

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS****Monday, March 4, 2024****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**  
 Giles E. Byrd, **Vice Chairman**  
 Lavern Coleman,  
 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**

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

**At 5:45 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 and N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A) (4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**MOTION:**

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

**Agenda Item #2: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A) (3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A) (4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, and N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A) (6) PERSONNEL**

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

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

**GENERAL ACCOUNT:**

Attorney Amanda Prince gave the general account as follows:

The board discussed (2) matters regarding Economic Development and did not discuss matters of Attorney-Client Privilege. No action was taken by the board.

**MOTION:**

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

**Chairman Bullard recessed regular session until 6:30 P.M.**

**Regular Session resumes at 6:30 P.M.**

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

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

**Agenda Item# 5: APPROVAL OF AGENDA, TAX REFUNDS, and RELEASES:**

**MOTION:**

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

| NAME<br>Fee   | Account #<br>Late List    | Date<br>District | Amount Released<br>Discount                   | Property Value<br>TOTAL | Year         | Bill# | Property # | User   |
|---|---------------------------|------------------|---|-------------------------|--------------|-------|------------|--------|
| Hooks, Margie<br>02733<br>\$0.00<br>1151 Savannah Rd<br>Tabor City, NC 28463                    | 07-<br>3/4/2024<br>\$0.00 |                  | \$0.00<br>\$373.82                            | \$0.00                  | 2022 99999   | 00000 | \$373.82   | \$0.00 |
|   |                           |                  | Refund user fee. Vacant trailer               |                         |              |       |            |        |
| Joan Renee Cartwright Revocable Trust<br>24611<br>\$0.00<br>P.O. Box 29424<br>Atlanta, GA 30359 | 09-<br>3/4/2024<br>\$0.00 |                  | \$0.00<br>\$200.00                            | \$0.00                  | 2023 2335575 | 00000 | \$200.00   | \$0.00 |
|   |                           |                  | Refund user fee. Vacant                       |                         |              |       |            |        |
| Livingston, Jaime N<br>03258<br>\$0.00<br>9091 Old Stake Rd<br>Tabor City, NC 28463             | 06-<br>3/4/2024<br>\$0.00 |                  | \$0.00<br>\$200.00                            | \$0.00                  | 2022 99999   | 00000 | \$200.00   | \$0.00 |
|   |                           |                  | Refund user fee. Only 1 can and charged for 2 |                         |              |       |            |        |

**Tax Refunds and Releases**

|                                 |            |  |                        |  |  |              |          |
|---------------------------------|------------|--|------------------------|--|--|--------------|----------|
| <i>Refunds</i>                  |            |  |                        |  |  | Amount:      | \$0.00   |
| Hooks, Margie                   |            |  | <b>PROPERTY:</b> 00000 |  |  | Total:       | \$373.82 |
| Value: \$0.00                   | Year: 2022 |  | Account: 07-02733      |  |  | Bill#: 99999 |          |
| Refund user fee. Vacant trailer |            |  |                        |  |  |              |          |

|                                       |            |  |                        |  |  |              |          |
|---------------------------------------|------------|--|------------------------|--|--|--------------|----------|
| <i>Refunds</i>                        |            |  |                        |  |  | Amount:      | \$0.00   |
| Joan Renee Cartwright Revocable Trust |            |  | <b>PROPERTY:</b> 00000 |  |  | Total:       | \$200.00 |
| Value: \$0.00                         | Year: 2023 |  | Account: 09-24611      |  |  | Bill#: 23355 |          |
| Refund user fee. Vacant               |            |  |                        |  |  |              |          |

Refunds

Livingston, Jaime N

Value: \$0.00

Year: 2022

PROPERTY: 00000

Account: 06-03258

Amount:

\$0.00

Total:

\$200.00

Bill#: 99999

Refund user fee. Only 1 can and charged for 2

Agenda Item #6: PUBLIC INPUT:

3-minute

Columbus County Board of Commissioners

REQUEST #: 1 TIME REC'D: 6:28 P.M. MEETING DATE: 3-4-24  
(Leave this blank, Clerk will fill in)

NAME: ERUM E. KREUTER  
(First) (Middle) (Last)

ADDRESS: 138 OXFORD VILLAGG, TABOR CITY, NC 28463

TELEPHONE: 919 840-5159

COMMENTS (if desired): THE STATE OF NC WITHIN  
AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON THE USE OF  
WATER AND BGDOWNS TO FOX ISLANDS

NOTE: Thank you for taking the time to address the Board with your information and concerns. Please give this card to the Clerk no later than thirty (30) minutes after the commencement of the meeting. This will aid in a smooth and harmonious meeting, and, in addition, give more people the opportunity to speak.

Agenda Item #7: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

- a. January 16, 2024 Regular Session
- b. February 5, 2024 Regular Session

MOTION:

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

Agenda Item #8: PROCLAMTION – VIETNAM VETERANS DAY:

Mike Green is requested adoption of the Vietnam Veterans Day Proclamation.

