

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, June 19, 2023

4:00 P.M. Opioid Workshop

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 and N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A) (4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MOTION:

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

Agenda Item #2: CLOSED SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.C.G.S §143-318.11(A)(3) ATTORNEY –CLIENT PRIVILEGE AND N.C.G.S § 143-318.11

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 Featherson. The motion unanimously passed.

GENERAL ACCOUNT:

Board Attorney Boyd Worley gave the general account as follows:

The board discussed (2) matters of Economic Development, (1) matter of pending litigation, (1) matter of potential litigation, and (1) matter of personnel.

MOTION:

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

Regular Session begins at 6:30 P.M.

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

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

Agenda Item# 5: APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION:

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

Agenda Item #6: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

- a. June 05, 2023

MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the minutes with the addition that he was excused from the voting of the Taxes. Refunds, and Releases, seconded by Commissioner Featherson. The motion unanimously passed

Agenda Item #7: PUBLIC INPUT:

Doris Strickland commented in an email read by Amanda Prince:

Amanda Prince

From: Doris Strickland <dorisa72@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2023 4:51 PM
To: Amanda Prince
Subject: [External] Public Comment

Columbus County Commissioner,

I am requesting my comment to be read instead of me going in person because I am on a fixed income and I cannot afford the gas as high as it is to make a special trip to Whiteville.

The purpose of my comment is number 18 on the tonight's agenda where Sheriff Bill Rogers is requesting an additional \$650,000 for the Sheriff's Office salary budget. This is completely ridiculous. Columbus County does not have this type of money. I wish I made a double digit income as some of his personnel.

Municipalities need to protect their citizens and cannot compete with this type of salary if you approve this salary request Sheriff Rogers is asking.

In closing I would like to say I hope you all had a nice Daddy's Day yesterday and Mrs. Featherson, I hope your weekend was good as well.

Respectfully,

Doris A. Strickland
P.O. Box 282 105 Forest Edge Circle Apartment 1A
Tabor City, NC 28463
910 653-5560

Agenda Item #8: PROCLAMTION – PARKS and RECREATION MONTH JULY 2023:

Parks and Recreation Director Julie Strickland is requested approval to proclaim and designate July 2023 as Parks and Recreation Month.

MOTION:

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

Designation of July as Parks and Recreation Month

WHEREAS parks and recreation is an integral part of communities throughout this country, including Columbus County; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation promotes health and wellness, improving the physical and mental health of people who live near parks; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation promotes time spent in nature, which positively impacts mental health by increasing cognitive performance and well-being, and alleviating illnesses such as depression, attention deficit disorders, and Alzheimer's; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation encourages physical activities by providing space for popular sports, hiking trails, swimming pools and many other activities designed to promote active lifestyles; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation is a leading provider of healthy meals, nutrition services and education; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation programming and education activities, such as out-of-school time programming, youth sports and environmental education, are critical to childhood development; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation increases a community’s economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation is fundamental to the environmental well-being of our community; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation is essential and adaptable infrastructure that makes our communities resilient in the face of natural disasters and climate change; and

WHEREAS our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of our community and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and

WHEREAS the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month; and

WHEREAS Columbus County recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Columbus County Board of Commissioners that July is recognized as Parks and Recreation Month in Columbus County

PROCLAIMED this, the 19th day of June, 2023. **Columbus County Commissioners**

Agenda Item #9: PROCLAMTION – TAKE A VET FISHING MONTH JULY 2023:

American Legion Post 137 Commander Lacie Wilson is requested approval to proclaim July as Take a Veteran Fishing month. Commander Wilson was not able to attend the meeting; therefore, the Proclamation was accepted by Vice Chairman Laverne Coleman.

MOTION:

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

Take a Veteran Fishing Month

WHEREAS, Columbus County recognizes the sacrifice Veterans have made in order to ensure safety of our nation community, children and future; and

WHEREAS, Over half of all Veterans struggle in their civilian lives as a result of their time in service.; and

WHEREAS, Take A Vet Fishing builds relationships and fosters communities for Veterans and is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of injured and disabled Veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings; and

WHEREAS, Veterans deserve for the very community in which they protected to give back to them. Columbus County recognizes and celebrates these efforts to help over 3,500 Veterans; and

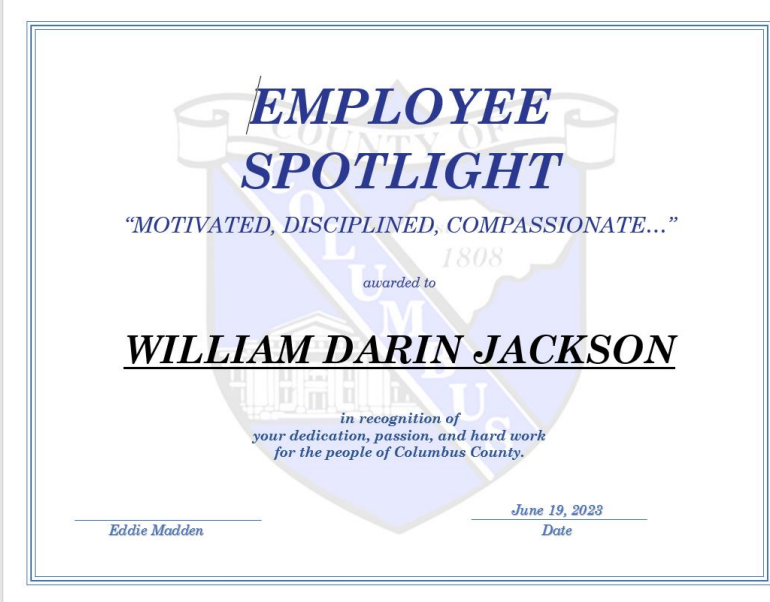
WHEREAS, Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, We, the Columbus County Commissioners, recognize July 2023 as Take a Veteran Fishing Month.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 19th day of June, 2023.

Agenda Item #10: ADMINISTRATION – EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

County Manager Eddie Madden recognized William Darin Jackson from Building Inspections



Agenda Item #11: ADMINISTRATION – RESOLUTION to RESCHEDULE JULY 3RD MEETING to JUNE 26TH:

County Manager Eddie Madden is requested approval of the Resolution to reschedule the July 3rd meeting to Monday, June 26th, at 5:00 P.M.;

MOTION:

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

NOTICE and RESOLUTION to RESCHEDULE MEETING of the BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

The Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, unanimously approved on the 19th day of June, 2023, to adopt the following Resolution.

