

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, April 17, 2023
5:30 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:

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A) (3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE

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

MOTION:

Commissioner Smith made a motion to recess regular session and enter into closed session, seconded by Commissioner Featherson. The motion unanimously passed.

RECESS CLOSED SESSION and enter into REGULAR SESSION

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Coleman made a motion to recess closed session and enter into regular session, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

GENERAL ACCOUNT:

Board Attorney Boyd Worley gave the General Account as follows:

The Board discussed (2) matters of Pending Litigation, and (1) matter of Potential Litigation. No action was taken by the board.

MOTION:

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

Regular Session begins at 6:30 P.M.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

At 6:35 P.M., Chairman Bullard opened the floor for the following public hearings:

6:30 PM - Public Hearing – with regard to the proposed Carolina Bluff PUD Zoning District which would be established on Marlowe Road near the NC/SC line.

6:30 PM or as soon as can be heard- Public Hearing – with regard to the proposed Antioch Court Subdivision on Antioch Church Road.

Public Hearing

3 minutes

Columbus County Board of Commissioners
(Public Address to the Board)

REQUEST #:

(Leave this blank, Clerk will fill in)

TIME REC'D: 6:30 P.M.

MEETING DATE: 4/17/2023

NAME:

Gina
(First)

Hoff
(Middle)

Ward
(Last)

ADDRESS:

1600 MM Ray Road Nakina NC 28455

TELEPHONE:

(910) 625 - 5469

TOPIC to be ADDRESSED:

Antioch Subdivision

PERTINENT INFORMATION:

I'm here to speak on behalf of
Tonya Nobles, a resident of Antioch Community

NOTE: Thank you for taking the time to address the Board with your information and concerns. Please give this card to the Clerk before the commencement of the meeting. This will aid in a smooth and harmonious meeting, and, in addition, give more people the opportunity to speak.

Revised: 09-15-2008

Public Input

Columbus County Board of Commissioners
(Public Address to the Board)

REQUEST #:

(Leave this blank, Clerk will fill in)

TIME REC'D: P.M.

MEETING DATE:

NAME:

Bryant
(First)

(Middle)

Smith
(Last)

ADDRESS:

475 CEDAR STREET Be/Horo, N.C. 28423

TELEPHONE:

(910) 840 - 0558

TOPIC to be ADDRESSED:

VOTING Be/Horo FIRE DEPT

PERTINENT INFORMATION:

I want commission to hear
my side. Thank you

NOTE: Thank you for taking the time to address the Board with your information and concerns. Please give this card to the Clerk before the commencement of the meeting. This will aid in a smooth and harmonious meeting, and, in addition, give more people the opportunity to speak.

Revised: 09-15-2008

Public Hearing

Columbus County Board of Commissioners
(Public Address to the Board)

REQUEST #: 3
(Leave this blank, Clerk will fill in)

TIME REC'D: _____ P.M.

MEETING DATE: 04/17/23

NAME: LYNDON G. MERRITT

ADDRESS: 147 ANTIOCH CHURCH Rd. WHITEVILLE, N.C. 28472

TELEPHONE: (910) 625 - 5726

TOPIC to be ADDRESSED: ANTIOCH COURT SUBDIVISION

PERTINENT INFORMATION:

NOTE: Thank you for taking the time to address the Board with your information and concerns. Please give this card to the Clerk before the commencement of the meeting. This will aid in a smooth and harmonious meeting, and, in addition, give more people the opportunity to speak.

Revised: 09-15-2008

Gina Ward commented;

My name is Gina Ward and my address is, 1600 MM Ray Rd., Nakina and I’m actually here to speak for a friend tonight who could not be here, I’m here reading this letter for Tonya Nobles who is a resident at 290 Antioch Church Rd. here in Whiteville. Unfortunately, she is unable to be here tonight due to work and the following are her personal thoughts, feelings, and opinions in which she would be expressing herself. I would like to thank each county commissioner for establishing the ordinances regarding the prior structural plans and blueprints pertaining to the Antioch subdivision on the north end. Sometimes change is not in one’s control, but then we have already seen where you, as county commissioners, have made changes regarding this proposed subdivision. It began with a larger number of units and structures on a number of acres, and has been reassessed and decreased in number of structures and how each one will be consumed with ownership however, we are still tremendously worried about the increase in traffic, the noise level, the unknown character of the people who will be residing in the subdivision. The structures do not align with the types of homes in the community which affects the harmony and peacefulness of the life which we currently are used to living for the majority of my life. I have contributed and given back to this county, along with many other members of the Antioch community. At the end of the day. We are the ones still here not the developers they will be gone their lives will not be impacted as ours will, if there are no changes with the purpose of the Vision I will be forced to sit in my recliner with my front door open and see nothing but the front of these structures, as well as have to deal with all the vehicles, leaving and returning multiple times of the day and night the quiet and tranquil live I live with no longer being in existence. I would put my life on the line right now, but not the first one of you would agree and vote on the subdivision of any type if it was going to be directly in front of your homes. In closing, I’m pleading for you all to allow this phase of the proposed subdivision to remain on, pause until more resolutions can be made, and bring a much-needed peace of mind to our community, making additional changes to the structures to be sure it will be harmonizing with the community, mandating a privacy fence around the entire subdivision, planting mature trees, and foliage to create a noise barrier, and to be more aesthetically pleasing along with establishing rules and stipulations that will be made to remain in place, or just a few changes that we would like to see. Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of my friend, Tonya Nobles

Lyndon Merritt Commented:

My name is Linden Merritt on my address is 147 Antioch Church Rd. in Whiteville North Carolina and I do appreciate your gentlemen for letting me speak on behalf of this development that is coming or wanting to come in our area. Last year, we went through all of this and you fellas did a fine job and put together some things that will protect our communities in our county from over

Development or Development in the wrong ways. Now I would like to read from your ordinances that was passed and I'm gonna read from 43 section 1 RA-20, Residential Agricultural District. Use of land is for low density, residential, and agricultural purposes, the regulations of this district are intended to protect the agricultural sections of the air from an influx of use is likely to render it undesirable for farms in future development and insure that residential development, not having access to public water supplies and depended upon septic tank systems and outdoor previous were switched Proposal will occur at sufficiently low density's to ensure a healthy environment this resources, and it makes a lot of sense to me you would I'm going to read from your ordinances again on page 54 and isolated their where I read just a moment ago, section 1, General Use District, The General Use District is used to establish as a zoning district in which the principal use is for the uses that are in harmony with residential agriculture and commercial development in Columbus County any use not discussed in section 2 is a permitted use in the district if it can be properly identified and determined to be classified general use by the planning director, if the land use cannot be determined by the planning Director or his designee the use is not permitted and a text amendment to this ordinance will be required before the use will be approved and permitted. You have the right, you have a power, you have the ability to stop this by squelching this plan now, I'm not saying you can't do something with this land, maybe put good, 11 nice homes there whatever, but duplexes whatever the intentions are that they put forth in the last planning board meeting, that I was at, was talking about duplexes, 22 single-family dwellings on 11 acres of land, that's too much. We don't have water, sewer water for 75 people living in two houses on the attached area next to my mother's land, sewage has got to go somewhere. If I wanted to live in the city I would've lived in City if you want to live in the country, let us stay here, we have beautiful towns municipalities with infrastructure in place. I'm sorry you get my message.

Commissioner Floyd Commented:

I went to the last planning board meeting to vote, and they felt like something was wrong too and they wouldn't vote. A lot of them said they didn't want to be a part of this. That is why it was sent to us. We were told it was single family dwellings on acre lots well, septic tank, the last public hearings, they saw the plans and it was duplexes that had rules where there could only be so many bedrooms and so on but it was misleading, and felt like it was slipped in on them, and I am totally against it.

Commissioner Smith commented:

I have been a contractor all my life and I do not see how you can put a duplex on one acre of land, two wells, and two septic tanks. It is not if, it's when something will happen. It will not pass.

Commissioner Byrd commented:

Probably what we need to do, Mr. Chairman, in the future, is when we have a big thing like this come up, maybe we should extend the 3 minutes for people to get their point across.

Chairman Bullard commented:

We have to give everyone a fair shot, I have a question for Gary Lanier. Can you explain the two ordinances Mr. Merritt pointed out.

Gary Lanier commented:

Yes, that RA-20, is for the Zoned areas which is mainly Southeastern Community Colleges areas and the remainder of the areas are not zoned, therefore are general use. In the subdivision ordinance it does not say anything about the zoning but indicates whether one is a minor or major subdivision. This is considered major because it, a. has to have a private road that has to be built to DOT standards, and b. has more than 9 lots. It was initially presented as duplex's but when it came up to the public they thought the commissioners had changed it. As of matter of fact it has not been changed and has always been duplex's. We were asked to define "single-family dwelling" and duplexes are considered "single-family dwellings" according to our ordinances.

At this time, Commissioner Byrd brought up the issue of 2 deeds being associated with a duplex, Commissioner Watts questioned how it could 1 acre have 2 wells and 2 septic tanks. Commissioner Smith mentioned that environmental health will never allow that to happen. County Manager Eddie Madden asked if Gary Lanier could explain the difference between a preliminary plat approval and final plat approval. Gary explained that the preliminary plat approval is when a developer is asking for the right to develop in an area according to the preliminary site plan, if that gets approved then they have to go through all of the permitting, inspections, guidelines before they can actually even start

physically building anything. Many of the plans in the preliminary may be changed according to permits, environmental health / services, etc. and that would reflect in the final plat approval.

Jack Carlisle, the developer, commented:

My name is Jack Carlisle, I'm the developer of what's going on out there and I have developed thousands of homes and thousands of apartments all around the state of North Carolina, thousands of apartments. I think you got a misconception because, number one, you can't do anything in this county or any other county in the state it's not environmentally approved by the state. I live in a very big house and I'm sure you do too, but I decided, in 1981, that am going to devote 5 or 10 million dollars a year in helping other people. Now, I realize that fellow over there owns a big farm, but that person over there or that one over there maybe doesn't have a big farm. I am going to commit to spend 5 to 10 million dollars of my net worth developing all over the state, I'm from Chapel Hill and Raleigh, we have active subdivisions in Charlotte to Jacksonville to Wilmington. Some 3000-acre subdivision some 500 as we build hundreds of apartments. I think for you to even discard that everybody cannot afford what a lot of people can. What is the difference, in your opinion, in having five bedrooms, he's got a five-bedroom house, he's got a two-bedroom house? We don't have to put in a well on every block it's not necessary by the environmental standards of the state it's not required by this county. We will put in one well, so if that bothers you, we will put in one well. A utility company will service the well and the developer would pay for when he puts the system in. I'd like to go over the three minutes. Oh, so what is the difference in \$1 million house with five bedrooms, six bedrooms, seven bedrooms, then an 800 square-foot duplex, with two families can have a place to live, rather than in the back barn of something, where they have a place to live, where they can raise children, I think you have to look a little bit broader. I'm willing to put in one well, if we can get the right amount of water, and I think we can. I'm willing to put in two wells we do not have to put in 10 or 12 wells. I heard that as an objection. The state is going to approve, the counties gonna if the environmental people or whoever will approve it, but if it doesn't, if they can't approve it, then it's not gonna happen. So, if you could build a house if you're soils will not absorb it, they won't.

MOTION:

Commissioner Watts made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Floyd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item# 5: APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the Agenda with discussed Add-on and changes to Agenda Item #19, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #6: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

- a. March 21, 2023

MOTION:

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

Agenda Item #7: PUBLIC INPUT:

Public Input

Columbus County Board of Commissioners
(Public Address to the Board)

REQUEST #: 2
(Leave this blank, Clerk will fill in)

TIME REC'D: P.M. MEETING DATE:

NAME: Bryant Smith
(First) (Middle) (Last)

ADDRESS: 475 Cedar Street + Bolton, N.C. 28428

TELEPHONE: 910 840 - 0558

TOPIC to be ADDRESSED: Voting for Fire Dept

PERTINENT INFORMATION: I want commission to hear my side thank you

NOTE: Thank you for taking the time to address the Board with your information and concerns. Please give this card to the Clerk before the commencement of the meeting. This will aid in a smooth and harmonious meeting, and, in addition, give more people the opportunity to speak.

Revised: 09-15-2008

Bryant Smith commented:

My name is Brian Smith I live on 475 Cedar Street, Bolton, North Carolina, Hello Chairman and fellow commissioners, my name is Brian Smith I am the chief of the Bolton Fire Department. I will try to be concise. I'm here tonight to tell my side about why I would like the election voting from the Fire Department to the town hall or senior citizens building. I will start from beginning, a couple months ago, Bolton got a fire call I was gonna maybe two hours from the Bolton Fire station, I called my father to see if you would like to get something to eat so I told him to meet me at the fire house. while he was waiting he went inside to use the restroom and the diesel exhaust fumes were so bad his eyes were burning he asked if it is always like this. Keep in mind or first out fire truck is a 1985 model, it is much like a train but the truck works just fine, just like a brand new one. The Board of Elections is playing Russian roulette with the health of the citizens who have to vote at the Bolton fire department. In the past the alarm has never went off during election day but our call volume is increasing, and I want to be very discreet not to cause panic and community. It is now time to tell the other side It's funny how the Columbus county Board of Elections, the town of Bolton, or even The News Reporter never call me about my side about why I would like to move. On election day, if we get a fire call, we are going to respond and it will fill the fire station with toxic deasil exhaust. I will sign an affidavit stating that. I want the Bolton Fire Department clear from any potential lawsuit that may occur in the event that on election day when we have a fire call and hazardous toxic diesel exhaust fills the building. If a person voting on election day at the fire department's eyes start burning, or the back of their throat starts burning or if they recently had COVID 19 or asthma and your lung capacity is less than 100%. You may be in trouble call for an ambulance, call 911 and inform them you have been poisoned by toxic diesel exhaust, when you recover, get a good lawyer, and sue the Board of Elections and the town of Bolton for making or forcing you to vote in an unsafe environment. Then I will call OSHA on your behalf. If they can fine a volunteer fire department for not wearing a reflective vest at the vehicle accident, I can only imagine what that fine would be. I hope does not happen but the odds are not in your favor. I just feel sorry for the people, but my conscience is now clear, enjoy your evening.

At this time, Commissioner Byrd asked Mr. Bryant why they could not just pull the fire trucks outside during election day. Mr. Bryant retorted by asking why they couldn't just move the voting area. A summary of Commissioner Byrd's response is that the issue had gone through the proper channels and was voted against based on how business is to be conducted.

Agenda Item #8: PROCLAMTION - CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH:

Advocate Tonya Jones from Family's First is requesting approval of a proclamation recognizing April 2023 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

MOTION:

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



Columbus County Proclamation



Child Abuse Prevention Month

WHEREAS, Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina, the Columbus County Partnership for Children and the Columbus County Commissioners, realize that children are vital to our county’s future success, prosperity and quality of life as well as being our most vulnerable assets; and

WHEREAS, all children deserve to have the safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities they need to foster their healthy growth and development; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community; and

WHEREAS, communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of parenting and child development and concrete resources they need to cope with stress and nurture their children ensure all children grow to their full potential; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human service agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

Adopted this the 17th day of April, 2023.
Columbus County Commissioners

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

Agenda Item #9: PROCLAMTION – SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH:

Advocate Tonya Jones from Family’s First is requesting approval of a proclamation recognizing April 2023 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

MOTION:

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



Columbus County
Proclamation



Sexual Assault Awareness Month, April, 2023

WHEREAS, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month — a time to draw attention to the prevalence of sexual assault and educate individuals and communities about how to prevent it.; and

WHEREAS, On average, there are 463,634 victims (age 12 or older) of rape and sexual assault each year in the United States.

WHEREAS, over half of women and almost 1 in 3 men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetimes and 1 in 4 women and about 1 in 26 men have experienced completed or attempted rape.

WHEREAS, Sexual harassment, assault, and abuse can happen anywhere, including in online spaces, so, we must work together to educate our community about what can be done to prevent sexual assault and how to support survivors; and

WHEREAS, Staff and volunteers of anti-violence programs in Columbus County encourage every person to speak out when witnessing acts of violence however small; and

WHEREAS, with leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual violence in Columbus County through prevention education, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of violence responsible for their actions; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Commissioners strongly supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts, including conversations about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim that April 2023, is Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Columbus County and we join advocates and communities across the country in taking action to prevent sexual violence.

Adopted this the 17th day of April 2023.
Columbus County Commissioners

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

Agenda Item #10: PROCLAMTION – LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY:

Communications Manager Brooks Versaggi from Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC) is requesting approval of the proclamation recognizing April 18th as Lineman Appreciation Day. Duke Energy Linemen will also be recognized.

MOTION:

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



Columbus County
Proclamation



Linemen Appreciation Day April 18, 2023

WHEREAS, the profession of Electric Linemen requires passion, dedication and is steeped in tradition; and

WHEREAS, linemen work 365 days a year in inclement weather and hazardous weather conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, linemen also are often the first responders during storms and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other first responders; and

WHEREAS, Columbus County joins other communities across the nation in recognizing and celebrating the profession of Electric Linemen and therefore, we honor our Brunswick Electric personnel for exemplary service to the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim April 18, 2023 as

LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY IN COLUMBUS COUNTY
and call upon all citizens and businesses to acknowledge and thank the linemen you see for the selfless work they perform every day to keep our power on and the public safety.

PROCLAIMED this, the 17th day of April, 2023.

Columbus County Commissioners

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

Agenda Item #11: ADMINISTRATION – EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

County Manager Eddie Madden recognized Darlene Jenkins-Parks from Social Services.

**EMPLOYEE
SPOTLIGHT**

“MOTIVATED, DISCIPLINED, COMPASSIONATE...”

awarded to

Darlene Jenkins-Parks

*in recognition of
your dedication, passion, and hard work /
for the people of Columbus County.*

Eddie Madden

*April 17, 2023
Date*

Agenda Item #12: DUKE ENERGY – PRESENTATION:

Pam Hardy from Duke Energy presented Columbus County with a \$2,500 check for the Warming Stations set up and operated on December 2022.

Agenda Item #13: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – APPROVAL of the FIRST READING FOR THE ZONING DISTRICT:

EDC & Planning Director Dr. Gary Lanier is requesting the Columbus County Board of Commissioners to acknowledge the first reading for the establishment of the proposed Carolina Bluff PUD Zoning District.

MOTION:

Non-action item.

**the site plans for Carolina Bluff Zoning District are housed in the clerk’s office*

Agenda Item #14: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – APPROVAL of ANTIOCH CHURCH RD. SUBDIVISION:

EDC & Planning Director Dr. Gary Lanier is requesting the Columbus County Board of Commissioners approve the proposed Antioch Court Subdivision on Antioch Church Road.

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Coleman made a motion to reject the plats, seconded by Commissioner Floyd. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #15: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – APPROVAL to ESTABLISH a PUBLIC HEARING:

EDC & Planning Director Dr. Gary Lanier is requesting establish a public hearing on Monday, May1st 2023 at 6:30 P.M. or as soon as can be heard, on the creation of the proposed McGill Meadows Planned Unit Development Zoning District.

MOTION:

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

**the site plans for McGill Meadows Zoning District are housed in the clerk’s office*

Agenda Item #16: SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE – APPROVAL of RELOCATION of a MOBILE UNIT:

Southeastern Community College’s President, Dr. Chris English, is requesting approval to relocate and use mobile unit #821 from the Sheriff’s Office to Fair Bluff for truck driver training class.

MOTION:

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

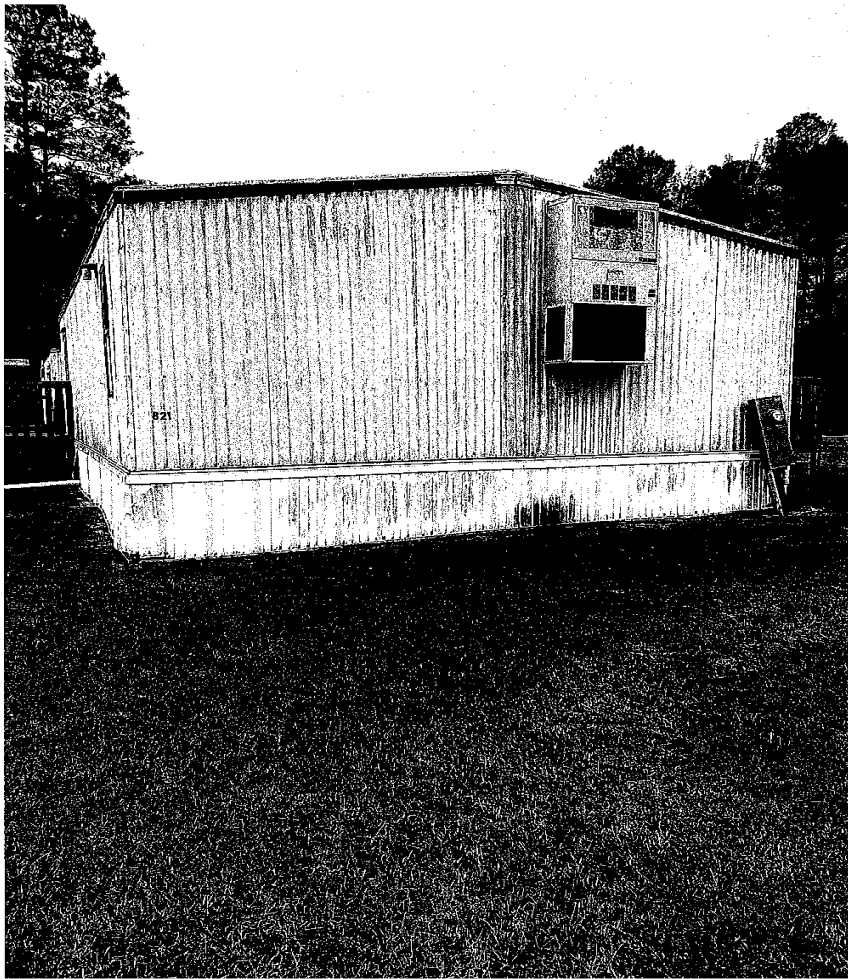
From: Chris English [mailto:chris121535@sccnc.edu]
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 1:19 PM
To: emadden@columbusco.org
Cc: lbreta Jackson <lbreta307150@sccnc.edu>; Natalie Carroll <natalie.carroll@columbusco.org>; gedwards@columbusco.org; Sylvia Cox <sylvia282390@sccnc.edu>; Jennie Simmons <jennie154376@sccnc.edu>
Subject: [External] Trailer

Eddie,

A couple of weeks back, Stuart let me look at the trailers that Columbus County schools occupied. After looking through them, I would like to know if we could relocate and use trailer #821 that is a doublewide and sits up front. We would relocate the trailer to Fair Bluff at an old warehouse location that has been demolished. The only thing remaining is a 250 x 250 ft concrete slab. We plan to go into a lease agreement on the property beginning June 1, 2023. This will be a temporary site for the driving pad while the new construction is underway at the college.

We anticipate our first truck driver training class to occur in August. Let me know if this trailer is available. We would like to move forward with a contractor to relocate the trailer for us by the end of May. This will give us two months to prep the site for classes.

Thanks,
Chris



Staff Attorney Amanda Prince requested approval of the contract with Mark III Brokerage for employee benefits insurance programs. This brokerage firm has been used for these programs for years but this is an official contract with them.

MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice Chairman Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

Contract for Broker Services Between Columbus County and Mark III Brokerage, Inc.

THIS AGREEMENT made the 23rd Day of February, 2023 between Columbus County whose business is at 127 West Webster Street, Whiteville, NC 28472 and Mark III Brokerage, Inc., a North Carolina Corporation whose business address is 211 Greenwich Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28211.

Columbus County has agreed to contract with Mark III Brokerage as the employee benefits broker effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026. Thereafter, the contract is renewable on an annual basis.

Responsibilities of Mark III Brokerage:

1. Mark III Brokerage will act as the broker for all of the employee benefits insurance programs implemented for Columbus County.
2. Mark III's responsibilities include:
 - a. Prepare and market the request for proposals. Once the responses have been received, evaluate the responses. The specifications will be developed with the input from the customer.
 - b. The criteria for the requests for proposal will be based on, but not limited to the following:
 1. Outstanding service, including but not limited to, strong client service support, home office underwriting, contracts and legal service departments, claims processing, and related customer service.
 2. Competitive plan designs.
 3. Competitive rates or fee structure.
 4. Future stability of rates.
 5. Providing comprehensive experience reports to the client so that an evaluation can be made as to the plan performance.
 6. Carrier flexibility when plan design changes are necessary to meet the needs of the employees and the employer.
 7. Provides ongoing quality service and a service team that is dedicated to solving problems that arise during the plan year.
- c. Mark III Brokerage will provide an employee benefits web site. The web site will include the following:
 1. Medical Insurance Program.
 2. Supporting Wellness Strategies.
 3. Dental Insurance Program
 4. Description of the Section 125 benefits.
 5. Forms available online for the employees to download.
 6. Product information online.
- d. If the enrollment data is available from the customer in an electronic file format, Mark III Brokerage will provide an electronic enrollment for the appropriate benefits for included in the plan. The elections collected will be:

Medical Coverage
Dental Coverage
Group Life Coverage
Disability Coverage
Medical and Dependent Care Spending Account Elections
Various Payroll Deduction Elections
- e. If an electronic enrollment is conducted, Mark III Brokerage will return the enrollment results back to the employer in Excel, which can be down loaded in to your payroll system. This is not a requirement, but it is available if you wish to take advantage of the system.
- f. The communication will be handled in two phases;
 1. Group Meetings - At the group meetings, the employees are given information concerning all of the benefits. To review all of the benefits, the meeting will last approximately thirty minutes. The amount of content communicated during the group presentation is up to the employer.

- 2. Individual Meetings - The employees are given time to meet with an enroller on a one-on-one basis. These meetings will be held at specific times and at the work locations. At this time, questions may be asked and forms completed. A copy of the election form is given to the employee as a confirmation.
 - g. Mark III Brokerage will coordinate the Section 125 program. This includes premium conversion and flexible spending accounts.
 - h. Salaried Enrollment Team - All of the enrollers used by Mark III are salaried employees of Mark III Brokerage.
 - i. Mark III will produce Section 125 booklets for all of your employees. The information is in a concise and informative format. The brochure will give your employees all of their benefits information in one document.
 - j. Mark III will provide full time service personnel to answer questions that your employees and staff might have. Our service staff's core responsibility is only to address the needs of our customer. They are not responsible for marketing. We are advocates for the employer and its employees, not the insurance company.
3. Responsibilities of the third-party administrator:
- a. The Third Party Administrator with whom Mark III coordinates for the Section 125 program shall design the Plan Document and keep updated as necessary.
 - b. The Third Party Administrator with whom Mark III coordinates will adjudicate the claims incurred by the employees and dependents of the customer.

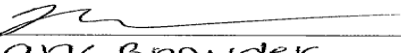
Responsibilities of Columbus County (known as the employer):

- 1. Columbus County agrees to support Mark III Brokerage's efforts to collect information necessary to bid the various employee benefits programs. This information would include census and payroll information.
- 2. Columbus County agrees to support Mark III Brokerage's efforts to communicate the employee benefits and Section 125 program by making the employees available during working hours.
- 3. Columbus County agrees to take and remit the payroll deductions for the various firms involved in the employee benefits programs.
- 4. Columbus County will not take payroll deductions for insurance products that complete with the employee benefits offered through Mark III Brokerage.
- 5. Columbus County shall not facilitate presentations from other vendors who solicit insurance products that compete with the employee benefits programs during normal work hours at the worksite.

Columbus County

Signed: _____
By: _____
Date: _____

Mark III Brokerage, Inc.

Signed: 
By: MARK Browder
Date: 3/31/23

Agenda Item #18: ATTORNEY’S OFFICE – APPROVAL of FORESTRY SERVICE DEED:

Staff Attorney Amanda Prince is requested approval of the deed to be presented to the North Carolina State Forestry Service for property located at 1413 Chadbourn Hwy, Whiteville, NC 28472.

MOTION:

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

Attorney preparing instrument is not closing agent.

The attorneys preparing this instrument have made no record search or title examination as to the property herein mentioned unless the same is shown by their written and signed certificate. No tax advice has been requested or given by the drafter of this deed.

As a general rule, an instrument affecting real estate should be registered immediately. If not so registered, other persons may obtain priority. A deed of gift not registered within two years from the date of execution becomes void. If you do not intend to register this instrument immediately, you should discuss the matter with your attorney.

(Space Above For Use By Register of Deeds Office Only)

Mail After Recording To: State of North Carolina
c/o State Property Office
1321 Mail Service Center
Raleigh NC 27699-1321

REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX: \$0.00

THIS INSTRUMENT WAS PREPARED BY JOHN ALAN HIGH

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF COLUMBUS

DEED

THIS DEED, made this ____ day of _____, 2023, by COLUMBUS COUNTY, a body politic organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of North Carolina as established by the North Carolina General Assembly (hereinafter sometimes called the "Grantor"), party of the first part, to STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA (hereinafter called the "Grantee"), party of the second part;

WITNESSETH:

That, in consideration of the sum of Ten (\$10.00) Dollars and other sufficient, good and valuable consideration to the Grantor, paid by the Grantee, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the Grantor has granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents does grant, bargain, sell and convey to the said Grantee, in fee simple DETERMINABLE, FOR THE PURPOSES AND SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS AND THE AUTOMATIC

JOHN ALAN HIGH, PLLC, 102 Courthouse Square, Whiteville NC 28472

REVERTER CLAUSE HEREINAFTER STATED, the following described tracts, lots or parcels of land situated in Whiteville Township, Columbus County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows, to wit:

TRACT ONE: BEGINNING at a stake in the South edge of U. S. Highway 74-76 at a point 24 feet Eastwardly from R. Q. Bannerman’s Northeast corner of his home place, and runs South 2 ½ degrees East 4.15 chains to a stake; thence North 84 ½ East 6 ½ chains to a stake; thence North 10 degrees West 5 chains to a stake in said highway; thence with said highway South 76 degrees West 6 chains to the BEGINNING, containing 2.86 acres, more or less, and being a part of the old County Home property.

Being the same property described in a lease dated 4 February, 1946 from Columbus County to the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, said instrument being recorded February 23, 1946 in Book 173 at Page 215, Columbus County Registry.

TRACT TWO: BEGINNING at a stake at the Southwest corner of a 2.84 acre (also referred to 2.86 acre) lot hereintofore leased by the County of Columbus to the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, said lease being recorded in Book 173 at Page 215, Registry of Columbus County; thence from said Beginning Point South 0 degrees 47 minutes East 296.6 feet to an iron stake; thence South 84 degrees 17 minutes East 475.4 feet to an iron stake; thence North 7 degrees 37 minutes West 371.1 feet to an iron stake; thence South 86 degrees 47 minutes West 429.0 feet to the BEGINNING and being 3.43 acres as shown on a map prepared by Robert D. Inman entitled, “The Columbus County Farm” as is recorded in Plat Book 10 at Page 9 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Columbus County.

Being the same property described in a lease dated 16 May, 1968 from Columbus County to North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, said instrument being recorded 18 June, 1968 in Book 249 at Page 425, Columbus County Registry.

THE GRANTOR HEREIN SPECIFICALLY LIMITS THE ABOVE GRANT TO THE PROPERTY ABOVE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: Should the property herein ever cease for a consecutive period of ninety (90) days to be used for purposes of, and as a facility and/or offices of, the North Carolina Forest Service and/or its successor agency, then the Grantor herein reserves unto itself, its successors and/or assigns, an **AUTOMATIC** right of reversion in the whole of all property conveyed hereby, with the only exception that the Grantor grants to the Grantee, any mortgagee and/or any other assign or successor agency of the Grantee, a license for a period of time not to exceed sixty (60) days following the cessation of North Carolina Forestry Service use and operations on the premises, to enter onto the property for the purpose of removing all personalty of the Grantee which may be, at that time, located on the premises, said personalty to be free from this reverter. **IT IS INTENDED BY THE GRANTOR THAT THE ESTATE CONVEYED HEREBY BE A FEE SIMPLE DETERMINABLE, WITH AN AUTOMATIC REVERTER TO THE GRANTOR, ITS SUCCESSORS AND/OR ASSIGNS, UPON THE HAPPENING AS SET FORTH ABOVE.**

SUBJECT TO ALL UTILITY, HIGHWAY AND DRAINAGE EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY, AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS AFFECTING THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.

To comply with NCGS § 105-317.2 (effective January 1, 2010):

JOHN ALAN HIGH, PLLC, 102 Courthouse Square, Whiteville NC 28472

- I. The Grantor, by affixing its signature hereto, certifies to the following information:

a. The name and mailing address of EACH Grantor herein is as follows: County of Columbus, 111 Washington Street, Whiteville NC 28472; and

b. The property herein described DOES NOT include the primary residence of a Grantor; and
- II. The Grantee, by accepting this instrument and filing the same for recordation, certifies that the name and mailing address of EACH Grantee herein is as follows: State of North Carolina, c/o State Property Office, 1321 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1321.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described tracts, lots or parcels of land, together with all privileges appertaining, to the said Grantees, in fee simple DETERMINABLE, FOR THE PURPOSES AND SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS AND THE AUTOMATIC REVERTER CLAUSE ELSEWHERE HEREIN STATED to its only use and behoof forever.

And the said Grantor, for itself and its heirs, executors and administrators, covenants with the said Grantee and the heirs and assigns of the Grantee that it is seized of said premises in fee simple and has the right to convey the same in fee; that same is free and clear from any encumbrance; and that it does hereby and will forever warrant and defend the title to the same against the claims of all persons whomsoever, **EXCEPT AS SET FORTH ABOVE AND AS FOLLOWS:**

- I. EXCEPT FOR THE PURPOSES AND SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS AND THE AUTOMATIC REVERTER CLAUSE AND OTHER EXCEPTIONS ELSEWHERE HEREIN STATED.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Columbus County has caused this deed to be executed in its official name by the Chairman of the County Commissioners and attested by the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, pursuant to a motion duly and regularly adopted at the _____, 2023 regular meeting of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

(SEAL)By:COUNTY OF COLUMBUS

RICKY BULLARD,Chairman of Board of Commissioners

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

JANA NEALEY,Clerk to Board of Commissioners

JOHN ALAN HIGH, PLLC, 102 Courthouse Square, Whiteville NC 28472

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS

I, _____, a Notary Public for said County and State, do hereby certify that JANA NEALEY, who being by me duly sworn, says that she knows the official seal of the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, and is acquainted with RICKY BULLARD, who is Chairman of said Board of Commissioners of Columbus County and that she, the said JANA NEALEY, is Clerk of said Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, and saw the Chairman sign the foregoing instrument, and saw the said official seal of said Board of Commissioners of Columbus County affixed to the said instrument in the presence of the Chairman of said Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, all by order of said Board.

WITNESS my hand and official seal, this the _____ day of _____, 2023.

(SEAL)

_____, Notary Public
Notary's Printed Name
My Commission Expires: _____.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS

The foregoing or annexed certificate of _____, Notary Public of Columbus County, State of North Carolina, has been verified to have a Signature, seal or stamp, and an expiration date. This instrument and certificate are duly registered at the date and time and in the book and page shown on the first page hereof.

KANDANCE H. BULLOCK
Register of Deeds
by: _____
Assistant/Deputy

Returned to: _____.

Z:\Real Estate\NCDOJ - NC Forest Service\County of Columbus -General Warranty Deed FEE SIMPLE DETERMINABLE to State of NC - Forest Service.wpd

Agenda Item #19: ATTORNEY’S OFFICE – EVERGREEN SCHOOL the FIRST RIGHT of REFUSAL:
Staff Attorney Amanda Prince is requesting consideration of the right of first refusal of Evergreen School.

After deliberation of the Commissioners they agreed on the proposal for the Board of Education to lease the property to the County for \$1.00. The motion below was to approve the alternate proposal for the property.

MOTION:

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

THE PHIPPS LAW FIRM, PLLC
WILLIAM W. PHIPPS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
905 PIREWAY ROAD
P.O. BOX 35
TABOR CITY, NORTH CAROLINA 28463

LICENSED IN N. C. & S. C.
TELEPHONE
(910) 653-7770
FAX: (910) 653 7790

MAILING ADDRESS
POST OFFICE BOX 35
TABOR CITY
NORTH CAROLINA 28463

February 20, 2023

Mr. Eddie H. Madden, Jr.
Columbus County Manager
127 W. Webster Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

VIA EMAIL: emadden@columbusco.org
Re: Evergreen Elementary School
Property

Dear Mr. Madden:

At our last Board Meeting on February 13, 2023, the Columbus County Board of Education, in Open Session, directed me to contact you and the County Commissioners concerning the disposition of the Evergreen Elementary School Property, under NCGS 115C-518. Pursuant to that Statute, **the Board of Education must first determine whether the use of the buildings and building site are unnecessary or undesirable for public school purposes.** The Board in Open Session found that the site, as well as, the school itself, was unnecessary as it is being replaced with a new facility, located in Cerro Gordo, North Carolina and represents a consolidation of the Evergreen Elementary School, the Cerro Gordo Elementary School and the formerly closed Chadbourn Middle School. When we closed the Chadbourn Middle School, we moved the students, who were housed there to the Cerro Gordo Elementary School, the Evergreen Elementary School and to the Campus of West Columbus High School, depending upon the ages of the students and the residences of the students. The above was a part of an overall plan for the building of the consolidated school, now known as the West Columbus School, which is located on the former campus of Cerro Gordo Elementary School. The new campus has just recently opened, moving the students into the new consolidated Pre-K through 8 West Columbus School. Considering the current condition of the buildings at the Evergreen Elementary School site and the cost to bring them up to the current code, the Board has instead elected to pursue the procedures for the sale of the properties provided for under NCGS 115C-518.

The second phase of the NCGS 115C-518, after the determination as to the fitness or desirability of the site for school purposes, mandates the Board of Education to afford the first opportunity to obtain the property to the Board of County Commissioners at the fair market value or at a price negotiated between the two Boards. At this time, there are two (2) tracts of property constituting the Evergreen Elementary School site. In lieu of going to the expense of an appraisal, the Board has authorized me to use the tax values as the fair market value, as generally the fair market value is somewhat above what the tax value is. In this case the Board is satisfied, absent the need

for an appraisal, to offer the property to the Columbus County Commissioners for the tax valuation as listed in the Columbus County Tax Office. The property consists of two (2) tracts, the main tract with all of the buildings listed on it, being a 10.00 acre tract having a Land Tax Value of \$56,000.00 and a Building Tax Value of \$700,300.00, for a Total Tax Value for Tax Parcel ID #: 62070 of \$756,300.00. The second tract, Tax Parcel ID #: 62069, is an unimproved 2.800 acre tract or parcel of land immediately adjacent to the building site described above, with an unimproved Land Tax Value of \$9,800.00. The total Tax Value of these two (2) tracts is \$766,100.00 and this is the fair market value that the Board of Education has elected to tender to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration as to whether or not they would like to purchase the property.

If the Board is not interested in purchasing the property at that value, then the Board of Education is more than willing to discuss a negotiated price between the two (2) Boards, in order to try to reach some satisfactory compromise as to the value of the property and the right of the County Board of Commissioners to purchase the property.

Please review this offer with the County Commissioners and I have attached a copy of the Tax Map reflecting both properties and their location. I also, have attached a copy of the two (2) tax cards representing the tax values, which we have elected to treat as the fair market value of the property, for your use in considering whether or not to purchase the property. In making its decision, the Board of Commissioners needs to be aware that there are some residents in the community, who believe the school site should be updated and upgraded to be used as an Emergency Storm Shelter Site, with updates and upgrades that would be needed to qualify the School Site as an Emergency Storm Shelter Site. The School Board, however, has no responsibility for providing for Emergency Shelters, which is only within the authority of the County Board of Commissioners.

The Board of Education is more than willing to negotiate a price on the property and will be happy to discuss that option with you. The County Manager, any of the Board Members or the entire Boards can meet jointly and give the proper notice in accordance with the Public Meetings Laws to discuss the same, if such a meeting is desired. As to the disposition of the property, the Board of Education is required by Statute to use the procedures of Chapter 160A, Article 12 in order to otherwise dispose of the property. The County has available to it more options than does the School System, as there are several options that the County has, pursuant to that Statute, which the Columbus County Board of Education would not be allowed to utilize. Please review these options and the two (2) Statutes referenced and contact me with any decision you may have as to the purchase for the fair market value or as to the desire to negotiate a purchase price for the properties constituting the Evergreen Elementary School site, consisting of 12.80 acres, more or less, with a Tax Valuation of \$766,100.00.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience and will keep my Board advised and am providing a copy of this to the current Superintendent, Dr. Deanne R. Meadows, and the Associate Superintendent, Jonathan Williams. I do appreciate your consideration of this and look forward to discussing the matter with you as the County Manager or with you and the County Board Members at your convenience. With all good wishes, I am

Very Sincerely,



William W. Phipps,
Columbus County Board of Education Attorney

WWP/mc

Enclosure

CC:

Dr. Deanne R. Meadows, Superintendent

Dr. Jonathan Williams, Associate Superintendent

Columbus County Schools

Mr. Boyd T. Worley,
Columbus County Attorney

Ms. Amanda Prince, Staff Attorney
Clerk to the Columbus County
Board of Commissioners

Agenda Item #20: TRANSPORTATION – APPROVAL of LEASE AGREEMENT:

Transportation Director Joy Jacobs is requesting approval of amendments to the vehicle lease agreement to age out old vehicles.

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Coleman made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Featherson. The motion unanimously passed.

VEHICLE LEASE AGREEMENT AMENDMENT #2

This Vehicle Lease Agreement Amendment #1 (hereinafter referred to as "Amendment") made and entered into this ____ day of _____, 2023 between Columbus County (hereinafter referred to as "Lessor"), and First Transit, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Lessee"). This Amendment is amending Vehicle Lease Agreement (hereinafter referred to as "Agreement"), made and entered into the 1st day of July, 2022 between Columbus County and First Transit, Inc. This Amendment is a subcontract of the agreement(s) between the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Lessor, for Project No.(s) 21-39-076S. All other provisions contained in the agreement(s) between the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Lessor are herein incorporated by reference.

Witnesseth:

Addition to Article I

Leased Vehicles: The Lessor hereby leases to the Lessee the vehicle(s) described in Exhibit 1 attached hereto and made a part hereof (hereinafter referred to as vehicle(s)), upon the conditions and covenants set forth below. The Lessee shall utilize the project equipment in accordance with the procedures and guidelines set forth in Federal Transit Administration Circulars 5010.1C, dated October 1, 1998; 9040.1E, dated October 1, 1998; and 9070.1E, dated October 1, 1998, or any subsequent revisions or amendments thereto; the project description set forth in the project application and the Transportation Development Plan or Community Transportation Service Plan for Columbus County.

Addition to Article II

Terms of Lease and Commencement Date: The terms and commencement date of the Agreement shall be incorporated herein by reference. In the event of noncompliance with this Amendment and/or the Agreement, the Lessor may terminate this Amendment and/or Agreement by giving the Lessee 30 days' advance written notice.

Addition to Article V

Repair of Fire Damage or Other Casualty-Replacement in Case of Theft or Other Loss: Lessee will assume full responsibility for any type of loss or damage to the vehicle(s) and it will be the sole responsibility of the Lessee to repair or replace the vehicle(s), if this becomes necessary. Lessor has no obligation for any loss in regard to the vehicle(s).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Amendment to be executed in their respective names, by their duly authorized officers.

LESSOR:

LESSEE:

COLUMBUS COUNTY

FIRST TRANSIT, INC.

By: _____
Printed Name: Edwin H Madden Jr
Title: County Manager
Date: _____

By: _____
Printed Name: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

Approved as to form:

Columbus County Attorney

This instrument has been preaudited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Contract Act.

Columbus County Finance Officer

EXHIBIT I

The vehicle(s) referred to in the preceding Agreement to which this exhibit is attached are described as follows:

Description of Vehicles

Model Year	Model	VIN Number	Vehicle Type
2020	MVAN	2C4RDGBG0LR175776	Minivan
2017	MVAN	2C4RDGBG2HR597684	Minivan
2019	STARLITE	1FDEE3FS2KDC59758	20ft LTV Lift
2020	U4XE	1FDVU4X86LKB17597	Lift Conversion Van
2017	E-350	1FDEE3FS9HDC31979	20 Ft LTV
2019	S4XE	1FTRS4XM8KKA77143	Lift Conversion Van
2022	X2CG	1FDAX2CG1NKA69808	Lift Conversion Van
2019	S4XE	1FTRS4XM4KKA53793	20ft LTV
2015	MINIVAN	2C4RDGCGXFR719509	Minivan
2016	Elkhart	1FDEE3FL0GDC03138	20 Ft LTV
2018	Elkhart	1FDEE3FS3JDC18599	20Ft Lift
2018	Elkhart	1FDEE3FS6JDC18600	20 Ft Lift
2019	Starcraft	1FDEE3FS7KDV21507	20 Ft Lift
2021	Starcraft	1FDEE3FNXMDC20591	20 Ft Lift
2021	Starcraft	1FDEE3FN1MDC20592	20 Ft Lift
2021	E-250 Allstar	1FDEE3FN9MDC09825	22 Ft Lift
2022	K1CF	1FDZK1C85NKA69413	Lift Conversion Van
2022	K1CF	1FDZK1C8XNKA70024	Lift Conversion Van

THE VEHICLE(S) CANNOT BE LEASED TO A SUB-LESSEE WITHOUT WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM THE LESSOR AND THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DIVISION.

Agenda Item #21: DSS – MONTHLY UPDATE:

Social Services Director Algernon McKenzie presented the monthly Social Services update.

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD REPORT

Dwella M. Hall, Program Manager

Vacancies/Updates/News for March, 2023

Intake/Investigation/Assessment:

The Intake/Investigation/Assessment Unit have 1-vacancy. The position has been posted. This Unit continues to receive an abundance of referrals involving substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental health issues, among other things. The Two after hours’ positions have been filled and the workers have hit the ground running. The after-hours positons have also increased the morale among the CPS staff as they also assist with after hour visitations with exiting cases to assist the SW’s. CPS continues to assist the FC unit with incoming cases due to the high volume of children entering custody. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) will be onsite this month and will continue to make monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

In-Home Services:

The In-Home Services Unit will be fully staffed after 2 years. The new employee will start on the 21st. The total caseloads with contacts of children served continue to increase indicating more intensive involvement with SW’s and their current caseloads. In home services is assisting the FC unit with incoming cases due to the high volume of children entering custody. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) will be onsite this month and will continue to make monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

Foster Care/Permanency Planning:

The Foster Care Unit continues to have 1-vacancy, a new employee was hired and on March 21st. There are currently 122 children in care. We are continuing to reunify families back together and giving them permanency. The CPS and In-home Services unit continue to assist Foster Care with case management duties, until staff can be hired and properly trained.

The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) will be onsite this month and will continue to make monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

Transitional Unit:

The Transitional unit is fully staff; one employee is out on Maternity leave. This unit continues to work caseloads while assisting the other Child Welfare Units as needed, particularly in the areas of courtesy requests from other counties, assisting with supervising visits and transporting children in custody. In addition, the Transitional Unit continues to have an influx in home studies and home assessments from other counties and within CCDSS Child Welfare. This Unit continues to assist particularly in the area of making monthly contacts with the children in foster care. Foster Home Licensing continues to work on completing more licensures to help increase the number of foster home in the county. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) will be onsite this month and will continue to make monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

Adult Services:

The Adult Services Unit has 1 vacancy. Interviews were conducted and an applicant have been chosen for the position. This unit continues to serve ages 18 and above, with protective services, persons under guardianship, and special assistance in-home case management. There have been major changes to this program due to new State Laws which have been enacted making it an entitlement program. We do expect a major influx of applications based on those changes. Guardianship of incompetent adults continues to be the heaviest case load, with the average age becoming younger.

Work First Employment:

This Unit continues to be fully staffed; however, one employee is out on unexpected Medical leave. The unit is open for in-person applications, telephone interviews continue for Work First applications, recertification's, short-term services and benefits. Certain necessary application documentation can be mailed to individuals that wish to apply and when received back the worker can conduct telephone interviews to complete that application. Some application information is also being provided for pick-up in the foyer area of the agency. Workers are encouraged to make telephone contacts with clients at least every two weeks to offer support and resources to clients and to encourage program participation. Transitioning back to regular application and case processing is now beginning after COVID-19 waivers ended. The agency continues to have monthly meetings with the state reps by conference calls. The Regional Economic Consultant conducted a telephone consultation this month.

Child Day Care:

The Child Day Care Unit continues to be fully staffed. The Supervisor and staff continue to work the over and under payment report to ensure proper payment is being made to county daycare providers. Day Care services are continuing to be provided and the state is working with county agencies and day cares to help them stay open as much as possible while providing a safe environment for children. Day Care slots within local Day Cares are limited at this time and many Day Cares are now on a waiting list. DSS staff continue to work with families to ensure their services stay in place while limiting contact to the telephone as much as possible. The agency has eliminated the waiting list and able to serve the public. Supervisor continue to ensure case transfers are received properly and sent in a timely manner.

Program Integrity:

Repayment agreements continue to be relaxed to help clients during this time. Staff are working to clean up a backlog, establishing cases and repayment agreements, all while assisting with the Energy Programs.

Energy Assistance:

CIP continues with the heating season which means helping with clients with their main source of heat. LIEAP ended as of March 31, 2023 for all county residents. Applications for CIP continue to be available on EPASS where applicants can complete and submit applications on-line, but continue to be available in our lobby for pick up and completion. One in-house staff person is currently processing applications. Program Integrity staff are assisting as needed due to influx of applications. Two temporary staff member hired to assist with determining eligibility with energy applications.

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

LIHWAP continues for all counties. This program is a federally funded program that will provide emergency assistance to low-income households to prevent disconnection or provide assistance with the reconnection of drinking and wastewater services. It will be based on a priority list: Group 1 will consist of households that have had water services disconnected. Group 2 will consist of households that are in jeopardy of water services being disconnected unless action is taken to prevent the disconnect. Group 3 will consist of households that have current water service bills and need assistance to maintain service. We continue to work this program, assisting almost all applicants that submit applications for assistance. There are funds available however the majority of this allotment has been utilized to assist clients who meet the criteria.

**Monthly Administrative Update
For March 2023
April 17, 2023 Meeting**

On March 9, 2023, I participated on the Director's Executive Board meeting. During this meeting we received an update on Medicaid Expansion for DHHS Leadership. They are considering funding to assist counties, possibly by October 2023, if not sooner. A survey will be sent to counties at some point to gather information on local needs to implement Medicaid Expansion. We were told that applications that are processed by the Federal Facilitated Marketplace will not require any review by county staff, if it is able to be integrated with NCFAST. DHHS Leadership will continue to monitor Medicaid Expansion and provide information on its implementation as it is developed.

We also learned that under the Medicaid Tailored Plan and Care Management, that the assigned care manager is responsible for securing placements for children with IDD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) & behavioral needs. Counties will work with the LME/MCO to coordinate these services.

DHHS is advocating for funding for Child Welfare to assist kinship placements (Relatives), secure timely clinical assessments, and to recruit/retain Child Welfare Staff.

On March 15, 2023, the Social Work Program Manager, IMC Administrator, and I participated on the 100 county call with DHHS. We were informed that the Governor is asking for one billion dollars to provide behavioral health services for children. This will hopefully help address the issues with children staying in DSS agencies, hotels, and emergency rooms while waiting for appropriate placement. We were told that North Carolina provides less funding in Child Welfare than any other state. The state recognizes that high turnover, low pay, and work load contributes to impacts on children in Foster Care. Updates on other programs were also given.

On March 20, 2023, our two after hours Child Welfare Workers began. These two workers will handle all abuse/neglect calls that come in after the agency closes. They will also assist with some Foster care visits. This is a first for our agency and the Social Work Staff are excited about not having to be on call. This will help with accuracy, efficiency, and safety of children.

March was National Social Work Appreciation Month. We say hat's off to Social Workers everywhere for the hard work they do and the many lives they touch. On March 22, 2023, a Social Work Appreciation Luncheon was held at DSS for our Social Work Staff. Staff received t-shirts and gathered for a picture wearing their social worker shirts. This was a very nice event.

On March 21, 2023, the Community Child Protection Team held its monthly meeting. The meeting was well attended by local school counselors, social workers, trillium, and DSS staff. Several cases were discussed.

March 31, 2023, was the last day to apply for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). Applications received after the close of business on March 31, 2023, will be denied. All others received by the deadline must be processed by May 1, 2023. We have assisted 266 individuals at this point.

During the month I attended and participated in seven in person or zoom meetings.

March 2023
Human Services

Adult Services (APS)

APS Reports Accepted: 3
County Wards: 26
Number of Payee Cases: 11
Adults Served APS: 0
Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: 574
Amount Requested for Reimbursement: \$4,544.30

Children's Protective Services (CPS)

Reports Accepted: 22
Reports Screened out: 26
Families Receiving In-Home Services: 45
Children Served: 85
Contacts with Families Monthly: 418
Assessments: 12

Foster Care

Foster Children in Foster Homes: 114
Children Placed Outside County: 40
Agency Adoptions: 0
Pending Adoptions: 8
Total Foster Homes Licensed: 6
Total Children in Foster Care: 122

Work First Employment (TANF)

Applications Taken: 15
Applications Approved: 2
Individuals Receiving Benefits: 208

Entered Employments: 0
Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 0

March 2023
Human Services (continued)

Program Integrity

Collections for Fraud: 279.70
New Referrals: 1
Cases Established: 0

Day Care

Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 494
Children on the Waiting List: 0
Amount Spent on Day Care Services: \$ 236,301.00

March 2023
Economic Services

Food & Nutrition

Applications Taken: 166
Applications Approved: 145
Active Cases: 6,862
Benefits Issued: \$2,170,473.00
Participants Served: 13,472

Adult Medicaid

Applications Taken: 98
Cases Terminated: 24
Redeterminations: 133
Applications Processed: 123

Family & Children’s Medicaid

Applications Taken: 124
Applications Processed: 262
Redeterminations: 353
Total Medicaid Cases: 15,319
Total Individuals Receiving: 23,462

Child Support

Absent Parents Located: 43
Orders Enforced: 638
Active Cases: 3,852
Collections: \$497,472.00

Respectfully submitted,
Algernon McKenzie

Economic Services Narrative

Darlene Jenkins-Parks, Income Maintenance Administrator

Vacancies/Updates/News for March 2023

F&C Medicaid Intake/Processing Unit:

The Family and Children's Medicaid Unit is currently fully staffed. All unit staff attended the economic services call and are trying to prepare for the upcoming unwinding from the PHE. They are prepared to help the Family & Children's recertification department if necessary. They were able to help with LIEAP applications and were successful in getting some of the application numbers down. FFM applications have increased significantly.

F&C Medicaid Review Unit:

This unit is fully staffed. The Medicaid unwinding process is in full effect beginning April 01, 2023. All of the staff have completed the required training to prepare for this huge change. We have reviewed all new policy and administrative letters.

Adult Medicaid Intake/Processing Unit:

The Adult Medicaid Intake and Processing Unit currently is fully staffed with the last (3) vacant positions filled as of March 6, 2023. We have (1) employee that is in the middle of his training period.

Adult Medicaid Review Unit:

The review unit has (1) IMC II vacancy and the Supervisor vacancy. Adult Medicaid review staff has been preparing and training for the upcoming Recertification and Continuous Coverage Unwinding (CCU) changes effective April 1, 2023. This training includes policy and procedure updates/changes required due to the Franklin v. Kinsley (formerly known as Hawkins v. Cohen) settlement agreement, new information for completing recertifications during the CCU, and basic reminders for completing recertifications.

One of the changes is beneficiaries' Medicaid benefits can be terminated or reduced if at recertification it is determined they do not meet all eligibility requirements. During the PHE (Public Health Emergency) benefits could not be terminated or reduced with exception of very few reasons. Effective April 1, 2023, deductibles, premiums, and sanctions can be imposed at next redetermination of eligibility. As part of the Franklin v. Kinsley settlement agreement all 100 county DSS agencies are required to implement a central email address for beneficiaries to email any required verification/information that has been requested on the DHB-5097 (Request of Information form) necessary to determine continued eligibility at redetermination. This has been implemented. Another requirement is the local DSS agencies are required to provide all Medicaid beneficiaries reasonable access to communicate by telephone during the recertification process or to report changes in circumstances at any time, includes after hours, holidays and weekends. The agency main line phone number must allow the caller to leave a detailed voice message. All counties whose phone system cannot meet the requirements outlined as soon as possible, must have an interim workaround process and corrective action plan developed with DHB no later than May 1, 2023.

LTC/CAP/SA Unit:

The LTC/CAP/SA unit has (1) vacancy. The filling of this vacancy is pending the hiring process. This unit consist of (4) IMC III. PLA Supervisor, Tammy Vereen, has been assisting me with training for supervisory duties as well as decision making for a variety of things, as well as making sure that I have all of the forms and emails needed she has also attended meetings held with LTC, CAP and SA with me to ensure that everything is discussed as it should be without leaving anything out.

Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation (NEMT) Unit:

This unit consist of (2) caseworkers and is fully staffed. The unit continues with daily calls, new and updated assessments, scheduling for pickups from vendors, as well as billing for van and mileage. They have been advised to start documenting in NC Fast any contact made with the clients which include but are not limited to

calls, new assessments and updated assessments for continued services. I have also been able to utilize a contact due to OST recommendation in Sampson County whom has shared how they operate MA Transportation within their county.

Housekeeping:

The housekeeping unit consists of two workers and is fully staffed. The housekeepers keep up with daily schedules and routines throughout their day such as sanitizing and keeping the agency clean and neat.

FNS Intake/Processing:

FNS intake unit staff has one new worker that started 3/6/23, they are one on one training with Lead worker. We are currently going through the process of hiring the last vacancy. Applications are still coming in steady. FNS. Waivers are still in place for Tel Signature, Waiver Telephone Interviews., H&I Felon, ABAWD.

FNS Review:

FNS vacant positions currently two, were reposted on 3/24/23 and close on 4/6/23. The seven review workers, are carrying portions of 2 vacant caseloads. FNS review continues with PHE extensions and waivers in place. All waivers scheduled to end March 2023 will be extended thru June including extended 6- month certification periods, waive telephone requirements & telephonic signatures for FNS unit. Remainder of PHE waivers are scheduled to end 5/11/23. All Food Banks have been contacted and updated with listings emailed to appropriate staff.

Child Support:

We have 3 vacancies in the Child Support Enforcement Unit positions have been advertised closing April 15, 2023. The Establishment Unit is fully staffed now with one new hire start date June 2022 that continues training and is handling her full case load. This unit hired another new hire start date of February 21, 2023, and two additional new hires started on March 21, 2023. The February and March new hires are beginning the training process which currently includes watching webinars and virtual trainings as well as observing other workers and court proceedings on days that court is scheduled. The workers' moral has been at its lowest due to the workers trying to meet timeframes, receiving an overwhelming amount of phone calls daily from both the clients and non-custodial parents, having to return those phone calls and keep up with the added workloads due to these vacancies in the Child Support Unit. We are hoping that once the new hires are trained that we will see an improvement in the departments moral. There was a total of 201 cases prepared for court action in the month of March 2023 for both the Establishment and Enforcement Units. There were 170 Child Support orders prepared for the month of March 2023.

Agenda Item #22: FINANCE – APPROVAL of SERVICE CONTRACT with DEBTBOOK:

Director, Lacie Jacobs, is requesting approval for a two-year contract with Debtbook.

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Coleman made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Floyd. The motion unanimously passed.

RENEWAL ORDER FORM

Fifth Asset, Inc., d/b/a DebtBook (“**DebtBook**”) is pleased to provide Columbus County, NC (“**Customer**”) with the Services subject to the terms established in this Order Form, including DebtBook’s Price Quote attached as **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein by this reference (the “**DebtBook Quote**”).

On and after the Effective Date listed below, this Order Form supersedes and replaces the Order Form previously executed and delivered by DebtBook and the Customer (the “**Original Order Form**”). This Order Form may be modified or replaced from time to time by a subsequent Order Form duly executed and delivered by each party in connection with any Renewal Term.

The Services are subject to DebtBook’s General Terms & Conditions, which were provided to Customer in connection with the execution and delivery of the Original Order Form (the “**Terms & Conditions**”), and the Incorporated Documents referenced in the Terms & Conditions. Each capitalized term used but not defined in this Order Form has the meaning given in the Terms & Conditions.

Order Form Details	
Effective Date: 2/01/23	Billing Frequency: Annually
Initial Term End Date: 1/31/25	Payment Terms: Net 30
Initial Pricing Tier: Tier 3	See the DebtBook Quote for more details

Services. Subject to the terms described in this Order Form, DebtBook will grant Customer access to the Application Services during the Initial Term described above and, if applicable, each subsequent Renewal Term. As part of the onboarding process, DebtBook will provide Customer with the Onboarding Services and, if requested, the Implementation Services. DebtBook will also provide Customer with the Support Services throughout the Term.

Fees. DebtBook will charge Customer (1) a recurring Subscription Fee for Customer’s access to the Onboarding Services, the Application Services, and the Support Services and (2) if applicable, an Implementation Fee for the Implementation Services, in each case as set forth in the DebtBook Quote and this Order Form.

Generally, DebtBook sets Fees using its standard pricing schedule for the Services based on the Customer’s applicable Pricing Tier, which is based on the total number and amount of the Customer’s Application Obligations at the time of determination. DebtBook’s current pricing schedule and Pricing Tiers are set forth in the DebtBook Quote, which will remain in effect with respect to Customer throughout the Initial Term.

The Initial Pricing Tier indicated above is based on Customer’s good faith estimate of its Application Obligations as of the Effective Date. The Subscription Fees to be charged as provided in the DebtBook Quote will not change during the Initial Term, regardless of any change to the actual number or amount of the Customer’s Application Obligations during the Initial Term.

Implementation Services. At Customer’s request, DebtBook will provide Implementation Services to Customer for a 12-month period, with each such period beginning, if applicable, on the Effective Date and on each anniversary of the Effective Date thereafter (each, an “**Implementation Period**”). Customer may request Implementation Services at any time during the Term.

If Implementation Services are requested for any Implementation Period, then the Implementation Fee will be based on the aggregate number and amount of the Customer’s Application Obligations at the beginning of such Implementation Period. The Implementation Fee will be due and payable at the later of (1) the beginning of the applicable Implementation Period or (2) the date on which Customer requests Implementation Services for such Implementation Period, and will entitle Customer, in each case, to Implementation Services at the applicable Pricing Tier through the end of the Implementation Period then in effect.

For any Implementation Period, if the total number or amount of Customer’s Application Obligations implemented causes Customer’s applicable Pricing Tier to increase, then DebtBook will charge Customer an additional Implementation Fee such that the total Implementation Fee charged for such Implementation Period equals the Implementation Fee applicable to the increased Pricing Tier as set forth in the DebtBook Quote.

Billing. Unless otherwise provided in the Order Form or the Customer Terms, all Fees will be due and payable in advance on the terms indicated above, and each invoice will be emailed to the Customer’s billing contact indicated below.

Renewal Term. The Agreement is subject to renewal on the terms set forth in the Terms & Conditions. The Pricing Tier applicable for each Renewal Term will be determined based on the aggregate number and amount of the Customer’s Application Obligations at the time of renewal.

Termination. The Agreement is subject to early termination on the terms set forth in the Terms & Conditions.

Entire Agreement. By executing this Order Form, each party agrees to be bound by this Order Form, the Terms & Conditions, the Incorporated Documents, and any Customer Terms.

This Order Form, the Customer Terms, the Terms & Conditions, and the Incorporated Documents constitute the complete “Agreement” between the parties and supersede any prior discussion or representations regarding the Customer’s purchase and use of the Services.

Intellectual Property. Except for the limited rights and licenses expressly granted to Customer under this Order Form and the Terms & Conditions, nothing in the Agreement grants to Customer or any third party any intellectual property rights or other right, title, or interest in or to the DebtBook IP.

Important Disclaimers & Limitations. EXCEPT FOR THE WARRANTIES SET FORTH IN THE TERMS & CONDITIONS, DEBTBOOK IP IS PROVIDED “AS IS,” AND DEBTBOOK DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, WHETHER EXPRESS, IMPLIED, STATUTORY, OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, TITLE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT AND ALL WARRANTIES ARISING FROM COURSE OF DEALING, USAGE, OR TRADE PRACTICE. IN ADDITION, TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, THE PARTIES’ LIABILITIES UNDER THE AGREEMENT ARE LIMITED AS SET FORTH IN THE TERMS & CONDITIONS.

Notices. Any Notice delivered under the Agreement will be delivered to the address below each party’s signature below.

Authority; Execution. Each of the undersigned represents that they are authorized to (1) execute and deliver this Order Form on behalf of their respective party and (2) bind their respective party to the terms of the Agreement. This Order Form and any other documents executed and delivered in connection with the Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which is deemed an original, but all of which together are deemed to be one and the same agreement. To the extent permitted by applicable law, electronic signatures may be used for the purpose of executing the Order Form by email or other electronic means. Any document delivered electronically and accepted is deemed to be “in writing” to the same extent and with the same effect as if the document had been signed manually.

FIFTH ASSET, INC., D/B/A DEBTBOOK

COLUMBUS COUNTY, NC

By: _____
Name: Tyler Traudt
Title: CEO

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

Notice Address

300 W. Summit Avenue, Suite 110
Charlotte, NC 28203
Attention: Chief Executive Officer
tyler.traudt@debtbook.com

Notice Address

127 West Webster St.
Whiteville, NC 28472
Attention: Lacie Jacobs
lacie.jacobs@columbusco.org

Billing Contact

127 West Webster St.
Whiteville, NC 28472
Attention: Lacie Jacobs
lacie.jacobs@columbusco.org

Agenda Item #24: APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS/REPLACEMENTS: STAFF is REQUESTING APPOINTMENTS, REAPPOINTMENTS or REPLACEMENTS to the FOLLOWING BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS.

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

Zone I:	Barbara Featherson	Zone V:	Brent Watts
Zone II:	Chris Smith	Zone VI:	Ricky Bullard
Zone III:	Giles E. Byrd	Zone VII:	Scott Floyd
Zone IV:	Lavern Coleman		

COMMITTEE	ZONE/EB	PERSON(S)	EXP. DATE	BOARD ACTION
Chadbourn Planning & Zoning Board	ETJ	Jennifer Caines (resigned)	08/31/2025	Jason Caines appointed MOTION: 1-Byrd 2-Floyd

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV AND V. Approval of the November 21 2022 meeting minutes.

MOTION:
At 8:00 P.M. a Motion was made by Commissioner Watts and second by Commissioner Featherson to recess regular session and enter into Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

Agenda Item #25: APPROVAL of WATER and SEWER COMBINATION MINUTES:

- March 21, 2023 (5 sets)

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

Agenda Item #26: WATER DISTRICT I – RESOLUTION to CLOSEOUT AIA GRANT:
Public Utilities Director Harold Nobles is requesting approval of the resolution to close out the \$150,000 AIA Grant to GIS the district.

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

RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT I

WHEREAS, The Federal Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987 and the North Carolina Water Infrastructure Act of 2005 (NCGS 159G) have authorized the making of loans and grants to aid eligible units of government in financing the cost of performing Asset Inventory and Assessments of water and sanitary sewer system components, and

WHEREAS, The Columbus County Water District I received under Project No. H-AIA-D-19-0154 a \$150,000.00 grant for a Water System Asset Inventory and Assessment project, and

WHEREAS The Columbus County Water District I authorized Green Engineering, PLLC, on their behalf, to perform the Asset Inventory and Assessment of District’s water system components, and

WHEREAS Green Engineering, PLLC has completed the Asset Inventory and Assessment of 109 miles of water mains, 150 fire hydrants, 26 blowoffs, 368 valves and 1,415 water meters, 1 elevated water storage tank, and

WHEREAS, The Columbus County Water District I has received and incorporated into their Geographical Information System all inventoried water system main, fire hydrants, blowoffs, valves, meters, and tanks.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT I:

That Columbus County Water District I arranged financing for all remaining costs required for the assessment and inventory, up to 5% of the grant not to exceed \$7,500.00.

That Columbus County Water District I had in place a schedule of fees and charges and other available funds which provided adequate funds for proper completion of the Asset Inventory and Assessment.

That Columbus County Water District I will continue to provide for efficient operation and maintenance of the water systems currently under Columbus County Water District I operations and control.

That Green Engineering has provided all of the documentation and information required by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality – Division of Water Infrastructure to properly close out Project No. H-AIA-D-19-0154.

That Columbus County Water District I has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to Federal and State grants and loans pertaining thereto.

Adopted this the _____ day of _____, 2023 at Columbus County, North Carolina.

Edwin H. Madden, Jr., County Manager – Columbus County

Attest:

Jana Nealey, Clerk to the Board

CERTIFICATION BY RECORDING OFFICER

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Clerk to the Board of Columbus County Water District I does hereby certify: That the above/attached resolution is a true and correct copy of the resolution confirming the completion of Project No. H-AIA-D-19-0154, as regularly adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Columbus County Water District I duly held on the _____ day of _____, 2023; and, further, that such resolution has been fully recorded in the journal of proceedings and records in my office. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this _____ day of _____, 2023.

(Signature of Recording Officer)

Clerk to the Board
(Title of Recording Officer)

REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST FORM

Division of Water Infrastructure H-AIA-D-19-0154
Period Covered by this Report - From 1/14/2022 To 4/4/2023

Recipient Organization
Name: Columbus County Payment No. Seven (7) - Final
Address: 111 Washington Street Page No. 1 of 1
City, State & Zip: Whiteville, North Carolina 28472

Please Label Each Column
Use separate column for each contract.
Use additional sheets if needed.
Use a "Misc." column if needed.
Example Column Labels
Columbus County Green Engineering

Classification of	A	B	C	Total
Planning & Design Fees		147,750		147,750
Engr's Fees Admin				0
Inspection Fees				0
Construction Cost				0
Equipment				0
Closing Fee	2,250.00			2,250
Deductions (income) Match	7,787.00			7,787
Inkind	-7,787.00			-7,787
Total Cumulative to date	2,250.00	147,750		150,000
Previous Received	2,250.00	133,850		136,100
Amount Requested	0.00	13,900		13,900
Percent Complete	0.00%	100.00%		100.00%

Certification
I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the billed costs or disbursements are in accordance with terms of the project and that this request represents the monies due which have not been previously received and that an inspection has been performed and all work is in accordance with the terms of the award.

You must check ONE of the boxes below or your payment will not be processed:

The funds requested above have already been paid to the respective vendors, consultants & contractors by the award recipient. ☐
OR
The funds requested above have not been paid to the respective vendors, consultants & contractors. Funds received from the State will be disbursed to these entities within three (3) banking days. ☒

Columbus County Recipient Signature of Authorized Representative Date

Edwin H. Madden, Jr. - County Manager
Type or Print Name and Title

DWI comments



Green Engineering, PLLC

Water, Wastewater, Surveying

Planning, Project Management

303 Goldsboro Street East • PO Box 609 • Wilson, NC 27894

TEL 252/237-5365 • FAX 252/243-7489

WWW.GREENENGINEERING.COM

COLUMBUS COUNTY
127 WEST WEBSTER STREET
FINANCE OFFICE
WHITEVILLE, NC 28472

Invoice number 12910
Date 04/04/2023
Project 18-100 COLUMBUS COUNTY - A -
WATER DISTRICT I AIA PROJECT NO. H-
AIA-D-19-0154

Professional Services for Period Ending: 04/04/2023

Description	Contract Amount	Percent Complete	Prior Billed	Total Billed	Current Billed
MEETING WITH COUNTY UTILITY STAFF	2,500.00	100.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
COLLECT / SCAN ALL COUNTY WATER SYSTEM MAPS	3,000.00	100.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
PREPARE LIST OF ASSESTS AND ATTRIBUTES TO SURVEY	2,000.00	100.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
DEVELOPMENT OF ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	2,000.00	100.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
PERFORM ASSET INVENTORY / ASSESSMENT (GPS SURVEY)	92,500.00	100.00	92,500.00	92,500.00	0.00
DOWNLOAD / REDUCE FIELD COLLECT DATA	6,850.00	100.00	6,850.00	6,850.00	0.00
SHAPEFILE / DATABASE DELIVERY TO UTILITY AND GIS STAFF	25,000.00	100.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
PRITORIZE ASSESSED ASSETS FOR REPLACEMENT / REHABILITATION	4,500.00	100.00	0.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
BUDGET DEVELOPMENT FOR INCLUSION INTO CIP	6,900.00	100.00	0.00	6,900.00	6,900.00
COUNTY REVIEW AND COMMENT ON BUDGET RECOMMENDATION	2,500.00	100.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Total	147,750.00	100.00	133,850.00	147,750.00	13,900.00

Invoice total 13,900.00

Aging Summary							
Invoice Number	Invoice Date	Outstanding	Current	Over 30	Over 60	Over 90	Over 120
12910	04/04/2023	13,900.00	13,900.00				
	Total	13,900.00	13,900.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



Green Engineering, PLLC

Water, Wastewater, Surveying

Planning, Project Management

303 Goldsboro Street East • PO Box 609 • Wilson, NC 27894

TEL 252/237-5365 • FAX 252/243-7489

WWW.GREENENGINEERING.COM

April 4, 2023

MEMO: Project No. H-AIA-D-19-0154
Summary of Work Performed to Date

Subject: Columbus County – District I Water
Asset Inventory and Assessment
Reimbursement Request No. 7 - FINAL
PN: 18-100

The following is a summary of the work performed to date on the Columbus County Asset Inventory and Assessment project of the water system improvements. The work is itemized according to the “Project Tasks Summary” provided to the Division of Water Infrastructure and attached to this request.