MOTION:

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



*Columbus County*  
**PROCLAMATION**

*National Vietnam Veterans Day*

*March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

WHEREAS, the County of Columbus recognizes and honors the commitment, sacrifice, and bravery of the men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, March 29th has been designated as National Vietnam War Veterans Day to acknowledge the significant contributions and sacrifices made by Vietnam War veterans; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to express gratitude and appreciation to our Vietnam War veterans for their service and dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, we encourage residents to take a moment on this day to reflect upon the sacrifices made by Vietnam War veterans and to express gratitude for their service;

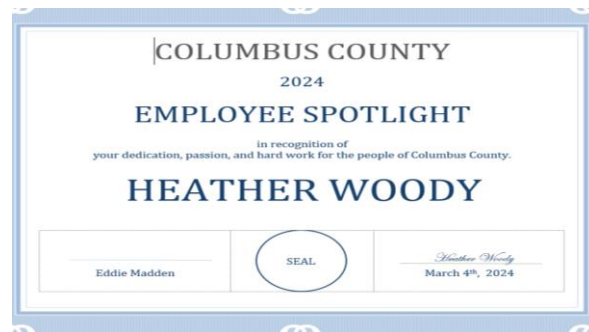
NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim March 29, 2024, as National Vietnam War Veterans Day in Columbus County, and we call upon all citizens to recognize and honor our Vietnam War veterans for their bravery, sacrifice, and dedication to our country

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024

**Columbus County Commissioners**

**Agenda Item #9: ADMINISTRATION – EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:**

County Manager Eddie Madden recognized Heather Woody from the Finance Office as the Employee Spotlight.



**Agenda Item #10: ADMINISTRATION – APPROVAL to PROVIDE OFFICE SPACE for the PUBLIC DEFENDER’S OFFICE:**

County Manager Eddie Madden requested approval for Columbus County to provide office space for the Public Defender's Office pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 7A-498.7.

**MOTION:**

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

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

**RE: Request for Office Space**

Mr. Madden:

I want to thank you and the Columbus County Commissioners for the considerable amount of time and effort you all spent over the past several months making decisions about the location of Judicial Offices in Columbus County. It is obvious that all of you show great respect for our system of justice and recognizes the importance of having appropriate facilities for all stakeholder to offer exemplary services to the citizens of Columbus County. After many discussions with you and members of your office, I write this letter to make a formal request for office space in Columbus County. More specifically, I am requesting that the County Commissioners permit my office to be located within the Columbus County Courthouse Annex, in the space that is now occupied by Clerk of Superior Court Jess Hill.

As you are aware, I was appointed as the Public Defender for District 15 in November. The office was graciously created by the General Assembly through our most recent budget. Many people are unaware of the sheer scope and volume of cases that the Public Defender's Office covers. My office is responsible for representing indigent individuals in a variety of judicial hearings and proceedings that include criminal superior cases, district criminal cases, juvenile delinquency cases, juvenile abuse, neglect, and dependency cases, civil commitment cases, and may represent indigent individuals in any other matter deemed appropriate by our General Assembly.

Based on the number and nature of cases that the Public Defender's Office covers, we have very specific space needs. I have had the opportunity to walk through the current clerk's office located in the annex with Jess Hill and Stuart Carrol. I believe that the space would meet all the needs of my office now, and in the future. There are ample offices and cubicle space, a conference room, a front window, bathrooms, storage space for file retention requirements, and built in security and screening with the Columbus County Sheriff's Office. Therefore, I request that the Columbus County Commissioners permit my office to be located within this space. I am aware that before I could occupy this office, Clerk Jess Hill would have to be relocated to the historic courthouse. Based on that need, I will delay implementation of my office in Columbus County until after the clerk's office has been relocated in June. This would alleviate any need and extra cost of setting up a temporary workspace for the office. Mr. Madden, thank you very much for all of the work you have put into getting this request before the Commissioners. I was grateful to hear of your support in the location of the office and look forward to a continued great working relationship with you for many years to come. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me for any additional information you may need.

Sincerely,

Jacob D. Ward  
Public Defender  
Defender District 15

**Agenda Item #11: COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS – APPROVAL of the STATE NORTH CAROLINA NEEDS-BASED CAPITAL GRANT FUNDS AGREEMENT:**

Assistant Superintendent Eddie Beck requested approval of the North Carolina Needs-Based Capital Grant Funds Agreement.

**MOTION:**

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

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**FORM OF AGREEMENT – FY 2023-24**  
**NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND**  
**NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATION LOTTERY**

Per North Carolina GS 115C-546.12, a county receiving grant funds through the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund (NBSPCF) must enter into an Agreement with the Department of Public Instruction detailing the use of the grant funds.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| County: Columbus County Government               | LEA: Columbus County Schools                                  |
| Address: 127 W Webster St, Whiteville, NC 28472. | Address: 2586 James B. Hwy, N Building A Whiteville, NC 28472 |
| Contact Person: Ricky Bullard                    | Contact Person: Deanne Meadows                                |
| Title: County Commissioner Chairman              | Title: Superintendent   |
| Phone: 910-640-6640                              | Phone: 910-642-6168   |
| Email: rbullard@columbusco.org                   | Email: deannemeadows@columbus.k12.nc.us                       |

