South and East will still vote at the Community Center of Old Dock, correct.

**Ms. Strickland:** Yes

**Commissioner McDowell:** Where will the Bughills vote?

**Ms. Strickland:** At Guideway. Bughill 3 and West Lees will be at the Nakina Senior Center. Bughill 1 and Bughill 2 are currently at the Nakina Fire & Rescue Substation, which is very limited in parking and the VFW post.

**Commissioner Watts:** What about Old Zion Church?

**Ms. Strickland:** We're currently utilizing Old Zion for a completely different precinct.

**Commissioner Watts:** So my question is, why do we need both Old Zion and Guideway School as a polling station when they're only a mile apart?

**Ms. Strickland:** I understand that but the lines have to be drawn somewhere and we have to have a precinct location within the precinct for which they're voting.

**Chairman Bullard:** When you move Bughill 1 and Bughill 2 to the Guideway School, roughly how many voters will be using that building?

**Ms. Strickland:** Approximately 900-1000.

**Commissioner Byrd:** You're talking about registered voters, not turn out?

**Ms. Strickland:** That's right, registered voters. You have to understand that depending on the type of election you could have fifty (50%) percent turnout or seventy-five (75%) turnout.

**Chairman Bullard:** What good does this do, closing down these 2 precincts and making it one? Will it save the county money? Moving those two precincts into Guideway will be less expensive?

**Ms. Strickland:** Yes, the cost of rent will be nothing because the county owns that school property, also staffing because a precinct requires a minimum of 5 people working. At this point we've merged ten (10) precincts down to five (5).

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Watts made a motion to approve the use of Guideway School as a Voting Precinct Location, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item # 20: APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS/REPLACEMENTS:**

Staff requested appointments/re-appointments/replacements to the following boards, committees and councils.

COMMITTEE	ZONE/EB	PERSON(S)	EXP. DATE	BOARD ACTION
Beaver Management Program Committee	I	Vacant	----	<b>HOLD</b>
	I	Vacant	----	<b>HOLD</b>
	III	Vacant	----	<b>HOLD</b>
	V	Vacant	----	<b>HOLD</b>
	VII	Vacant	----	<b>HOLD</b>
Home & Community Care Block Grant Committee <b>M=Coleman S=McMillian</b>	IV EB	(Dan Watts) Commissioner Rep	06/30/2022 Term	<b>HOLD</b> <b>Commissioner Watts</b>
Lower Cape Fear River Program <b>M=Smith S= McMillian</b>	EB	Vacant	----	<b>George Boren</b>
Planning Board	VI	(Craig Rogers)	04/20/2023	<b>Jason Worley</b>

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

At 8:10 P.M. Commissioner Byrd 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 Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item # 21: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT V - ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING:**

This information will be recorded in Minute Book #2 for the Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting.

**Agenda Item #22: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT V - FINAL ADJUSTMENT CHANGE ORDER FOR THE OLD DOCK SCHOOL SEWER PROJECT:**

This information will be recorded in Minute Book #2 for the Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting.

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

At 8:12 P.M. Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #23: COMMENTS:**

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

A. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Commissioner McDowell:** stated the following
  - Several months ago we discussed a request that a river gauge be placed at 904 for the folks that are on River Rd. If you'll look at your packets, we have gotten a response and we will be getting some assistance to put a gauge on 904. It will hopefully be funded by the division of Emergency Management out of Raleigh.
2. **Commissioner Coleman:** stated the following:
  - We've been trying to get water and internet at the eastern end of the county but it's been a slow process.
  - We've also asked DOT to lower the speed limit on Neils Eddy Rd but I haven't had any response from them yet. Is there any way we can check on their response?
  - I want to thank the people of the county for working with us and staying positive, we're heading in the right direction.
3. **Commissioner Smith:** stated the following:
  - Our Health Department sign on Jefferson St really needs some attention, you can hardly read it and if someone is visiting from out of town they won't see it.

**County Manager:** I'll get Maintenance to look into it.
4. **Commissioner Watts:** stated the following:
  - I just want to congratulate the Dixie Youth that are headed to the World Series and wish them safe travels.
5. **Commissioner Byrd:** stated the following:
  - I want to touch base on the Chadbourn issue.
  - I hear your concerns but when you let a party go on until two (2) or three (3) o'clock in the morning you're asking for trouble, so I feel like any town going through anything like this should set some kind of time limit or cutoff.
6. **Vice Chairman McMillian:** stated the following:
  - I've received some complaints about the small gas station that burned down in Evergreen on highway 242 and the old Chadbourn road. Is there anything we can do about getting the owners to clean that mess up? The community's been dealing with this for a while now.

**Gail Edwards:** stated the following:

  - I've spoken with Mr. John Ganus. He has been in contact with the owners and they were in the process of scheduling to demolish the structure but they had two deaths in the family back to back. So, he will be following up with them to get a date for when this will be completed.

**Commissioner Byrd:** stated the following:

- Mr. Chairman, sometime ago I asked if Mr. Ganus could provide the Board an update on maybe a monthly basis, but that's only happened one time that I can remember and that was six (6) months ago. I think he should at least call each Commissioner because if we have complaints from the community then we can let him know.

**Chairman Bullard:** stated the following:

- Maybe we can get an update at the next meeting.

**Vice Chairman McMillian:** stated the following:

- I've received several complaints about the grass growing up at Chadbourn Middle School

**County Manager:** stated the following:

- We've recently received some complaints about maintenance at the different schools and we've recently mobilized some crews to take care of it.

7. **Chairman Bullard:** stated the following:

- I've had some request from the community to check into a four-way stop sign at Pages Mill Pond Rd and Dolph Lewis Rd, can we check with DOT? There has been an increase in wrecks at that intersection due to increased beach traffic.

8. **County Manager:** stated the following:

- I want to bring to your attention a couple of dates published in your agenda packet: first the Association's annual conference scheduled August 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. There are a couple of festivals an events that will resume this year, the Fair Bluff Watermelon Festival and the Greater Tabor City Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet. In addition, I want to note the change in the agenda process, we've included a monthly report from each of the department managers. We hope you will find that informative. If you have any questions after reviewing the reports, please reach out to them directly or to our office.

**RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (a) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, (4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and (6) PERSONNEL:**

At 8:21 P.M. Commissioner McDowell made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S § 143-318.11 (a) Attorney-Client Privilege, (4) Economic Development and (6) Personnel, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #24: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (a) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, (4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and (6) PERSONNEL:**

No official action was taken.

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

At 9:19 P.M., Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

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

Chairman Bullard requested that Amanda B. Prince, Staff Attorney, orally read the Closed Session General Account. Ms. Prince orally read the following: "The Commissioners discussed Economic Development matters with the Economic Development Director Gary Lanier. Possible future litigation with Board Attorney, Boyd Worley, Personnel with County

Manager Eddie Madden and Board Attorney Boyd Worley and opioid litigation with Staff Attorney Amanda Prince. No action was taken by the Board.

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

**Agenda Item #25: ADJOURNMENT:**

At 9:20 P.M., Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed. These minutes were recorded by Amanda Prince and typed by LaToya Williams.

**APPROVED:**

---

**AMANDA B. PRINCE, Deputy Clerk to Board**

---

**RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV, and V**  
**COMBINATION BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, July 20, 2021**  
**8:10 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**  
 Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**  
 Chris Smith

Giles E. Byrd  
 Lavern Coleman  
 Brent Watts  
 Charles T. McDowell

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

Edwin H. Madden, Jr., **County Manager**  
 Boyd Worley, **Board Attorney**  
 Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney**

Jay Leatherman, **Interim Finance Officer**

**APPOINTEE ABSENT:**

June B. Hall, **Clerk to the Board (Excused)**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

At 8:15 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting to order.

**Agenda Item # 21: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT V - ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING:**

Gail Edwards, Senior Advisor to the Manager, requested the Board to establish August 02, 2021 at 6:30 P.M., as the date and time for the Public Hearing for the Old Dock School Sewer Project.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**RELATIVE TO PROJECT CLOSE-OUT**  
**2011 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT-INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**  
**OLD DOCK SCHOOL WASTEWATER EXTENSION**  
**COLUMBUS COUNTY, NC**

Notice is hereby given that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners will conduct a Close-out public hearing on Monday, August 2, 2021, at 6:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the agenda will allow, at the County Commissioners Meeting Room located at 112 W. Smith St., Whiteville, NC. The purpose of this Close-out Public Hearing is to inform the citizens of Columbus County of the final accomplishments and expenditures of the 2011 CDBG-Infrastructure Project to extend

wastewater collection service to the Old Dock Elementary School with funds received from the NC Department of Environmental Quality under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

Columbus County received a total of \$1,100,000 in CDBG-Infrastructure grant funds from the NC Department of Environmental Quality to fund, in part, the wastewater extension project. These funds were combined with \$383,567.99 of County Funds for a total project cost of \$1,483,567.99.

The following is a summary of project costs:

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>CDBG-Infrastructure Funds</b>	<b>Columbus County Funds</b>
Sewer main and Pump station	\$1,100,000.00	\$102,969.74
Engineering Services	\$0.00	\$199,838.00
Administration Services	\$0.00	\$80,760.25
Total	\$1,100,000.00	\$383,567.99

The project eliminated a failing on-site septic disposal system located adjacent to Old Dock Elementary School that presented health and safety conditions for the students, teachers and staff of the school. Ultimately, approximately 720 persons representing the households of students, teachers and staff at Old Dock School benefitted from this project of which 60% were low to moderate-income, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development income guidelines.

If additional information is needed, please contact the Columbus County Manager's Office at 910-640-6630. Formal written complaints or comments concerning this project that are submitted to the County Manager's Office prior to or following the public hearing will be responded to within ten working days by the appropriate County official.

Persons with disabilities or who otherwise need assistance should contact Gail Edwards, at 910-640-6630 or [gedwards@columbusco.org](mailto:gedwards@columbusco.org) (email), or TDD # 1-800-735-2962 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing. Accommodations will be made for all who request assistance with participating in the public hearing.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Gail Edwards, at 910-640-6630 or at 112 W. Smith St., Whiteville, NC for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Gail Edwards, al 910-640-6630 o en 112 W. Smith St., Whiteville, NC (location), de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

Ricky Bullard, Chairman  
Columbus County Board of Commissioners



**MOTION:**

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to establish the Public Hearing, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #22: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT V - FINAL ADJUSTMENT CHANGE ORDER FOR THE OLD DOCK SCHOOL SEWER PROJECT:**

Gail Edwards, Senior Advisor to the Manger requested Board approval.

*Final Adjusting Change Order 0825*

Form RD 1924-7 (Rev. 2-97) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FARM SERVICE AGENCY CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER

OMB NO. 0575-0042

ORDER NO. Three (3) and Final

DATE July 8, 2021

STATE North Carolina

COUNTY Columbus

CONTRACT FOR Sanitary Sewer Extensions, Old Dock Elementary School

OWNER Columbus County

TO S&L Contracting, LLC (Contractor)

You are hereby requested to comply with the following changes from the contract plans and specifications:

Description of Changes (Supplemental Plans and Specifications Attached)	DECREASE in Contract Price	INCREASE in Contract Price
<i>Original Contract Amount</i>	\$ 1,238,362.00	\$
<i>Final Adjusting Contract Amount</i>	1,197,342.92	
TOTALS	\$ -41,019.08	\$ 0.00
NET CHANGE IN CONTRACT PRICE	\$ -41,019.08	\$ 0.00

JUSTIFICATION:  
(See Attached Over and Under Spread Sheet)

The amount of the Contract will be *(Decreased)* (Increased) By The Sum Of: Forty One Thousand, Nineteen Dollars and 08/Cents Dollars (\$) 41,019.08

The Contract Total Including this and previous Change Orders Will Be: One Million, One Hundred Ninety Seven Thousand, Three Hundred Forty Two and 92/Cents Dollars (\$) 1,197,342.92

The Contract Period Provided for Completion Will Be (Increased)(Decreased)(Unchanged): \_\_\_\_\_ Days

This document will become a supplement to the contract and all provisions will apply hereto.

Requested *[Signature]* 7/08/2021  
Edwin H. Madden Jr. - County Manager (Date)

Recommended *[Signature]* 7-8-2021  
Rupert Welfare - Green Engineering (Owner's Engineer) (Date)

Accepted *[Signature]* 7-8-2021  
Trent Locklear - S&L Contracting (Contractor) (Date)

Approved by Agency \_\_\_\_\_ (Name and Title) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

Certification \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature of Owner's Finance Offi) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Clearance Officer, STOP 7602, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-7602. Please DO NOT RETURN this form to this address. Forward to the local USDA office only. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF UNITS		UNIT PRICE	ESTIMATED COST	CURRENT QUANTITIES		OVER (UNDER)
						NO. OF UNITS	AMOUNT	
<b>PART B - GRAVITY AND PUMP STATION</b>								
1	8-inch Dia. SDR 35 PVC with Stone Bedding (0-	100	LF	35.00	\$3,500.00	100.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00
2	8-inch Dia. Ductile Iron with 401 Ceramic Lining	50	LF	33.00	\$1,650.00	50.00	\$1,650.00	\$0.00
3	4' - Dia. Manhole (0-6)	2	EA	2,200.00	\$4,400.00	2.00	\$4,400.00	\$0.00
4	Pump Station	1	LS	125,770.00	\$125,770.00	1.00	\$125,770.00	\$0.00
5	Abandoned and Demolish Playground Court	1	LS	1,800.00	\$1,800.00	1.00	\$1,800.00	\$0.00
6	Remove and Store onsite 35LF of Existing Fence	1	LS	500.00	\$500.00	1.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL PART B</b>					<b>\$137,620.00</b>		<b>\$137,620.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL CONSTRUCTION PART A &amp; B</b>					<b>\$1,238,362.00</b>		<b>\$1,197,342.92</b>	<b>(\$41,019.08)</b>

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the Final Adjustment Change Order for the Old Dock Sewer Project, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:12 P.M. Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**AMANDA B. PRINCE, Deputy Clerk to Board**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**