

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**4:00 P.M. – 5:15 P.M. Water Infrastructure Master Plan Presentation (Green Engineering)**

**5:15 – 5:45 P.M. – Closed Session**

**6:30 P.M. – Regular Session**

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

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**  
Lavern Coleman, **Vice Chairman**  
Giles E. Byrd  
Scott Floyd  
Barbara Featherson  
Brent Watts  
Chris Smith

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**  
Amanda B. Prince, **Attorney**  
Jana Nealey, **Clerk to the Board**

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

**Agenda Item #1: MEETING CALLED to ORDER:**

**At 5:15 P.M. Chairman Ricky Bullard called the regular session meeting 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**

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to recess regular session and enter into closed session, seconded by Commissioner Watts. 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**

**MOTION:**

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

**RECESS CLOSED SESSION and enter into REGULAR SESSION**

**MOTION:**

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

**GENERAL ACCOUNT:**

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the General Account, seconded by Commissioner Featherson. 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.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

At 6:33 P.M., Chairman Bullard opened the floor for the following public hearings:

**6:30 PM or as soon as can be heard, - Public Hearing – with regard to the proposed GRAGG Tract Unit Development Zoning District.**

**A representative from the engineers made the following comments regarding the Gragg Tract:**

*\*the site plans for the Gragg Tract Zoning District are housed in the clerk’s office*

- 1. The Gragg Tract - This is the largest PUD to be developed within the next 20-25 years and is 2,400 acres in the south east corner of Columbus County on Seven Creeks Hwy, right near the NC/SC line.**
- 4. The phasing plats will continue over about 14 phases each possibly broken down into sub-phases.**
- 5. The plats include single family homes, RV parks, commercial areas 20-acre sub parcel, park models, small vacation homes, multifamily dwellings, water towers, ems/fire station, industrial sections, and manufacturing areas.**
- 6. The plats include 2 major draining stations to maintain storm water runoff.**
- 7. The phases are broken down into possible development models.**
- 8. Possible water and sewer connections through Grand Strand**
- 9. Expecting to have a 25-foot buffer around the perimeter of the development between other homes, and roads.**
- 10. The Gragg Tract is required to have 280 acres of open space, walking trails and recreation space. Some of the tract will have some of the voluntary agricultural areas. A disclosure will be provided to anyone who dwells in this area and will protect the county from any nuisance law suits.**

**MOTION:**

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

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

**MOTION:**

Vice Chairman Coleman made a motion to approve the Agenda with discussed Add-on, #14 (5), seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #6: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:**

- a. August 7, 2023
- b. August 21, 2023

**MOTION:**

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

**Agenda Item #7: PUBLIC INPUT:**

**A letter was submitted by Doris Strickland and read aloud by Attorney Amanda Prince**

My (Doris Strickland) letter to the Editor:

Tabor City School is beautiful. The leaders who were instrumental in laying the ground work for this awesome school in 2015 were: Columbus County Commissioners Edwin Russ, Amon E. McKenzie, Ricky Bullard, James Prevatte, Charles McDowell, Giles Buddy Byrd, Trent Burroughs; Mike Stephens, County Manager. The 2015 Columbus County Schools board members were: Junior Dew, Norris Ebron, Worley Edwards, the late Monte Herring, Barbara Yates; Dr. Alan Faulk, Superintendent; Jonathan Williams, Assistant

Mr. Bill Valentine joined the meeting via Zoom regarding his \$100,000 donation towards the Historic Courthouse. Clerk of Superior Court Jess Hill introduced Mr. Valentine by speaking about their friendship, Mr. Valentines humble character and his many accomplishments as an architect.

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

SCC President Dr. Chris English gave an update on projects at the college such as the welding shop, the truck driving school, apprenticeship program, and mentioned a future partnership with Columbus county for vehicle maintenance and a future athletic complex on land owned by Southeastern Community College.

County Manager Eddie Madden requested approval of the proposal from Brightspeed for \$66,313.30 regarding buried cables around the Historic Courthouse. This is a sole-source project.

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

**Agenda Item #11: OPIOID SETTLEMENT – APPROVAL of AMENDED RESOLUTIONS and CAPITAL PROJCT ORDINANCE regarding the OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS:**

Attorney Amanda Prince requested approval of the amended Resolutions and the Capital Project Ordinance regarding the opioid settlement funds.

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

TRACKING NUMBER: 13-20230905-R11a

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS** section E.6 of the MOA states that, before spending opioid settlement funds, the local government’s governing body must adopt a resolution that:

- (i) indicates that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; and,
- (ii) states the specific strategy or strategies the county or municipality intends to fund pursuant to Option A or Option B, using the item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to identify each funded strategy; and,
- (iii) states the amount dedicated to each strategy for a specific period of time.

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

- 1. First strategy authorized
  - a. LEADERSHIP, PLANNING AND COORDINATION
  - b. Exhibit B: J-4
  - c. \$65,000.00
  - d. July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023
  - e. Hire a part-time position to create County infrastructure necessary to track County's Opioid Settlement Funding expenditure, outcome data, and report to the Attorney General and the Department of Health and Human Services.
  - f. Provider: Columbus County
- 2. Second strategy authorized
  - a. PREVENT OVERDOSE DEATHS AND OTHER HARMS (HARM REDUCTION)
  - b. Exhibit B: H-5
  - c. \$36,968.00
  - d. July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023
  - e. Currently, no data base exists within the County to consistently track opioid overdoses, arrests, or opioid related incidents occurring within the County. County Emergency Services needs to implement a database to track Opioid overdoses, arrests, and incidents across Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement agencies and enable it to complete reports to the local government as well as the State.
  - f. Provider: Columbus County
- 3. Third authorized strategy
  - a. TREAT OPIOID USE DISORDER
  - b. Exhibit B: B-2
  - c. \$289,080.00
  - d. July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023
  - e. Columbus County needs to execute a contract for an estimated need of 10-12 beds annually with The Healing Place of New Hanover County. The County has entered into negotiations with The Healing Place of New Hanover County regarding beds available to adult men and women from Columbus County and is in the process of finalizing an agreement. The Healing Place of New Hanover County will allow individuals with Opioid Use Disorder to be admitted and offer the use of Vivitrol (one/month/injectable naltrexone) to assist the individual with Opioid cravings.
  - f. Provider: The Healing Place of New Hanover County
- 4. Fourth authorized strategy
  - a. CONNECT PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP TO THE HELP THEY NEED
  - b. Exhibit B: C-16
  - c. \$75,000.00
  - d. July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023
  - e. Create a County staff position to assist County residents to find and access treatment services. The position will serve as the County Liaison for County referrals to The Healing Place of New Hanover County. The

position will also assist County residents in obtaining other local treatment, supportive recovery, and intervention services to aid the County's individuals and families affected by Opioid use.

- f. Provider: Columbus County
5. Fifth authorized strategy
    - a. PREVENT MISUSE OF OPIOIDS
    - b. Exhibit B: G-8
    - c. \$22,326.00
    - d. July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023
    - e. Columbus County needs to implement a K-12 evidence-based prevention program in the Whiteville and Columbus County School Systems. The program would be implemented in 6<sup>th</sup> grade for three years, then evaluated for effectiveness in the Whiteville and Columbus County School Systems. Curricula training for teachers in the program would occur during year one of the program for all 6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom teachers. The cost includes student workbooks and curricula materials for the three year implementation. The evidence-based prevention program would train up to 20-6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and up to 320 students across both school systems per year.
    - f. Provider: Botkin "Lifeskills Training"
  6. Sixth authorized strategy
    - a. ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THE CRIMINAL-JUSTICE-INVOLVED PERSONS
    - b. Exhibit B: D-7
    - c. \$5,000.00
    - d. July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023
    - e. Provide funding for Judge Ussery to attend mandatory drug court training which will initiate the planning for a Columbus County Drug Court Program. The funds will support Judge Ussery's registration, travel, lodging, and per diem expenses.
    - f. Provider: National Association of Drug Court Personnel
  7. Seventh authorized strategy
    - a. ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF PREGNANT OR PARENTS WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES, INCLUDING BABIES WITH NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME
    - b. Exhibit B: E-5
    - c. \$40,000.00
    - d. July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023
    - e. Training on recognizing the signs and symptoms of substance use disorders in reference to women, children, and family members. Training will also be provided on intervention and treatment techniques regarding substance use disorder for women, children, and family members. The training will be provided to the Columbus County Health Department staff, Social Services staff, Columbus Regional Healthcare System OB/GYN and Pediatric staff, and all other related clinics in Columbus County.
    - f. Provider: To Be Determined
  8. Eight authorized strategy
    - a. LEADERSHIP, PLANNING, AND COORDINATION
    - b. Exhibit B: J-1
    - c. Amounted authorized for this strategy: \$30,000.00
    - d. July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023
    - e. The Columbus Regional Healthcare System Hospital has an overwhelming number of individuals who are admitted into the Emergency Department with substance use disorder and mental health conditions. Many of the individuals who are admitted are under involuntary commitment orders from the Magistrate's office because they pose a danger to themselves or others. This research study will identify the number of those individuals served in the Emergency Department, identify trends regarding their conditions, referral processes, and determine the need for a facility-based Crisis Center located within Columbus County.
    - f. Provider: ACT Associates, LLC
  9. Ninth authorized strategy
    - a. PREVENT MISUSE OF OPIOIDS
    - b. Exhibit B: G-2
    - c. \$30,000.00
    - d. July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023
    - e. Development of a webpage for Columbus County to educate the public and County citizens about the abuse of Opioids and other drugs. The online resource will provide information to Columbus County residents regarding the County's programs related to substance use disorder and outcome data.
    - f. Provider: To Be Determined
  10. Tenth authorized strategy
    - a. PREVENT OVERDOSE DEATHS AND OTHER HARMS
    - b. Exhibit B: H-1



- c. \$1,200.00
- d. July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023
- e. Purchase and distribute Naloxone (Narcan) to Columbus County Emergency Medical Services and Law Enforcement.
- f. Provider: To Be Determined

The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the above named and authorized strategies is \$594,574.00

Adopted this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

**Ricky Bullard**, Chair  
Columbus County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

**Jana Nealey**, Clerk to the Board

COUNTY SEAL

TRACKING NUMBER: 13-20230905-R11b

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS** section E.6 of the MOA states that, before spending opioid settlement funds, the local government’s governing body must adopt a resolution that:

- (iv) indicates that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; and,
- (v) states the specific strategy or strategies the county or municipality intends to fund pursuant to Option A or Option B, using the item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to identify each funded strategy; and,
- (vi) states the amount dedicated to each strategy for a specific period of time.

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

- 11. First strategy authorized**
  - a. LEADERSHIP, PLANNING AND COORDINATION
  - b. Exhibit B: J-4
  - c. \$72,900.00
  - d. July 1, 2023 through End date June 30, 2024
  - e. Columbus County to support up to one full time employee to provide oversight, tracking, and reporting of Opioid abatement program. Funds allocated will also provide training for up to four Columbus County staff to attend annual Opioid settlement trainings.
  - f. Provider: Columbus County
- 12. Second strategy authorized**
  - a. PREVENT OVERDOSE DEATHS AND OTHER HARMS (HARM REDUCTION)
  - b. Exhibit B: H-5
  - c. \$36,968.00
  - d. July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
  - e. Currently, no data base exists within the County to consistently track Opioid overdoses, arrests, or Opioid related incidents occurring within the County. County Emergency Services needs to implement a database to track Opioid overdoses, arrests, and incidents across Fire, Emergency Medical Services, and Law Enforcement agencies as well as enable it to complete reports to the local government and State.
  - f. Provider: Columbus County
- 13. Third strategy authorized**
  - a. SUPPORT PEOPLE IN TREATMENT AND RECOVERY
  - b. Exhibit B: B-2
  - c. \$289,080.00
  - d. July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

- e. Columbus County needs to continue to execute a contract for an estimated need of 10-12 beds per day/annually with The Healing Place of New Hanover County for services. The County has entered into a contract with The Healing Place of New Hanover County to contract for beds available to adult men and women from Columbus County. The Healing Place of New Hanover County will allow individuals with Opioid Use Disorder to be admitted and offer the use of Vivitrol (one/month/injectable Naltrexone) to assist the individual with Opioid cravings.
- f. Provider: The Healing Place of New Hanover County

**14. Fourth strategy authorized**

- a. CONNECT PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP TO THE HELY THEY NEED
- b. Exhibit B: C-16
- c. \$85,000.00
- d. July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
- e. Hire an independent contractor to assist Columbus County residents in finding and accessing treatment services. The contractor will serve as the County Liaison for Columbus County referrals to The Healing Place of New Hanover County. The contractor will organize and update as needed, a County resource guide that contains information regarding available services for Opioid Use Disorder, Substance Use Disorder, and Mental Health conditions. The resource will also list other supports that can be utilized by County residents needed to support and gain recovery. The contractor will provide in-service training to community groups on topics of stigma, Naltrexone (Narcan), SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment) and other topics as assigned and needed in the community to intervene with the County's individuals and families affected by Opioid use. Funds allocated include cost of independent contractor and materials needed to provide public education on relevant subjects.
- f. Provider: Columbus County

**15. Fifth strategy authorized**

- a. PREVENT MISUSE OF OPIOIDS
- b. Exhibit B: G-9
- c. \$82,145.00
- d. July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
- e. Columbus County implemented a 6-10<sup>th</sup> grade Evidence Based Practice Prevention program in the Whiteville and Columbus County School Systems. The program was implemented year 1 in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Funds will be allocated to implement the curricula in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades for the school year beginning in Fall 2024. The project would train up to 20-6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and up to 1,150 students in year 2, across both school systems (\$37,295). Funds will also be allocated to install Vape Detectors in the Whiteville City Schools to detect students who are vaping, including those laced with Fentanyl and other Opioids. (\$44,850).
- f. Provider: Botkin "Lifeskills Training" – Evidence Based Prevention curricula
- g. Vape Detection Equipment – To Be Negotiated

**16. Sixth strategy authorized**

- a. ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF CRIMINAL-JUSTICE-INVOLVED PERSONS
- b. B: D-7
- c. \$10,425.00
- d. July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
- e. Provide funding for up to 3 court personnel to attend mandatory Drug Court training which will initiate the planning for a Columbus County Drug Court Program. Allocated funds will support registration, travel, lodging, and per diem expenses.
- f. Provider: National Association of Drug Court Personnel

**17. Seventh strategy authorized**

- a. ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF PREGNANT OR PARENTING WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES, INCLUDING BABIES WITH NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME
- b. Exhibit B: E-5
- c. \$35,000
- d. July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
- e. Training to be provided regarding recognizing the signs and symptoms of Substance Use Disorder, intervention, and treatment techniques for women, family members and children. Training will be provided to Columbus County Health Department, Social Services, Columbus Regional Healthcare System OB/GYN and Pediatric staff, and all related clinics.
- f. Provider: NTI Upstream - Dr. Ira Chasnoff and staff

**18. Eighth strategy authorized**

- a. LEADERSHIP, PLANNING AND COORDINATION
- b. Exhibit B: J-1
- c. \$20,000.00
- d. July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
- e. The Columbus Regional Healthcare System Hospital has an overwhelming number of individuals who are admitted into the Emergency Department with Opioid Use Disorder, Substance Use Disorder, and/or Mental Health conditions. Many of those who are admitted with the previously named conditions, are under Involuntary Commitment orders from the Magistrate's office, because they pose a danger to themselves or others. This research study will identify the number of those individuals served, identify trends in their conditions, and track referral processes. The study will also determine the need for a stabilization, detox, and facility-based Crisis Center located within Columbus County. The County will partner with the Columbus Regional Healthcare System and the Columbus Regional Healthcare System Foundation to support the study.
- f. Provider: ACT Associates, LLC

**19. Ninth strategy authorized**

- a. PREVENT MISUSE OF OPIOIDS

- b. Exhibit B: G-2
- c. \$45,000.00
- d. July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
- e. Development of a webpage for Columbus County to educate the public and County citizens about the abuse of Opioids and other drugs. The online resource will provide information to Columbus County residents regarding the County’s programs related to substance use disorder and outcome data.
- f. Provider: To be negotiated

**20. Tenth strategy authorized**

- a. NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION
- b. Exhibit A:7
- c. \$10,000.00
- d. July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
- e. Purchase Naloxone at the most competitive rate available for distribution to Columbus County Emergency Medical Services, First Responders, and to the Columbus County Health Department.
- f. Provider: Columbus County- a contract is to be negotiated for purchase of Naloxone

**21. Eleventh strategy authorized**

- a. COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIC PLANNING
- b. Exhibit A:1
- c. \$100,000.00
- d. July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
- e. Contract to be negotiated to provide technical support and grant writing to leverage the Opioid Settlement Funds. Opioid Settlement funds will be used to apply for federal and state funds to expand services for individuals with Opioid Use Disorders, Substance Use Disorders, and Mental Health Disorders in Columbus County.
- f. Provider: Columbus County

**22. Twelfth strategy authorized**

- a. PREVENT OVER-PRESCRIBING AND ENSURE APPROPRIATE PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING OF OPIOIDS
- b. Exhibit B: F-2
- c. \$23,500
- d. July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
- e. Training to be provided on overprescribing of Opioids and alternatives to using pain medications. Nine total training sessions will be presented to Columbus County Medical Society Physicians. Five of the training sessions will be held in SFY 2023-2024 and the remaining four sessions will be held in SFY 2024-2025.
- f. Provider: Paul Buongiorno, MD.

**23. Thirteenth strategy authorized**

- a. SUPPORT PEOPLE IN TREATMENT AND RECOVERY
- b. Exhibit B: B-7
- c. \$4,500.00
- d. July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
- e. Contract with a Transportation service provider to transport individuals meeting criteria to Dix Facility Based Crisis Center in Jacksonville, North Carolina, Walter B. Jones Hospital in Greenville, North Carolina, or other Substance Use Disorder support services if The Healing Place of New Hanover County is not available or an appropriate placement.
- f. Provider: To be negotiated

**24. Fourteenth strategy authorized**

- a. SUPPORT PEOPLE IN TREATMENT AND RECOVERY
- b. Exhibit B: B-15
- c. \$3,000.00
- d. July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
- e. Provide training opportunities for Independent Contractor -- County Liaison (see strategy six) to gain necessary skills and increase knowledge of Opioid Use Disorder, Substance Use Disorder, and/or Mental Health conditions and clinical care processes.
- f. Provider: To be negotiated

**25. Fifteenth strategy authorized**

- a. PREVENT MISUSE OF OPIOIDS
- b. Exhibit B: G-1
- c. \$30,000.00
- d. July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
- e. Contract with marketing/media professionals to develop an organized media campaign about Opioid misuse. Funds allocated will purchase billboards, yard signs, and public service announcements to educate the public about opioid misuse and community services available.
- f. Provider: To be negotiated

The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the above named and authorized strategies is \$847,518.00

Adopted this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.



ATTEST:

Jana Nealey, Clerk to the Board

COUNTY SEAL

TRACKING NUMBER: 19-20230905-O11

COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Ordinance making appropriations to the County of Columbus Opioid Settlement  
Project Fund (Fund 40)

for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023

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

**Section 1:** The following amounts are hereby made to the Opioid Settlement Project Fund as of September 5, 2023, pursuant to G.S. 159 -13.2 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023.

Source of Revenue			
	2022-2023 Revenues	2023-2024 Revenues	Life of Project Revenues
40-3572-333100 - Opioid Settlement Funds	\$572,984.00	\$847,518.00	\$1,420,502.00

Project Appropriations			
	2022-2023 Appropriations	2023-2024 Appropriations	Life of Project Appropriations
40-5703-519001 - Contracted Services	\$514,548.00	+\$679,473.00	\$1,194,021.00
40-5703-526003 - Other Supplies	\$23,526.00	+\$92,145.00	\$115,671.00
40-5703-539515 - Professional Development	--	+\$40,990.00	\$40,990.00
40-5703-512100 - Salaries and Wages	\$22,000.00	+\$22,000.00	\$44,000.00
40-5703-518100 - FICA	\$5,000.00	+\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
40-5703-518200 - Retirement	\$3,400.00	+\$3,400.00	\$6,800.00
40-5703-518300 - Insurance	\$4,510.00	+\$4,510.00	\$9,020.00
Total Appropriations	\$572,984.00	\$847,518.00	\$1,420,502.00

Description: Columbus County has received Opioid Settlement Funds pursuant to these national settlement agreements and deposited the funds in a separate special revenue fund. Columbus County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids, including settlements with drug distributors Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen, and the drug maker Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals. This project ordinance is based on the strategies approved in the Resolution adopted on September 5, 2023 by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

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

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

**ARTICLE ISECTION 4: THE COUNTY DESIRES TO EXPEND ITS OWN FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING CERTAIN COSTS OF VARIOUS PROJECTS, FOR WHICH EXPENDITURES THE COUNTY REASONABLY EXPECTS TO REIMBURSE ITSELF FROM THE PROCEEDS OF DEBT TO BE INCURRED BY THE COUNTY.**

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

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

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

**Section 8:** This project ordinance shall be entered in the minutes of the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County. Within five days hereof, copies of this ordinance shall be filed with the finance office in Columbus County, and with the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County. Copies of the Project Ordinance shall be made available to the Budget Officer, the Project Manager, and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out this project.

This Project shall become effective on September 5, 2023.

ADOPTED, this 5th day of September, 2023.

**Agenda Item #12: TRANSPORTATION – APPROVAL to ESTABLISH a PUBLIC HEARING:**

Transportation Director Joy Jacobs requested to establish a public hearing on September 18th, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. or as soon as can be heard.

**MOTION:**

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

UNIFIED GRANT APPLICATION		INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION	
<b>PUBLIC HEARING RECORD</b>			
<b>Important</b> – A public hearing <b>MUST</b> be conducted whether or not requested by the Public.			
Section 5311 (including ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307 and applicable State funding, or combination thereof.			
<b>APPLICANT:</b> <u>Columbus County</u>			
<b>DATE:</b> <u>September 18, 2023</u>			
<b>PLACE:</b> <u>127 W Webster St, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Commissioners Chambers</u>			
<b>TIME:</b> _____			
<b>How many BOARD MEMBERS attended the public hearing?</b> _____			
<b>How many members of the PUBLIC attended the public hearing?</b> _____			
<b>Public Attendance Surveys</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> (Attached)			
<input type="checkbox"/> (Offered at Public Hearing but none completed)			
I, the undersigned, representing (Legal Name of Applicant) _____ do hereby certify to the North Carolina Department of Transportation, that a Public Hearing was held as indicated above and			
<b>During the Public Hearing</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> (NO public comments)			
<input type="checkbox"/> (Public Comments were made and meeting minutes will be submitted after board approval)			
The estimated date for board approval of meeting minutes is: _____			
Signature or Clerk to the Board		<i>Affix Seal Here</i>	
Jana Nealey, Clerk			
Printed Name and Title			
Date			
<b>UNIFIED GRANT APPLICATION</b>			
<b>VOLUNTARY TITLE VI PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT</b>			
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NC DOT) to gather statistical data regarding participants and beneficiaries of the agency's federal-aid programs and activities. NC DOT collects information on race, color, national origin and gender of the attendees to this public meeting to ensure the inclusion of all segments of the population impacted by a proposed project.			
NCDOT wishes to clarify that this information gathering process is <b>completely voluntary</b> and that you are not required to disclose the statistical data requested to participate in this meeting. This form is a public document used to collect data, only.			
The completed forms will be held on file at the North Carolina Department of Transportation. For Further information regarding this process please contact the NCDOT Title VI Program at telephone number 919.508.1808 or email at <a href="mailto:titlevi@ncdot.gov">titlevi@ncdot.gov</a> .			
Project Name: _____		Date: _____	
Meeting Location: _____			
Name (please print) _____		Gender: _____	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
General ethnic identification categories (check one)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian		<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic American	
<input type="checkbox"/> African American		<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native	
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander		Other: _____	
Color: _____		National Origin: _____	
After completing this form, please fold and place it inside the designated box on the registration table.			
Thank you for your cooperation.			

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Section 5311 (ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307 and applicable State funding, or combination thereof.

This is to inform the public that a public hearing will be held on the proposed Columbus County Community Transportation Program Application to be submitted to the North Carolina Department of Transportation no later than October 6, 2023. The public hearing will be held on September 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm or as soon as thereafter may be heard before the (governing board) Columbus County Commissioners.

Those interested in attending the public hearing and needing either auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or a language translator should contact Joy Jacobs on or before September 14, 2023, at telephone number 910-641-3929 or via email at [joy.jacobs@columbusco.org](mailto:joy.jacobs@columbusco.org).

The Community Transportation Program provides assistance to coordinate existing transportation programs operating in Columbus County as well as provides transportation options and services for the communities within this service area. These services are currently provided using Demand Response and Subscription Service. Services are rendered by Columbus County Transportation.

The total estimated amount requested for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

NOTE: Local share amount is subject to State funding availability.

Project	Total Amount	Local Share
Administrative	\$ 264,533	\$ 39,681 (15%)
Operating (5311)	\$	\$ (50%)
Capital (Vehicles & Other)	\$ 191,090	\$ 19,109 (10%)
5310 Operating	\$	\$ (50%)
Other	\$	\$ ( %)
TOTAL PROJECT	\$ 455,623	\$ 58,790

Total Funding Request

Total Local Share

This application may be inspected at 290 Legion Dr., Whiteville, NC 28472 from 9:00 am til 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday. Written comments should be directed to Joy Jacobs before September 14, 2023.

End of Notice

**Note:** AN ORIGINAL COPY of the published Public Hearing Notice must be attached to a signed Affidavit of Publication. Both the Public Hearing Notice and the Affidavit of Publication must be submitted with the grant application.

FIRST TRANSIT PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
Last Updated: 04/03/2023

**Agenda Item #13: TRANSPORTATION – APPROVAL of the ANNUAL CONTRACT with MONARCH for the COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT:**

Transportation Director Joy Jacobs requested approval of the annual contract with Monarch for the Community Transportation agreement.

**MOTION:**

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

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF COLUMBUS

COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into as of the first day of July, 2023 by and between Monarch, 350 Pee Dee Avenue, Albemarle, NC 28001 hereinafter referred to as **AGENCY**, Columbus County, 127 W Webster St. Whiteville, NC 28472, hereinafter referred to as First Transit, Inc., 720 E Butterfield Rd., Suite 300, Lombard, IL 60148, hereinafter referred to as **First Transit**.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, **AGENCY** has selected **First Transit** to provide transportation services described herein with vehicles **FIRST TRANSIT** leases from the **COUNTY OF COLUMBUS** for the purpose of providing a coordinated community transportation system; and WHEREAS, **COUNTY OF COLUMBUS'S** contract with **FIRST TRANSIT** dated July 1, 2023, as amended, hereinafter referred to as **SYSTEM CONTRACT**, provides for the delivery by **FIRST TRANSIT** through June 30, 2026 and mutually agreed extension periods, if any, of a unified, coordinated, community transportation system; and requires **COUNTY OF COLUMBUS** to authorize any use of the **COUNTY OF COLUMBUS**-provided vehicles, including the use sought by **AGENCY**; and WHEREAS, the parties agree that the terms of the unified, coordinated **SYSTEM CONTRACT**, as amended from time to time, shall govern the relationship between **AGENCY** and **FIRST TRANSIT**, except expressly provided otherwise herein:

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the covenants hereinafter contained, the parties agree as follows:

1. **TERM:** The term of this Agreement shall commence on July 1, 2023 and continue through June 30, 2026 and may be extended for additional one-year periods upon such terms as the parties may agree in writing.
2. **SERVICES:** **FIRST TRANSIT** shall provide transportation services as specified in the **SYSTEM CONTRACT**, as the same may be modified from time to time, to **AGENCY** on an as-needed basis.
3. **COMPENSATION AND BILLING:** In consideration for services rendered hereunder, **AGENCY** shall pay to **FIRST TRANSIT** all sums due and owing and calculated in accordance with the rates set forth in the **SYSTEM CONTRACT**, as such rates may be adjusted from time to time as provided therein. **FIRST TRANSIT** shall invoice **AGENCY** monthly upon the same schedule and by providing the same documentation as provided under the **SYSTEM CONTRACT**.
4. **COLUMBUS COUNTY APPROVAL:** **COUNTY OF COLUMBUS** approves and authorizes the use of the **COUNTY OF COLUMBUS**-provided vehicles for the performance of these services and the participation of **AGENCY** in the coordinated transportation system subject to the terms of the **SYSTEM CONTRACT** with the understanding that **AGENCY**

shall be invoiced by **FIRST TRANSIT** and that **AGENCY** shall pay **FIRST TRANSIT** directly. Upon request, the **COUNTY OF COLUMBUS** may receive copies of any invoices, payments, or other documentation concerning the services provided by **FIRST TRANSIT** to **AGENCY**.

5. **INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE:** The parties agree that **FIRST TRANSIT** shall, as and to the extent specified in the **SYSTEM CONTRACT** ensure that specified insurance is in force on all vehicles and hold **AGENCY**, its officers, employees and, agents harmless to the extent specified in **SYSTEM CONTRACT**.
6. **TERMINATION:** This Agreement may be terminated by either party upon thirty (30) days written notice.
7. **NOTICE TO PARTIES:** All notices to be given by the parties to this Agreement shall be in writing and served by depositing same in the United States Postal Service and addressed to the appropriate party as listed herein.
8. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT:** This Agreement sets forth the entire agreement between **AGENCY**, **COUNTY OF COLUMBUS**, and **FIRST TRANSIT** concerning the subject matter hereof. There are no representations, either oral or written, between **AGENCY**, **COUNTY OF COLUMBUS**, or **FIRST TRANSIT** other than those contained in this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement in duplicate the day and year first hereinabove written.

MONARCH

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY OF COLUMBUS

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: Chairman, Columbus County Commissioners

FIRST TRANSIT, INC.

BY: Matthew Le Bowlis

TITLE: CEO

DocuSigned by:  
Derrick Brown  
508005258775483

TITLE: RVP of Operations

Agenda Item #14: **FINANCE – APPROVAL of the FINANCE ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE for JULY 2023, BUDGET AMENDMENTS, CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE, and INVOICES:**

Finance Director Lacie Jacobs requested approval of the monthly Finance Administrative Update for July 2023, Budget Amendments, Capital Project Ordinance, and Invoices:

1. Health – Teen Pregnancy Grant
2. EMS – HMEP Grant
3. Historic Courthouse – Interest – Amended Capital Project Ordinance
4. Invoices for approval – FY22-23
5. ADD ON - Detention Center Positions

MOTION:

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

COUNTY OF COLUMBUS FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT July 2023	Percent of Year Complete:	8.3%	GENERAL FUND (Annual Operating Budget)				FY 23/24 BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD TOTALS	BALANCE REMAINING	% EXPENSED YTD
GENERAL FUND (Annual Operating Budget)	FY 23/24 BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD TOTALS	BALANCE REMAINING	% COLLECTED YTD	EXPENDITURES					
REVENUES					GOVERNING BODY	308,362	26,026	280,336	8.5%	
AD VALOREM TAXES	39,356,952	271,722	39,085,230	0.7%	ADMINISTRATION	1,042,881	43,974	998,907	4.2%	
COURT	125,000	-	125,000	0.0%	PERSONNEL	639,621	20,639	618,982	3.2%	
SALES TAX	14,051,521	-	14,051,521	0.0%	FINANCE	902,807	45,385	857,422	5.0%	
TAX ADMINISTRATION REVENUES	37,675	-	37,675	0.0%	TAX DEPARTMENT	1,912,335	115,794	1,796,541	6.1%	
NC JCPC PROGRAM - TEEN COURT	77,477	6,374	71,103	8.2%	LEGAL DEPARTMENT	244,505	37,040	207,465	15.1%	
ELECTION FEES	120	417	(297)	347.5%	NC JCPC PROGRAM - TEEN COURT	77,477	6,315	71,162	8.2%	
REGISTER OF DEEDS	418,500	43,664	374,836	10.4%	FACILITY SERVICES	434,406	29,161	405,245	6.7%	
SHERIFF	2,197,000	6,330	2,190,671	0.3%	ELECTIONS	527,967	18,553	509,434	3.5%	
DETENTION CENTER	802,000	-	802,000	0.0%	REGISTER OF DEEDS	567,141	32,855	534,286	5.8%	
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	170,817	2,407	168,410	1.4%	MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM	492,864	67,886	424,978	13.6%	
INSPECTION	600,000	48,506	551,494	8.1%	CENTRAL GARAGE	131,972	-	131,972	0.0%	
ANIMAL CONTROL	35,000	1,170	33,830	3.3%	PUBLIC BUILDINGS - ALL OTHER	2,295,478	68,568	2,227,910	3.0%	
AIRPORT	523,400	28,416	494,984	5.4%	SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT	10,359,349	654,764	9,704,585	6.3%	
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING	46,000	530	45,470	1.2%	LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER	4,115,938	316,966	3,798,972	7.7%	
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION	1,200	-	1,200	0.0%	EMS	31,250	-	31,250	0.0%	
SOIL CONSERVATION	30,800	412	30,388	1.3%	EMERGENCY SERVICES	3,615,654	128,586	3,489,068	3.5%	
DEPARTMENT OF AGING REVENUES	1,733,735	7,189	1,726,546	0.4%	CORONER MEDICAL EXAMINER	30,000	5,500	24,500	18.3%	
HEALTH DEPARTMENT	3,289,841	137,660	3,152,181	4.2%	ANIMAL CONTROL	708,548	49,009	659,539	6.9%	
SOCIAL SERVICE	8,273,412	33,976	8,239,436	0.4%	AIRPORT	685,979	18,999	666,980	2.8%	
VETERANS SERVICE	2,000	-	2,000	0.0%	INSPECTIONS	470,789	31,107	439,682	6.6%	
PUBLIC SCHOOLS	21,000	650	20,350	3.1%	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING	546,845	24,861	521,984	4.5%	
LIBRARY	228,848	2,035	226,813	0.9%	COOPERATIVE EXTENSION	613,749	275	613,474	0.0%	
RECREATION	31,600	24,599	7,001	77.8%	SOIL CONSERVATION	335,813	28,323	307,490	8.4%	
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	1,265,940	41,559	1,224,381	3.3%	DEPARTMENT OF AGING	2,832,292	132,236	2,700,056	4.7%	
TRANSFER FROM REVENUES	689,751	-	689,751	0.0%	HEALTH DEPARTMENT	6,349,108	313,623	6,035,485	4.9%	
FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATED	962,942	-	962,942	0.0%	SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	10,399,802	704,167	9,695,635	6.8%	
Total General Fund Revenues	74,972,531	657,616	74,314,915	0.9%	PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS	2,424,103	34,855	2,389,248	1.4%	
					VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER	172,695	13,380	159,315	7.7%	
					EDUCATION	16,459,156	2,019,180	14,439,976	12.3%	
					LIBRARY	1,692,736	147,508	1,545,228	8.7%	
					RECREATION	588,201	39,190	549,011	6.7%	
					SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS	436,847	10,462	426,385	2.4%	
					TRANSFER TO	2,526,941	-	2,526,941	0.0%	
					Total General Fund Expenditures	74,972,531	5,183,206	69,789,325	6.9%	
					Total Revenue over/(under) Expenditures	-	(4,525,590)			

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT	FY 23/24	YTD	BALANCE	% Collected
REVENUES	BUDGET	TOTALS	REMAINING	YTD
COURTHOUSE CAP PROJ REVENUES	7,767,194	7,917,485	(150,291)	101.9%
EXPENDITURES				
COURTHOUSE CAP PROJ EXPENDITURES	7,767,194	2,927,345	4,839,849	37.7%

HUD SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE	FY 23/24	YTD	BALANCE	% Collected
REVENUES	BUDGET	TOTALS	REMAINING	YTD
	1,953,324	180,763	791,669	8.2%
EXPENDITURES				
	1,953,324	174,713	1,778,611	8.9%

TRANSPORTATION	FY 23/24	YTD	BALANCE	% Collected
REVENUES	BUDGET	TOTALS	REMAINING	YTD
	1,260,186	-	1,260,186	0.0%
EXPENDITURES				
	1,260,186	7,386	1,252,800	0.6%

DEBT SERVICE	FY 23/24	YTD	BALANCE	% Collected
REVENUES	BUDGET	TOTALS	REMAINING	YTD
	32,642,244	-	32,642,244	0.0%
EXPENDITURES				
	32,642,244	16,902	32,625,342	0.1%

WATER DISTRICTS I-V	FY 23/24	YTD	BALANCE	% Collected
REVENUES	BUDGET	TOTALS	REMAINING	YTD
WATER DISTRICT I	871,210	6,763	864,448	0.8%
WATER DISTRICT II	1,456,143	15,066	1,441,077	1.0%
WATER DISTRICT III	783,165	7,984	775,181	1.0%
WATER DISTRICT IV	927,325	4,895	922,430	0.5%
WATER DISTRICT V	843,416	6,571	836,845	0.8%
COMBINED WATER DISTRICT TOTALS	4,881,259	41,279	4,839,980	N/A
EXPENDITURES				
WATER DISTRICT I	871,210	12,129	859,081	1.4%
WATER DISTRICT II	1,456,143	15,343	1,440,800	1.1%
WATER DISTRICT III	783,165	12,057	771,108	1.5%
WATER DISTRICT IV	927,325	12,417	914,908	1.3%
WATER DISTRICT V	843,416	12,096	831,320	1.4%
COMBINED WATER DISTRICT TOTALS	4,881,259	64,043	4,817,216	N/A

SOLID WASTE	FY 23/24	YTD	BALANCE	% Collected
REVENUES	BUDGET	TOTALS	REMAINING	YTD
	6,750,052	81,525	6,668,527	1.2%
EXPENDITURES				
	6,750,052	45,625	6,704,427	0.7%

Excess revenue over/(under) expenditures

-

35,899



## CASH &amp; INVESTMENTS

Cash:

Central Depository - Truist	\$	3,282,582
Central Depository - NCCMT	\$	21,771,318
Water Districts - \$7,483,978		
Solid Waste - \$8,250,951		

Investments:

Trust	\$	5,057,712
First Citizens Wealth Management		5,996,249
United Bank - CD		339,149
Dana Investments/TD Ameritrade		905,936
Multi Bank Securities		565,500
First Bank - CDs		2,112,471

FUND BALANCE

General Fund:

Unavailable Fund Balance (per auditors)	\$	7,223,150
Committed and Assigned Fund Balance	\$	16,243,734
Unassigned Fund Balance	\$	12,443,374
Total Fund Balance	\$	35,910,258

General Fund Total Expenditure Budget	\$ 74,972,531
Unassigned fund balance as % of Gen. Fd. Expend.	16.6%

Note: The Fund Balance computation listed above is unaudited.  
Final computation will be submitted when verified by Auditors

Total Grants received year to date for fiscal year 2023-2024	\$	1,054,357
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<b>BUDGET AMENDMENT</b>				
<b>Name of Department:</b> Columbus County Health Department				
<b>Authorized Signature:</b> Kimberly Smith 081823				
<b>Date Prepared / Submitted:</b> August 18, 2023		<b>Date Received / Approved:</b>		
<b>Budget Code by Fund Dept Category</b>	<b>Fund Dept Category</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES Classification</b>	<b>Requested Amount (Dollars)</b>	
10 5199 526001	Teen Preg Departmental Supplies		\$25,000	
<b>Total Net Expense</b>			<b>\$25,000</b>	
<b>Budget Code by Fund Dept Category</b>	<b>Fund Dept Category</b>	<b>REVENUES Classification</b>	<b>Requested Amount (Dollars)</b>	
10 3525 430102	Teen Pregnancy State Grant		\$25,000	
<b>Total Net Revenue</b>			<b>\$25,000</b>	

☐ 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:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
Ordinance making appropriations to the Historic Courthouse  
Renovation Capital Project Fund  
for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023

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

**Section 1:** The following amounts are hereby made to the Historic Courthouse Renovation Capital Project pursuant to G.S. 159 -13.2 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023.

Source of Revenue			
	Beginning Revenues	Changes in Revenue	Current Project Revenues
49-3419-449100 - Investment Earnings	\$0	+\$150,000	\$150,000.00
49-3419-431109 – State Budget Appropriations	\$4,000,000.00	-	\$4,000,000.00
49-3452-489013 – County Appropriations	\$317,093.00	-	\$317,093.00
49-3452-489199 – Transfer from General Fund	\$3,450,101.00	-	\$3,450,101.00
Total Revenues:	\$7,767,194.00	\$150,000.00	\$7,917,194.00
Project Appropriations			
	Beginning Appropriations	Changes in Appropriations	Current Project Appropriations
49-4352-524000 - Construction	\$7,136,954.00	+\$133,715.00	\$7,270,669.00
49-4352-559100 - Paving/Resurfacing	\$0	+\$10,750.00	\$10,750.00
49-4352-544000 - Insurance, Liability, Property & Bonds	\$0	+\$5,535.00	\$5,535.00
49-4352-519902 - Engineer/Architect Fees	\$400,000.00	-	\$400,000.00
49-4352-551010 - Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment	\$130,240.00	-	\$130,240.00
49-4352-999910 - Contingency	\$100,000.00	-	\$100,000.00
Total Appropriations:	\$7,767,194.00	\$150,00.00	\$7,917,194.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Section 8:** This project ordinance shall be entered in the minutes of the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County. Within five days hereof, copies of this ordinance shall be filed with the finance office in Columbus County, and with the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County. Copies of the Capital Project Ordinance shall be made available to the Budget Officer, the Project Manager, and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out this project.

This Capital Project shall become effective on September 5, 2023.  
ADOPTED, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023

Invoices received subsequent to year end without an existing purchase order.

- American Uniform Sales Inc - Uniforms & Clothing - Invoice #VARIOUS- \$1,542.01
- Galls, LLC- Departmental Supplies- Invoice Numbers: #24445958 and #24472051- \$3,515.16
- Galls LLC- Departmental Supplies- Invoice #VARIOUS- \$3,243.20
- David Hesselmeier- Contracted Services- Invoice #CCHD0623- \$2,310.00

Submitted respectfully,

Lacie Jacobs  
Finance Director

**Agenda Item #15: FINANCE – APPROVAL of the SECOND READING of the PROPOSED TRAVEL POLICY:**

Director Lacie Jacobs requested approval of the second reading of the proposed travel policy.

**MOTION:**

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

*\*A copy of the updated travel policy is housed in the clerk’s office*

**Agenda Item #16: APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS/REPLACEMENTS: STAFF is REQUESTING APPOINTMENTS, REAPPINTMENTS or REPLACEMENTS to the FOLLOWING BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS.**

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

Zone I: Barbara Featherson  
Zone II: Chris Smith  
Zone V: Brent Watts  
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
Water and Sewer Advisory Board	VII	Todd Pennington (resigned)	06/30/2024	Commissioner Floyd appointed William Harrelson
Housing Advisory Board	V	Kevin Norris	06/30/2023	Commissioner Watts reappointed Kevin Norris
Housing Advisory Board	EB	Brianna Williamson (Aging) (No Longer Employed with the Department of Aging)  *Katrina Mayes is now in that Position*	06/30/2023	Appoint Katrina Mayes  MOTION: 1-Byrd 2-Smith

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

MOTION:  
At 7:15 P.M. a Motion was made by Commissioner Watts and second by Vice Chairman Coleman to recess regular session and enter into Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

Agenda Item #17: APPROVAL of WATER and SEWER COMBINATION MINUTES:  
a. August 7, 2023  
b. August 21, 2023

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

Agenda Item #18: WATER DISTRICT I, II, III, IV, and V– ADOPTION of the WATER DISTRICTS INFRASTRUCTURE MASTER PLAN:  
Public Utilities Director Harold Nobles requested approval adoption of the Water and Sewer Districts Infrastructure Master Plan.

MOTION:  
Vice Chairman Coleman made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Floyd. The motion unanimously passed.  
*\*A copy of the Water Districts Master Plan is housed in the clerk’s office.*

Agenda Item #19: WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV – APPROVAL of the RESOLUTION to apply for DEQ GRANT FUNDS for the RIEGELWOOD SANITART DISTRICT SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS and an AMENDED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN REFLECTING these changes:  
Public Utilities Director Harold Nobles requested approval of the Resolution to apply for DEQ Grant Funds for the Riegelwood Sanitary District system improvements and the amended Capital Improvement Plan that reflects these changes.

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

WHEREAS, The Columbus County Water District IV has need for and intends to construct, plan for, or conduct a study in a project described as replacement of water mains, valves, hydrants, blow-offs, water services and water service meters in excess of 40 years old, and

WHEREAS, The Columbus County Water District IV intends to request State loan and/or grant assistance for the project,

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

That Columbus County Water District IV, the **Applicant**, will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the project, if approved for a State loan and/or grant award.

That the **Applicant** will provide for efficient operation and maintenance of the project on completion of construction thereof.

That the **Applicant** will adopt and place into effect on or before completion of the project a schedule of fees and charges and other available funds which will provide adequate funds for proper operation, maintenance, and administration of the system and the repayment of all principal and interest on the debt.

That the governing body of the **Applicant** agrees to include in the loan agreement a provision authorizing the State Treasurer, upon failure of the County of Columbus to make a scheduled repayment of the loan, to withhold from the County of Columbus any State funds that would otherwise be distributed to the local government unit in an amount sufficient to pay all sums then due and payable to the State as a repayment of the loan.

That Edwin H. Madden, Jr., County Manager, the **Authorized Official**, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the **Applicant** with the State of North Carolina for a loan and/or grant to aid in the study of or construction of the project described above.

That the **Authorized Official**, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the project: to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

That the **Applicant** has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, and funding conditions applicable to the project and to Federal and State grants and loans pertaining thereto.

Adopted this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023 at Whiteville, North Carolina.

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Ricky Bullard, Chair  
Columbus County Commissioners

(a) **CERTIFICATION BY RECORDING OFFICER**

The undersigned duly qualified and acting **Clerk to the Board of Columbus County** does hereby certify: That the above/attached resolution is a true and correct copy of the resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the State of North Carolina, as regularly adopted at a legally convened meeting of the **Board of Commissioners of Columbus County** duly held on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 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 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

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Jana Nealey, Clerk to the Board

COLUMBUS COUNTY

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FY 2023-2034	Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost	Totals
EXPENDITURES	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29	FY 2029-30	FY 2030-31	FY 2031-32	FY 2032-33	FY 2033-34	FY 2023-2034
Project Name												
WD I - Well Development - SC	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300,000
WD I - Booster Pump Station	\$0	\$750,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$750,000
WD III - AIA System Assessment	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000
WD IV - AIA System Assessment	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000
WD IV - Water Improvements (Lakeland Village)	\$772,198	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$772,198
WD IV - Water Improvements (Riegelwood Subdivision)	\$0	\$0	\$2,574,639	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,574,639
WD IV - Water Extension Project	\$0	\$6,734,953	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,734,953
WD IV - AMR Project	\$0	\$827,145	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$827,145
WD IV - Well for Eastern End	\$0	\$0	\$775,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$775,000
WD V - Guideway School Well	\$495,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$495,000
WD V - Dothan Planning Grant	\$0	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,000
WD V - Carolina Bluff Project	\$0	\$600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$600,000
WD I, II, III, IV, V - Meter Project	\$0	\$0	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40,000
WD I, II, III, IV, V - Strategic Plan	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
WD I, II, III, IV, V - Test Wells	\$0	\$0	\$3,100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,100,000
WD I, II, III, IV, V - SCADA	\$0	\$0	\$125,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$125,000
Phase I - Marlowe Road Extension & Well	\$0	\$1,700,710	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,700,710
Phase II - Booster Stations & Well	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,934,803	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,934,803
Phase III - Ramsey Ford and Lebanon Church Ext & Well	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,408,239	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,408,239
Phase IV - 12-inch Extension on Lebanon Church	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,373,602	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,373,602
Phase V - 12-inch Ext. on Gore Trailer, Well & Tank	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,392,529	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,392,529
Phase VI - 12-inch Ext. on Antioch Church & Booster	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,807,366	\$0	\$0	\$2,807,366
Phase VII - Dothan Road Ext. and 1.0 MG Tank	\$0	\$750,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,856,185	\$10,606,185
WD I, II, III, IV, V - Well Rehabilitation Project	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
WD I, V - Wells (3)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000,000
WD II, III - Connection of Loops	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000
WD I,V - Booster Pump Station/GW Storage System	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000
WD IV - Lakeland Well 3 Water System Improvements	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000
WD II - Metered Vaults for Municipality Interconnections	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$250,000
Totals	\$1,667,198	\$12,062,808	\$6,614,639	\$2,934,803	\$8,408,239	\$600,000	\$8,373,602	\$7,392,529	\$3,057,366	\$2,000,000	\$9,856,185	\$62,967,369

**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 approve, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #20: COMMENTS:**

**A. Board of Commissioners**

**Commissioner Watts commented:**

Thank Mr. Valentine for his donation that was very generous, the school is very nice in Tabor and there was a good turnout to the ribbon cutting. It seems like everything is running smoothly, even though the kids have only been able to attend three days due to the storm, hopefully everything continues to go well for the students and faculty at the school.

**Commissioner Byrd commented:**

- I would also like to thank Mr. Valentine for his donation i am sure it will be used well and maybe something in his remembrance at the courthouse.
- It was hot out there at the ribbon cutting for the Tabor School. I was here when we first started working on this school project and I think It is a little bit shameful that the ones that were here before were not mentioned even if they are not in office now. The ones that were here from the beginning should be mentioned.
- Another thing is that downtown flooded again in the storm and it wasn't anything like we have seen before in storm and Mr. Watts and I know being farmers that you cannot drain water in a flat area or up a hill until someone goes in the swamp and open up the swamp downtown will continue to flood. since it has been cut it is clogged up. All the money spent to pipe water from one end to another did not help anything because the swamp needs to be cleared
- I am not sure if we have given any incentives to these businesses but we need to make sure we do not give any incentive to stores that come in and have self-checkout. We spend money to create jobs not to do away with them. The new Dollar General in Hallsboro has not had the first checkout lady there. You can only do self-checkout and you have to use a card. We want to improve job availability not take away jobs. That is an insult to creating jobs and I will not go back.

**Vice Chairman Coleman commented:**

Thank you Mr. Valentine for your contribution as well.  
I also would like to encourage all citizens to volunteer to help out at the schools. I feel like you will get enjoyment out of helping the children. It also means a lot to the children.

**Commissioner Featherson commented:**

- Thank you to Mr. Valentine for his contribution to this county.
- I'd like to acknowledge that fair bluff faired pretty well during the storm this time. I got up and went around to check on the people in that area after the storm and did not see any flooding there, however, Chadbourn was not so lucky there were many homes that were flooded there. We also need to find out what was going on there.
- Also, I really enjoyed the training I attended last week and it was very informational. Jess Hill's daughter was there with the Youth Voice program and I was excited to hear that she was there. Thank you for sending me to that training it was very good and helpful.

**Commissioner Smith commented:**

- Thank you very much Mr. Valentine
- On the way here today I noticed that the North Campus looks terrible, we really need to get someone out there to clean it up and mow the grass.

**Chairman Bullard commented:**

- I'd like to thank Mr. Valentine for that donation it will help Columbus County greatly.
- Thank Mr. Madden for getting those power lines buried around the courthouse, that is going to look so much better.
- Tabor City School, I am very proud of it, I know Commissioner Watts is proud to have such a nice school in his district. I was out of town during the ribbon cutting but I did hear it went very well.
- Thank you to the EMS staff that stayed overnight during the storm to make sure the citizens and the county were safe.
- The flooding downtown was pretty severe this time. Maybe we can reach out to the Governor for some help with some money to help straighten that issue out, Whiteville is our County seat for this county and we need to take care of it.

**B. County Manager****County Manager Eddie Madden commented:**

- I'd like to thank the team for working on the water system Master Plan, there's been a lot of time and energy put in the developing this plan, in particular by, Mrs. Gail Edwards, Harold Nobles, Chris Nobles, and Gary Lanier who were here this evening on the front row. They have spent countless hours collaborating with Mr. Leo Green with Green Engineering and their staff to develop a plan of a big challenge ahead of us to provide water to keep up with the future growth and the proposal that you have adopted this evening will be the roadmap to do that and we will be staying in touch with you with recommendations as we continue.
- Speaking of the flooding that took place last week, we asked our employees to come in to work during the storm event particularly of the EEOC team that was there overnight responding to calls throughout the storm. I appreciate our own employees coming into work even though they presented with challenges about how to get here due to road closures and standing water that interfered with their routes. We appreciate them, showing up for work and providing, a service to the citizens of this county. As you know, the worst impacted areas were Whiteville, Chadbourn, and Fair Bluff, but there were areas where roads and bridges were interfered with due to a rising water and sewer. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that in the hours following that storm, Representative Jones was on the ground and representatives from the governor's office were here. They knew about our issue and they saw it firsthand. Our partners with NC DOT, Mr. Ken Clark and Drew Cox were very instrumental in getting roads and bridges checked and open for safe passage and we appreciate all that they do.
- You all know I like to recognize of our employees when I get a chance and tonight I've been invited for individuals who were in attendance to stay to be recognized and as I call your name, I'm going to read a little note about each one of you and I know the Commissioner's will appreciate this as well.
- First is Mr. Austin Reeves, as you know it is rare to get a hand written note or a compliment from an individual. We hear a lot of complaints, but on occasion, we get a note or emails that are compliments about our employees. We received such a compliment regarding Mr. Reeves. A taxpayer with a tax issue and tax questions due to her husband passing away in the past year, and in over the last 12 months, this was her first attempt to try to understand the tax billing process about how much was owed on the property. We received a note from this individual complementing Austin Reeves, for being very considerate and patient and helpful to her in dealing with these tax matters something that she had never dealt with before, but with the assistance of Mr. Reeves who was consoling and gentle with her and she was so thankful for the help she received, and I wanted you all to know that we have people like Austin working for us which makes the county look good and we appreciate your service.
- Kendra Graham - We also received a letter from Mr. Burns Wiley. He expressed appreciation for Kendra at how she assisted him with a claim submission to the VA, and he could not say enough about how helpful Kendra was to him, even to the point of saying that she needed to pay raise. We brought Kendra in a couple days ago just to read that letter to her so she was able to hear that first hand and Kendra is doing a great job in veteran services.
- Elizabeth Spaulding and Debbie Barnes - Mr. Jess, Hill, and I received a letter from Mr. Jefferson. Weaver, expressing his appreciation for the way these two ladies assisted a seven-year-old whose

parents were in the middle of a very bitter custody case, according to the letter we received from Jefferson, the child was very upset, and these two ladies, who work at the courthouse, went to her, provided her with some distraction and some comfort, that’s something that I call going above and beyond the call of duty and the roll that was required of them. They were very kind and considerate to this young lady and it was noticed by Mr. Weaver and he described how the young girl was in distress, and they were able to make her feel more at ease about the situation. They were able to distract her, I think by giving her some work to do, she helped with some dusting and some sweeping and this took her mind off of the crisis and we appreciate both of you. It was also mentioned how awesome they were of keeping the courthouse very clean and sanitized during the pandemic and referred to them as both truly outstanding. So, we want to recognize the two of you. We have exceptional people working for us, some of those exceptional people are with you regularly in this room and in some others don’t get to come as frequently as we would like but as we get an opportunity to recognize service above of the expected, we do.

- Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, and we will be posting this, we will need the board to come in at 4 o’clock for closed session interviews for the DSS directors position. We have a number of interviews to conduct that evening and we appreciate your attendance.
- Duke Energy will be having resiliency training and it will be next door September 20<sup>th</sup>, as mentioned in your information in your packages this evening, so, if you’ve not registered for that event I think the opportunity is still there for you to do so.
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**Agenda Item #21:    ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:**

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

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JANA NEALEY, Clerk to the Board

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RICKY BULLARD, Chairman