

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**Monday, May 2, 2022****6:30 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and time at 127 West Webster Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose of conducting a Regular Session Meeting.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**
 Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney/Clerk to Board**
 Jay Leatherman, **Finance Director**
 Boyd Worley, **Board Attorney**

Agenda Item #1: MEETING CALLED to ORDER:

At 6:30 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the Monday, May 2, 2022 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order.

Agenda Items #2 and #3: INVOCATION and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:

The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Chris Smith. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Brent Watts.

Agenda Item #4: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

- A. April 18, 2022 USDA Workshop
- B. April 18, 2022 Regular Session

MOTION:

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the Board Minutes, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #5: APPROVAL of MAY 2, 2022 AGENDA:**MOTION:**

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #6: PUBLIC INPUT:

Chairman Bullard opened the floor for Public Comment.

Elton Ray Jacobs, Jacobs Loop Rd, Bolton, NC stated the following:

- I'm here representing the Buckhead Fire & Rescue Department.
- We've been in business since 1975, that's 47 years of service to this county and the community.
- We have great support from our community and I thank them for that.
- And our churches, well, we couldn't ask for any better.
- Thank you all for your service.

Alton C. Edwards, stated the following:

- I'm kind of confused here.
- I went back and made a recap of what's happened in EMS in the past 62 years and how do we handle that?
- Do I just tell you what I'm here for and we just do that later?
- My intent is to show you from no ambulances to where we are today.
- I'm filling in for Chief Camlin.
- He's out, he's had a very serious operation and going through some long term rehab.
- So I'm here to take his place when you pass out the honor.
- You all are going to hear some things you've never heard before.
- We cover Chief Camlin, and I'm to take his place when the honor comes up.
- In the beginning, at our end of Columbus County we had no ambulance service at all.

- My neighbor's child had just gotten a new bicycle and was riding it, and ran out on 87 and was killed by an automobile.
 - We covered the body up and waited for an hour and a half for an ambulance to arrive from Carolina Beach Rd.
 - It was Tate's Ambulance Service and it was also a complete filling station.
 - When the man got the call, he came right out of the grease pit and drove the ambulance over to the Ransom Township area, and there was not even anyone that rode in the back at that time.
 - There was not even a first aid kit in it, it was all driver's skill.
 - Later on, McKenzie Funeral Home and Peacock started running the bigger ambulances, so to speak, and still there was no professional training at all, it was all about high speed.
 - One of them was a Cadillac and the other was a Packard.
 - You would get to the hospital and to the emergency room here and open the back door and the blood would literally be running out of the patient and the mindset was: I have to get this thing tuned up, I didn't drive fast enough.
 - It was all speed.
 - They began running some of the calls and then it turned into a taxi service, taking people to the hospital.
 - Some time after that, I appeared before the County Commissioners, which was back with Cory Watson, and that crowd, and I began to give them a masterplan of what I thought was important for the future plans of Columbus County.
 - One of them was a fire marshal.
 - The second item was mandatory fire prevention in our schools.
 - The next one, was we didn't have a water system.
 - Some big company came in and was going to put in a rechroming plant, which would have been a pretty massive operation between New Hope and the Clarendon area.
 - Due to the fact that we didn't have ample water supply they moved to Summerville, South Carolina, because they had massive water there, and as a good will gesture they bought the town a \$125,000 pumper.
 - So, that's what happens when we don't keep ahead of the times.
 - I also proposed a 911 Center, that's in place now.
 - It wasn't called 911 then.
 - At this point, we were told that we were ahead of our time and I said, "Well, we may be ahead of our time, but as we speak, a little place called Edneyville, up in the mountains, is dispatched out of Asheville, which is about 15 miles, could remotely control the fire doors on their fire house".
 - They could have the doors open when the firemen got there.
 - But yet, we were too far ahead of our time.
 - So on the way back to Riegelwood, we decided that we better do something on our own.
 - So, at that point in time, the Riegelwood Sanitary District bought a truck and it was confined to the small district of the Sanitary District.
 - It couldn't go beyond that and if it was caught outside and a house in Riegelwood caught fire the insurance wouldn't pay it.
 - So, they were always on us about leaving the district.
 - So, we decided we would buy a cabin chassis to build, with the help of many people, a fire truck.
 - We got, I believe it was B&K and one was a massive welding, and it was tied in with the shipyard and we told them we needed a thousand-gallon tank.
- Commissioner Byrd:** That's a book of knowledge right there, and he's telling us things that we don't know, so, I would like to be very lenient with the time and give him some extra time to go ahead, if that's possible.
- Boyd Worley:** That's at the Chairman's discretion.
- Chairman Bullard:** You have one more minute, sir, that way we can keep everything in order. I'm sorry.
- Alton C. Edwards:** That's alright.

The following email was read by Board Attorney Boyd Worley:

Hello Commissioners,

I would like to know if you approve the Parks and Recreation and Trillium Health Resources agreement, where is this inclusive playground going to be placed on county owned property? I sincerely hope it will not be placed in Whiteville.

Thank you,

Doris A. Strickland
dorisa72@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 282
Tabor City, NC
910-653-5560

Agenda Item #7: PARKS & RECREATION – APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

Dennis Williams, Southern Regional Director with Trillium and Julie Strickland, Parks and Rec Director, requested Board Approval. The Agreement allowed funding (not to exceed \$500,000) from Trillium for an inclusive playground on County owned land. There was no cost and/or match for this project.

**TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES HEALTH RESOURCES
AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

CONTRACT PERIOD: May 5, 2022 – June 30, 2022

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into this the 5^h day of May 2022 and between **Trillium Health Resources**, an Area Authority organized and existing pursuant to North Carolina Statutes, Chapter 122C, whose address is 1708 E. Arlington Boulevard, Greenville, NC 27858, ID # 56-0898928, and Columbus County (hereinafter referred to as the "CONTRACTEE"), whose mailing address is 606 North Thompson Street, Whiteville, NC 28472, Phone Number (910) 640-6624 and whose tax identification number (or social security number) is 56-6000289.

WITNESSETH:

For and in consideration of the mutual promises hereinafter set forth, the parties intending to be legally bound do hereby agree as follows:

1. The CONTRACTEE does hereby agree to provide the following services to TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES:

Trillium Health Resources and Columbus County for the \$500,000 for managing and ensuring the constructions of an inclusive playground on County owned land at 131 Government Complex Rd, Whiteville, NC 28472 and ongoing maintenance for the life of the playground. Columbus County will need to use an approved Trillium vendor to design the playground. The design MUST be approved by TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES and sent to Cindy Ehlers at cindy.ehlers@trilliumnc.org. The approved design and estimate cannot exceed the maximum of \$500,000 allowable. If a deposit is required for any portion of the funding it will require approval by TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES in writing by emailing this request to Cindy Ehlers at cindy.ehlers@trilliumnc.org. Trillium Health Resources will have no ongoing commitment to the playground once construction is complete.

- **Submit playground layouts for approval no later than June 1st, 2022**
- **Pay any upfront deposits by June 30, 2022.**
- **Construction to start ASAP on playgrounds to be completed by June 30th, 2023.**

2. TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES agrees to pay to the CONTRACTEE, for the services set forth in paragraph 1 of this agreement, as follows:

- a. **Invoices are due by the 10th of the month following the month services were provided. Each invoice shall have an attestation/certification statement that states the following: "I hereby attest or certify that the services reported for payment are correct and have been performed according to the terms of the contract." This statement shall be signed and dated by the CONTRACTEE.**

- b. **Each invoice shall have the name of the Columbus County Trillium Inclusive playground.**

- c. **Invoices will be sent to - Attention: Accounts Payable, at 144 Community College Rd., Ahoskie, NC 27910-9320, or accountspayable@trilliumnc.org. Payment shall be made to the CONTRACTEE within thirty (30) days from the receipt date of approved, accurate and complete invoicing.**

- d. **Invoicing that is received after sixty (60) days from the deadline will not be processed.**

3. It is expressly understood and agreed that in carrying out the services to be performed hereunder:

- a. The CONTRACTEE shall furnish, at CONTRACTEE's own cost and expense, CONTRACTEE's own materials and supplies required to carry out CONTRACTEE's duties hereunder, except as otherwise expressly provided in paragraph 2 above;
 - b. Any and all other expenses incurred by the CONTRACTEE in performing the required services shall be at the CONTRACTEE's sole cost and expense;
 - c. The CONTRACTEE will work at such times and for such hours as TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES deems necessary for the fulfillment of the contract.
 - d. The CONTRACTEE shall be an independent contractor and not an employee with respect to TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES, and the CONTRACTEE shall have all of the rights and duties, and all of the discretion normally associated with such relationship
 - e. If reimbursement of funds is required by Medicaid, the State of North Carolina or TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES, due to negligent record keeping, or documentation by the CONTRACTEE or a failure by the CONTRACTEE to comply with minimum standards, APSM 30-1, or to follow licensure or accreditation requirements or Medicaid requirements, the CONTRACTEE will be responsible for the reimbursement of all such funds including administrative overhead within 30 days of notification.
4. TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES Trillium Health Resources is required to provide to the CONTRACTEE all pertinent rules, regulations, standards and other information distributed by the Division necessary for the performance of the CONTRACTEE under the terms of the contract. TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES is required to monitor the contract to assure compliance with rules of the Commission, the Secretary and G.S. 122C-142.
5. TERMINATION. This agreement may be terminated under the following circumstances:
- A. TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES may terminate the agreement immediately if funds granted for the program are revoked or terminated by the funding agencies in a manner beyond the control of TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES for the duration of the contract period. In this situation, any and all of the obligations of the TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES and the CONTRACTEE under this contract shall immediately cease.
 - B. The contract may be terminated immediately by either party with cause upon written notice to the other party and with written documentation to the other party detailing the grounds for termination. TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES agrees to compensate the CONTRACTEE for services performed under this contract prior to the date of termination.
 - C. TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES may terminate this contract immediately upon notice to the CONTRACTEE, without cause, in its sole discretion. TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES agrees to compensate the CONTRACTEE for services performed under this contract prior to the date of termination.
 - D. If this Contract is for a period greater than thirty (30) days, it may also be terminated at any time upon mutual consent of both parties or after thirty (30) days upon notice of termination by one of the contracting parties.
 - E. If a dispute arises between CONTRACTEE and TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES with regard to the terms of this Agreement, and such dispute cannot be resolved by mutual agreement, TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES shall exercise its rights of termination under subparagraph (b) above.
 - F. If time sheet, billing documentation, and notes are not received on deadlines given in paragraph 2 above it will be grounds for termination of this Agreement.
6. The parties hereto agree that TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES may in its discretion withhold from any or all of the payments made pursuant to paragraph 2 hereof any amounts which TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES deems necessary for compliance with any state or federal laws or regulations, including without limitation, the Internal Revenue Code, as amended.
7. The CONTRACTEE and TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES shall indemnify and hold harmless each other and their designated representatives from any and all claims, suits, actions, and liabilities caused by the CONTRACTEE's performance of work pursuant to this agreement.
8. In addition to the foregoing, the following terms and conditions shall be a part of this contract:

CONTRACTEE agrees to acknowledge TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES as the funding source in any brochures, advertising, trainings, or other information distributed to the public. CONTRACTEE should not use the TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES name on any literature without obtaining prior written approval from TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES.

9. This Agreement shall be construed according to and governed by the laws of the State of North Carolina, notwithstanding the fact that both or either of the parties hereto is or may become a resident or citizen of another state or country.
10. This Agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties hereto. No modification, amendment, change or discharge of any terms or provisions of this Agreement shall be valid or binding unless the same is in writing and signed by both the parties hereto. No waiver of any of the terms of the Agreement shall be valid unless signed by the party against whom each such waiver is asserted. Any waiver of any provision of this Agreement in any instance shall not be a waiver in any other instance; and according to policy adopted by TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES, CONTRACTEE shall not be restricted to fund balance limitations.
11. CONTRACTEE is responsible for the adoption, assessment, collection and disposition of fees, if applicable, in accordance with G.S. 122C-146.
12. If applicable, equipment purchased with non-unit-cost reimbursement funds, such as startup or special purpose funding, title to assets purchased under the contract in whole or in part rests with TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES so long as that party continues to provide the services which were supported by the contract. If such services are discontinued, disposition of the assets shall occur as approved by the Division.
13. If applicable, the CONTRACTEE shall provide TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES with consumer records and data about individual consumers for purpose of monitoring, research and study, financial audits of third party payors, research and evaluation.
14. When applicable, the CONTRACTEE shall make available to TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES its accounting records for the purpose of audit by State authorities and that the party will, when required by general statute or in accordance with the annual Memorandum of Agreement, have an annual audit by an independent certified public accountant and submit to the TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES two (2) copies of the audit report within (90) days of the end of the CONTRACTEE's previous fiscal year, of which one copy shall be forwarded to the Office of the State Auditor at 300 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603-5903.
15. CONTRACTEE agrees to secure and maintain all appropriate insurance, including worker's compensation, general liability and property damage and agrees to provide TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES with proof of such insurance upon receipt.
16. This contract shall contain no stricken and initialed provisions, other than for correction of minor clerical errors. Any stricken and initialed provisions shall not be deemed removed from this contract, and the contract shall be interpreted as if such provisions had not been stricken. Both parties to the contract must initial corrections of clerical errors.
17. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The CONTRACTEE and TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES shall be in compliance with the final HIPAA rules and regulations and each party shall provide evidence to the other party of this compliance upon request. The parties hereto specifically agree to amend this Agreement on a timely basis as necessary to comply with any and all laws relating to privacy of healthcare information, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). If the parties are unable to agree to such amendments, they agree to participate in mediation. If the parties are still unable to agree, the Agreement will terminate in accordance with Section 5 b of the agreement prior to the effective date(s) for compliance with such privacy laws. If applicable the Business Associate Agreement must be signed.
18. Comply with all Confidentiality Rules and Requirements in accordance with N.C.G.S. 122C-51 through 122C-56. The CONTRACTEE agrees to keep these matters confidential and to discuss them with only the appropriate TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES staff member or other professional people designated by TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES. The CONTRACTEE has read and signed the Confidentiality Rules required of Mental Health Centers.

This instrument has been pre-audited in the manner required by the Local Budget and Fiscal Control Act, General Statute, 159.

**SIGNATURES FOR TRILLIUM
HEALTH RESOURCES**

SIGNATURES FOR CONTRACTEE

Trillium CEO

County Manager

Date

Date

Trillium CFO

Date

MOTION:

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #8: EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT – PAULETTE VARNAM:

County Manager Eddie Madden spotlighted Columbus County Attorney’s Office Paralegal, Ms. Paulette Varnam.

County Manager Eddie Madden, stated the following:

- It’s my honor and pleasure to recognize Ms. Paulette Varnam as this evening’s Employee Spotlight recipient.
- Paulette and her husband are here.
- Paulette has worked in the County Staff Attorney’s Office, specifically assigned to the Department of Social Services as a paralegal since 2006.
- Ms. Amanda Prince nominated Ms. Varnam.
- She stated Paulette has faced much adversity this year with changes in the court system.
- She’s adjusted and worked diligently to comply with requests, often modifying orders multiple times to please the court.
- She went above and beyond to make sure orders were completed on time.
- She’s very knowledgeable of laws and court procedures.
- Paulette’s work ethic is outstanding and she is an integral part of our team.
- For these and many other reasons, we’re honored to recognize Paulette Varnam as tonight’s Employee Spotlight.
- As you all know, I’ve been here a little over a year, and I came to know Ms. Varnam when I took my position.
- What I did not know was that I had known her family for some time.
- Her son was an Associate Pastor at my church and her daughter-in-law led our choir.
- She has a very talented family and it’s been a pleasure to not only know them but to get to know Paulette.
- So, help me recognize Paulette Varnam as this evening’s Employee Spotlight person.

Agenda Item #9: PROCLAMATION – APPROVAL OF MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION:

Ms. Angela Norris requested Board Approval.

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, motorcycle riding is a popular form of recreation and transportation for thousands of citizens across North Carolina and the United States; **and**

WHEREAS, North Carolina has over one hundred, ninety-six thousand (196,000) registered motorcycles and over two hundred, sixty thousand (260,000) licensed drivers who have either a motorcycle endorsement or a motorcycle learner’s permit; **and**

WHEREAS, it is important that the citizens of North Carolina be aware of motorcycles on our roadways and recognize the importance of motorcycle safety and sharing the roadways; **and**

WHEREAS, the safe operation of a motorcycle is enhanced through a combination of rider training, experience, good judgment, and a knowledge of traffic laws and licensing requirements; **and**

WHEREAS, several organizations, such as the Columbus County Concerned Bikers Association (CBA), along with the North Carolina Motorcycle Safety Education Program, other state and local motorcycle clubs and riding/social clubs are committed to increasing the safe operation of motorcycles by promoting rider-safety education programs and alert the motorists of Columbus County to “LOOK TWICE, SAVE A LIFE”; **and**

WHEREAS, Motorcycle Awareness Month is designed to increase public awareness about motorcycles and encourage safe and proper use among motorcycle riders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in Columbus County, and urge all citizens to commend its observance.

ADOPTED this the 2nd day of May, 2022.

Columbus County Board of Commissioners

- | | |
|--|---|
| /s/ RICKY BULLARD, Chairman | /s/ JEROME MCMILLIAN, Vice Chairman |
| /s/ CHRIS SMITH | /s/ GILES E. BYRD |
| /s/ LAVERN COLEMAN | /s/ BRENT WATTS |
| /s/ CHARLES T. MCDOWELL | /s/ EDWIN H. MADDEN, Jr., Manager |
| /s/ BOYD WORLEY, Board Attorney | /s/ AMANDA B. PRINCE, Staff Attorney/Clerk |
| /s/ LATOYA WILLIAMS, Deputy Clerk | to the Board |

MOTION:

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the proclamation, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #10: PROCLAMATION – APPROVAL OF LOYALTY DAY PROCLAMATION:

Ms. Angela Norris requested Board Approval.

LOYALTY DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Loyalty Day was first observed in 1921 as Americanization Day to counterbalance the Communist May Day celebration of International Workers’ Day during the First Red Scare; **and**

WHEREAS, on May 1, 1930, about 10,000 Veterans of Foreign War members staged a rally at New York’s Union Square to promote patriotism; **and**

WHEREAS, through a resolution adopted in 1949, May 1st evolved into Loyalty Day with observances beginning on April 28th and climaxing on May 1st, 1950, with more than five million people across the nation holding rallies; **and**

WHEREAS, on July 18, 1958, Congress designated May 1st of each year as Loyalty Day (Public Law 85-529) to foster loyalty and love of country; **and**

WHEREAS, Loyalty Day is not defined as an adherence to any single leader, party or political platform, but rather a renewal of our conviction to the principles of liberty, equality, and justice under the law; **and**

WHEREAS, Loyalty Day is an opportunity for us to reaffirm our allegiance to the United States of America and pay tribute to the heritage of American Freedom, a chance for us to acknowledge our differences, yet understand that they pale in comparison to the strength of the bonds that hold together the most diverse nation on earth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, proclaim May 1, 2022, as Loyalty Day in Columbus County and encourage all citizens to celebrate this occasion.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 2nd day of May, 2022.

Columbus County Board of Commissioners

/s/ RICKY BULLARD, Chairman
 /s/ CHRIS SMITH
 /s/ LAVERN COLEMAN
 /s/ CHARLES T. MCDOWELL
 /s/ BOYD WORLEY, Board Attorney
 /s/ LATOYA WILLIAMS, Deputy Clerk

/s/ JEROME MCMILLIAN, Vice Chairman
 /s/ GILES E. BYRD
 /s/ BRENT WATTS
 /s/ EDWIN H. MADDEN, Jr., Manager
 /s/AMANDA B. PRINCE, Staff Attorney/Clerk
 to the Board

MOTION:

Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to approve the proclamation, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #11: PROCLAMATION– APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR ADR FIRE-RESCUE, INC.:

The Commissioners thanked ADR Fire-Rescue, Inc. for their efforts in the community.

PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR ACME-DELCO-RIEGELWOOD FIRE-RESCUE, INC.

WHEREAS, throughout our history the American spirit has been distinguished by the ready willingness of neighbors to join together and help one another; **and**

WHEREAS, Columbus County is fortunate to have members of Acme-Delco-Riegelwood Fire-Rescue, Inc., who are eager to dedicate their time and energy to protecting us, our families, and the economic life of our communities from the threats of destructive fire, injury, or illness, even at times with great personal sacrifice; **and**

WHEREAS, ADR Fire-Rescue Inc., provides exemplary service, and their propensity to go above and beyond the call of duty to aid other communities in need represents a devotion to the public that deserves commendation; **and**

WHEREAS, ADR Fire-Rescue Inc., works diligently and tirelessly to meet rigorous standards and requirements including maintaining proper staffing levels, sufficient, properly maintained equipment, communications capabilities, drill records, strong firefighter training, and meeting attendance to achieve a lower fire rating; **and**

WHEREAS, a lower rating means the department is overall better equipped to respond to fires and could also significantly lower the homeowners’ insurance rates in that service area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, proudly present this Proclamation of Appreciation to ADR Fire-Rescue Inc., for their excellent service, lifesaving efforts, and continued dedication to the citizens of Columbus County.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 2nd day of May, 2022.

Columbus County Board of Commissioners

/s/ RICKY BULLARD, Chairman
 /s/ CHRIS SMITH
 /s/ LAVERN COLEMAN
 /s/ CHARLES T. MCDOWELL
 /s/ BOYD WORLEY, Board Attorney
 /s/ LATOYA WILLIAMS, Deputy Clerk

/s/ JEROME MCMILLIAN, Vice Chairman
 /s/ GILES E. BYRD
 /s/ BRENT WATTS
 /s/ EDWIN H. MADDEN, Jr., Manager
 /s/AMANDA B. PRINCE, Staff Attorney/Clerk
 to the Board

MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #12: PROCLAMATION – APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR BUCKHEAD VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE:

The Commissioners thanked Buckhead Volunteer Fire & Rescue for their efforts in the community.

PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR BUCKHEAD VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE

WHEREAS, fire and rescue departments provide vital and essential assistance to the communities they service; **and**

WHEREAS, Columbus County is blessed with both career and volunteer fire and rescue departments that willingly devote time, energy, and resources to ensure emergency medical and fire coverage is available to all areas of the county, 24 hours a day, seven days a week; **and**

WHEREAS, Buckhead Volunteer Fire & Rescue members work diligently and tirelessly in their community to provide exemplary emergency medical and fire services daily, protecting the lives and property of citizens and visitors of Columbus County; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated volunteers at Buckhead Volunteer Fire & Rescue, have a propensity to go above and beyond the call of duty, engaging with their fellow citizens to strengthen the bonds of community in their service area; **and**

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize this department for the value they add to our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, proudly present this Proclamation of Appreciation to Buckhead Volunteer Fire & Rescue, for excellent service, lifesaving efforts, and continued devotion to the citizens of Columbus County.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 2nd day of May, 2022.

Columbus County Board of Commissioners

/s/ **RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**
 /s/ **CHRIS SMITH**
 /s/ **LAVERN COLEMAN**
 /s/ **CHARLES T. MCDOWELL**
 /s/ **BOYD WORLEY, Board Attorney**
 /s/ **LATOYA WILLIAMS, Deputy Clerk**

/s/ **JEROME MCMILLIAN, Vice Chairman**
 /s/ **GILES E. BYRD**
 /s/ **BRENT WATTS**
 /s/ **EDWIN H. MADDEN, Jr., Manager**
 /s/ **AMANDA B. PRINCE, Staff Attorney/Clerk to the Board**

MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #13: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – APPROVAL OF CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE:

Dr. Gary Lanier, Director, requested Board Approval for a Brownsfield EPA Grant in the amount of \$600,000 as a capital project pursuant to G.S. 159-13.2.

COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
Ordinance amending appropriations to the Capital Project
Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina as follows:

Section 1: The following amounts are hereby made to the **Brownsfield EPA Grant 2021-2024 Capital Project** pursuant to G.S. 159 -13.2 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.

		Original Budget
Project Appropriations		
15-4411-519001	Contracted Services	\$593,000
15-4411-526000	Office Supplies	1,000
15-4411-531100	Travel	<u>6,000</u>
Total Appropriations		<u>\$600,000</u>
Source of Revenue		
15-3447-333050	Brownsfield EPA Grant 2021-2024	<u>\$600,000</u>
Total Revenue		<u>\$600,000</u>

Section 2: The project undertaken pursuant to this ordinance is in accordance with the Recommended Budget.

Section 3: The Finance Director is hereby directed to maintain within the Capital Project Fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy all applicable regulations. The terms of any financing agreement also shall be met.

Section 4: The County desires to expend its own funds for the purpose of paying certain costs of various projects, for which expenditures the County reasonably expects to reimburse itself from the proceeds of debt to be incurred by the County.

Section 5: All expenditures relating to obtaining any bond referendum and or installment purchase will be reimbursed from bond proceeds and installment purchase proceeds in accordance with the requirements of the United States Treasury Regulations Section 1.150 -2.

Section 6: This declaration of official intent is made pursuant to Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations to expressly declare the official intent of the County to reimburse itself from the proceeds of debt to be hereinafter incurred by the County for certain expenditures paid by the County on or after the date which is sixty (60) days prior to the date hereof.

Section 7: The County intends to seek Federal, State, and/or other grant funding to reduce the amount of loan proceeds. The adoption of this ordinance authorizes the County Manager and/or his representative to apply for and accept such funding if awarded.

Section 8: This project ordinance shall be entered in the minutes of the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County. Within five days hereof, copies of this ordinance shall be filed with the finance office in Columbus County, and with the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County.

Capital Project amendment shall become effective on May 2, 2022.

ADOPTED, this 2nd day of May, 2022

Ricky Bullard, Chairman
Columbus County Board of Commissioners

Amanda Prince, Clerk to the Board

MOTION:

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the capital project ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS/REPLACEMENTS:

Legend: EB = Entire Board
Listed Zone # = Individual Commissioner

Zone I: Jerome McMillian **Zone V:** Brent Watts
Zone II: Chris Smith **Zone VI:** Ricky Bullard
Zone III: Giles E. Byrd **Zone VII:** Charles T. McDowell
Zone IV: Lavern Coleman

COMMITTEE	ZONE/ EB	PERSON(S)	EXP. DATE	BOARD ACTION
Animal Control	V	Johnny Worley	05/21/2022	Kelly Miller

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

At 7:04 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into a **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV, and V Board Meeting, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #15: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V – APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. April 18, 2022

MOTION:

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

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

At 7:05 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #16: COMMENTS:

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

A. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Commissioner Coleman** stated the following:
 - I appreciate all you folks coming this evening.
 - And again, to the fire and rescue squads, Mr. Edwards I've known you a long time.
 - When I volunteered at the rescue squad, years back, you were there with me and Mr. Ralph McNair and Mr. Jack West, I think his name was, and I remember those days.
 - It's a dedicated and hard thing to do, to get up at 3 o'clock in the morning and get out and go protect somebody else or help somebody else.
 - My hat goes off to you all.
 - If there's anything I can do, civilian or whatever, if you'll get up with me, I promise you I'll help you in every way I can.
 - I appreciate Mr. Madden and I appreciate the county staff for what they did today in recognizing Mr. Madden.
 - I appreciate the citizens of Columbus County for all you do.
 - Continue to pray for us and help us.

2. **Commissioner McDowell** stated the following:
 - I would like to kind of piggy back on what Ms. Norris said.
 - Many years ago, there on 905, we had a motorcycle accident, not because of a resident mowing the grass and throwing in the roadway.
 - At that time, state contractor mowers would throw big clumps out into the roadway, and we had a guy to hit one and run in the ditch, but luckily he wasn't seriously injured.
 - That is a big concern.
 - I wonder if there's not something we can do to address it, maybe as a recommendation to the state.
 - When those contractors do mow, it makes a mess on the side of the road, and if it's wet, it is a dangerous situation.
 - So, I'm just throwing that out there, something for us all to consider, to see if there is something we can do, as a suggestion to the state, to prevent that type of thing from happening.
 - Maybe I could suggest that we write a letter to our representative, asking that state contractors who mow on the side of the road do a better job of not throwing those clumps on the road.
 - I mean there's better wording I'm sure, but it is a huge issue all over the state.
 - So, if we could do something to make more people aware of that, I think it would be the right thing to do.

County Manager Eddie Madden stated the following:

 - We can draft a letter for your review and have the Board sign off on it before sending it to DOT.

Commissioner McDowell stated the following

-Also, I'd like to mirror what Commissioner Coleman said about all the volunteers.

-I remember frying a lot of chicken back in the day, down in Nakina, so I understand the time that goes into it.

-And, Mr. Madden, as I said earlier with my opening and closing remarks, thank you for being here.

3. **Commissioner Smith** stated the following:

-I have a couple of things.

-I've had some constituents to ask if we can put a four-way stop sign at Bill Hooks Rd and Peacock Rd.

-They dropped it to a 45 MPH zone because there's a sharp curve there but they still just fly down the road.

-So, if we can contact the state and see if it's feasible.

-Another thing, I had a lady to contact me this evening to say they took some shrubbery to a convenience center in North Whiteville, and they were turned away because they were pulling the trailer with a pickup truck.

-And I'm sure Mr. Andy is doing what he was told, but she said they went home, put the trailer hitch on an SUV, pulled the trailer back and were allowed to dump it, which makes no sense to me.

-They would love to get that rule changed if possible, because there's no difference in pulling a trailer with a truck or car or SUV in my opinion.

County Manager Eddie Madden stated the following:

-Yes sir, we'll look into that for you.

4. **Commissioner Watts** stated the following:

-I do want to say what Commissioner Smith said, I've had some more complaints on the trash sites on what you can and cannot do.

-I would like to tell all the mothers, Happy Mother's Day, because without mothers none of us would be here.

-And, like I said earlier, thank you for what you're doing Mr. Madden, sorry I got here a little late, but I appreciate all you're doing and the way the county is going.

-Thanks to all the county employees because it takes everybody to make it go, so thanks for what everybody does.

5. **Commissioner Byrd** stated the following:

-Mr. Madden, I have no qualms whatsoever on the job you've done.

-But let's hope we can get \$58 or \$68 million dollars give to us next year.

-We can make a whole lot more showing.

-But, you know in the past, we had to worry about where that money was going to come from to do this and to do that, but this year it's been a lot of government programs.

-They're giving away more money than you can throw away.

-But that won't be next year though, you'll buckle down to the taxes.

-Also, to the Board, I think we might like to consider, drafting a letter to send to the legislation, to Representative Jones, or whoever, about these housing developments that were started after 1975, like the lady who was here at the last meeting talking about the road.

-They passed a bill in 1975 that eliminated taking a road over until it was up to state standards.

-Well, I happened to go look at this road Jerome, the lady I think was in your district, and it's a very nice road, but those folks cannot afford to put the gravel and all on there.

-The width is fine, but I don't think the base is fine.

-There's doublewides all the way down through there and that's just one area in the county and I've got them in my district and every one of us has them.

-A bill that was put in place in 1975, I believe is outdated now.

-I think it's time they revisit that and let's see if we can't make some improvements because those folks are citizens of the county and they're paying taxes just like anyone else.

-In 1975, and no changes have been made, I think it needs to be looked at.

-Mr. Edwards, I really appreciate you coming with all the knowledge that you bring to the Board, because there's not very many elders out there.

-And I remember when Hallsboro started they built the first water tank in Mike Dillon's garage.

-He was a logger and he had everything, and JA Young and a bunch of them built the first fire truck with a tank on it.

-So the fire departments and the rescue squads have come a long way, doing the things they've done, on their own.

- I don't feel like they need a whole lot of people meddling with them now because they will survive.
- They'll cook chicken, catfish or do whatever they have to do.

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

- I'd like to thank all of the ones in attendance tonight.
- Again, I'd like to wish all the mother's Happy Mother's Day.
- Like Commissioner Watts said, without the mothers we wouldn't be here.
- I'd like to thank Mr. Madden again for allowing us to pick you to come to Columbus County, because you've turned this county around and we appreciate you.
- We appreciate all our staff, it just seems like everything gelled together and just came together and finally for once, people are working together in this county.
- I appreciate you and I hope you're around for 20 or so more years.
- I've always pushed water and sewer in this county and I appreciate what we've been able to do.
- I appreciate Representative Jones and the rest of the legislation for the money we received and the way I see it, the federal government has plenty of money we just have to figure out a way to work with them to get it here.
- And I don't think this will be the last year that we get it.
- Even though I'm a District I Commissioner, I get people from all over, especially in the Farmers Union area about water.
- I tell them, they have to go through the same way that I did, filling out petitions and going from there.
- In my opinion, it doesn't matter what district you serve, we still vote for everything that happens in the county, we're county commissioners, so instead of pointing the fingers, I feel like we should all work together and work for the people that we were put in office to serve.

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

- I'd like to say I appreciate the ladies that put a little extra work into that reception.
- I sure enjoyed it.
- They had it looking very nice and they did an excellent job and I'd like to say thank you.
- I hope you all have a Happy Mother's Day.
- A mom is a special person, created by God, and no one can take the place of Mom, so be sure to let them know that they're special.
- I know we probably won't get \$58 million dollars again this year or next year but we did get it.
- And if this Board hadn't asked for it, we wouldn't have gotten it this year.
- Previous Boards wouldn't ask for it because of not liking who was up there and that's a shame.
- This Board asked for it and I thank you for asking for this money, it shows the type of leaders that you are to move forward.
- So, let's work together and continue to be united and I appreciate the job you're doing Mr. Madden.

B. **County Manager Eddie Madden** stated the following:

- I have a few things.
- Just as the Chairman expressed, I want to say thank you to everyone for the reception that was held this afternoon.
- Time has flown by and it's been a great year and a pleasure to be in this role, serving this Board and working alongside the staff that you all have.
- They are phenomenal people, phenomenal people.
- The reception was great, the food was very nice, and you can tell everyone goes to great effort to do an exceptional job.
- And that was demonstrated again this evening.
- Thank you so much for this, it was very nice.
- A couple of reminders, the first is for the Special Called Meeting on May 12th at 5:00 P.M for the fiscal year 2022–2023 Budget presentation.
- At that meeting, the proposed budget will be made available to the Board, to the Press, and most importantly to the Public.
- The staff will post the budget document and budget message to the county website on that same day, May 12th.
- It will be submitted the following day, after your review, on the 13th to the Local Government Commission in compliance with their requirements for monitoring, which you all are aware of.
- Between the 13th of May and the 6th of June when your Public Hearing is held; we are making ourselves available to each of you for any questions you may have regarding the budget.

-If you want to sit down with us, one on one, we're happy to talk with you individually about it or happy to schedule meetings with the Board to provide an overview or explanation of each of the budget items in detail, if necessary.

-These are not required by statute, but you know how I operate.

-We want to be fully transparent about what we do from day to day, especially the budget document.

-It is a \$70-million-dollar instrument and it requires your approval, and when you give that approval I want you to be able to say with confidence that you're spending the money wisely.

-In addition to that, we want you to be familiar with it, so the Local Government Commission will know that you are up to speed on the budget and know where the money is being spent.

-That will demonstrate to them that the Board has had a significant role in the Budget process.

-So, from May 12th when the Budget is presented to you officially, until June 6th, we're available anytime you want to come in to us to discuss the budget.

-On June 6th, the required Public Hearing will take place.

-It will be at the beginning of your meeting.

-Again, we will provide an overview to you all and to the Public about that budget document, and provide more explanation if necessary.

-Throughout the month of June, if the Board should decide, you can host Budget Workshops so that we can answer any questions the Board may have and so you can be thoroughly familiar with the Budget document before it is adopted.

-The only date you really need to be aware of and conscious of is June 30th.

-The budget document, by law, has to be adopted by June 30th.

-We hope that you will approve the budget before June 30th.

-The next thing I have for you is the EMS Citizen Survey and Chief West is here, he can provide more insight on this than I can, but I will tell you that beginning tomorrow morning a citizen survey will be posted to our website.

-I have reviewed that survey, it only takes about a minute, two at most to complete, but it is a highly valuable document, that will be used by our consultants to develop a strategic plan that will be rolled out to this Board in the June to July timeframe.

-I want to especially thank Dennis Williams, Cindy Ehlers and Julie Strickland for the \$500,000 grant this Board approved this evening for the inclusive playground that will be built in the next year.

-This is a great addition to our park system and will provide full access to children regardless of ability.

-Finally, Dr. English and the Community College folks have reached out to us.

-As you know, they are starting an automotive program this fall and the first day of class is August 15th.

-They have run in to a bit of a snag with the metal building that was to house this new department and then of course the construction that would need to take place after that.

-It's obvious that the building will not be done by August 15th.

-Stuart Carroll mentioned to me that we have a building out at the north campus, we refer to it as Building C, it was the old wash bay for BB&T bank.

-It has 3 bay doors and it is in need of update, electrical and whatnot.

-The college has offered, and if this Board is okay with it by consensus we will obviously put it on a later meeting agenda, to upfit the building with new paint, insulation, interior paneling, install a compressor, as well as a lift that needs to be repaired, that's already in the building, to use on a temporary basis, until their new facility can be opened.

-That depends on the construction schedule, that may take several months, we're anticipating they may need this building for the academic year at most, but we want to make the Board aware of that.

-In addition, the brick house that's next door to it, we're not using it right now, and they have expressed interest in using it as an office space for their instructor and maybe some classroom instruction that would take place there as well.

-They would assume the cost of upkeep of those buildings, the electrical bill and any insurance that would be associated with it.

-So, it's a win-win for us and them.

-We get an upgraded building and they're able to start their class off on time on August 15th.

-The reason I bring that up tonight, without an approval, is because this just came together today, literally, the lease has not been drawn up, but we really would like your consensus this evening, so that they can move forward with some work, and then we would have the lease agreement on the agenda for your next meeting.

-Does that sound okay to everyone?

-So, buildings B & C, the bay storage building, as well as the brick building next door.

Commissioner Byrd stated the following:

-That might be something after they get their new building that the county could utilize to wash their own vehicles.

County Manager Eddie Madden stated the following:

-Yes sir, we've talked about that a little bit.

-Mr. West, you want to talk about that for a second?

Assistant County Manager Nick West stated the following:

-With our ongoing fleet management program we discussed possibly utilizing it for maintaining and washing our county vehicles and basic fluid checks and tire service would be a great opportunity for that building.

Commissioner Byrd stated the following:

-And, I understand the college is going to start teaching a special welding class out there now.

Commissioner Smith stated the following:

-They're also going to be doing heavy equipment.

County Manager Eddie Madden stated the following:

-Yes sir, and I believe the truck driver training pad, an application has been made for that for some grant funding, so a lot of good things happening in the county and out at the college.

-I just wanted to bring those things to your attention.

-Thank you, thank you, thank you for the reception this evening, it was very humbling and I'm grateful. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Byrd requested Mr. Edwards be allowed additional time to speak and the Chairman allowed five minutes.

Mr. Alton C. Edwards stated the following:

-We got to the place where we had to build a truck to go outside the sanitary district because it was creating a lot of problems.

-We had a brand new fire truck but we couldn't go beyond the confines of that district.

-So we built our own truck.

-Now 62 years later I want you to understand that ADR has got a tremendous amount of equipment.

-And I want you to be aware of that in case we have a major disaster.

-We established the first rated rural fire department in Columbus County.

-There were hundreds in the state of North Carolina.

-That gives you an idea of what prior Commissioners didn't do.

-They didn't do their job and I think you all are doing a great job so far and I'll pray for you every night.

-You know, God gave you brains, and everybody calls me the super chief because I've got a gift of seeing what happened.

-When Brother Jacobs got up and stood before you, he came to our department and I was on the Board of Directors, and you could challenge each member coming in.

-I asked Brother Jacobs, "Why do you want to come to ADR?"

-He said, "So I can learn how you all operate and go back and form an outfit in Buckhead".

-And that's why he was here today and he's a very close friend of mine.

-We built the first quick-out truck in Columbus County, which was just a little fire truck, trimmed down that you could work car fires with.

-You would set it up at a house fire and then run your big pumpers in there to supply water.

-I recently saw that little truck, hooked to a wrecker and going to the junkyard.

-It was a '72 C10 Chevrolet with a 327 little 4 barrel, but it worked good and we built it right there in-house.

-We also had to cook every four months to feed 2,200 people.

-And guess how much the plates were?

-One dollar, and we made money at that.

-Then we built a brush truck out of a military truck and put it in service.

-Then we had the first ladder truck in Columbus County.

-Then we established the first trainee program where we would take in members 16-18 and groom them to come in on their 18th birthday, and that kept them out of trouble.

-We had the only local disaster drill in Columbus County that I have any records of.

-One thing that we learned is that you can't take all of your potential patients to one hospital.

-You can't take 22 people to one hospital.

-We learned, you have to split that up between Whiteville, Elizabethtown and New Hanover.

-That was such a learning experience that we set up a 3 county disaster drill and it was even more enhancing.

-At this point in time and it's something many people don't know, we have a field hospital in downtown Riegelwood, stored in 40-foot container.

-It's heated and cooled by a Perkins diesel engine and if its 100 degrees outside, we can drop it to 28 in that hospital.

-It will treat 16 walking wounded and 8 trauma cases.

-It's just like the thing you see on MASH where they have the big tents and all with the Red Cross on it and that incidentally was a gift and it has to be set up with a crane.

-The people that gave it to us said they would fly a man in and bring the boom truck if we ever needed it.

- The last hurricane/flood we kept it in service for about 3 weeks.
- We have a rescue team, consisting of 6 highly trained men that graduated from an instructor who worked the Oklahoma City Bombing.
- He taught us things that he learned from that experience.
- We have 12 men in a water rescue team.
- One thing that I'm very proud of is having a lot of good members.
- I came out in Korean conflict as a combat medic and that was a plus in working massive trauma.
- We helped other departments that were trying to start or had major issues in their ongoing fire service.
- One of those was Leland Rescue, Buckhead, who I already mentioned, Bolton, and Bolton is doing very good.
- I went down and helped them 5 years ago and last Sunday after church I was invited down to tour their building and my pacemaker almost shorted out with what I saw that crowd had done.
- If you ever get the opportunity, please go there, and I'm not taking away from any of the others.
- We helped Kelly, Shallotte Rescue Squad, Clarkton Rescue Squad and Harold's Store.
- Sometime back I was invited to speak at a Sampson County Ambulance meeting and due to health issues I was not able to stand up that long and I invited Chief Camlin to go and there were some heavy weights at that meeting, I mean Raleigh, Durham and other places.
- From the time that little fellow started talking every eye in that room was honed in on him.
- He was talking equipment and procedures, that none of those big city fire departments knew anything about.
- He is a blessing to this county.
- Sometimes when he talks back to me when I try to lead him in the right direction, I pull a picture out of my pickup truck, where I was reaching down and getting him with one hand from vacation bible school and putting him on the fire truck and that sort of calms him down.
- He's a very nice fellow, very intelligent.
- We have 22 pieces of rolling equipment at 3 fire houses and on the drawing board for the fourth.
- It's not that we wanted to do that, it's a matter of staying ahead of the game and that's what I plead with you here tonight, you have to look ahead to the future.
- A man told me one time at an arson school, that anything a man could think, somebody could make it happen.
- So, here's Dick Tracy in the funny papers, the man he's chasing gets on a rocket and goes to the moon, and up comes NASA and says well if he did it, then we can do it, and you see what happened.
- We put a man on the moon.
- It's just that simple.
- Out of 1280 fire departments that protect a municipality operated by volunteers, we are rated in the top 6.
- I like to refer back to the members because that's what keeps the place going.
- You've got to make it interesting and you've got to make it rewarding and it's just like a marriage, you have to communicate.
- We just completed a water shuttle.
- That's where you have to drop a tape, start hauling your tankers in and dumping water and pumping it out to the fire.
- We flowed 938 gallons a minute using a method 3 for an hour and 27 minutes.
- We have a pump that will pump about 3,000 gallons, it's a portable military pump, like an irrigation pump, and we put that to the water source and it will pump all the water you can put to it.
- We started off with a class 9, about as low as you can go.
- And nobody unless you've been in the fire service knows how hard it is and demanding to drop just one rate and now we're rated 4, which is extremely good.
- It's very hard when you hear a fire department getting a rating of any kind.
- It consists of inspections, hose tests, ladder tests, air packs, nozzles, everything has to be inspected and has to be workable.
- And a lot of times you have to do a pump test on request.
- The reason we have to have all of this is because of the following: we're in a very dangerous area in Acme-Delco/Riegelwood/Ransom Township; 92% of all of the petroleum coming out of Wilmington comes ADR's way; there is a lot of ammunition by rail and truck that comes through this area and in particular our area.
- Even though we're not at war, having trained a lot at Sunny Point in my younger days, they have to go to these foreign countries and get the old ammunition and carry it to a certain point and that means they have to refurbish the old one.
- So, there's constantly ammunition going every way.
- We had one instance where we had 750lb bombs on pallets, and you know a van box truck gets its support from the root.

- Well, he got lost and hit a sign post in Lumberton and tore a hole in the top of that van and hitting that rough concrete, two lane road at that time, from Bolton, right there at the trash dump, the bottom of that trailer collapsed.
- And here were the pallets of bombs all over everywhere.
- So you never know, even though it might have 1 placard on it, it could be something else.
- We run 80 calls a month, it's unbelievable what happens, it like the Bermuda triangle.
- We're right in the trough where we catch everything coming out of Wilmington.
- This is a monthly survey of Hwy 87; three hundred thirty thousand vehicles pass through Riegelwood on 87.
- Six hundred thousand on 74/76 and eight thousand every thirty days going in and out of that mill that's coming off these other arteries of traffic.
- They have anything from pure sulfuric acid to methanol.
- There's 32 tankers that belong to TWT out of Kinston that come right by my house every day hauling 8,000 gallons of methanol.
- One gallon of vaporized methanol is equal to 8 sticks of dynamite.
- Can you imagine what a rear-end collision would do?
- Imagine one going under the traffic light in Riegelwood and someone coming out of Riegelwood and breaks the internal valve off of that trailer that runs on that hot motor and it runs in the sewage.
- That's the way you have to think in EMS and that's the frame of mind you all need to get in to get this thing geared up and ensure that the fire departments and rescue squads are capable to handle the most unimaginable things.
- In closing, our future plans are to build our own training ground behind Station 2 in the Livingston Chapel area.
- We've already got three 40 foot containers to adapt into confine space training and we've already got a water pot out there for water.
- We've got a propane tank and a gasoline tank.
- It's so hard now for active fire departments to make any changes due to the amount of calls, inspections and training.
- We might have to hire it out.
- I'd like to thank you for letting me recycle on talking.
- I have a really good feeling about you Board of Commissioners.
- I was born in walking distance, over there at W. Williamson St, last house on the right with the two big old oak trees in 1934.
- I also want to add that this is my 64th wedding anniversary, and a lot of people don't live that long.

Agenda Item #22: ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:42 P.M., Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed. These minutes were recorded and typed by LaToya Williams.

LATOYA WILLIAMS, Deputy Clerk

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

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COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, May 2, 2022
6:00 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and time at 127 West Webster Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose of conducting a Closed Session Special Called Meeting.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**
 Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney/Clerk to Board**
 Jay Leatherman, **Finance Director**
 Boyd Worley, **Board Attorney**

ENTER into CLOSED SESSION SPECIAL CALLED MEETING IN ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A)(3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE and (5)(i) REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION:

Agenda Items #1: MEETING CALLED to ORDER:

At 6:00 P.M. Chairman Ricky Bullard called the Monday, May 2, 2022 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting to order.

At 6:00 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion enter into Closed Session Special Called Meeting in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A)(3) Attorney-Client Privilege and (5)(i) Real Estate Acquisition, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #2: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A)(3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE and (5)(i) REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION:

No official action was taken.

RECESS CLOSED SESSION:

At 6:20 P.M., Commissioner Smith made a motion to recess Closed Session, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

READING and APPROVAL of CLOSED SESSION GENERAL ACCOUNT:

Chairman Bullard requested Boyd Worley, Board Attorney, to orally read the Closed Session General Account. Mr. Worley orally stated the following: "In Closed Session the Board of Commissioners discussed pending litigation, potential litigation and real estate acquisition with Board Attorney Boyd Worley. No action was taken at any point by the Board during Closed Session."

MOTION:

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

ADJOURN SPECIAL CALLED MEETING:

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn the Special Called Meeting, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

LATOYA WILLIAMS, Deputy Clerk

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

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