W I T N E S S E T H :

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, has presently scheduled meetings at 6:30 P.M. on the first Monday and at 6:30 P.M. on the third Monday of each month; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, is desirous of rescheduling the meeting scheduled for the first Monday in July to June 26th, 2023 only.

BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF COLUMBUS COUNTY, North Carolina, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153A-40, to rescheduling the regular meeting of the said Board scheduled for July 3rd, 2023 to be rescheduled to June 26th 2023, be, and the same is hereby rescheduled, and the next regularly scheduled meeting of the said Board shall be in the Columbus County Commissioners' Chambers, 127 West Webster Street Whiteville North Carolina, 28472, on Monday, July 17th, 2023.

BE IT, FURTHER, RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners that a copy of this Resolution and Notice shall be placed on the Courthouse Bulletin Board, as well as forwarded to all of the news media who has requested notice.

ADOPTED this the 19th day of June, 2023

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

ATTESTED BY:

JANA NEALEY, Clerk to Board

Agenda Item #12: **FINANCE – APPROVAL of the BUDGET AMENDMENTS & PROJECT ORDINANCES:**

Finance Director Lacie Jacobs is requested approval of the following budget amendments and project ordinances for budget year 22-23 housekeeping.

- 1. Teen Court - JCPC Grant Update
- 2. General Fund Reconciliation by function (3)
- 3. Fines & Forfeitures
- 4. ARPA Funding
- 5. LESO Capital Outlay
- 6. 911 Grant Capital Project Ordinance

MOTION:

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

BUDGET AMENDMENTFY 22/23

Name of Department:TEEN COURT

Agency Head Signature:

Date Prepare / Submitted to Admin:May 30, 2023Date Received in Admin:

Budget Code	EXPENDITURES	Requested
Fund Dept. Category	Classification	Increase or (Decrease)
10 4155 512100	SALARIES & WAGES REGULAR	\$1,310
10 4155 518100	FICA	\$107
10 4155 522000	FOOD & PROVISIONS	\$2,147
10 4155 526000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$960
10 4155 531100	TRAVEL	\$866
10 4155 532000	COMMUNICATIONS	(\$721)
10 4155 534000	PRINTING & BINDING	(\$68)
10 4155 537000	ADVERTISING	(\$2,451)
10 4155 539000	OTHER SERVICES	(\$720)
10 4155 545000	INSURANCE & BONDING	\$85
10 4155 549000	DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	(\$15)
Total Net Expense		\$1,500

Budget Code	REVENUES	Requested
Fund Dept. Category	Classification	Increase or (Decrease)
10 3416 436025	NC JCPC GRANT	\$1,500
Total Net Revenue		\$1,500

☐ This budget revision has been approved by the Columbus County Finance Office:

☐ This budget revision has been approved by the Columbus County County Manager:

☒ This budget revision has been approved by the Board of Columbus County Commissioners on:

BUDGET AMENDMENTFY 22/23

Name of Department:FINANCE

Agency Head Signature:

Date Prepare / Submitted to Admin:June 12, 2023Date Received in Admin:

Budget Code	REVENUES	Requested
Fund Dept. Category	Classification	Increase or (Decrease)
10 3100 411105	USER FEES	(\$1,987,569)
10 3160 430120	COURT FACILITIES FEES	\$22,881
10 3200 432301	1 CENT SALES TAX ARTICLE 39	\$1,550,000
10 3200 432302	1/2 CENT SALES TAX ARTICLE 40	\$640,000
10 3100 432303	1/2 CENT SALES TAX ARTICLE 42	\$340,000
10 3100 416101	TAX RELEASES	(\$223,063.00)
10 3100 419000	TAX DISCOUNTS	(\$582,457)
10 3100 440195	LEGAL FEES - TAX COLLECTION	(\$102,202)
10 3417 441005	ELECTION FEES	\$84
10 3582 430017	STATE AID - VETERAN SERV OFFICER	\$9,076
10 3100 411103	TAX - RENTAL VEHICLES	\$822,172
10 3100 418100	PENALTY & INTEREST	\$27,489.00
10 3611 430115	NC CULTURAL RES-ST AID LIBRARY	\$9,781
10 3611 431115	NON-RECURRING AID	\$64,552
10 3611 489000	MISC REVENUE-LIBRARY	\$4,266
10 3639 449100	INVESTMENT EARNINGS	\$221,000
10 3639 486004	SALE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT	\$25,601
10 3100 411101	PRIOR YEARS TAXES	(\$177,529)
10 3100 411115	MOTOR VEHICLE AD VALOREM TAXES	(\$340,000)
10 3414 440150	COLLECTION FEE-WHITEVILLE	(\$3,225.00)
10 3414 440170	COLLECTION FEE FAIR BLUFF REAL ESTATE	(\$635.00)
10 3414 440192	TOWN OF BOLTON COLLECTION FEE	\$221.00
10 3414 440193	TOWN OF BOARDMAN COLLECTION FEE	\$136.00
10 3414 440194	TOWN OF CERRO GORDO COLLECTION FEE	(\$118.00)
10 3414 440195	TOWN OF BRUNSWICK COLLECTION FEE	(\$181.00)
10 3414 440196	TABOR CITY COLLECTION FEE	(\$2,463.00)
10 3414 440197	CHADBOURN COLLECTION FEE	(\$2,145.00)
10 3414 440198	TOWN OF SANDYFIELD COLLECTION FEE	(\$1,068.00)
10 3414 440199	TOWN OF LAKE WACCAMAW COLLECTION FEE	(\$1,053.00)
10 3639 486000	RENT	(\$4,500)
10 3530 430067	93.583 IV-D STATE	(\$15,957)
10 3530 430070	93.645 PERMANENCY PLAN ST	(\$16,288)
10 3530 430085	FOOD STAMP FRAUD RECOVERY	(\$2,020.00)
Total Net Revenue		\$0

☐ This budget revision has been approved by the Board of Columbus County Commissioners on:

Signature

Date

Explanation of Increase or Decrease:

ADJUST BUDGET FOR YEAR END ESTIMATES

Version 1.0

Budget Amendment.xls

Created:12/15/04

BUDGET AMENDMENTFY 22/23

Name of Department:FINANCE

Agency Head Signature:

Date Prepare / Submitted to Admin:June 12, 2023Date Received in Admin:

Budget Code	EXPENDITURES	Requested
Fund Dept. Category	Classification	Increase or (Decrease)
10 4530 825106	AVIATION FUEL PURCHASES	\$72,000
10 4920 549926	BUILDING REUSE GRANT	(\$100,000)
Total Net Expense		(\$28,000)

Budget Code	REVENUES	Requested
Fund Dept. Category	Classification	Increase or (Decrease)
10 3453 441007	AVIATION FUEL SALES	\$72,000
10 3485 489130	BUILDING REUSE GRANT	(\$100,000)
Total Net Revenue		(\$28,000)

☐ This budget revision has been approved by the Columbus County Finance Office:

☐ This budget revision has been approved by the Columbus County County Manager:

☒ This budget revision has been approved by the Board of Columbus County Commissioners on:

BUDGET AMENDMENTFY 22/23

Name of Department:FINANCE

Agency Head Signature:

Date Prepare / Submitted to Admin:June 12, 2023Date Received in Admin:

Budget Code	EXPENDITURES	Requested
Fund Dept. Category	Classification	Increase or (Decrease)
10 4130 552001	CAPITAL OUTLAY EQUIPMENT LEASE - GASB 87	\$9,681
10 4310 552000	CAPITAL OUTLAY VEHICLE LEASE-GASB 87	\$1,771,481
10 4310 575002	NON-LEASE COMPONENT - GASB 87	\$16,354
10 4310 820001	INTEREST - FINANCED VEHICLES	\$6,870
10 5301 820000	CAPITAL OUTLAY EQUIPMENT LEASE - GASB 87	\$29,797
10 4330 552001	INTEREST - LEAST PAYMENT	\$206
10 4330 552001	CAPITAL OUTLAY EQUIPMENT LEASE - GASB 87	\$150,000
Total Net Expense		\$1,984,169

Budget Code	REVENUES	Requested
Fund Dept. Category	Classification	Increase or (Decrease)
10 3541 449121	OTHER FINANCING SOURCE: LEASE FINANCING - GASB 87	\$1,984,169
Total Net Revenue		\$1,984,169

☐ This budget revision has been approved by the Columbus County Finance Office:

☐ This budget revision has been approved by the Columbus County County Manager:

☒ This budget revision has been approved by the Board of Columbus County Commissioners on:

Jana Nealey, Clerk to the Board

Agenda Item #13: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – APPROVAL to RESCHEDULE and ESTABLISH PUBLIC HEARING for TEXT AMENDMENT:

Director Dr. Gary Lanier requested that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners to reschedule and establish the public hearing with regard to the proposed modification of the definition of a Multi-Family Dwelling Unit within the Columbus County Code of Ordinances, to Monday, June 26th, at 5:00 P.M.; or as soon as can be heard or as soon as can be heard.

MOTION:

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

Agenda Item #14: DSS – DSS MONTHLY UPDATE MAY 2023:

Social Services Director Algernon McKenzie will present the Social Services administrative update for the month of May 2023.

**Monthly Administrative Update
Monthly Administrative Update
For May 2023
June 19, 2023 Meeting**

On May 4, 2023, we received 25 duffle bags from Rev. Val Sutton-Paige. These bags were donated by the District Missionary Group of the A.M/E. Zion Church to be given to children coming into and currently in foster care.

On May 16, 2023, I held an agency-wide staff meeting. This was the first agency- wide staff meeting held since 2020, because of Covid-19. During the meeting I thanked staff for their hard work and dedication during the past three years of Covid-19. During this period staff had to deal with the many policy changes and new programs started during the pandemic while continuing to provide services to our citizens. I also gave staff an update on Medicaid Expansion, the county travel request policy, and the proposed 2023-2024 county budget.

On May 17, 2023, I represented our agency at The Columbus County Law Enforcement and Public Safety/Government Hiring Event held at Southeastern Community College. Information was provided on current vacancies and applications were available on site. The event was from 10am to 2pm.

On May 17, 2023, at 3pm a statewide zoom meeting was held concerning Continuous Coverage Unwinding and Medicaid Expansion. The income maintenance administrator and I participated on the zoom meeting, which focused on funding support for counties to prepare for the Unwinding and Expansion of Medicaid. During the meeting we were informed that there is a \$8.335 million that will be available and distributed to all 100 counties for the fiscal year of 2023-2024. Each county will receive a base amount of \$5,000.00 per month and additional funding will be based on case load size by county. These funds must be used by June 30, 2024. These funds will be used to assist with staffing cost associated with Medicaid. We were informed that allocations would be sent in the next few days and must be accepted through a DocuSign Document, by the DSS Director and the County Manager. The plan is to push these funds out to counties by the end of June 2023. Following this meeting I copied and shared the information concerning this funding with the county manager. The funding acceptance documents were received on May 30, 2023 and have been signed by myself and the county manager. We will receive \$39,427.00 to offset the changing of Medicaid claiming by counties from 75/25 to 50/50. We will also receive \$68,350.00 to support the Continuous Coverage Unwinding and Medicaid Expansion preparation.

At this point we are still unsure of the implementation date for Medicaid Expansion.

On May 18, 2023, the Social Work Program Manager and I participated in Eastern Regional Director’s meeting. During this meeting we had a presentation on Critical Conversations with Foster Parents by Tammy School and Holly McNeil, from DHHS. The purpose was to share ideas on how to better communicate and build relationships with Foster parents to improve outcomes for foster children.

We also had a presentation from the state Red Cross Representative, Megan McDonald. She discussed preparation strategies for the 2023 Hurricane season, as we are getting close to another season. She encouraged counties to review its plans and work with their local emergency services directors. Lastly, she informed us that there are 97 Red Cross Managed Shelters and 114 Partner managed evaluation shelters throughout North Carolina.

During the month of May, we had a work first program monitoring. Several cases were reviewed by our Continuous Quality Improvement Consultant. I am happy to say that all the cases reviewed were correct giving us a 100% score. Hats off to the work first cash and employment services staff for a job well done.

During the month of May, I attended and participated in Nine in person and zoom meetings.

May 2023

Human Services

Adult Services (APS)

APS Reports Accepted: 7
County Wards: 26
Number of Payee Cases: 11
Adults Served APS: 0
Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: 672
Amount Requested for Reimbursement: \$31,419.64

Children’s Protective Services (CPS)

Reports Accepted: 28
Reports Screened out: 39
Families Receiving In-Home Services: 46
Children Served: 90
Contacts with Families Monthly: 465
Assessments: 18

Foster Care

Foster Children in Foster Homes: 106
Children Placed Outside County: 28
Agency Adoptions: 0
Pending Adoptions: 8
Total Foster Homes Licensed: 8
Total Children in Foster Care: 114

Work First Employment (TANF)

Applications Taken: 9
Applications Approved: 4
Individuals Receiving Benefits: 214
Entered Employments: 2
Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 0

May 2023

Human Services (continued)

Program Integrity

Collections for Fraud: \$205.00
New Referrals: 6
Cases Established: 0

Day Care

Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 475
Children on the Waiting List: 0
Amount Spent on Day Care Services: \$233,368.00

May 2023

Economic Services

Food & Nutrition

Applications Taken: 167
Applications Approved: 173
Active Cases: 6,758
Benefits Issued: \$2,091,448.00
Participants Served: 13,192

Adult Medicaid

Applications Taken: 95
Cases Terminated: 18
Redeterminations: 190
Applications Processed: 124

Family & Children's Medicaid

Applications Taken: 100
Applications Processed: 108
Redeterminations: 1,053
Total Medicaid Cases: 15,414
Total Individuals Receiving: 23,618

Child Support

Absent Parents Located: 85
Orders Enforced: 699
Active Cases: 3,913
Collections: \$465,604.00

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD REPORT

Dwella M. Hall, Program Manager

Vacancies/Updates/News for May, 2023

Intake/Investigation/Assessment: The Intake/Investigation/Assessment Unit is fully staffed. This Unit continues to receive referrals involving substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental health issues, among other things. The after-hours positons continue to increase 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) conducted a virtual consultation 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 is now fully staffed. 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 continues to assist the FC unit until they are fully staffed. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) conducted a

virtual consultation 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. There are currently 116 children in care. The numbers have decrease significantly; it was largely due to reunifying children back with parent's/family members or caretakers; however, we are suspecting the numbers to slowly increase with the likelihood of more children entering custody. 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) conducted a virtual consultation 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 continues to be 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) conducted a virtual consultation 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. The position has been reposted. 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.

The guardianship cases continue to demand extensive time due to severe and persistent mental illness and the lack of resources for this population.

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. 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.

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) LIHWAP was sent to end as of May 31, 2023. 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.

Agenda Item #15: APPRENTICESHIP PRGRAM – APPROVAL of FUNDS for the APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM:

Dr. Deanne Meadows and Dr. Chris English requested approval of the funds in the amount of \$150,000 from Article 44 Sales Tax for the Apprenticeship Program for Whiteville City Schools, Columbus County Schools, and Southeastern Community College.

**County Manager Eddie Madden changed the fiscal agent to Southeastern Community College*

MOTION:

Commissioner Watts made a motion to approve the funds requested and the fiscal agent amendment, seconded by Commissioner Featherson. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #16: ATTORNEY’S OFFICE – APPROVAL of the RESOLUTION to SELL the FORMER CHADBOURN MIDDLE SCHOOL to GRACE TEMPLE HEALING and DELIVERANCE OUTREACH MINISTRY, INC.:

Staff Attorney Amanda Prince requested approval of the Resolution to sell former Chadbourn Middle School to Grace Temple Healing and Deliverance Outreach Ministry Inc. for \$150,000 and must maintain youth activity center, reversion to the County if not used for the public purpose of a youth activity center.

MOTION:

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

Resolution Authorizing Sale
To Nonprofit for Public Use

WHEREAS, the County of Columbus owns property listed on Schedule A, attached and incorporated herein, also known as Chadbourn Middle School; and

WHEREAS, the property is currently surplus property for the County; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 160A-279 permits the County to convey real property by private sale to a nonprofit corporation, if the County is authorized by law to appropriate money to the corporation; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 160A-497 authorizes the County to undertake programs for the assistance and care of youth in the community through various programs and to contract and appropriate funds to private organizations in order to carry out such programs; and

WHEREAS, The County of Columbus has negotiated with Grace Temple Healing and Deliverance Outreach Ministry (hereinafter Association) to convey the former Chadbourn Middle School property, Schedule A, to Association, in order that Association may improve the building and then operate a center in the building for youth; and

WHEREAS, the operation of an activity center will assist the County in meeting the needs of its youth;

THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF COLUMBUS RESOLVES THAT:

1. The Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the sale at public auction of the property listed on Schedule A, also known as Chadbourn Middle School in the amount of \$150,000 to Grace Temple Healing and Deliverance Outreach Ministry.
2. The terms of the sale and additional consideration are as follows which are a set of conditions, covenants, and restrictions that shall be incorporated in the deed given by the County to Association:
 - a. Association will renovate, rehabilitate, and improve the buildings located on the property to a standard to be used for youth in the community; and
 - b. After renovations, Association will operate a youth activity center in the building, offering programs for the benefit of youth of the County; and
 - c. Association shall submit an annual report to the County summarizing the youth programs that it offers at the center.
 - d. Any time after June 30, 2024, the County reserves the right of reversion if during the next 25 years Association shall cease to use the property to operate a youth activity center.
3. The Clerk to the Board of Commissioners shall publish a notice summarizing the contents of this resolution, and the property may be sold at any time after 10 days after publication of the notice.

Adopted this the 19th day of June, 2023.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Ricky Bullard, Chairman _____

Attested By: _____

Jana Nealey, Clerk to Board

Agenda Item #17: SHERIFF’S OFFICE – APPROVAL of the RESOLUTION REGARDING the GOVERNERS HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM GRANT:

Sheriff Bill Rogers requested approval of the Resolution to extend the Governors Highway Safety Program Grant funds for one additional year due to the previous suspension during the last cycle.

MOTION:

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

North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program

LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Sheriff's Office (herein called the "Agency")

(The Applicant Agency)

has completed an application contract for traffic safety funding; and that Columbus County Board of Commissioners (The Governing Body of the Agency)

(herein called the "Governing Body") has thoroughly considered the problem identified and has reviewed the project as described in the contract;

THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Columbus County Board IN OPEN

(Governing Body)

MEETING ASSEMBLED IN THE CITY OF Whiteville, NORTH CAROLINA,

THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 20____, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the project referenced above is in the best interest of the Governing Body and the general public; and

2. That Sheriff W.A. Rogers is authorized to file, on behalf of the Governing

(Name and Title of Representative)

Body, an application contract in the form prescribed by the Governor's Highway Safety Program for federal funding in the amount of \$ 33,792.00 to be made to the Governing Body to assist in defraying

(Federal Dollar Request)

the cost of the project described in the contract application; and

3. That the Governing Body has formally appropriated the cash contribution of \$ 101,376.00 as

(Local Cash Appropriation)

required by the project contract; and

4. That the Project Director designated in the application contract shall furnish or make arrangement for other appropriate persons to furnish such information, data, documents and reports as required by the contract, if approved, or as may be required by the Governor's Highway Safety Program; and

5. That certified copies of this resolution be included as part of the contract referenced above; and

6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DONE AND ORDERED in open meeting by _____

(Chairperson/Mayor)

ATTESTED BY _____ SEAL

(Clerk)

DATE _____

Agenda Item #18: SHERIFF’S OFFICE – APPROVAL of an ADDITIONAL \$650,000 to the SALARY BUDGET:

Sheriff Bill Rogers requested an additional \$650,000 for the Sheriff’s Office salary budget.

**Sheriff Bill Rogers was not present and requested for this item to be tabled. The Commissioners decided not to table the item and to discuss and decide on it.*

Eddie Madden Commented on the following facts:

Sheriff’s department request for additional funding

- o I appreciate the good work of the sheriff. 1) The morale of the department has improved, 2) he has done a great job of filling positions, 3) he has reduced the turnover in his department, 4) his organizational plan includes a reduction in command staff in order to put more deputies on the road*

which is also a good plan and 5) the sheriff is operating in an open and transparent way with the county and is communicating well with our staff and board.

However, I cannot recommend the request for additional funding for the following reasons:

- *Since 2019 the sheriff's department budget has increased from \$10.6 million to \$15.5 million. (42.57%)*
- *Salaries for sheriff employees have greatly increased during the same time period (54%). The FY 2024 budget includes a \$1.178 million increase in total salaries for the sheriff's department. The sheriff originally requested an additional \$650,000 which would include a 12% increase in pay for command staff and a 7% increase in pay for deputies based on a written proposal submitted to our office.*
- *The county was not competitive with pay compared to our adjoining counties in 2019 but today we are in line. If a deputy leaves to take employment in Bladen, Robeson, Scotland, or Pender county, their pay would be essentially the same. The exception is with Brunswick and New Hanover and we will never be able to keep pace with them. We are also not competitive with state agencies such as the highway patrol or the SBI.*
- *The county's general fund budget has only increased 20% in four years but we have increased the sheriff's budget by 42% meaning that other departments have had to be reduced to make accommodation for the sheriff's budget.*
- *Year to date (FY 2023) the sheriff's department is \$1.6 million over budget which is broken down as \$1,000,000 in overestimated federal inmate revenues and grants, and \$600,000 in over spending.*
- *The board set its priorities in March and it was understood that other departments such as Fire and EMS had to take priority in the FY 2024 budget year especially since the Sheriff's budget has been increased to over \$15 million dollars.*
- *G.S. 153A-92 requires the Board of Commissioners to set the rate of pay for all employees including the sheriff's employees. Furthermore, if in the future we cannot afford this pay plan, the board cannot reduce the pay of the sheriff's department without applying the same decrease to all other employees.*
- *In summary, we did not include the sheriff's budget request in the recommended budget for a number of reasons:*
 1. *It is outside the authority of the manager or finance director to adopt new pay plans;*
 2. *We do not have the capacity to fund the request without raising taxes or pulling out of fund balance; and*
 3. *The eight-year plan presented by the sheriff's department is not sustainable without a tax increase.*
 4. *While we want to support the sheriff and his department, we must maintain a balanced budget and protect the fund balance as required by the local government commission.*

MOTION:

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

Agenda Item #19 EMERGENCY SERVICES – APPROVAL of the 2ND LOW BID from VIKING STEEL for REPLACEMENT of METAL BUILDING:

Emergency Services Director Nick West requested approval of the second low bid from Viking Steel to replace a metal building in the amount of \$5,852.09 with an insurance check paying \$3,531.27. The previously approved low bid was not fulfilled.

MOTION:

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

Agenda Item #21: 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
Economic Development Commission	District IV	J. E. Thompson Jr	06/30/2023	HOLD

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

MOTION:
At 7:20 P.M. a Motion was made by Commissioner Byrd and second by Commissioner Watts to recess regular session and enter into Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

Agenda Item #22: APPROVAL of WATER and SEWER COMBINATION MINUTES:
• **June 05, 2023 (5 sets)**

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

Agenda Item #23: WATER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV, and V – ADOPTION of the CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:
Public Utilities Director Harold Nobles requested approval of the Capital Improvement Plan for all water districts.