Meeting with County Utility Staff	100% Complete
Collect / Scan all Town Wastewater System Maps	100% Complete
Prepare List of Assets and Attributes to Collect	100% Complete
Development of Assessment Criteria	100% Complete
Perform Asset Inventory / Assessment (GPS Survey)	100% Complete
Download / Reduce Field Collect Data	100% Complete
Shapefile / Database Delivery to Utility and GIS Staff	100% Complete
Prioritize Assessed Assets for Replacement / Rehabilitation	100% Complete
Budget Development for Inclusion into CIP	100% Complete
Town Review and Comment on Budget Recommendations	100% Complete

All work for this project has been completed and copies of all asset shapefiles were delivered to the County and DWI at this time. The attached reimbursement request is the final request for this project.

E. Leo Green, III, PE, PLS

E. Leo Green



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
ASSET INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT GRANT
COLUMBUS COUNTY – WATER DISTRICT I
PROJECT NO. H-AIA-D-19-0154

SUMMARY OF WORK PERFORMED

In March 2019, the County received a \$150,000.00 grant for an inventory and condition assessment of District I's water system assets. This work included:

1. GPS Survey and Assessment of System Assets
2. Preparation of GIS Database containing key information including but not limited to:
 - a. Geographic Location (x, y, z (elevation))
 - b. Condition (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Very Poor)
 - c. Size/Capacity
 - d. Installation Date
 - e. Operational Status
3. Assets included:
 - a. 150 hydrants
 - b. 26 blowoffs
 - c. 1,415 meters
 - d. 368 valves
 - e. 1 Elevated Water Storage Tank
 - f. 109 miles of water mains
4. Identification of Capital Improvement Projects to correct deficiencies noted during assessments.

CONCLUSIONS

The initial inventory and assessment of the District's water system assets is complete. The County will now be able to keep track of the assets in their system in both a graphical and database format and will be able to update the condition of each asset including any of the other attribute information recorded.

The graphical nature of the information will be helpful to County Water Department staff to determine the size and location of existing infrastructure whereas the database features will permit quick recall of other key information that cannot be determined from the map.

The format of the GIS database provides for an easy way to add to, delete from, and to update the assets of the District's water system. Should additional attribute fields be required, this information can also be added to the database. The County will update the database as asset attributes change or as assets are added to or deleted from the system. The work of this project is the initial and first step for the County to have a complete Asset Management Plan that is discussed further below.



In addition to the completion of the system Inventory and Assessment, cost estimates were also prepared to replace assets with deficiencies that were noted during the assessments. This work can be included as part of the District's annual Operating Budget or added to the Capital Improvement Projects included in the District's Capital Improvement Plan.

NEXT STEPS

The goal of the County is to complete and implement a full Asset Management Plan for each Water District. This plan includes the following key components:

- Inventory of Assets
- Condition Assessment
- Capital Improvement Plan with Project Cost Estimates
- Operations and Maintenance Plan

The first three items of the plan for District I are complete; leaving only the preparation of an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan in order for the District to have a complete Asset Management Plan. The purpose of the Operations and Maintenance Plan will be to identify manufacturer's recommendations and/or typical industry best management practices to ensure proper management of the assets. The District already has much of this information; however, now with a completed GIS database, this information can be integrated into the database to make this information readily available and usable in the office as well as in the field.

All aspects of the Asset Management Plan will require routine maintenance and updates to keep the information current and relevant.

Agenda Item #27: WATER DISTRICT I – APPROVAL OF DEEDING WATERLINES:

Public Utilities Director Harold Nobles is requesting approval of deeding waterlines, after the disconnect occurs, in district I as the result of a previous interlocal agreement with Tabor City.

MOTION:

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

LORA MERRITT-THOMPSON
TOWN CLERK

KEVIN BULLARD
TOWN ATTORNEY

AL LEONARD, JR.
TOWN MANAGER

DIANE B. WARD
FINANCE-TREASURER



ROYCE HARPER
MAYOR

LAMONT GRATE
MAYOR PRO TEM

NELSON LEE
SAM ROGERS
DAVID MINCEY

Mr. Eddie Madden
Columbus County Manager
127 W. Webster St.
Whiteville, NC 28472

February 2, 2023

Mr. Manager:

I trust things are going well with you. I appreciate the job you and your team are doing for our county. I always have positive things to say about the county agencies that the municipalities usually interact with. I am sure you have even greater plans for the future.

I am writing to you to make you aware of an issue (not a problem, but an issue) involving the county government and the municipal government of Tabor City. About eleven years ago, the commissioners and the council reached an agreement concerning the transfer of county owned water lines in District I to the Town of Tabor City.

I guess that Gail and I are the only ones left who are still active who were involved in putting that agreement together. I spoke to Gail about this recently and she graciously shared a copy of your minutes when that Interlocal Agreement was executed. I have enclosed a copy of the document for your review.

As you can see, we agreed that the county would deed, in fee simple, certain water lines to the Town once the county indebtedness on those lines was paid off. It is my understanding that indeed the debt has been paid by the county. If that is the case, Tabor City would be interested in working cooperatively with your office to get the legal documentation completed that transfers ownership of these certain lines to Tabor City.

I would be happy to meet with you in person to further discuss how this came about and how we can move forward. Hopefully between Gail and I, our recollection will give you the information you need to move forward.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of Tabor City.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al J. Leonard, Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

Al J. Leonard, Jr.
Town Manager

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

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Coleman made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Featherson. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #28: COMMENTS:

A. Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Byrd commented:

Yes, I want to mention in and I noticed in reading in the minutes that, I think this would be the fourth time I have mentioned something about the fact that the county needs to move forward to creating something to take care of these mental patients sitting in the emergency room and it was not in the minutes. This is something that I really think that we need to move off of the back burner and start putting up on the front side because it's gonna take some time, and a long investment to do it, but if you go to the emergency room and over half of it is being taken up with mental patients and you see people coming in with a heart attack, injured or whatever, and they are rolled out in the hallway. Oh we can do better than that. I know it'll be a big step but we can. Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to mention, you know I keep up with real estate and different things in the county. The tax office did a foreclosure on a man's property last week and put it up for sale which he came along and paid the taxes and that that's good but here's what concerns he was a charge for eight trash cans, three years he was charged for two, two years he was charged for one a piece, which contributes to eight cans which would be \$1600 that was added to the taxes plus \$800 interest and you would have trouble even seeing the house I'll pass that along. Somebody is not doing their due diligence on investigating why the taxes are not being paid. I have a second one here also, they were billed for trashcan in 18', 19' and 20' with three cans. My question for bringing this up is we need to do better. We are foreclosing on people's property, taxes and fees and interest that they really don't know. Here's another one, they charge 18', 19', and

20', three cans and I'll also pass a picture of the home down for everybody to look at it. I have personally gone in this one and the floors have fallen out, on the ground and \$500 dollars in interest that contribute it up to a believe it was \$7000 or more that the county was foreclosing on this property, which he has other properties but I just brought those two because I felt like they could've been prevented, had the tax office done investigative work that they should've done before they started for foreclosed and then when they started there's another \$800 more for Attorney's fees. We can do better than that and we need to. One other thing and I'll pass, I want to congratulate Sheriff for closing out from 2019 and 18 murder cases.

Vice Chairman Coleman commented:

Thanks to the folks for coming to Prosper Baptist Church, the county employees, Harold and Mrs. Gail for coming and helping the people get signed up for water.

Commissioner Featherson commented:

I would like to thank the Linemen again for keeping the lights on during the storms. I am also appreciative to the Literacy Council, we had a Bunny Brunch and it was a very nice event at Western Prong. Also, one of my constituents mentioned that after her paying her taxes and the end of the month, December 2022 she then got a tax refund in January of 2023, she has now been billed for that same amount, it was published in the paper. That is something else we may want to look at.

Commissioner Smith commented:

I just want to remind everyone about the senior prom for the Department of Aging this week. I personally will not be here but I urge those who are, to attend. I went to a Christmas thing they had and it was very nice.

Chairman Bullard commented:

I just like to say I appreciate the things everyone is doing. Thank you very much.

B. County Manager

County Manager Eddie Madden commented:

A couple things, thank you everyone up at the board direction are we work has begun on the first and second floors of Madden Street Madison Street building we are in the process of receiving a quote for the HVAC and electrical upgrades but on the surface of things it appears as though the project is going to come in well under the \$2-million-dollar budget that was presented to the board last time. It's our intent to relocate the collections department to the first floor by the end of July. A reminder, this board will receive the initial draft of the proposed budget for FY 24 at your next meeting, that is in keeping with the requirement of that budget be presented to the local government commission by the 16th of June. It is deemed a draft that point and will obviously be vetted very carefully by everyone involved in the process through June to include the public hearing that will take place at your June meeting as well. So, at your May 1st meeting, we will present you with at least the draft of the budget that will be forwarded to the local government commission.

Thanks to the effort of Mr. West and his staff, we are looking to start orientation for the employee's wellness center and we will have training of the equipment as well and our hope is to have it open potentially as early as the 1st of May. We will keep you posted on that as well. The Chairman sent an invitation, I hope you all received a copy of it, for a legislative breakfast with Senator Rabon and Representative Jones to be held either this Friday, the 21st or the following Friday the 28th, 'depending on the availability of those two gentlemen and you all were waiting on confirmation from them to establish the day, but it would be held in this room at 8:30 A.M. either on the 21st or the 28th and we will let you know what it what day that is. Miss Julie Strickland was asked me to let you know that the installation of the equipment at the new inclusive playground at the fitness park has begun and we're hopeful to have that finished for use this summer. The Senior Prom is this Thursday at 4:30 P.M. at the Vineland Station of it is a great event and we encourage you to go.

Agenda Item #29: ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION:

At 8:10 P.M., Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Floyd The motion unanimously passed.

JANA NEALEY, Clerk to the Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman