

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS****Monday, March 6, 2023****5:45 P.M. – Closed Session****6:30 P.M. – Regular Session**

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

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**Lavern Coleman, **Vice Chairman**

Giles E. Byrd

Scott Floyd

Barbara Featherson

Brent Watts

Chris Smith

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**Boyd Worley, **Board Attorney**Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney/Deputy Clerk**Jana Nealey, **Clerk to the Board****APPOINTEES ABSENT:****Agenda Item #1: MEETING CALLED to ORDER:**

At 5:45 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the Monday, February 20, 2023 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order.

**RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter CLOSED SESSION IN ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A)(3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE and REAL ESTATE:**

At 5:46 P.M., Commissioner Floyd made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S § 143-318.11(A)(3) Attorney-Client privilege and Real Estate seconded by Commissioner Featherson. 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 N.C.G.S § 143-318.11 (A) (6) PERSONNEL****RECESS CLOSED SESSION and enter into REGULAR SESSION**

At 6:15 P.M., Vice Chairman Laverne Coleman made a motion to recess Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Floyd. The motion unanimously passed.

**GENERAL ACCOUNT**

Board Attorney Boyd Worley gave a general account of the closed session stating that two potential matters of litigation and one matter of Real Estate was discussed. No action taken.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Byrd gave a motion to approve the General Account, seconded by Commissioner Floyd.

**Agenda Items # 3 and #4: INVOCATION and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:**

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

**Agenda Item #5: APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the Agenda with tabling Agenda Item #11 and #18, seconded by Vice Chairman Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #6: PROCCLAMATIONS RAMPS AND RAILS:

The Commissioners presented a proclamation to the Ramps and Rails groups Columbus Baptist Association, Hallsboro Baptist Men, Riegelwood Baptist Men, and the Cerro Gordo Baptist Men.

**PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION  
TO THE HALLSBORO BAPTIST MEN**

**WHEREAS**, Matthew 5:16 states, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”; **and**

**WHEREAS**, in the face of great need the Hallsboro Baptist Men have allowed their bright light to shine all across the county, selflessly volunteering their time and effort to help those in need; **and**

**WHEREAS**, despite unprecedented challenges, including a global pandemic and supply chain shortages, the Hallsboro Baptist Men have continued to work in their community, showing concern and compassion for their neighbor;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, we the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, wish to thank the Hallsboro Baptist Men for their hard work and recognize the following participants for their kind acts and dedication to the citizens of Columbus County:

*Hadi Ipekyun*  
*Leroy Council*  
*James Council*  
*Paul Council*  
*Van Pierce*

*Fred Senter*  
*Richard Gore*  
*Sonney Sharp*  
*Emory Worley*  
*Roscoe Shaw*

*Gene Stephens*  
*David Heath*  
*Barry McQueen*  
*Donald Hester*  
*Tim Carson*

*Alan Harrelson*  
*Dennis Tate*  
*Jason Holmes*  
*Willis Fennell*  
*Cary Flemming*

Adopted this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023.

**Columbus County Board of Commissioners**

<div>Ricky Bullard, Chairman</div>	<div>Lavern Coleman, Vice Chairman</div>	<div>Boyd Worley, Board Attorney</div>
<div>Chris Smith</div>	<div>Giles E. Byrd</div>	<div>Amanda B. Prince, Staff Attorney/Deputy Clerk to the Board</div>
<div>Barbara Featherson</div>	<div>Brent Watts</div>	<div>Jana Nealey, Clerk to the Board</div>
<div>Scott Floyd</div>	<div>Edwin H. Madden, Jr., Manager</div>	

**PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION  
TO THE RIEGELWOOD BAPTIST MEN**

**WHEREAS**, Matthew 5:16 states, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”; **and**

**WHEREAS**, in the face of great need the Riegelwood Baptist Men have allowed their bright light to shine all across the county, selflessly volunteering their time and effort to help those in need; **and**

**WHEREAS**, despite unprecedented challenges, including a global pandemic and supply chain shortages, the Riegelwood Baptist Men have continued to work in their community, showing concern and compassion for their neighbor;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, we the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, wish to thank the Riegelwood Baptist Men for their hard work and recognize the following participants for their kind acts and dedication to the citizens of Columbus County:

*Murray Mintz*  
*Kenneth Myres*  
*Craig Gore*  
*Gray Mintz*

*D. J. Peterson*  
*Buddy Edge*  
*Lavern Coleman*

*Ronnie Russ*  
*Charles Formyduval*  
*Malton Tripp*

*Kelly Myres*  
*J. B. Scholar*  
*Tommy Tedder*

*Anthony Dowless*  
*Charlie Fish*  
*Patrick Wahl*

Adopted this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023.

**Columbus County Board of Commissioners**

<div>Ricky Bullard, Chairman</div>	<div>Lavern Coleman, Vice Chairman</div>	<div>Boyd Worley, Board Attorney</div>
<div>Chris Smith</div>	<div>Giles E. Byrd</div>	<div>Amanda B. Prince, Staff Attorney/Deputy Clerk to the Board</div>
<div>Barbara Featherson</div>	<div>Brent Watts</div>	<div>Jana Nealey, Clerk to the Board</div>
<div>Scott Floyd</div>	<div>Edwin H. Madden, Jr., Manager</div>	

**PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION  
TO THE CERRO GORDO BAPTIST MEN**

**WHEREAS**, Matthew 5:16 states, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”; **and**

**WHEREAS**, in the face of great need the Cerro Gordo Baptist Men have allowed their bright light to shine all across the county, selflessly volunteering their time and effort to help those in need; **and**

**WHEREAS**, despite unprecedented challenges, including a global pandemic and supply chain shortages, the Cerro Gordo Baptist Men have continued to work in their community, showing concern and compassion for their neighbor;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, we the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, wish to thank the Cerro Gordo Baptist Men for their hard work and recognize the following participants for their kind acts and dedication to the citizens of Columbus County:

*Rev. George Strickland*  
*Darrell Nance*  
*Steve Inman*

*Rick Benton*  
*Jason Jones*

*Darrell Milligan*  
*Carson Jones*

*Richard Strickland*  
*Chad Herring*

*Lloyd Ransom*  
*Greg Nance*

Adopted this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023.

**Columbus County Board of Commissioners**

<div>Ricky Bullard, Chairman</div>	<div>Lavern Coleman, Vice Chairman</div>	<div>Boyd Worley, Board Attorney</div>
<div>Chris Smith</div>	<div>Giles E. Byrd</div>	<div>Amanda B. Prince, Staff Attorney/Deputy Clerk to the Board</div>
<div>Barbara Featherson</div>	<div>Brent Watts</div>	<div>Jana Nealey, Clerk to the Board</div>
<div>Scott Floyd</div>	<div>Edwin H. Madden, Jr., Manager</div>	

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**PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION TO THE COLUMBUS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

**WHEREAS**, Matthew 5:16 states, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”; **and**

**WHEREAS**, in the face of great need the Columbus Baptist Association has allowed their bright light to shine all across the county, selflessly volunteering their time and effort to help those in need; **and**

**WHEREAS**, despite unprecedented challenges, including a global pandemic and supply chain shortages, the Columbus Baptist Association has continued to work in their community, showing concern and compassion for their neighbors.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, we the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, wish to thank the Columbus Baptist Association for their hard work and dedication to the citizens of Columbus County.

Adopted this the 6<sup>th</sup> day March 2023.

**Columbus County Board of Commissioners**

Ricky Bullard, Chairman	Lavern Coleman, Vice Chairman	Boyd Worley, Board Attorney
Chris Smith	Giles E. Byrd	Amanda B. Prince, Staff Attorney/ Deputy Clerk to the Board
Barbara Featherson	Brent Watts	Jana Nealey, Clerk to the Board
Scott Floyd	Edwin H. Madden, Jr., Manager	

Agenda Item #7: PUBLIC INPUT:

No public Input

Agenda Item #8: ADMINISTRATION – EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

County Manager Eddie Madden tabled this until the March 20<sup>th</sup>, meeting.

Agenda Item #: PRESENTATION – UPDATE ON THE HEALING PLACE:

Syd Wiford gave the following update on the Healing place:

After a risk assessment of this area, there are 5 sections of a business action plan model including, prevention harm, reduction, intervention, treatment, and post treatment. The work we’ve been doing with opioid settlement firms this year has been following that model. The idea is to have a complete encompassing continuum of services for Columbus county that any resident who needs help can get help Very time efficiently. A really interesting detail about the healing place is it’s pure run, which means that the vast majority of staff employed at the healing place are in recovery, it also has something under its operation called wet shelter so any individual who’s homeless and who may be using can go into the healing place for the night get a meal get their clothes washed if they need minor medical attention that will be given to them and they’ll have a safe place to sleep, and then they released the next morning. They also have social setting detox so the healing Place operation in New Hanover county has a place that individual who need to medically detox can do so there. If you’ve been paying attention to the news lately there’s been some controversy out there about is it treatment or isn’t it treatment in the term treatment and recovery are pretty co-mingled in the field and so what qualifies something is treatment. Usually treatment is defined by something we called the ACM criteria, American society of addiction medicine, and they’ve outlined the levels of care that a treatment system has the healing place actually has several of those levels of care they have social setting detox. They also have recovery supports. They have long-term treatment, long-term recovery, supports and housing, so is it treatment? I think the better question is does it work? Does it get people from their use into recovery we know nationally and through a variety of other sources that probably half of the people that go into any level of detox where there’s social setting hospital setting drop out they don’t go on. We also know that the outcomes with the healing place model, or if they stay long enough to complete a residential level of care 70% of them get into recovery place to run a treatment program in Toledo similar to healing place with social setting detox. We had a short term long-term residential levels. I wish my statistics for 70% Usually in a hospital program. The statistics for completion are more like one and three and that’s high if you’re lucky, so the healing places got a pretty long track record of doing this the things that make its model successful or it is pure run and there’s nothing as impactful for somebody who’s been in recovery for a long time helping somebody who’s trying to gain recovery and so that’s the point of the healing place model. If you wanna look at it and from cost-effective standpoint, healing place, in your contract costs \$66 a day. tThe contract with the healing place will purchase 4380 days of services at the healing place. They also will


provide transportation, because this is an awfully big County, most people who need treatment are pretty desperate for money they also are at the bottom of their finances and don't have transportation and so we were able to negotiate at the healing place would provide transportation from the county to the healing place in Wilmington for admission and would provide a ride back upon discharge. They're going to help us start some Oxford houses and some self-help recovery groups around the county, so, the idea is to for folks to go into a safe sober environment, get well, and get a good start in recovery. Then they come back home, hopefully to some sober housing, to a safe place, find a job, and return here to be productive citizens of Columbus County. All of this wouldn't have happened without working with Kim Smith of the Health Department because that's the person reports and is likely where the resource coordinator will also report then that position gets filled. Since the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, we have had 25 calls, most of them, fortunately occur between 12 and 6 PM but with addiction you know when somebody gets high and goes home and realizes that they need help some you can't count on it to be between 12 to 6 and, frequently, when you don't have somebody answering the phone when somebody does reach out they'll go out and get high again or use again and the next day that motivation to get well for getting to recovery is gone because they're using.

**Agenda Item #10: AIRPORT – APPROVAL of the AIRPORT GRANT CONTRACT and PROJECT ORDINANCE**

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the Airport Grant Contract and Project ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

*The original signed Project Ordinance Tracking Number: 5-20230306-010 is housed in the clerk's office.*



DIVISION OF AVIATION  
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**GRANT AGREEMENT**

STATE AID TO AIRPORTS BLOCK GRANT BETWEEN THE N. C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AN AGENCY OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND <b><u>COLUMBUS COUNTY</u></b>	<b>AIRPORT:</b> <b><u>COLUMBUS COUNTY MUNICIPAL</u></b>  <b>PROJECT NO:</b> <b><u>36237.53.18.1</u></b>
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This Agreement is hereby made and entered into by and between the NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (hereinafter referred to as "Department") and **COLUMBUS COUNTY**, the public agency owning the **COLUMBUS COUNTY MUNICIPAL AIRPORT** (hereinafter referred to as "Sponsor").

This agreement shall be effective on \_\_\_\_\_ and shall terminate on **JULY 31, 2024** with the option to extend, if mutually agreed upon, through a written modification. Pre-award costs included on the Code and Category of Expenditure Section of the AV-501/AV-504 of the project's Request for Aid (RFA) Application are authorized.

**WITNESSETH**

WHEREAS, the Department has received the approval of the Federal Aviation Administration to administer certain Airport Improvement Program Funds in North Carolina under the provisions of the *FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012*;

WHEREAS, the Department has approved a grant of funds to the Sponsor under the State Block Grant Program Non-Primary Entitlement and CARES Match funds.

WHEREAS, the Sponsor has made a formal application dated **JANUARY 30, 2023** to the Department for Non-Primary Entitlement and CARES Match funds for the **COLUMBUS COUNTY MUNICIPAL AIRPORT**; and

WHEREAS, a grant in the amount of **\$56,656** not to exceed **100 percent** of the federal share of the final, eligible project costs of **\$56,656** has been approved subject to the conditions and limitations herein; and

WHEREAS, the Non-Primary Entitlement and CARES Match funds will be used for the following approved project:

**LAND ACQUISITION - AWOS RELOCATION**

**Agenda Item #11: EVERGREEN ELEMENTARY LETTER**

This Agenda Item was Tabled

**Agenda Item #12: ATTORNEY'S OFFICE – APPROVAL of a RESOLUTION REFLECTING ATTORNEY GENERAL UPDATE:**

Staff Attorney Amanda Prince is requesting approval for a Resolution authorizing execution of opioid settlements and approving the supplemental agreement for additional funds between the state of North Carolina and local governments on proceeds relating to the settlement of opioid litigation.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Watts. The motion unanimously passed.

*The original signed Resolution for the Opioid Settlement AG Update,*

- **TRACKING NUMBER:2-20230220-R12**

*The original signed Ordinance*

- **TRACKING NUMBER: 6-20230306-O12**

*Are both housed in the clerk’s office.*

**TRACKING NUMBER:**  
**5-20230306-R12**

A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF Columbus  
TO DIRECT THE EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

WHEREAS Columbus County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids, including settlements with drug distributors Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen, and the drug maker Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals;

WHEREAS the allocation, use, and reporting of funds stemming from these national settlement agreements and certain bankruptcy resolutions ("Opioid Settlement Funds") are governed by the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation ("MOA");

WHEREAS Columbus County has received Opioid Settlement Funds pursuant to these national settlement agreements and deposited the Opioid Settlement Funds in a separate special revenue fund as required by section D of the MOA;

WHEREAS section E.6 of the MOA states:

E.6. Process for drawing from special revenue funds.

- a. Budget item or resolution required. Opioid Settlement Funds can be used for a purpose when the Governing Body includes in its budget or passes a separate resolution authorizing the expenditure of a stated amount of Opioid Settlement Funds for that purpose or those purposes during a specified period of time.
- b. Budget item or resolution details. The budget or resolution should (i) indicate that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; (ii) state the specific strategy or strategies the county or municipality intends to fund pursuant to Option A or Option B, using the item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to identify each funded strategy, and (iii) state the amount dedicated to each strategy for a stated period of time.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in alignment with the NC MOA, Columbus County authorizes the expenditure of opioid settlement funds as follows:

I . First strategy authorized

- a. Name of strategy: Leadership, Planning, Coordination, Research
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit B Exhibit A, Exhibit B)
- c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: J. K & L
- d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$65,000.00
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:



Start date January 1 , 2023 through End date December 31, 2023

- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Hire a Part-time position to Create County Infrastructure necessary to track County's Opioid Settlement Funding expenditure, outcome data and report to the AG and DI-IHS
- g. Provider: Columbus County

2. Second strategy authorized

- a. Name of strategy: Treat Opioid Use Disorders
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit B Exhibit A, Exhibit B)
- c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: 1,2,3,4,7,8
- d. Amounted authorized for this strategy: \$36,968.00
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:  
Start date January 1 , 2023 through End date December 31, 2023
- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Currently no data base exists within the County to consistently track opioid overdoses, arrests or opioid related incidents occurring within the County. County Emergency Services needs implement a database to track Opioid overdoses, arrests incidents across Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement agencies and enable it to complete reports to the local government as well as the state.
- g. Provider: Columbus County

3. Third authorized strategy

- a. Name of strategy: Treat Opioid Use Disorders
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit B (Exhibit A, Exhibit B)
- c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: 1,2,3,4,7,8
- d. Amounted authorized for this strategy: \$289,080.00
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:  
Start date January 1, 2023 through End date December 31, 2023
- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: County needs to execute a contract for an estimated need of 10-12 beds annually w The Healing Place of New Hanover County for Services. The County has entered into negotiations w HPNHC to contract with beds available to adult men and women from Columbus County and is in the process of finalizing an agreement. HPNHC will allow individuals with Opioid Use Disorders to be admitted and accept their use of Vivitrol (l/month/injectible naltrexone) to assist them with opioid cravings.
- g. Provider: Healing Place of New Hanover County

4. Fourth authorized strategy

- a. Name of strategy: Public education, marketing and linkage to SUD services
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit B
- c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: C Connections to Care
- d. Amounted authorized for this strategy: \$75,000.00
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:  
Start date January 1 , 2023 through End date December 31, 2023
- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Create a County staff position to assist county residents to find and access treatment services and serve as the County Liaison for County referrals to the Healing Place of New Hanover County as well as other local treatment and supportive recovery and intervention services to intervene with the County's individual and families affected by opioid use.
- g. Provider: Columbus County

5. Fifth authorized strategy

- a. Name of strategy: Early Intervention and Connections to Care
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A and Exhibit B
- c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: Option A. 6, Option
- d. Amounted authorized for this strategy: \$22,326.00
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:

Start date January 1, 2023 through End date December 31, 2023

f. Description of the program, project, or activity: County needs to Implement a K-12

EBP Prevention Program in the Whiteville and Columbus County School Systems. Program would be implemented in grade 6 for 3 years then evaluated for effectiveness in the Whiteville and Columbus City School systems. Curricula training for teachers in the model would occur year 1 for all 6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom teachers. Costs also includes student workbooks and curricula materials for the 3 year implementation. Project would train up to 20-6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and up to 320 students across both school systems

g. Provider: Botkin "Lifeskills Training"

6. Sixth authorized strategy

a. Name of strategy: Address the needs of criminal justice involved persons

b. Strategy is included in Exhibit B

c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit B to the MOA: Option B. 7.

d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$5,000.00

e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:

Start date January 1, 2023 through End date December 31, 2023

f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Provide funding for Judge Ussery to attend mandatory drug court training which will initiate the planning for a Columbus County Drug Court Program. Funds will support the Judge's registration, travel, Hotel and per diem expenses.

g. Provider: National Association of Drug Court Personnel.

7. Seventh authorized strategy

a. Name of strategy: Training to address the needs of pregnant or parenting women and their families including babies w neonatal abstinence syndrome.

b. Strategy is included in Exhibit B

c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: Option E. 3 & 5.

d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$40,000.00

e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:

Start date January 1, 2023 through End date December 31, 2023

f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Training for Health Department, Social Services, Columbus Regional Healthcare System OB/GNY and Pediatric staff and all related clinics on recognizing the signs, symptoms of SUD, intervention, treatment techniques for women, family members and children.

g. Provider: TBN.

8. Eight authorized strategy

a. Name of strategy: Leadership, Planning, Coordination and Research

b. Strategy is included in Exhibit B

c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: Exhibit B, Option I

d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$30,000.00

e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:

Start date January 1, 2023 through End date December 31, 2023

f. Description of the program, project, or activity: The Columbus Regional Medical Center has an overwhelming number of individuals who are admitted into the emergency department w SUD, Opioid and Mental Health conditions, many of whom are under IVC orders from the Magistrate's office because they pose a danger to themselves or others. This research study will identify the number of those individuals served, identify trends in their conditions, referral processes and determine the need for a Facility-based Crisis Center located within the County.

g. Provider: ACT Associates, LLC

9. Ninth authorized strategy

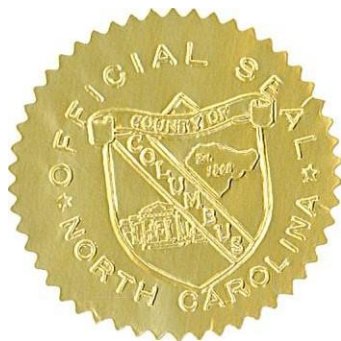
- a. Name of strategy: Prevent Misuse of Opioids and other drugs/Leadership, Planning and Coordination
  - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit B
  - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit B to the MOA: J. Leadership/Planning/and Coordination 2. , H. Prevent Overdose Deaths and Other Harms 12.
  - d. Amounted authorized for this strategy: \$8,500.00
  - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:  
Start date January 1, 2023 through End date December 31, 2023
  - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Development of a webpage for Columbus County to educate the public about he abuse of Opioids and Other Drugs, to create an online resource page and to provide data on the County's programs and outcomes.
  - g. Provider: TBN
  - h.
10. Tenth authorized strategy
- a. Name of strategy: Prevent Overdose Deaths and other Harms
  - b. Strategy is included Exhibit B
  - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit B to the MOA: Option H. 1 .
  - d. Amounted authorized for this strategy: \$1 ,200.00
  - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:  
Start date January 1, 2023 through End date December 31, 2023
  - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Purchase Narcan for use by County EMS, Law Enforcement
  - g. Provider: TBN

The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the above named and authorized strategies is \$573,074.00

Adopted this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ricky Bullard, Chair  
Columbus County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jana Nealey, Clerk to the Board



COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
Ordinance making appropriations to the County of Columbus

TRACKING NUMBER:

6-20230306-012

Opioid Settlement Project Fund (Fund 40) for the Fiscal  
Year beginning July 1, 2022

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 Opioid Settlement Project Fund as of February 28, 2023, pursuant to G.S 159 -13.2 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022.

Source of Revenue

40-3572-333100 OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS	\$	114,700	
40-3572-489000 MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES		30 000	
			144,700

Total Estimated Revenues - OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS  
Project Appropriations

40-5703-519001 CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$	1 13,500
40-5703-526003 OTHER SUPPLIES		1 ,200
40-5703-549900 MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE		30 000

Total Project Appropriations - OPIOID SETTLEMENT  
144,700

Description: Columbus County has received Opioid Settlement Funds pursuant to these national settlement agreements and deposited the funds in a separate special revenue fund. Columbus County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids, including settlements with drug distributors Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen, and the drug maker Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals. This project ordinance is based on the additional strategies approved in the Resolution adopted on March 6, 2023 by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

Section 2: The project undertaken pursuant to this ordinance is in accordance with the Recommended Budget and any changes made during the County Commissioners' budget work sessions.

Section 3: The Finance Director is hereby directed to maintain within the 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. Copies of the Project Ordinance shall be made available to the Budget Officer, the Project Manager, and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out this project.

This Project shall become effective on March 6, 2023. ADOPTED, this 6th day of March, 2023 Columbus County Board of Commissioners

  
Jana Nealey, Clerk to the Board

**Agenda Item #13: EMERGENCY SERVICES ACCEPTANCE of GRANT FUNDING:**

Assistant County Manager Nick West is requesting approval for County Manager Eddie Madden to execute the North Carolina 911 Board FY 2023B PSAP \$4,085,560.00 Grant when received.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Floyd made a motion to approve, Second by Commissioner Featherson. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #14: FINANCE – ACCEPTANCE of the LEAD NC FELLOW POSITION**

Finance Director Lacie Jacobs is requesting acceptance of this position. The UNC School of Government has a LEAD Fellow program that would give us one of their trained candidates to assist our Finance Department in any way needed. The position is paid through the program and not from our budget. There have been currently 82 applicants from the program interested in working here.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the LEAD Fellow position, seconded by Commissioner Floyd. The motion unanimously passed.

Lacie Jacobs

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Russell, Gregory Dylan <russell@sog.unc.edu>

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 12:33 PM

lacie.jacobs@columbusco.org

[External] LFNC Update

Congratulations!

Your jurisdiction has been selected to host a Lead for NC Fellow starting this August. The application pool was incredibly competitive with over 82 local governments across the state applying to host. We were very interested in your work plan and commitment to seeing the fellow succeed.

The cost to participate in Lead for NC is \$53,000. This includes the fellow’s payroll, health insurance, graduate credits, AmeriCorps costs, and employment taxes. The fellow will be a UNC Chapel Hill employee and we will delegate supervisory responsibilities to an individual within your organization. Thanks to the generosity of our funders, most notably the State Employees’ Credit Union, State Farm, Z. Smith Reynolds, and AmeriCorps we are able to subsidize this experience for participating governments.

Your anticipated contribution is **\$13,000**. The host government will be invoiced on a quarterly basis by the UNC School of Government.

Please review the following action items.

- **Please let me know by March 10, 2023** if you plan on participating in the fellowship program. If you cannot participate, please let me know as soon as possible so I can let one of the many governments on our waitlist participate in the program. As soon as you let us know we will begin recruiting candidates for you to interview in May. After you successfully match with a candidate, we will send out service agreements that detail the arrangement and the final subsidy amount.
- Please review the work scope below and let me know if you have any edits or revisions.
- Please let us know if you have any specific recruitment goals / requirements (specific skillset, background, etc.)

Thank you so much! We look forward to partnering with you!

Dylan

828.964.3144

[russell@sog.unc.edu](mailto:russell@sog.unc.edu)

**WORK SCOPE DESCRIPTION.**

Analyzing and improving business processes to be as efficient as possible, with an emphasis on internal controls, fixed asset policies and procedures and end of year processing of financial statements. Currently, the processing used is very manual. In looking towards growth in the future for the County, the Finance Department must establish leaner processing to keep up with the capacity that will be demanded in the near future.

Researching, developing and improving the policies and procedures related to recently issued GASB statements 87 and 96. The implementation of these new GASB standards have impacted the County on a large scale and the expertise and professional opinion of a fellow with support from the UNC School of Government could be essential to our success.

Agenda Item #15:    **APPROVAL to RESCHEDULE the MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> MEETING :**

County Manager Eddie Madden is requested approval to reschedule the March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Board Meeting to March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

**MOTION:** Vice-Chairman Coleman made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #16:    **APPROVAL of PUBLIC HEARING**

Staff Attorney Amanda prince is requested to have a public hearing on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. or as soon as can be heard in reference to the approval of an agreement to refinance a portion of the cost of various projects improving Cerro Gordo Elementary School.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Watts. The motion unanimously passed.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON WHETHER THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF COLUMBUS, NORTH CAROLINA SHOULD APPROVE A PROPOSED INSTALLMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT TO REFINANCE A PORTION OF THE COST OF VARIOUS PROJECTS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of a public hearing to be held at 6:30 P.M., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, on March 21, 2023, in the Columbus County Commissioners Chamber, located at 127 West Webster Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose of considering whether the Board of Commissioners for the County of Columbus, North Carolina (the “County”) should approve a proposed installment financing agreement and certain related documents pursuant to G.S. § 160A-20, as amended, for the purpose of providing funds in an amount not to exceed \$17,000,000, with other available funds, for the refinancing of the Project hereinafter described. The County would secure the repayment by it of moneys advanced pursuant to such proposed agreement by granting a security interest in a portion of the Project and certain related property.

The Project consists of renovating, expanding, equipping and improving an existing school facility known as Cerro Gordo Elementary School.

Jana Nealey,

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

**Agenda Item # 17: APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS/REPLACEMENTS**

**Zone I:** Barbara Featherson

**Zone II:** Chris Smith

**Zone III:** Giles E. Byrd

**Zone IV:** Lavern Coleman

**Zone V:** Brent Watts

**Zone VI:** Ricky Bullard

**Zone VII:** Scott Floyd

COMMITTEE	ZONE EB	PERSON(S)	EXP. DATE	BOARD ACTION
Library Board of Trustees	I	Carol Caldwell	06/2021	Appt. – Harlene Walters
Library Board of Trustees	IV	Nancy Sigmon	06/2022	Re-Appt. – Nancy Sigmon
Library Board of Trustees	V	Lou Ann Pickell	06/2022	Re-Appt. – Lou Ann Pickell
Library Board of Trustees	VII	Pamela Stanley	06/2021	Re-Appt. – Pamela Stanley
Board of Adjustments	II	Darren Mills	09/2022	Re-Appt. – Darren Mills
Planning Board	EB	Frank Galloway	09/2022	Re-Appt. – Frank Galloway 1- Featherson 2-Watts

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

At 7:15 P.M., a motion was made by Commissioner Smith to recess the regular session and enter into the Columbus County Water and Sewer Combination Meeting seconded by Commissioner Featherson.

**Agenda Item #18: WATER and SEWER DISTRICT I – APPROVAL of OWNERSHIP:**

**This item was tabled**

**Agenda Item #19: WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV– APPROVAL of PUBLIC HEARING:**

Assistant County Manager Gail Edwards is requesting to hold a Public Hearing on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 6:30 P.M., for the USDA Rural Development Loan and Grant Application.

**MOTION:**

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

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The following will be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the proposed area to be served at least 10 days prior to the public meeting.

Notice of Public Meeting

A public meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2023 at 6:30 P.M., or as soon as can be heard, at the Columbus County Commissioners Chambers, located at 127 W. Webster Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Whiteville, North Carolina. It is the desire of the Columbus County Commissioners to secure a loan from USDA Rural Development to obtain sufficient funds for the proposed Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV improvements/project. Assets acquired by the Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV may be encumbered to secure any loan obtained. The public is invited to attend the meeting for discussion of the project and to comment on the proposed action.

Ricky Bullard, Chairman

Note to Publisher:

Please publish in the non-classified section of The News Reporter on Thursday, March 9, 2023. Please send Affidavit of Publication to Gail Edwards, Assistant County Manager, 127 W. Webster Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472.

**ADJOURN COMBINATION MEETING OF Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV AND V BOARD MEETING.**

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Byrd a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Floyd. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #23: COMMENTS:**

**A. Board of Commissioners**

- 1. **Commissioner Featherson stated the following:**  
Congratulations on the West Columbus Basketball Team for their victory as well as the Cheerleaders who will be attending a competition.
- 2. **Commissioner Smith stated the following:**  
I'd like to congratulate Nick West for obtaining the grant for Emergency Services. Also, I had an incident when someone asked me about a project and I did not know anything about it. Please make sure Economic Development is letting us know when projects start.
- 3. **Vice Chairman Coleman stated the following:**  
I think the project you are talking about will start behind the Delco area and I have been assured that the groundwork will start the second half of this year. That is going to be a big help and people in that area are looking forward to it. Also, the southern farm days are starting in the next two weeks and I encourage everyone to participate in it because it raises money for the Boys and Girls homes and the Shriners. There will be animals and tractor pulls, which is enjoyable for everyone. Please turn out and break last year's record.
- 4. **Commissioner Byrd stated the following:**  
I would like to reiterate that the 77 ramps and rails that were built by these men were all over the county, not in just one area. I want to stress the importance of the things they build because it helps the handicapped and elderly people in our community. Also, I know there have been some back and forth about the internet in the Sandy Field area. A grant was applied for and one part of the road has internet and one part does not. What is the update on that?

**Response by Assistant County Manager Nick West and County Manager Eddie Madden:** We have been approved for the grant, however it does not include all areas on the road. We are working with the two internet companies to see how we can remedy the problem. The original maps that were generated for those companies showed coverage but because that area is where two separate companies coverage area meets, there are some areas that are in between that are not getting coverage.

- 5. Commissioner Watts stated the following: I went last week and read to the children at the school for Dr. Seuss week. I think that is a good thing for county workers to participated with the children. On behalf of me and my family I would like to thank everyone for the calls, texts, visits, flowers, and food during our time of bereavement after my Grandfather passed away last week.

**B. County Manager**

**1. County Manager Eddie Madden Stated the following:**

I do have a few things I want to call to your attention in the back of your board packet to the information section which Mrs. Nealey has prepared for us with dates to remember. This is a very useful tool. It will highlight things we need to remember like Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup>, is the Budget Retreat, that will begin at 8:30 in the morning, in this room. There was some discussion about having it at the emergency operation center but there is some work being done there, so, we decide to have it here, this coming Wednesday, so please plan to attend. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have our Budget Proposal Meeting with Columbus county schools at 5:00 P.M. that evening. Another thing I want to tell you is the board has had photographs, both individual photographs and the group photograph. Those have been posted on the website as well. In regard to the Dunn-farm and subdivision matter that will require a board approval they will not be done until at least April 7<sup>th</sup>. I do want to remind you all of the blood drive scheduled of March 16 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Please share the word to get the folks out to participate in this important blood drive sponsored by the County. The reason why we ask you to reschedule your meeting from March 20 to the 21st. Mr. Phil Edwards is here from our airport board, if you do not know this, I’ve been involved with the North Carolina Airport Association for the past 7 or 8 years. This year, I serve as the vice president and the conference chair. The conference is held on the 19th and the 20th and so I asked the Chairman is if I could be excused from the meeting on the 20th or move it to Tuesday night. To the employees of Columbus county and the board, I look forward to this year.

**Agenda Item #24: ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:30 P.M., Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Floyd. The motion unanimously passed.

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JANA NEALEY, Clerk to the Board

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RICKY BULLARD, Chairman