Construction Project Title: East Columbus School  
 Project Location: Eastern Columbus County  
 Short Description of Construction Project: Construction of a new Pre-K-8 School in the Eastern end of the district.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Planned Start Date of Construction: 12/01/2025          | Planned Completion Date: 11/30/27            |
| Amount of Grant Funds Awarded: 52,000,00.00             | Amount of Local Matching Funds: 2,600,000.00 |
| Source of Local Matching Funds: County Government Funds |  |

We, the undersigned, agree to abide by the following provisions in order to receive periodic disbursement of grant funds for the referenced construction project in accordance with **G.S. 115C-546.12**:

- 1) We will seek planning assistance and plan review from the School Planning Section of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for the project in accordance with **G.S. 115C-521**.
- 2) For each requested grant fund distribution, we will submit a **Distribution Request Form** plus supplementary documentation to describe, at a minimum, the progress of construction, the amount of grant funds expended, and the amount of local matching funds expended. We understand that local matching funds must be expended proportionally along with grant funds as the project progresses.
- 3) Annually, on or before April 1 of each year during the course of the project, we will submit an **Annual Report** detailing the progress of construction, the amount of grant funds expended, and the amount of local matching funds expended. Further, we will submit a **Final Report** within 90 days following completion of the project construction (i.e., after final completion and final payments) to provide a summary of design, construction, and payment activities.
- 4) We certify that the local matching funds are derived from non-State and non-Federal funds.
- 5) We understand that full repayment of grant funds will be required if a grant award is declined or forfeited, in accordance with **G.S. 115C-546.12(c)**.
- 6) We certify that the project site is owned in fee simple by the Board in accordance with **G.S. 115C-521**.
- 7) We understand that project construction must begin within 24 months of the award of grant funds.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature – Chair, County Commissioners)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Date)

**Agenda Item #12: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – APPROVAL of the AMENDED LEASE AGREEMENT with PROVALUS regarding A-BUILDING OFFICE SPACE EXPANSION:**

Dylan Bowen from Economic Development requested approval of the amended lease agreement with Provalus to include more office space in the A Building due to their continuous expansion.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve contingent upon approval from the Golden Leaf Foundation, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.



**Memorandum of Understanding between Provalus and the Columbus County Economic Development Commission — Incentives Related to Membership at The Columbus County Entrepreneurship Center (The LAB)**

As part of our efforts to encourage and support the immediate and long-term creation of jobs for the citizens of Columbus County, the Columbus County Economic Development Commission, hereinafter "Columbus County EDC", will offer Provalus/Project Cirrus the following Economic Development Incentive Grant related to Corporate Membership Payments for the temporary space utilized on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the LAB in Building A:

1. IT cables and installation to allow for the effective use of the offices and open spaces located on the third floor of The Lab/Building A. The approximate value of this incentive is \$20,000. This infrastructure will remain in place for future LAB Members after Provalus moves into a permanent location.
2. Use of office furniture from the former BB&T call center as detailed in the Corporate Membership Agreement, which is incorporated by reference as if set out in full.
3. Once the project is announced by the State of North Carolina, and as a monetary incentive grant, the Columbus County EDC intends to grant Provalus an amount equal to \$3,288 per month for up to 24 months following the payment of Corporate Membership Fees for The LAB. This grant is based on 80% of Membership fees paid to The LAB. Twenty percent (20%) of Membership Fees paid are being allocated to utility costs for the operation of The LAB.
4. Fees will not be charged on space not occupied or currently being utilized by lessee.

This Incentive Grant is subject to final approval by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners following the public announcement of the project.

For Columbus County:

For Provalus/Project Cirrus:

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

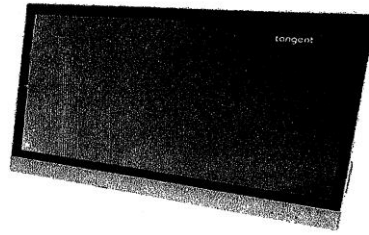
127 West Webster St - Whiteville, NC 28472  
Telephone 910-640-6608  
WWW.COLUMBUSFORINDUSTRY.COM  
ENC@COLUMBUSFO.EDC

**Agenda Item #13: HEALTH SERVICES – APPROVAL to PURCHASE 5 COMPUTERS on WHEELS for HEALTH DEPARTMENT:**

Health Services Director Kim Smith requested approval to purchase 5 computers on wheels for the Health Department in the amount of \$29,284.32 which will come from the COVID Funds.

**MOTION:**

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



tangent

Quote# Q510537 02/12/2024

Medix 22b

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Quoted For:</b><br>Columbus County Schools<br>817 Washington Street<br>Whiteville, NC 28472<br><br><b>Contact:</b><br>Wagner, Steve<br>Phone1: (910) 640-1396 | <b>Sales Rep:</b><br>David Baquefizo<br><br><b>Quote Total:</b> \$15,532.45 (Quantity: 5)<br><b>Sales tax not included</b> |
|--|--|

| Qty | Part Code       | Description  |
|-----|-----------------|--|
| 1   | MEDIX 22B       | 22in. Battery Powered Comet Lake Med Grade AIO     |
| 1   | T003MA-01       | 22in LCD i5-10500T/8GB/256GB/WIFI/TPM2.0/PCap      |
| 1   | MEDIX 22B-LCD   | 21.5in TFT LCD screen 1920x1080 (1080p Full HD)    |
| 1   | MEDIX-2XB-256GB | Integrated 256GB NVMe SSD storage                  |
| 1   | MEDIX 22B-WIFI  | Integrated 802.11Ax WiFi + BT 5.1                  |
| 1   | MEDIX-2XB-8GB   | Integrated 8GB DDR4                                |
| 1   | MEDIX 22B-CPU   | Intel 10th Desktop Core Processor (Comet Lake)     |
| 1   | MEDIX 22B-TPM   | TPM2.0 (Trusted Platform fTPM)- Medix 22b          |
| 3   | MEDIX_T-BAT_V3  | 8350mAh/90W Battery for Medix T19B/T22B/T24B       |
| 1   | WIN11-PRO_OA3   | Windows 11 Professional - OA3                      |
| 1   | MEDIX_T-CHRG6M  | 6-Bay External Battery Charger - Medix T series    |
| 1   | MEDIX_T-AIO-1YR | Medix T series - 1 year Warranty RTD               |
| 1   | SH-GRND         | Shipping and Handling Fee (Ground) (Cont. US Only) |

**Build Notes:**

Optional Equipment that is not included in this quote, but can be added on for an additional cost is as follows:

Subtotal (Each): \$3,106.49

Samsung EVO 980 for \$73.00 per unit.

No. of Systems: x 5

Quantity quoted below is based on (5) units.

Update to Quote:

Grand Total: \$15,532.45

Included (3) Spare Batteries per unit and (1) six-bay charger per unit.

**Agenda Item #14: FINANCE – APPROVAL of the FINANCE UPDATE for JANUARY 2024, CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCES and BUDGET AMENDMENT:**

Finance Director Lacie Jacobs is requesting approval of the Administrative Update for January 2024, Capital Project Ordinances and the following budget amendment:

- a. January 2024 Administrative Financial Update
- b. Airport AWOS Relocation - Capital Project Ordinance
- c. Airport Terminal Building AV Grant – Capital Project Ordinance
- d. Golden Leaf – Shell Building – Budget Amendment

**MOTION:**

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



COUNTY OF COLUMBUS  
FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT  
January 2024

Percent of Year Complete: 58.33%

| GENERAL FUND (Annual Operating Budget) | FY 23/24 BUDGET   | ACTUAL YTD TOTALS | BALANCE REMAINING | % COLLECTED YTD |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>REVENUES</b>                        |                   |                   |                   |                 |
| AD VALOREM TAXES                       | 39,356,952        | 30,138,944        | 9,218,008         | 76.6%           |
| COURT                                  | 125,000           | 50,438            | 74,562            | 40.4%           |
| SALES TAX                              | 14,051,521        | 4,578,098         | 9,473,423         | 32.6%           |
| TAX ADMINISTRATION REVENUES            | 37,675            | 455               | 37,180            | 1.3%            |
| NC JCPC PROGRAM - TEEN COURT           | 77,477            | 44,879            | 32,598            | 57.7%           |
| ELECTION FEES                          | 120               | 19,883            | (19,763)          | 16568.9%        |
| REGISTER OF DEEDS                      | 418,500           | 441,503           | (23,003)          | 105.5%          |
| SHERIFF                                | 2,247,000         | 425,841           | 1,821,160         | 19.0%           |
| DETENTION CENTER                       | 802,000           | 254,893           | 547,307           | 31.8%           |
| EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT                   | 182,837           | 6,408             | 176,229           | 3.5%            |
| INSPECTION                             | 600,000           | 300,019           | 299,981           | 50.0%           |
| ANIMAL CONTROL                         | 35,000            | 21,094            | 13,906            | 60.3%           |
| AIRPORT                                | 523,400           | 311,281           | 212,119           | 59.5%           |
| ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING          | 96,000            | 7,061             | 88,939            | 7.4%            |
| COOPERATIVE EXTENSION                  | 1,200             | 3,432             | (2,232)           | 286.0%          |
| SOIL CONSERVATION                      | 30,800            | 2,862             | 27,938            | 9.3%            |
| DEPARTMENT OF AGING REVENUES           | 1,733,735         | 730,077           | 1,003,658         | 42.1%           |
| HEALTH DEPARTMENT                      | 3,854,845         | 1,701,937         | 2,152,908         | 44.2%           |
| SOCIAL SERVICE                         | 8,411,067         | 3,037,221         | 5,373,846         | 36.1%           |
| VETERANS SERVICE                       | 2,000             | -                 | 2,000             | 0.0%            |
| PUBLIC SCHOOLS                         | 21,000            | 10,665            | 10,335            | 50.8%           |
| LIBRARY                                | 228,848           | 89,649            | 139,199           | 39.2%           |
| RECREATION                             | 31,600            | 34,636            | (3,036)           | 109.6%          |
| MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES                 | 1,265,940         | 1,335,496         | (69,556)          | 105.5%          |
| TRANSFER FROM REVENUES                 | 689,751           | -                 | 689,751           | 0.0%            |
| FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATED              | 4,884,946         | -                 | 4,884,946         | 0.0%            |
| <b>Total General Fund Revenues</b>     | <b>79,709,014</b> | <b>43,546,412</b> | <b>36,162,602</b> | <b>54.6%</b>    |

| GENERAL FUND (Annual Operating Budget)        | FY 23/24 BUDGET   | ACTUAL YTD TOTALS | BALANCE REMAINING | % EXPENSED YTD |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>PENDING</b>                                |                   |                   |                   |                |
| GOVERNING BODY                                | 308,362           | 155,740           | 152,622           | 50.5%          |
| ADMINISTRATION                                | 1,042,881         | 1,073,425         | (30,544)          | 102.9%         |
| PERSONNEL                                     | 642,621           | 470,918           | 171,703           | 73.3%          |
| FINANCE                                       | 904,804           | 389,514           | 515,290           | 43.0%          |
| TAX DEPARTMENT                                | 1,912,335         | 1,015,688         | 897,247           | 53.1%          |
| LEGAL DEPARTMENT                              | 578,685           | 522,628           | 55,859            | 90.3%          |
| NC JCPC PROGRAM - TEEN COURT                  | 77,477            | 38,027            | 39,450            | 49.1%          |
| COURT FACILITIES                              | 434,406           | 246,734           | 187,672           | 56.8%          |
| ELECTIONS                                     | 527,987           | 239,271           | 288,716           | 45.3%          |
| REGISTER OF DEEDS                             | 567,141           | 364,801           | 202,340           | 64.3%          |
| MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM                 | 482,864           | 297,784           | 185,080           | 60.4%          |
| CENTRAL GARAGE                                | 131,972           | 107,752           | 24,220            | 81.6%          |
| PUBLIC BUILDINGS - ALL OTHER                  | 2,442,478         | 987,851           | 1,454,627         | 39.6%          |
| SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT                          | 11,773,488        | 6,071,706         | 5,701,782         | 51.6%          |
| LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER                        | 5,303,200         | 2,507,341         | 2,795,859         | 47.3%          |
| EMS   | 31,250            | 17,525            | 13,725            | 56.1%          |
| EMERGENCY SERVICES                            | 3,755,674         | 2,042,370         | 1,713,304         | 54.4%          |
| CORONER MEDICAL EXAMINER                      | 30,000            | 25,600            | 4,400             | 85.3%          |
| ANIMAL CONTROL                                | 708,548           | 389,681           | 318,887           | 55.0%          |
| AIRPORT                                       | 685,979           | 365,783           | 320,196           | 53.3%          |
| INSPECTIONS                                   | 470,789           | 241,514           | 229,275           | 51.3%          |
| ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING                 | 591,845           | 216,247           | 375,598           | 36.9%          |
| COOPERATIVE EXTENSION                         | 613,749           | 229,733           | 384,016           | 37.4%          |
| SOIL CONSERVATION                             | 335,813           | 181,224           | 154,589           | 54.0%          |
| DEPARTMENT OF AGING                           | 2,832,292         | 1,187,383         | 1,274,899         | 55.0%          |
| HEALTH DEPARTMENT                             | 6,909,658         | 2,899,400         | 4,010,258         | 42.0%          |
| SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION                | 10,851,483        | 5,293,480         | 5,558,003         | 49.7%          |
| PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS                    | 2,424,103         | 1,623,994         | 800,109           | 67.0%          |
| VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER                      | 172,895           | 86,617            | 74,078            | 57.1%          |
| EDUCATION                                     | 16,609,156        | 8,895,250         | 7,713,906         | 53.8%          |
| LIBRARY                                       | 1,757,288         | 803,783           | 853,505           | 51.4%          |
| RECREATION                                    | 588,201           | 279,847           | 308,354           | 47.6%          |
| SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS                        | 863,846           | 612,331           | 251,515           | 70.9%          |
| TRANSFER TO                                   | 2,535,944         | 2,535,944         | -                 | 100.0%         |
| <b>Total General Fund Expenditures</b>        | <b>79,709,014</b> | <b>42,880,474</b> | <b>36,828,540</b> | <b>53.8%</b>   |
| <b>Total Revenue over(under) Expenditures</b> |                   | <b>665,938</b>    |                   |                |

| COURTHOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT    | FY 23/24 BUDGET | YTD TOTALS | BALANCE REMAINING | % Collected YTD |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>REVENUES</b>                  |                 |            |                   |                 |
| COURTHOUSE CAP PROJ REVENUES     | 7,917,194       | 7,917,485  | (291)             | 100%            |
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>              |                 |            |                   |                 |
| PRIOR YEAR EXPENDITURES          |                 | 2,153,844  |                   |                 |
| COURTHOUSE CAP PROJ EXPENDITURES |                 | 3,250,062  |                   |                 |
|                                  | 7,767,194       | 5,403,907  | 2,363,287         | 70%             |

| HUD SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE | FY 23/24 BUDGET | YTD TOTALS | BALANCE REMAINING | % Collected YTD |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>REVENUES</b>                 |                 |            |                   |                 |
|                                 | 1,953,324       | 1,230,327  | 791,669           | 63%             |
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>             |                 |            |                   |                 |
|                                 | 1,953,324       | 1,311,563  | 641,761           | 67%             |

| TRANSPORTATION      | FY 23/24 BUDGET | YTD TOTALS | BALANCE REMAINING | % Collected YTD |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>REVENUES</b>     |                 |            |                   |                 |
|                     | 1,260,166       | 378,406    | 881,760           | 30%             |
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b> |                 |            |                   |                 |
|                     | 1,260,166       | 523,435    | 736,751           | 42%             |

| DEBT SERVICE        | FY 23/24 BUDGET | YTD TOTALS | BALANCE REMAINING | % Collected YTD |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>REVENUES</b>     |                 |            |                   |                 |
|                     | 32,642,244      | -          | 32,642,244        | 0%              |
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b> |                 |            |                   |                 |
|                     | 32,642,244      | 775,156    | 31,867,088        | 2%              |

| EXPENDITURES                    | BUDGET     | YTD TOTALS | BALANCE REMAINING | % COLLECTED |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| GENERAL FUND                    | 79,709,014 | 42,880,474 | 36,828,540        | 53.8%       |
| COURTHOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT   | 7,917,194  | 5,403,907  | 2,363,287         | 70%         |
| HUD SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE | 1,953,324  | 1,311,563  | 641,761           | 67%         |
| TRANSPORTATION                  | 1,260,166  | 523,435    | 736,751           | 42%         |
| DEBT SERVICE                    | 32,642,244 | 775,156    | 31,867,088        | 2%          |

**CASH & INVESTMENTS**

**Cash:**

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Central Depository - Truist   | 12,353,292 |
| Central Depository - NCCMT    | 30,905,549 |
| Water Districts - \$8,494,230 |            |
| Solid Waste - \$9,459,093     |            |

**Investments:**

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Truist  | 5,074,304 |
| First Citizens Wealth Management              | 6,155,166 |
| United Bank - CD                              | 339,646   |
| Dana Investments/TD Ameritrade/Charles Schwab | 894,832   |
| Multi Bank Securities                         | 582,159   |
| First Bank - CDs                              | 2,151,695 |

**FUND BALANCE**

**General Fund:**

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Unavailable Fund Balance (per auditors) | 7,223,150         |
| Committed and Assigned Fund Balance     | 15,091,486        |
| Unassigned Fund Balance                 | 17,504,103        |
| <b>Total Fund Balance</b>               | <b>39,818,739</b> |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| General Fund Total Expenditure Budget            | 79,709,014 |
| Unassigned fund balance as % of Gen. Fd. Expend. | 22.0%      |

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** 13,244,300  
Through date of last Board meeting

| AMBULANCE AND RESCUE UNITS | FY 23/24 | YTD     | BALANCE   | % Collected |
|----------------------------|----------|---------|-----------|-------------|
|                            | BUDGET   | TOTALS  | REMAINING | YTD         |
| <b>REVENUES</b>            | 728,090  | 711,699 | 16,391    | 98%         |
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>        |          |         |           |             |
| Ad Valorem Taxes           | 728,090  | 157,874 | 570,216   | 22%         |

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.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**  
Ordinance making appropriations to the  
Columbus County  
Airport – Land Acquisition – AWOS Relocation  
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 Columbus County Airport – Land Acquisition – AWOS Relocation Capital Project Fund as of March 4, 2024, pursuant to G. S. 159 - 13.2 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023.

| Source of Revenue               |   |             |                   |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------|-------------------|
|                                 | Current Revenues approved in March 2023 | Change      | Proposed Revenues |
| 51-3460-432001 - AV Block Grant | \$56,656.00                             | \$33,869.00 | \$90,525.00       |

| Project Appropriations                           |   |             |                         |
|--|---|-------------|-------------------------|
|  | Current Appropriations approved in March 2023 | Change      | Proposed Appropriations |
| 51-4541-548012 – Preliminary Engineering Testing | \$22,251.00                                   | --          | \$22,251.00             |
| 51-4541-549966 - Property Acquisition            | \$23,300.00                                   | \$33,869.00 | \$57,169.00             |
| 51-4541-519034 - Engineering Services Basic Fees | \$11,105.00                                   | --          | \$11,105.00             |
| <b>Total Project Appropriations:</b>             |   |             | <b>\$90,525.00</b>      |

This Capital Project shall become effective on March 4, 2024  
ADOPTED, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

**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

Ricky Bullard, Chairman  
Columbus County Board of Commissioners

Jana Nealey, Clerk to the Board

**COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**  
**Ordinance making appropriations to the**  
**County of Columbus**  
**Airport – New Terminal Building AV Block Grant**  
**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 Columbus County Airport – New Terminal Building AV Block Grant Capital Project Fund as of March 4, 2024, pursuant to G.S. 159 - 13.2 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023.

| Source of Revenue               |  |               |                   |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------|-------------------|
|                                 | Current Revenues approved in November 2023 | Change        | Proposed Revenues |
| 51-3461-432001 - AV Block Grant | \$94,489.00                                | (\$12,584.00) | \$81,905.00       |

| Project Appropriations                           |  |               |                         |
|--|--|---------------|-------------------------|
|  | Current Appropriations approved in November 2023 | Change        | Proposed Appropriations |
| 51-4542-432001 - Administrative Expenses         | \$1,500.00                                       | --            | \$1,500.00              |
| 51-4542-548012 - Preliminary Engineering Testing | \$21,090.00                                      | --            | \$21,090.00             |
| 51-4542-519034 - Engineering Services Basic Fees | \$62,619.00                                      | (\$12,584.00) | \$59,315.00             |
| Total Project Appropriations:                    |  |               | \$81,905.00             |

**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 March 4, 2024 ADOPTED, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

Ricky Bullard, Chairman  
 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 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.

Jana Nealey, Clerk to the Board

| BUDGET AMENDMENT                          |  |  |                   |                                  | FY 23/24 |
|---|--|--|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Name of Department: EDC/Planning          |  |  |                   |                                  |          |
| Agency Head Signature: <i>[Signature]</i> |  |  |                   |                                  |          |
| Date Prepared/Submitted to Admin:         |  |  | February 28, 2024 |                                  |          |
| Date Received by Admin:                   |  |  |                   |                                  |          |
| Budget Code Fund Dept. Category           | EXPENDITURES Classification                |  |                   | Requested Increase or (Decrease) |          |
| 15 4412 519000                            | Professional Services-Shell Building Grant |  |                   | \$50,000                         |          |
| Total Net Expense                         |  |  |                   | \$50,000                         |          |
| Budget Code Fund Dept. Category           | REVENUES Classification                    |  |                   | Requested Increase or (Decrease) |          |
| 15 3484 489125                            | Shell Building Golden Leaf Grant Revenue   |  |                   | \$50,000                         |          |
| Total Net Revenue                         |  |  |                   | \$50,000                         |          |

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of Increase or Decrease:  
 Phase 1 shell building grant from Golden Leaf

**Agenda Item #15: APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS/REPLACEMENTS: STAFF is REQUESTING APPOINTMENTS, REAPPINMENTS or REPLACEMENTS to the FOLLOWING BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS.**

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

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

| <b>COMMITTEE</b>     | <b>ZONE/EB</b> | <b>PERSON(S)</b>         | <b>EXP. DATE</b> | <b>BOARD ACTION</b>      |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Board of Adjustments | V              | Warren Miller (resigned) | 9/30/2024        | Winslow Phipps appointed |

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

**MOTION:**

At 7:00 P.M. a Motion was made by Commissioner Coleman and second by Commissioner Featherson to recess regular session and enter into Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V.

**Agenda Item #16: APPROVAL of WATER and SEWER COMBINATION MINUTES:**

- January 16, 2024 (5 sets)
- February 5, 2024 (5 sets)

**MOTION:**

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

**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 Floyd. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #17: COMMENTS:**

**A. Board of Commissioners**

**Vice Chairman Byrd commented:**

- Mrs. Hayes I understand that you have been involved in the issues at Pecan Lane in Lake Waccamaw, the drainage issues there cause the water to start backing up there way before anything else and it backs all the way up to Lakeshore Drive.
  - *Mrs. Hayes explains the following regarding a site review of that area:*
    - *The Columbus Soil and Water Conservation District (Columbus SWCD) was contacted by a resident in Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina with concerns of drainage in the canal that flows from Columbia Avenue under Pecan Lane (culvert) to Lake Shore Drive. The resident is concerned that the culverts under Pecan Lane and Lake Shore Drive are undersized for the volume of water that flows through them.*
    - *Morgan Hayes; Columbus SWCD Director and Tyler Hodge; District Watershed Coordinator visited and assessed the site on Thursday, February 29, 2024. When assessing the drainage areas, Columbus SWCD staff noticed the drainage culverts under Pecan Lane have an excess amount of sediment, woody debris, and live vegetation on both sides of the culverts. They also noticed, that the canal that flows from Columbia Avenue under Pecan Lane to Lake Shore Drive has vegetative debris that is impeding water flow. Both of these issues are contributing to the inadequate flow of water and are causing major flooding issues to the residents in that community.*
    - *Columbus SWCD has made contact to the Town of Lake Waccamaw and made them aware of the drainage concerns. Also, Columbus SWCD staff provided the Town of Lake Waccamaw with a list of recommendations that will increase drainage efficiency from Columbia Avenue to Lake Shore Drive.*

*Recommendations made:*

- *Remove the sediment buildup around the culverts to the natural bottom.*
- *Remove any vegetative debris that is within the tile and around it.*

- *Grade/slope the banks adjacent to the canal/culvert and place geotextile fabric and riprap around the tile to prevent erosion.*
- *Columbia Avenue to Lake Shore Drive*
  - *Complete Vegetative Debris Removal ONLY on the drainage canal.*
  - *This will increase water flow efficiency without the resistance of woody debris.*
  - *Contact the Army Corps of Engineers to apply for a permit to remove sediment pockets that are within the drainage canal. (Wilmington Office 910-251-4811)*
  - *However, there is a possibility that no permit could be acquired. If that is the case, vegetative debris removal alone should help with increase water flow.*
- *Lake Shore Drive (Tile)*

*Make contact with DOT and see if they can come out and complete a survey/study to ensure that the culvert is adequately sized*

*Vice Chairman Byrd* responded by saying that he did not know that Pecan Lane was not a state owned road and if Mrs. Hayes could get a letter together to send to the DOT that would be great. Also, in Buckhead there is a beaver dam that is blocking the water.

- *Mrs. Hayes* stated that the land owners from Buckhead have contacted us and all the paperwork is complete and sent over for beaver removal and the landowners will distribute that out and we have spoken to a trapper in that area so it will be soon that issue will be taken care of.
- The third issue is that at our last meeting two weeks ago, now I am not speaking against the Sheriff's Department or any other department head in the county, I want to make that clear. You know we approved \$2.3 Million Dollars Budget Amendment and I knew nothing about it until I sat down here, at this table. I feel as if the board should know before we come in to a meeting and we add something on as a budget amendment. I do not think that is fair. The ones I spoke to said they did not know much about it and the little they did it was like \$1.2 Million then it came up and it was \$2.3 Million. We should have that information in our packet for the magnitude of that budget amendment. Up to \$50,000 is the most that should be sprung on us the day of the meetings. They way we have time to look over all the facts and if we have questions to have time to get them answered. It is our job to be good stewards of the tax payer's money, and we can not do it by having just a few minutes to look over it. I do not know what the board can do, we should pass some kind of decision to keep that from happening again.
  - *Chairman Bullard* responded by saying that Mr. Madden and Finance Director Lacie Jacobs could come up with a recommendation to prevent that. The way this took place just so everyone knows, I did not know about the second meeting either Commissioner Byrd until right before closed session, they had been working on it, the Sheriff's Department was, and went in to closed session and gave them as much time as we possibly could to explain. It could not be discussed in public. It was a surprise to all of us, the board, the County Manager Eddie Madden, and the Finance Director Lacie Jacobs. It was a tough meeting and we did not know how to handle it, but, they have been dealing with these issues for quite a while.

- Vice Chairman Byrd stated that they should have brought them to us earlier then.
- Chairman Bullard responded by saying they had just finished the paperwork right before they brought it. Also, we all approved it unanimously and we all had a chance to speak up then. I've learned things that I had no idea about even after serving on this board for years. You know, we had to pay some bills.
  - Vice Chairman Byrd said he learned things to but I still say that somewhere along the line, that kind of money, even if we have to call a special meeting, we should not be blindsided and just listen to a presentation and not have time to analyze it and approve \$2.3 million dollars, I am not against it, I just think we should have more time to really look at the needs before approving.
- Chairman Bullard responded by saying that is part of this job to make tough decisions and every commissioner here can say that I gave them the floor to where we all had time to ask questions and we all heard the presentation, and we all made that decision.
  - County Manager Eddie Madden responded by saying that our practice is that we have an agenda deadline, and it is the Monday before the meeting, 1 week in advance, because the next day, the Tuesday before the meeting, we have a pre-agenda meeting to go over everything and at that point is when things are finalized and or fixed. There are times when unforeseen things come up that we do not anticipate that are time-sensitive and we present that to you as an agenda add-on. It is incumbent upon your staff and the board to adhere to those deadlines so we have time to properly vet and prepare for the agenda and then we get it to you in proper time for you to consider those items before you take any action on them. We try not to bring add-ons to you but sometimes it is unavoidable. Usually when someone requests to be on the agenda and it is not within that deadline, we typically do not place it on the upcoming agenda but the one after it.
  - Vice Chairman Byrd said that he agreed with Mr. Madden to a certain point but I am sure as of tonight, the total \$2.3 Million dollars has not been spent, when I called about it, I think they were going to order some vehicles, they may already have them (Jerome McMillian from the Sheriff's Department shook his head yes). Well, the bottom line is a budget amendment of that magnitude, we should a little more time on it.

Chairman Bullard and Eddie Madden discussed that they had met with the Sheriff's Office the Friday before (February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024) and went over a justification for some of the expenses and they were to provide us with an updated one on with some leniency Monday morning, we did not receive that until Monday afternoon.

**Commissioner Coleman commented:**

I would like to thank all the staff for what they do, and encourage everyone to get out and vote because tomorrow's election day.

**Commissioner Smith commented:**

I like to say please go vote tomorrow.

**Chairman Bullard commented:**

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

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

A couple things:

- We did send it our legislative needs request to our representative Brendan Jones
- Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup> is the budget presentation with the schools 6:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.
- Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. for the Budget Retreat
- We made some progress this week on the demolition of the former Sheriff's Office, there was a discovery of an underground storage tank, and the contractor was on the scene today and some of our staff and that has been essentially clean up and all contaminated materials and soil have been removed from the site. Lee Dixon sent out a preliminary rendering to the floor plans for the new site this afternoon to the city of Whiteville. We will keep everyone updated on that.
- Chamber of Commerce dinner in Fair-Bluff this Thursday, if you have not RSVP'd contact the clerk.
- We have a Young Professionals Network and we had our first meeting recently and we are very excited about this to get involved with our young up and coming professionals and guide them and mentor them as they progress in their professional career.
- The Association of County Commissioners Director and President of the Board of Directors of the NCACC, has appointed me to the Risk-Pool Board which oversees the Risk Insurance Program which is provided to all counties and the first meeting is coming up mid-March.

**Chairman Bullard stated that before we adjourn I would like to say that we lost a dear person this week Mrs. Susan King she was a very sweet lady, always loved the good things happening in Columbus County and she will be dearly missed. Please remember her husband Billy in this sad time.**

**Agenda Item #18: ADJOURNMENT:****MOTION:**

At 7:50 P.M., Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Floyd The motion unanimously passed.