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

Capital Improvement Plan Budget

EXPENDITURES							
Project Name	Total Cost FY 2023-24	Total Cost FY 2024-25	Total Cost FY 2025-26	Total Cost FY 2026-27	Total Cost FY 2027-28	Total Cost FY 2028-29	Totals
WD I – Well Development - SC	\$ 300,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 300,000
WDI – Booster Pump Station	\$ 0	\$ 750,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 750,000
WDIII – AIA System Assessment	\$ 0	\$ 150,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 150,000
WDIV – AIA System Assessment	\$ 0	\$ 150,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 150,000
WDIV – Water Improvements LV	\$ 772,198	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 772,198
WDIV – Water Extension Project	\$ 0	\$ 6,734,953	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 6,734,953
WD IV – AMR Project	\$ 0	\$ 827,145	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 827,145
WD IV – Well for Eastern End	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 775,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 775,000
WD V – Guideway School Well	\$ 495,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 495,000
WD V – Dothan Planning Grant	\$ 0	\$ 400,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 400,000
WD V – Carolina Bluff Project	\$ 0	\$ 600,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 600,000
WD I, II, III, IV, V – Meter Project	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 40,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 40,000
WD I, II, III, IV, V - Strategic Plan	\$ 100,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 100,000
WD I, II, III, IV, V – Test Wells	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 3,100,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 3,100,000
WD I, II, III, IV, V – SCADA	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 125,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 125,000
Phase I, II, III Extension/Storage	\$ 0	\$ 13,043,752	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 13,043,752
Phase IV,V Extension/Storage	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 10,766,131	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 10,766,131
Phase VI Extension/Storage	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 2,807,366	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 2,807,366
Phase VII Extension/Storage	\$ 0	\$ 750,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 9,856,185	\$ 0	\$ 10,606,185
Totals	\$ 1,667,198	\$ 23,405,850	\$ 14,806,131	\$ 2,807,366	\$ 9,856,185	\$ 0	\$ 52,542,730
REVENUES							
	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29	Totals
Grants from all Sources	\$ 1,667,198	\$ 23,405,850	\$ 14,806,131	\$ 2,807,366	\$ 9,856,185	\$ 0	\$ 52,542,730
GO Bonds (USDA - RD)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Revenue Bonds	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
State Revolving Loans	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
State Revolving Grants	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Private Loans (Banks, GF)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Developer Participation	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Reserves / Other	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Totals	\$ 1,667,198	\$ 23,405,850	\$ 14,806,131	\$ 2,807,366	\$ 9,856,185	\$ 0	\$ 52,542,730
DEBT SUMMARY							
	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29	Totals
Estimated New Debt	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Planned Rate Increases							
Current Rates/Water	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29	Totals
Min Charge for Availability	\$27.25 flat	\$28.00 flat	flat	flat	flat	flat	
Commodity Rate Schedule for Usage	cpi	cpi	cpi	cpi	cpi	cpi	
Commodity Rate Schedule for Bulk	cpi	cpi	cpi	cpi	cpi	cpi	
% Increase	2% est	2% est	2% est	2% est	2% est	2% est	
Revenue from Increase	\$ 60,487	\$ 61,697	\$ 62,931	\$ 64,190	\$ 65,474	\$ 66,784	\$ 381,563
Current Rates/Sewer	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29	Totals
\$XX Flat	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
\$X.XX/1,000 Gallons	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
\$ X.XX Bulk Rate	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
% Increase	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Revenue from Increase	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Projected Annual Budget	\$ 3,691,009	\$ 3,764,830	\$ 3,840,127	\$ 3,916,930	\$ 3,995,268	\$ 4,075,173	\$ 23,283,337
Net Change Per Year	\$ 60,487	\$ 61,697	\$ 62,931	\$ 64,190	\$ 65,474	\$ 66,784	\$ 381,563

Capital Improvement Plan Budget

EXPENDITURES							
	Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	Totals	
Project Name	FY 2029-30	FY 2030-31	FY 2031-32	FY 2032-33	FY 2033-34		
WD I – Well Development - SC	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
WDI – Booster Pump Station	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
WDIII – AIA System Assessment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
WDIV – AIA System Assessment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
WDIV – Water Improvements LV	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
WDIV – Water Extension Project	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
WD IV – AMR Project	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
WD IV – Well for Eastern End	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
WD V – Guideway School Well	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
WD V – Dothan Planning Grant	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
WD V – Carolina Bluff Project	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
WD I, II, III, IV, V – Meter Project	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
WD I, II, III, IV, V - Strategic Plan	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
WD I, II, III, IV, V – Test Wells	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
WD I, II, III, IV, V – SCADA	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Phase I, II, III Extension/Storage	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Phase IV,V Extension/Storage	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Phase VI Extension/Storage	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Phase VII Extension/Storage	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Totals	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
REVENUES							
	FY 2029-30	FY 2030-31	FY 2031-32	FY 2032-33	FY 2033-34	Totals	
Grants from all Sources	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
GO Bonds (USDA - RD)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Revenue Bonds	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
State Revolving Loans	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
State Revolving Grants	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Private Loans (Banks, GF)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Developer Participation	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Reserves	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Totals	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
DEBT SUMMARY							
	FY 2029-30	FY 2030-31	FY 2031-32	FY 2032-33	FY 2033-34	Totals	
Estimated New Debt	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Planned Rate Increases							
Current Rates/Water	FY 2029-30	FY 2030-31	FY 2031-32	FY 2032-33	FY 2033-34	Totals	
Min Charge for Availability	flat	flat	flat	flat	flat		
Commodity Rate Schedule for Usage	cpi	cpi	cpi	cpi	cpi		
Commodity Rate Schedule for Bulk	cpi	cpi	cpi	cpi	cpi		
% Increase	2% est	2% est	2% est	2% est	2% est		
Revenue from Increase	\$ 68,120	\$ 69,483	\$ 70,873	\$ 72,291	\$ 73,737	\$ 354,504	
Current Rates/Sewer	FY 2029-30	FY 2030-31	FY 2031-32	FY 2032-33	FY 2033-34	Totals	
\$XX Flat	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
\$X.XX/1,000 Gallons	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
\$ X.XX Bulk Rate	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
% Increase	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Revenue from Increase	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Projected Annual Budget	\$ 4,156,676	\$ 4,239,810	\$ 4,324,606	\$ 4,411,098	\$ 4,499,320	\$ 21,631,510	
Net Change Per Year	\$ 68,120	\$ 69,483	\$ 70,873	\$ 72,291	\$ 73,737	\$ 354,504	

Agenda Item #24: WATER DISTRICT II – REQUESTING APPROVAL of TASK ORDER #8 with GREEN ENGINEERING, AGREEMENT with McADAMS and ASSOCIATES, and APPROVAL of the CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE for this GRANT FUNDED PROJECT:

Public Utilities Director Harold Nobles requested approval of Task Order #8 with Green Engineering for \$390,000 for test well evaluations, hydrogeological studies, hydraulic analysis, well site locations; and the \$10,000 agreement with McAdams & Associates for administration of the grant, and approval of the Capital Project Ordinance for this Grant funded project.

MOTION:

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

TASK ORDER

This is Task Order No. Eight (8), consisting of 4 pages.

Task Order

In accordance with Paragraph 1.01 of the Agreement Between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services – Task Order Edition, dated June 20, 2022 ("Agreement"), Owner and Engineer agree as follows:

1. Background Data

a. Effective Date of Task Order:

b. Owner:

c. Engineer:

d. Specific Project (title):

e. Specific (description):

Project

The scope of this Preconstruction Planning Grant will be to investigate the highest percentage of underserved county residents within the District and make project improvements that will serve these disadvantaged areas of the District. There are currently no groundwater supplies in the planning study areas as the nearest groundwater deep well is located some twelve miles to the north, just northeast of Tabor City. Additional elevated storage and multiple groundwater supply wells will be required to successfully serve these disadvantaged areas with potable water. Study objectives to serve this area are detailed in Section 2: Services of Engineer, below:

2. Services of Engineer

• Prepare and submit a Preliminary Project Scope, Cost Estimate and Schedule for each major project task by the June 1, 2023, milestone date mandated by NCDEQ-DWI in the Letter of Intent to Fund received on March 23, 2023.

• Perform a Hydraulic Analysis of the existing infrastructure to determine proposed water main extensions and infrastructure upgrades required to deliver water to project's service area while also interconnecting infrastructure in surrounding areas to provide looping and support system reliability.

• Perform Groundwater Hydrogeological Analysis within the Water District II service area to determine the highest probability of developing groundwater deep well supplies.

3. County's Responsibilities

Owner shall have those responsibilities as set forth in the Agreement between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services dated June 20, 2022.

4. Time of Completion

• Scope/Schedule/Budget Document

• Hydraulic Analysis

• Groundwater Hydrogeological Analysis

• Well Site Locations (site surveys, permit(s),

• Elevated Tank Site Locations

• Regional Water Supply Evaluations

• Engineering Report

June 1, 2023

July / August 2023

July / September 2023

August / November 2023

August / September 2023

August / October 2023

October / December 2023

5. Payments to Engineer

Owner shall pay Engineer for services rendered under this Task Order as follows:

• Scope/Schedule/Budget Document

• Hydraulic Analysis

• Groundwater Hydrogeological Analysis

• Well Site Locations

• Elevated Tank Site Locations

• Regional Water Supply Evaluations

• Engineering Report

\$ 0.00

\$ 75,000.00

\$ 87,500.00

\$147,500.00

\$ 25,000.00

\$ 25,000.00

\$ 30,000.00

Exhibit K – Amendment to Task Order

EJCDC® E-505, Agreement Between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services – Task Order Edition.

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Page 1

A. The terms of payment are set forth in Article 4 of the Agreement and in the applicable governing provisions of Exhibit C.

B. Consultants retained as of the Effective Date of this Task Order:

6. Other Modifications to Agreement and Exhibits: N/A

7. Attachments: N/A

8. Other Documents Incorporated by Reference:

9. Terms and Conditions

Execution of this Task Order by Owner and Engineer shall make it subject to the terms and conditions of the Agreement (as modified above), which Agreement is incorporated by this reference. Engineer is authorized to begin performance upon its receipt of a copy of this Task Order signed by Owner.



PROPOSAL TO FURNISH
PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND CONSULTING SERVICES
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS, NORTH CAROLINA

The Effective Date of this Task Order is June 12, 2023.

OWNER: Columbus County

By: _____

Print Name: Edwin H. Madden, Jr.

Title: County Manager

This instrument has been preaudited in the Manner Required by the Local Government and Fiscal Control Act.

DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE FOR TASK ORDER:

Name: Gail Edwards

Title: Assistant County Manager

Address: 127 W. Webster Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472

E-Mail Address: gedwards@columbusco.org

Phone: 910-640-6630

ENGINEER: Green Engineering, PLLC

By: _____

Print Name: E. Leo Green, Jr., P.E.

Title: Managing Member

Engineer License or Firm's Certificate No. (if required): P-0115

DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE FOR TASK ORDER:

Name: E. Leo Green, Jr.

Title: Managing Member

Address: 303 Goldsboro Street E., Wilson North Carolina 27893

E-Mail Address: elg@greeneng.com

Phone: 252-237-5365

State of: North Carolina

This PROPOSAL made this 24th day of May, 2023 by and between the COUNTY OF COLUMBUS, NORTH CAROLINA, NORTH CAROLINA, hereinafter called the OWNER and MCADAMS AND ASSOCIATES, LLC, hereinafter called the CONSULTANT.

WHEREAS, the CONSULTANT intends to provide Professional Administrative and Consulting Services for planning, funding application submittal, and funding administration hereinafter called SERVICES, as requested by the Owner; and

WHEREAS, the CONSULTANT agrees to provide professional services as described herein to assist the OWNER in completing the described SERVICES.

NOW, THEREFORE, the OWNER and CONSULTANT, for the consideration hereinafter names, agree as follows:

The CONSULTANT agrees to perform for the above named OWNER professional services as herein and set forth.

The OWNER agree to compensate the CONSULTANT for services hereinafter provided.

The CONSULTANT's services shall include the following as requested by OWNER:

1. Complete funding application package and administration of NCDEQ Planning Grant to expand water system to include an elevated tank and wells. (\$2,500)
2. Prepare all documents to be approved by Columbus County to ensure compliance with application and administration requirements.
3. Administer NCDEQ funding post award to include compliance with all State grant requirements, ensuring compliance of Contractor's bid documents, oversight of project schedule, process pay requisitions, and project closeout. (\$7,500)
4. Administrative costs, travel, and expenses.
5. Consulting via phone, email, video conferencing, and in person at locations in and outside of Columbus County as requested by OWNER.

PAYMENT: the OWNER agrees to pay the CONSULTANT for SERVICES noted as follows.

LUMP SUM of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) with application fee due upon award and TWENTY PERCENT (20%) of total Administration fee due within 30 days of the approval of proposal and the remainder payable in equal monthly or quarterly payments during the project contract.

GOVERNING LAW: This Agreement shall be governed in accordance with laws of the State of North Carolina. All actions relating in any ways in this Agreement shall be brought in the General Court of Justice in Wake County, North Carolina.

The OWNER and CONSULTANT hereby agree to the full performance of the covenants contained herein.

COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT II
NORTH CAROLINA DEQ-DWI
PLANNING GRANT
GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE
Adoption Date: JUNE 19, 2023

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus, North Carolina, that pursuant to Section 159-13.2 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following Grant Project Ordinance is HEREBY ADOPTED:

SECTION 1. The project authorized is a Planning Grant for Water District II.

SECTION 2. The project director is hereby directed to proceed with the implementation of such project.

SECTION 3. The project will be executed during fiscal years 2023/2024.

SECTION 4. The following revenues are anticipated to be available to the County to complete the project as of July 2023.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	TITLE	AMOUNT
35-3620-436020	NC DEQ-DWI Grant Funds	\$400,000
TOTAL:		\$400,000

SECTION 5. The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	TITLE	AMOUNT
35-7142-519001	Green Engineering-Contract Services	\$390,000
35-7142-548001	Mc Adams & Associates-Grant Admin	\$10,000
TOTAL:		\$400,000

SECTION 6: The Finance Officer is directed to report on the financial status of this project. She shall keep the Governing Body informed at each regular meeting of any unusual occurrences.

SECTION 7: Copies of the Grant Project Ordinance shall be made available to the Finance Officer and Project Director for direction in carrying out this project.


ADOPTED this the 19th day of June 2023.

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTESTED BY:

IN WITNESS HEREOF, the CONSULTANT and OWNER have executed this Agreement, the day and the year first above written, which is the effective date of this Agreement.

MCADAMS AND ASSOCIATES, LLC

By:  Emily M. Miller, President

Date: May 24, 2023

Signature: _____

Date: _____

ATTEST: _____
(SEAL)

COUNTY OF COLUMBUS, NORTH CAROLINA

By: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Ricky Bullard, Chairman

Jana Nealey, Clerk to Board

Agenda Item #25: WATER DISTRICT IV – APPROVAL of RESOLUTIONS for the AIA GRANT and the GRANT for IMPROVEMENTS to the LAKELAND VILLAGE WATER SYSTEM:

Public Utilities Director Harold Nobles requested approval of a Resolution for the \$150,000 AIA Grant and a Resolution for the \$772,198 Lakeland Village water system improvements grant funds.

MOTION:

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

WATER DISTRICT IV
LAKELAND VILLAGE SUBDIVISION UPFIT GRANT
RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF RECIPIENT

WHEREAS, the County of Columbus has received an earmark for the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funded from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund established in S.L.2022-74 to assist eligible units of government with meeting their water/wastewater infrastructure needs, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has offered American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding in the amount of \$772,198 to perform work detailed in the submitted application, and

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners intends to perform said project in accordance with the agreed scope of work,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY of COLUMBUS:

That County of Columbus does hereby accept the American Rescue Plan Grant offer of \$772,198.

That the County of Columbus does hereby give assurance to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality that any Conditions or Assurances contained in the Award Offer will be adhered to.

That Gail E. Edwards, Assistant County Manager, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with this project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required by the Division of Water Infrastructure.

Adopted this the 19th of June, 2023, at Whiteville, Columbus County, North Carolina.

Signature of Chief Executive Officer

Date

WATER DISTRICT IV
AIA GRANT
RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF RECIPIENT

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funded from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund was established in S.L. 2021-180 to assist eligible units of government with meeting their water/wastewater infrastructure needs, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has offered American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding in the amount of \$150,000 to perform an Asset Inventory and Assessment study detailed in the submitted application, and

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners intends to perform said project in accordance with the agreed scope of work,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY of COLUMBUS:

That County of Columbus does hereby accept the American Rescue Plan Grant offer of \$150,000.

That the County of Columbus does hereby give assurance to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality that any Conditions or Assurances contained in the Award Offer will be adhered to.

That Gail E. Edwards, Assistant County Manager, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with this project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required by the Division of Water Infrastructure.

Adopted this the 19th of June, 2023, at Whiteville, Columbus County, North Carolina.

Signature of Chief Executive Officer

Date

**Commissioner Byrd asked about getting water in the Farmers Union, and expressed there is still much interest from the public in that area to get water there.*

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

MOTION:

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

Agenda Item #28: COMMENTS:

A. Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Byrd commented:

There is someone in Waccamaw Shores who is experiencing an issue with algae in the canal. Is there any way we can contact someone to help.

Vice Chairman Coleman commented:

Thanks to the County Employees for all their help and with the ball fields by parks and recreation staff.

Commissioner Featherson commented:

As you all know today is June 19th, which is Juneteenth when slavery was abolished. Since Friday, there have been several activities celebrating this holiday. There was a pageant in Chadbourn, a parade in Whiteville, a kickball tournament over in Chadbourn, the celebration ended today at the fairgrounds. I was disappointed that it looked like a celebration of segregation. Let us all get more involved next year. Thanks to the Sheriff for the help they gave this weekend and on June 10th. Be mindful of the traffic during the holidays. Congratulations to all of the Graduates all around the county.

Commissioner Smith commented:

I want to praise all of our first responders, without them we would not be safe. It breaks my heart that we can not honor all of their requests, but we can not give what we do not have.

Chairman Bullard commented:

I thank the Lord for the rain we have had recently and I am also thankful for all you do.

B. County Manager

County Manager Eddie Madden commented:

Did have the opportunity to go down to the fairgrounds today, Miss Prince, Mr. West, and I saw the chamber Director there and probably 40 to 50 vendors. I am glad we got to drop by for a minute. I want to remind you of a couple things one is a Judge Sasser’s appreciation event June 29 at 6 o’clock. I will send out reminders as we get closer to that and please plan to attend if you can. I have stated for the last couple of meetings, but I will state it again the collections department will officially move and open at 308 Madison St. building we call it the “A” building here on this campus. It’ll open officially on the 28th of this month. Some of our staff will stay at Pinckney Street location for a period of time to accommodate any walk in traffic. Dr. Whichard’s term with local city schools ends at the end of the month. His schedule did not align with the board schedule, but we have agreed to pick a future date for him to come and be properly recognized. Thanks, thanks for his service to Whiteville City Schools in to Columbus county. We will be meeting next Monday, June 26th, so please remember that instead of the July 3 regular meeting. We have a number of items already scheduled for that and it does start a bit earlier, at 5:00 P.M. so it’s not at the regular time of 6:30 P.M.. It will begin at 5:00 P.M. I have the inclusive park site to open July 6 right at 2 o’clock and please please plan to attend that and participate in the ribbon-cutting for the new inclusive park. Should I say inclusive playground at the fitness park. Then, finally a reminder of the annual fireworks celebration in South Columbus high school Friday, June 30.

Agenda Item #29: ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION:

At 7:36 P.M., Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Watts. The motion unanimously passed.

JANA NEALEY, Clerk to the Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman