

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, September 18, 2023

5:30 P.M. – Closed Session

6:30 P.M. – Regular Session

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney/Deputy Clerk**
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, N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A) (4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, and N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A) (6) PERSONNEL

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:

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

GENERAL ACCOUNT:

Attorney Amanda Prince gave the general account as follows:

The board discussed matters of personnel, Economic Development, pending litigation, and possible future litigation.

MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the General Account, seconded by Commissioner Smith. 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 Watts. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Floyd.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

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

6:30 PM or as soon as can be heard, - Public Hearing – regarding the FY 24-25 Administrative and Capital Grant Funds request for the Transportation Department.

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:

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

Agenda Item #6: PUBLIC INPUT:

Columbus County Board of Commissioners

REQUEST #: _____ TIME REC'D: _____ P.M. MEETING DATE: _____
(Leave this blank, Clerk will fill in)

NAME: Millie A. Freeman
(First) (Middle) (Last)

ADDRESS: 370 Buck Head Rd, Bolton, NC 28423

TELEPHONE: 910 5789 -1586

COMMENTS (if desired): WATER DRAINAGE / Swamp Drainage

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 a smooth and harmonious meeting, and, in addition, give more people the opportunity to speak.

Millie Freeman commented about the following:

- Beavers, adequate drainage, and flooding in their community. They mentioned that a contact needed to be made to DOT in regards to the paving of Blacksmith Rd and Hwy 211 and the culverts at Blacksmith Rd.

Agenda Item #7: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

- a. September 5, 2023

MOTION:

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

Agenda Item #8: PROCLAMTION – RECOGNIZING TABOR CITY EMS for WINNING 1ST PLACE in the 2023 ANNUAL BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS) COMPETITION:

MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adopt the proclamation seconded by Commissioner Watts. The motion unanimously passed.



Columbus County

PROCLAMATION OF RECOGNITION



Tabor EMS – 1st Place State BLS Competition

Whereas, September 8 - 10, 2023 Tabor EMS traveled to Asheville, NC for the North Carolina Association of Rescue & EMS conference and participated in the Basic Life Support Competition (BLS);

Whereas, Brianna Parker, Samuel Cunningham, and June Perritte earned 1st Place in the Jr. BLS Competition, and;

Whereas, Robby Wooster and Robbie Wooster, father and son, earned 1st Place in the Senior BLS Competition, and;

Whereas, they all showed exceptional knowledge, skill and compassion for the difficult task of saving a human life, and;

Now therefore; The Columbus County Commissioners proudly recognize, honor, and appreciate these citizens for their heroic efforts, as well as, all those who save lives daily.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this the 18th day of September, 2023 **Columbus County Commissioners**

Agenda Item #9: ADMINISTRATION – EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

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

MOTION:

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

Agenda Item #10: PLANNING DEPARTMENT – APPROVAL of the FLOODPLAIN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS:

Planning Director Gary Lanier requested approval of the floodplain interlocal agreements with Cerro Gordo, Boardman, Lake Waccamaw, and Sandyfield regarding the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

MOTION:

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

Interlocal Agreement Between Columbus County and the Town of Cerro Gordo.

This resolution/agreement, made and entered into this the 9th day of August, 2023, by and between the Town of Cerro Gordo, a municipal corporation organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of North Carolina, Party of the First Part and hereinafter referred to as the TOWN and Columbus County, a political subdivision of the State of North Carolina established and operating pursuant to the laws of the State of North Carolina, Party of the Second Part and hereinafter referred to as the COUNTY;

WITNESSETH: WHEREAS, the TOWN and the COUNTY, pursuant to the authority granted by the North Carolina General Statutes 160A-461, hereby covenant and agree as follows:

- 1. That the TOWN hereby contracts with the COUNTY to use the services of the Zoning Department of the COUNTY to administer the TOWN'S Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance within the corporate limits and extra-territorial jurisdiction of the TOWN.
- 2. That the COUNTY'S Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and any amendments thereto are hereby adopted by the TOWN, through execution of this Interlocal Agreement, as well as by Resolution of the Town Board, and the same shall apply within the corporate limits and extra-territorial jurisdiction of the TOWN.
- 3. That the services of the Columbus County Zoning Department shall be performed at no cost to the TOWN. However, should any claims arise out of the services provided by the COUNTY under this agreement, the TOWN agrees to indemnify and hold the COUNTY, its employees, agents and contractors harmless from any and all claims for liability, loss, injury, damages to persons or property, costs or attorney's fees resulting from any action brought against Columbus County, its employees, agents, contractors and Commissioners arising as a result of these services performed on behalf o the TOWN that are the subject matter of this Agreement.
- 4. That all fees and charges associated with administering the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance as adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, shall be collected by the COUNTY, shall be the sole property of the COUNTY, and no part thereof shall be payable to the TOWN.
- 5. That all development to take place within the TOWN's corporate limits or extra-territorial jurisdiction shall be subject to the rules and regulations set forth in the aforementioned Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. No building permits shall be issued for any property until the flood zone is determined and the necessary building standards are met. If the property is located within the one hundred (100) year floodplain and if the structure is to be constructed within the flood hazard area, preliminary and final elevation certificates will be required.
- 6. That the Columbus County Zoning Department will use every effort to enforce the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, except that if any civil or criminal action becomes necessary, the TOWN shall bring any legal action as may be required to effectively enforce said Ordinance, upon written notice from the Columbus County Zoning Department of such violations.

- 7. That this Agreement shall continue until such time as either the TOWN or COUNTY resolves to discontinue the Agreement and presents six (6) months written notice to the other party of said termination or upon mutual agreement of both parties.
- 8. This Agreement may only be modified in writing and executed by both parties.
- 9. That the effective date of this Interlocal Agreement shall be August 10, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Town of Cerro Gordo has caused this Agreement to be signed in its name by its Mayor, attested by its Clerk, and its Official Seal to be hereunto affixed, and Columbus County has caused this agreement to be signed in its name by the Chair of the Board of Commissioners and attested by the Clerk of its Board and its Official Seal to be hereunto affixed, the day and year first above written.

TOWN OF CERRO GORDO
By [Signature], Mayor
ATTEST [Signature], Clerk

COLUMBUS COUNTY
By _____, Chair, Board of Commissioners
ATTEST _____, Clerk

Interlocal Agreement Between _____ County and the Town of _____

This resolution/agreement, made and entered into this the 3 day of April, 2023 by and between the Town of Bowling, a municipal corporation organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of North Carolina, Party of the First Part and hereinafter referred to as the TOWN and Columbus County, a political subdivision of the State of North Carolina established and operating pursuant to the laws of the State of North Carolina, Party of the Second Part and hereinafter referred to as the COUNTY;

WITNESSETH: WHEREAS, the TOWN and the COUNTY, pursuant to the authority granted by the North Carolina General Statutes 160A-461, hereby covenant and agree as follows:

- 1. That the TOWN hereby contracts with the COUNTY to use the services of the Planning Department of the COUNTY to administer the TOWN'S Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance within the corporate limits and extra-territorial jurisdiction of the TOWN.
- 2. That the COUNTY'S Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and any amendments thereto are hereby adopted by the TOWN, through execution of this Interlocal Agreement, as well as by Resolution of the Town Board, and the same shall apply within the corporate limits and extra-territorial jurisdiction of the TOWN.
- 3. That the services of the Columbus County Planning Department shall be performed at no cost to the TOWN. However, should any claims arise out of the services provided by the COUNTY under this agreement, the TOWN agrees to indemnify and hold the COUNTY, its employees, agents and contractors harmless from any and all claims for liability, loss, injury, damages to persons or property, costs or attorney's fees resulting from any action brought against Columbus County, its employees, agents, contractors and Commissioners arising as a result of these services performed on behalf o the TOWN that are the subject matter of this Agreement.
- 4. That all fees and charges associated with administering the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance as adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, shall be collected by the COUNTY, shall be the sole property of the COUNTY, and no part thereof shall be payable to the TOWN.
- 5. That all development to take place within the TOWN's corporate limits or extra-territorial jurisdiction shall be subject to the rules and regulations set forth in the aforementioned Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. No building permits shall be issued for any property until the flood zone is determined and the necessary building standards are met. If the property is located within the one hundred (100) year floodplain and if the structure is to be constructed within the flood hazard area, preliminary and final elevation certificates will be required.
- 6. That the Columbus County Planning Department will use every effort to enforce the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, except that if any civil or criminal action becomes necessary, the TOWN shall bring any legal action as may be required to effectively enforce said Ordinance, upon written notice from the Columbus County Planning Department of such violations.

- 7. That this Agreement shall continue until such time as either the TOWN or COUNTY resolves to discontinue the Agreement and presents six (6) months written notice to the other party of said termination or upon mutual agreement of both parties.
- 8. This Agreement may only be modified in writing and executed by both parties.
- 9. That the effective date of this Interlocal Agreement shall be April 3, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Town of _____ has caused this Agreement to be signed in its name by its Mayor, attested by its Clerk, and its Official Seal to be hereunto affixed, and Columbus County has caused this agreement to be signed in its name by the Chair of the Board of Commissioners and attested by the Clerk of its Board and its Official Seal to be hereunto affixed, the day and year first above written.

TOWN OF Bowling
By [Signature], Mayor
ATTEST [Signature], Clerk

Columbus COUNTY
By _____, Chair, Board of Commissioners
ATTEST _____, Clerk

Interlocal Agreement Between Columbus County and
the Town of Lake Waccamaw.

This resolution/agreement, made and entered into this the 14th day of March, 2023, by and between the Town of Lake Waccamaw, a municipal corporation organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of North Carolina, Party of the First Part and hereinafter referred to as the TOWN and Columbus County, a political subdivision of the State of North Carolina established and operating pursuant to the laws of the State of North Carolina, Party of the Second Part and hereinafter referred to as the COUNTY;

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the TOWN and the COUNTY, pursuant to the authority granted by the North Carolina General Statutes 160A-461, hereby covenant and agree as follows:

- 1. That the TOWN hereby contracts with the COUNTY to use the services of the Planning Department of the COUNTY to administer the TOWN'S Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance within the corporate limits and extra-territorial jurisdiction of the TOWN.
- 2. That the COUNTY'S Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and any amendments thereto are hereby adopted by the TOWN, through execution of this Interlocal Agreement, as well as by Resolution of the Town Board, and the same shall apply within the corporate limits and extra-territorial jurisdiction of the TOWN.
- 3. That the services of the Columbus County Planning Department shall be performed at no cost to the TOWN. However, should any claims arise out of the services provided by the COUNTY under this agreement, the TOWN agrees to indemnify and hold the COUNTY, its employees, agents and contractors harmless from any and all claims for liability, loss, injury, damages to persons or property, costs or attorney's fees resulting from any action brought against Columbus County, its employees, agents, contractors and Commissioners arising as a result of these services performed on behalf o the TOWN that are the subject matter of this Agreement.
- 4. That all fees and charges associated with administering the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance as adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, shall be collected by the COUNTY, shall be the sole property of the COUNTY, and no part thereof shall be payable to the TOWN.
- 5. That all development to take place within the TOWN's corporate limits or extra-territorial jurisdiction shall be subject to the rules and regulations set forth in the aforementioned Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. No building permits shall be issued for any property until the flood zone is determined and the necessary building standards are met. If the property is located within the one hundred (100) year floodplain and if the structure is to be constructed within the flood hazard area, preliminary and final elevation certificates will be required.
- 6. That the Columbus County Planning Department will use every effort to enforce the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, except that if any civil or criminal action becomes necessary, the TOWN shall bring any legal action as may be

- required to effectively enforce said Ordinance, upon written notice from the Columbus County Planning Department of such violations.
- 7. That this Agreement shall continue until such time as either the TOWN or COUNTY resolves to discontinue the Agreement and presents six (6) months written notice to the other party of said termination or upon mutual agreement of both parties.
 - 8. This Agreement may only be modified in writing and executed by both parties.
 - 9. That the effective date of this Interlocal Agreement shall be March 14, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Town of Lake Waccamaw has caused this Agreement to be signed in its name by its Mayor, attested by its Clerk, and its Official Seal to be hereunto affixed, and Columbus County has caused this agreement to be signed in its name by the Chair of the Board of Commissioners and attested by the Clerk of its Board and its Official Seal to be hereunto affixed, the day and year first above written.

TOWN OF LAKE WACCAMAW

By Matthew Wilson, Mayor Matthew Wilson

ATTEST Meredith Parker, Clerk Meredith Parker



COLUMBUS COUNTY

By Ricky Bullard, Chair, Board of Commissioners _____

ATTEST Jana Nealey, Clerk _____

Interlocal Agreement Between Columbus County and the Town of Sandyfield

This resolution/agreement, made and entered into this the 20th day of July, 2020, by and between the Town of Sandyfield, a municipal corporation organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of North Carolina, Party of the First Part and hereinafter referred to as the TOWN and Columbus County, a political subdivision of the State of North Carolina established and operating pursuant to the laws of the State of North Carolina, Party of the Second Part and hereinafter referred to as the COUNTY;

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the TOWN and the COUNTY, pursuant to the authority granted by the North Carolina General Statutes 160A-461, hereby covenant and agree as follows:

- 1. That the TOWN hereby contracts with the COUNTY to use the services of the Planning Department of the COUNTY to administer the TOWN'S Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance within the corporate limits and extra-territorial jurisdiction of the TOWN.
- 2. That the COUNTY'S Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and any amendments thereto are hereby adopted by the TOWN, through execution of this Interlocal Agreement, as well as by Resolution of the Town Board, and the same shall apply within the corporate limits and extra-territorial jurisdiction of the TOWN.
- 3. That the services of the Columbus County Planning Department shall be performed at no cost to the TOWN. However, should any claims arise out of the services provided by the COUNTY under this agreement, the TOWN agrees to indemnify and hold the COUNTY, its employees, agents and contractors harmless from any and all claims for liability, loss, injury, damages to persons or property, costs or attorney's fees resulting from any action brought against Columbus County, its employees, agents, contractors and Commissioners arising as a result of these services performed on behalf o the TOWN that are the subject matter of this Agreement.
- 4. That all fees and charges associated with administering the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance as adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, shall be collected by the COUNTY, shall be the sole property of the COUNTY, and no part thereof shall be payable to the TOWN.
- 5. That all development to take place within the TOWN's corporate limits or extra-territorial jurisdiction shall be subject to the rules and regulations set forth in the aforementioned Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. No building permits shall be issued for any property until the flood zone is determined and the necessary building standards are met. If the property is located within the one hundred (100) year floodplain and if the structure is to be constructed within the flood hazard area, preliminary and final elevation certificates will be required.
- 6. That the Columbus County Planning Department will use every effort to enforce the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, except that if any civil or criminal action becomes necessary, the TOWN shall bring any legal action as may be

- required to effectively enforce said Ordinance, upon written notice from the Columbus County Planning Department of such violations.
- 7. That this Agreement shall continue until such time as either the TOWN or COUNTY resolves to discontinue the Agreement and presents six (6) months written notice to the other party of said termination or upon mutual agreement of both parties.
 - 8. This Agreement may only be modified in writing and executed by both parties.
 - 9. That the effective date of this Interlocal Agreement shall be July 20th, 2020.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Town of Sandyfield has caused this Agreement to be signed in its name by its Mayor, attested by its Clerk, and its Official Seal to be hereunto affixed, and Columbus County has caused this agreement to be signed in its name by the Chair of the Board of Commissioners and attested by the Clerk of its Board and its Official Seal to be hereunto affixed, the day and year first above written.

TOWN OF SANDYFIELD

By Garry A. Kento, Mayor

ATTEST Danida A. Bray, Clerk

COLUMBUS COUNTY

By _____, Chair, Board of Commissioners

ATTEST _____, Clerk

Agenda Item #11: PLANNING DEPARTMENT – APPROVAL of the FIRST READING and to ESTABLISH a PUBLIC HEARING regarding RE-ZONING the INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS PARK:

Planning Director Gary Lanier requested approval of the First Reading and to establish a Public Hearing on October 2nd, 2023 at 6:30 P.M., or as soon as can be heard, regarding re-zoning the International Logistics Park from General Use (GU) to Light Industrial (IND-1).

MOTION:

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

Agenda Item #12: PLANNING DEPARTMENT – APPROVAL of the FIRST READING and to ESTABLISH a PUBLIC HEARING regarding the PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENTS to the LAND USE ORDINANCE:

Planning Director Gary Lanier requested approval of the First Reading and to establish a Public Hearing on October 2nd, 2023 at 6:30 P.M., or as soon as can be heard, regarding the text amendment change to the definition of a Light Industrial Zoned Area in Chapter 10 section 4 and 4.1.

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Coleman made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.
Please see proposed amendment below. Items shown in underline text are new language to be considered. The proposed amendment is included in Section 4 of the County’s Zoning Ordinance (p. 47-48). The amendment includes a restriction on the manufacturing and storage of explosives and identifies a data storage facility as a permissible use in the district.

48 Chapter 10 – Land Use

Section 4. IND-I Industrial District.

The IND-I Industrial District is established as a district in which the principal use of land is for industries which can be operated in a relatively clean and quiet manner and which will not be obnoxious to adjacent residential, institutional, or business districts. The manufacturing, processing, fabrication, and/or bulk storage of acetylene gas (except for use on premises), ammunition, explosives, fireworks, gunpowder, jute, or matches shall be prohibited in the IND-1 zoning district.

4.1 Permitted Uses:

- Animal hospitals
- Assembly of farm products such as granaries and storage bins, but not fertilizer or tallow plants.
- Automobile service
- Building materials, storage and sale, but not including saw mills.
- Carpenter shops
- Construction contractor's office and/or storage yards
- Dairy products processing
- Data Storage Facilities are used primarily for the storage, generation, distribution, management, processing, and/or transmission of digital data. Such facilities typically contain computer, technological, or network equipment, systems, servers, appliances, and/or associated components related to the storage of digital data and its generation, distribution, management, processing, and/or transmission. Data storage facilities generally include office support facilities as well as a variety of utility support structures including but not limited to substations, generator systems, antennas, utility poles, and towers.
- Dry cleaning and laundry plants
- Electrical and industrial equipment repair and servicing
- Farm machinery assembly, repair and sales
- Food processing
-

Agenda Item #13: PLANNING DEPARTMENT – APPROVAL of the FIRST READING and to ESTABLISH a PUBLIC HEARING regarding the PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENTS to the LAND USE ORDINANCE LANDGUAGE:

Planning Director Gary Lanier requested approval of the First Reading and to establish a Public Hearing on October 2nd, 2023 at 6:30 P.M., or as soon as can be heard, regarding the text amendment change to the Land Use Ordinance removing all criminalization language.

MOTION:

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

Chapter 1 General Provisions (language to be removed in red)

Section 6. General Penalty; Continuing Violations; Ordinance Enforcement.
B. Violations of any provision of the chapters and sections of this Code shall be a **misdemeanor** and punishable as provided by G.S. 14-4 except as prohibited by G.S. 153A-123.

Chapter 5 – Buildings, Addressing and Abandoned Structures

Part 1 – Establishment of a Board of Inspections

County of Columbus is authorized to create an Inspections Department pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153A-350160D Article 11

Part 2 – Addressing

Section 2. Definitions

Subdivision: All divisions of a tract or a parcel of land into two (2) or more lots, building sites, or other divisions for the purpose of sale or building development (whether immediate or future) and includes all division of land involving the dedication of a new street or change in existing streets as outlined in G.S. 153A-335160D-802.

Part 4 – Abandoned Structures

Article 4. Regulated Activities and Procedure

Section 3. Notice, Hearing, Appeal, Lien on Property.

7. Advise that in addition to any and remedies above, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners may request criminal penalties in accordance with Subsection 6.1.C in the event a building is found to be unsafe as defined by G.S. 160D-1119.

Article 5. Administrative

Section 3. Penalty Provisions.

C. Criminal penalties: In addition to other remedies cited in this Ordinance, any person violating the provisions of this Ordinance as they relate to G.S. 160D-1119 regarding unsafe buildings shall be guilty of a Class,3 Misdemeanor and shall be subject to fines in accordance with GS 14-4. A fine of not more than one hundred and 00/100 (\$100.00) dollars for the first offense, two hundred and 00/100 (\$200.00) dollars for the second offense, and five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars for each subsequent offense, is hereby established. Each day in which the violation occurs, or continues, shall constitute a separate offense.

Chapter 10 Land Use

Part 2 – Land Regulations Ordinance

Article 3

Section 4 Penalties

Any person, firm or corporation who violates any provision of any article of this ordinance; or who shall violate or fail to comply with any order made hereunder; or who shall continue to work upon any structure after having received written notice from the Ordinance Administrator to cease work, shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor for ordinance provisions related to unsafe buildings be subject to fines as provided by N.C.G.S. § 14-4 as may be amended from time to time, and shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed fifty (\$50.00) dollars, or imprisonment not to exceed twenty days.

Article 5

The chair of the board, any member acting as chair of the board, and the clerk to the board are authorized to administer oaths to witnesses in any matter coming before the board. Any person, who while under oath during a proceeding before the Board of Adjustment, willfully swears falsely is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor shall be subject to civil penalties as defined by this ordinance.

Article 9

Section I.3: Criminal Violations

Any person violating the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a Class Three misdemeanor and is punishable by a fine up to five hundred and 00/100 (\$500.00) dollars per violation in accordance with NCGS 14-4. Each day that the violation continues to exist shall be considered a separate and distinct offense. For the purpose of this Ordinance, a violation begins from the date of first notification.

Part 3 – Subdivision Regulations Ordinance

Article 2

Section 4

After the effective date of this ordinance, any person who, being the owner or agent of the owner of any land located within the territorial jurisdiction of this ordinance, thereafter subdivides their land in violation of this ordinance or transfers or sells land by reference to exhibition of, or any other use of a plat showing a subdivision of the land before the plat has been properly approved under the terms of this ordinance and recorded in the Office of the Columbus County Register of Deeds (excepting the presale or pre-leasing of unrecorded lots referencing an approved Preliminary Plat and subject to the requirements of Article 3, Section 3) shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The description by metes and bounds in the instrument of transfer or other document used in the process of selling or transferring land shall not exempt the transaction from this penalty. The County through its attorney or other official designated by the Board of Commissioners may enjoin illegal subdivision, transfer, or sale of land by action for injunction. Further, violators of this ordinance shall be subject, upon conviction, to fine and/or imprisonment as provided by G.S. 14-4. The violation of any provision of this ordinance shall subject the offender to a civil penalty in the amount of \$500.00 to be recovered by Columbus County. Violators shall be issued a written citation, which must be paid within ten (10) days. Each day's continuing violation of this ordinance shall be a separate and distinct offense.

Notwithstanding Subsection 4.AB above, this ordinance may be enforced by appropriate equitable remedies issuing from a court of competent jurisdiction.

The County may cause building permits to be denied for lots that have been illegally subdivided.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the use of remedies available to Columbus County. Columbus County may seek to enforce this ordinance by using anyone, all, or a combination of remedies. In addition to other remedies, the County may institute any appropriate action or proceedings to prevent the unlawful subdivision of land, to restrain, correct, or abate the violation, or to prevent any illegal act or conduct.

Agenda Item #14: AIRPORT – APPROVAL of the AGREEMENT for AIRPORT SAFETY / MAINTENANCE PROJECTS:

Airport Director Phil Edwards requested approval of the agreement for the NCDOT Aviation’s Safety, Preservation, and Maintenance Program (SPAM) which is 100% state funded.

MOTION:

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

LETTER OF AGREEMENT FOR
AIRPORT SAFETY/MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

THIS AGREEMENT is made, this 18th day of September, 20 23 by the (Airport Owner) County of Columbus, NC as owner and operator (hereinafter referred to as "Sponsor") of the (Official Airport Name) Columbus County Municipal Airport (hereinafter referred to as "Airport,") and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (Division of Aviation), an agency of the State of North Carolina (hereinafter referred to as "Department"), for the purposes of future and as-yet unspecified safety or maintenance services to be performed by said Department in accordance with the terms, conditions and provisions hereof.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Sponsor is primarily responsible for maintaining the facilities of the Airport to protect and preserve the safety of flight operations at, from and to the Airport; and

WHEREAS, and the Department shares the interest of the Sponsor in the prompt and adequate maintenance and repair of the paved surfaces of the Airport which support aircraft movements on the Airport; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsor and the Department may, from time to time, mutually determine that certain paved surfaces and adjacent areas on the airport have aged and deteriorated and/or that other infrastructure is in need of maintenance or repair, and that the Sponsor could benefit from the assistance of the Department in accomplishing such maintenance and repair; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 7 of North Carolina General Statute 63, the Department is authorized to undertake safety improvements of aircraft movement areas, on publicly owned and operated airports in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsor and the Department agree that upon the request by the sponsor and the acceptance by the Department, certain needed improvements at the Airport may be undertaken by the Department in conformance with the provision of North Carolina General Statute 63; and

WHEREAS, the Department requires a Commitment and Release of Liability statement to be on file in its offices, in order to be able provide and oversee such maintenance and repair at the Airport;

NOW THEREFORE, the Sponsor does hereby commit to the following measures:

1. This Letter of Agreement supersedes all prior agreements between the Department and Sponsor with respect to the subject matter of this Letter of Agreement.

Page 1 of 5

11. The Sponsor agrees that the Department may, in its sole discretion, determine the design, scope of work, materials to be used, and methods of accomplishing the authorized work. The Department covenants that any and all such work as it performs or has performed at the Airport pursuant to this agreement will meet or exceed all relevant State of North Carolina and Federal Aviation Administration specifications for the type of pavement concerned and the type of maintenance or repair that is being performed.

12. To the maximum extent allowed by law, the Sponsor shall indemnify and hold harmless the Department and its officers and employees from all suits, actions, or claims of any character because of injury or damage received or sustained by any person, persons, or property resulting from work performed under this Commitment. This indemnity does not extend to causes of action arising from the negligence of the Department, its officers and employees or any of Department's contractors who performed the work.

13. Should Sponsor fail to comply with any material duty required of it under this Agreement the Department shall give written notice to the sponsor of the details of its non-compliance and provide a reasonable period in which the Sponsor can cure its non-compliance. Upon the expiration of said cure period without the Sponsor having come into compliance, the Sponsor agrees that, at its sole and unlimited discretion, the Department shall have the right to immediately stop all work being performed at the Airport and release the work area to the jurisdiction of the Sponsor.

14. The Sponsor understands that for the Department to perform maintenance or safety services, the Airport and Sponsor must be in good standing on all State and Federal Grant Requirements and Assurances before any project shall be performed under this Commitment.

15. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 13 above, this Commitment will expire on December 31, 2028. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 13 above, this Commitment may be terminated by either the Department or the Sponsor by providing written notification of termination. The effective date of termination pursuant to this paragraph shall be the date of receipt of the notice of written termination by the non-terminating party.

NC Division of Aviation

BY: _____

Becca Gallas, P.E.
Aviation Director

Resolution of the Sponsor
A motion was made by (Name and title) Brent Watts, Commissioner
and seconded by (Name and Title) Giles E. Byrd, Commissioner
for the adoption of the following resolution, upon being put to a vote it was duly adopted:

THAT WHEREAS (Airport Owner) Columbus County
(hereinafter referred to as "Sponsor") the North Carolina Department of Transportation (hereinafter referred to as "Department") requires a Commitment and Release of Liability statement to be on file, in order to provide and oversee maintenance and safety improvements on the operational surfaces of the (Official Airport Name) Columbus County Municipal Airport
in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 63.

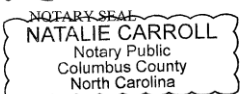
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT AND IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the
(Title of Airport Official) Columbus County Board of Commissioners, Chairman
of the Sponsor be and is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into a Commitment and Release of Liability with the Department, thereby binding the Sponsor to fulfillment of its obligation as incurred under this resolution and its commitment to the Department.

I, (Name and title of Public Notary) Natalie Carroll, Senior Administrative Support Specialist,
of the (Name of Sponsoring Agency) County of Columbus,
do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of
(Name of Authorizing Board of the Sponsoring Agency) Columbus County Board of Commissioners,
held on (Date of Meeting) September 18, 2023.

WITNESS my hand and the official seal of the Sponsor.

This day of (month, day, year) September 18, 2023

Signed: Natalie Carroll



2. Upon the Sponsor's approval, the Department, using NCDOT state forces and/or private contractor(s) under a Purchase Order Contract, may perform the requested maintenance and repair to the Airport. This work may include, but not be limited to; Joint and Crack Sealing, Pavement Repairs and Patching, Surface Treatments, Maintenance Overlays, Electrical, Grading, Drainage Improvements, Pavement Markings, or other infrastructure maintenance.

3. The Sponsor will receive notification from the Department of the Department's willingness to perform (or pay to have performed) any item or items of work approved by the Sponsor and a proposed schedule for performing the work and the force or contractor the Department proposes to perform the work.

4. If the schedule and the force or contractor proposed by the Department for performing the work is acceptable to the Sponsor, the Sponsor shall authorize the Department (or its contractors) to enter upon the property of the Airport during the scheduled time to perform the work.

5. If the schedule and the force or contractor proposed by the Department for performing the work is unacceptable to the Sponsor, the Sponsor shall inform the Department of the reasons for its objections and the Sponsor and the Department will engage in dialogue with the intent of determining if an alternative schedule or force or contractor is acceptable to both the Sponsor and the Department. If the Sponsor and the Department cannot reach agreement through the process described in paragraph 4 then the Department will withdraw its offer to perform the requested work.

6. The Sponsor hereby represents to the Department that the title to the pavement and adjacent areas of the Airport is vested in the Sponsor.

7. The Sponsor agrees to provide a duly authorized representative who will be present and/or available at all times the work is in progress (including nights and weekends, as applicable) to monitor project operations and assist the Department's representative.

8. The Sponsor agrees to provide a duly qualified operator who will monitor the airport's UNICOM radio transceiver at all times the work is in progress (including nights and weekends, as applicable) and will issue airport advisories as necessary on the UNICOM radio transceiver.

9. The Sponsor agrees, when needed, to formally close any runway, taxiway, or apron at all times when the work is in progress on that pavement area and to take appropriate steps to prohibit use of such areas by aircraft and/or ground vehicles while the work is being performed or the subject pavement areas are in an unsafe or uncured condition due to the conduct of the work.

10. The Sponsor agrees to issue and keep current the necessary Notices to Airmen (NOTAMS) through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) until all work is completed and the Department's representative notifies the Sponsor's representative that the affected areas may be returned to service.

Page 2 of 5

WITNESS WHEREOF, the Sponsor has executed this Commitment on the date first written on Page of this document.

OR THE LOCAL AIRPORT SPONSORING AGENCY

Signed: Ricky Bullard

Title: Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Official Sponsor: County of Columbus

Attest: Jac Nealey, Clerk to the Board

SEAL OF THE SPONSOR



A digital copy of this LETTER OF AGREEMENT in adopted form should be emailed to the Statewide Program Manager and your Airport Project Manager. General telephone number is: (919) 814-0550.

Statewide Program Manager – Raj Kondapalli, P.E. rkondapalli@ncdot.gov
Airport Project Manager (NW) – Caleb Whitby, P.E. cwhitby@ncdot.gov
Airport Project Manager (NE) – Robin Peele, P.E. rpeele@ncdot.gov
Airport Project Manager (SW) – Emily Ferreira, eferreira@ncdot.gov
Airport Project Manager (SE) – Tommy Mann, P.E. tmann@ncdot.gov

Agenda Item #15: TRANSPORTATION – APPROVAL of the 5311 CAPITAL and ADMINISTRATIVE GRANT APPLICATION for FY 24-25:

Transportation Director Joy Jacobs is requested approval of the Capital Grant Application for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

MOTION:

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

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.

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.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>	<u>Local Share</u>
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.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM RESOLUTION

FY 2025 RESOLUTION

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

Applicant seeking permission to apply for Public Transportation Program funding, enter into agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, provide the necessary assurances and the required local match.

A motion was made by (*Board Member’s Name*) _____ and seconded by (*Board Member’s Name or N/A, if not required*) _____ for the adoption of the following resolution, and upon being put to a vote was duly adopted.

WHEREAS, Article 2B of Chapter 136 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the Governor of North Carolina have designated the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) as the agency responsible for administering federal and state public transportation funds; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation will apply for a grant from the US Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration and receives funds from the North Carolina General Assembly to provide assistance for rural public transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of these transportation funds is to provide grant monies to local agencies for the provision of rural, small urban, and urban public transportation services consistent with the policy requirements of each funding source for planning, community and agency involvement, service design, service alternatives, training and conference participation, reporting and other requirements (drug and alcohol testing policy and program, disadvantaged business enterprise program, and fully allocated costs analysis); and

WHEREAS, the funds applied for may be Administrative, Operating, Planning, or Capital funds and will have different percentages of federal, state, and local funds.

WHEREAS, non-Community Transportation applicants may apply for funding for “purchase-of-service” projects under the Capital Purchase of Service budget, Section 5310 program.

WHEREAS, (*Legal Name of Applicant*) Columbus County hereby assures and certifies that it will provide the required local matching funds; that its staff has the technical capacity to implement and manage the project(s), prepare required reports, obtain required training, attend meetings and conferences; and agrees to comply with the federal and state statutes, regulations, executive orders, Section 5333 (b) Warranty, and all administrative requirements related to the applications made to and grants received from the Federal Transit Administration, as well as the provisions of Section 1001 of Title 18, U. S. C.

WHEREAS, the applicant has or will provide all annual certifications and assurances to the State of North Carolina required for the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the (Authorized Official’s Title)* Chairman of (Name of Applicant’s Governing Body) Columbus County Commissioners is hereby authorized to submit grant application (s) for federal and state funding in response to NCDOT’s calls for projects, make the

necessary assurances and certifications and be empowered to enter into an agreement with the NCDOT to provide rural, small urban, and urban public transportation services.

I (Certifying Official's Name)* Ricky Bullard (Certifying Official's Title) Chairman do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of an excerpt from the minutes of a meeting of the (Name of Applicant's Governing Board) Columbus County Commissioners duly held on the 18 day of September, 2023.

Signature of Certifying Official

***Note that the authorized official, certifying official, and notary public should be three separate individuals.**

Seal Subscribed and sworn to me
(date) _____

Notary Public *

Printed Name and Address

My commission expires
(date) _____



i) PUBLIC HEARING RECORD

Important – A public hearing MUST be conducted whether or not requested by the Public.

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

APPLICANT: Columbus County

DATE: September 18, 2023

PLACE: 127 W Webster St, 3rd Floor, Commissioners Chambers

TIME: _____

How many BOARD MEMBERS attended the public hearing? _____

How many members of the PUBLIC attended the public hearing? _____

Public Attendance Surveys

- ☐ (Attached)
- ☐ (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

During the Public Hearing

- ☐ (NO public comments)
- ☐ (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

Jana Nealey, Clerk

Printed Name and Title

Date



FY 2025 LOCAL SHARE CERTIFICATION FOR FUNDING

Columbus County

(Legal Name of Applicant)

Requested Funding Amounts

Project	Total Amount	Local Share**
5311 Administrative	\$ <u>264,533</u>	\$ <u>39,681</u> (15%)
5311 Operating (No State Match)	\$ _____	\$ _____ (50%)
5310 Operating (No State Match)	\$ _____	\$ _____ (50%)
Combined Capital	\$ <u>191,090</u>	\$ <u>19,109</u> (10%)
Mobility Management	\$ _____	\$ _____ (50%)
5310 Capital Purchase of Service	\$ _____	\$ _____ (10%)
ConCPT	\$ _____	\$ _____ (50%)
Capital Cost of Contracting	\$ _____	\$ _____ (%)
Traveler's Aid	\$ _____	\$ _____ (50%)
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____ (%)
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____ (%)
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____ (%)

Funding programs covered are 5311, 5310, 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities, 5307 (Small fixed route, regional, and consolidated urban-rural systems)

TOTAL	\$ <u>455,623</u>	\$ <u>58,790</u>
	Total Funding Requests	Total Local Share

****NOTE: Applicants should be prepared for the entire Local Share amount in the event State funding is not available.**

The Local Share is available from the following sources:

ARTICLE II	<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>APPLY TO GRANT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
	<u>Reserves</u>	<u>Admin</u>	\$ <u>39,681</u>
	<u>Reserves</u>	<u>Capital</u>	\$ <u>19,109</u>
	_____	_____	\$ _____
	_____	_____	\$ _____
	_____	_____	\$ _____
	_____	_____	\$ _____

_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
<hr/> <hr/>		
TOTAL		\$ <u>58,790</u>

** Fare box revenue is not an applicable source for local share funding

I, the undersigned representing (*Legal Name of Applicant*) **Columbus County** do hereby certify to the North Carolina Department of Transportation, that the required local funds for the FY2025 Community Transportation Program and 5307 Governors Apportionment will be available as of **July 1, 2024**, which has a period of performance of July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

Signature of Authorized Official

Ricky Bullard, Chairman, Columbus County Commissioners

Type Name and Title of Authorized Official

Date

Agenda Item #16: TRANSPORTATION – APPROVAL of the APPLICATION for RURAL OPERATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ROAP) FUNDS:

Transportation Director Joy Jacobs requested approval of the application for the Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) funds.

MOTION:

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

CERTIFIED STATEMENT

FY2024

RURAL OPERATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

County of Columbus

WHEREAS, the state-funded, formula-based Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) administered by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Integrated Mobility Division provides funding for the operating cost of passenger trips for counties within the state;

WHEREAS, the county uses the most recent transportation plans (i.e., CCP, CTIP, LCP) available and other public involvement strategies to learn about the transportation needs of agencies and individuals in the county before determining the sub-allocation of these ROAP funds;

WHEREAS, the county government or regional public transportation authorities created pursuant to Article 25 or Article 26 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes (upon written agreement with the municipalities or counties served) are the only eligible recipients of Rural Operating Assistance Program funds which are allocated to the counties based on a formula as described in the Program Guidelines included in the ROAP State Management Plan. NCDOT will disburse the ROAP funds only to counties and eligible transportation authorities and not to any sub-recipients selected by the county;

WHEREAS, the county finance officer will be considered the county official accountable for the administration of the Rural Operating Assistance Program in the county, unless otherwise designated by the Board of County Commissioners;

WHEREAS, the passenger trips provided with ROAP funds must be accessible to individuals with disabilities and be provided without discrimination on the basis of national origin, creed, age, race, or gender (FTA C 4702.1B, FTA C 4704.1A, Americans with Disabilities Act 1990); and

WHEREAS, the period of performance for these funds will be July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 regardless of the date on which ROAP funds are disbursed to the county.

NOW, THEREFORE, by signing below, the duly authorized representatives of the County of Columbus North Carolina certify that the following statements are true and accurate:

- The county employed a documented methodology for sub-allocating ROAP funds that involved the participation of eligible agencies and citizens. Outreach efforts to include the participation of the elderly and individuals with disabilities, persons with limited English proficiency, minorities and low-income persons in the county’s sub-allocation decision have been documented.
- The county will advise any sub-recipients about the source of the ROAP funds, specific program requirements and restrictions, eligible program expenses and reporting requirements. The county will be responsible for invoicing any sub-recipients for unexpended ROAP funds as needed.
- The county will monitor ROAP funded services routinely to verify that ROAP funds are being spent on allowable activities and that the eligibility of service recipients is being properly documented. The county will maintain records of trips for at least five years that prove that an eligible citizen was provided an eligible transportation service on the billed date, by whatever conveyance at the specified cost.
- The county will be responsible for monitoring the safety, quality, and cost of ROAP funded services and assures that any procurements by subrecipients for contracted services will follow state and federal guidelines.
- The county will conduct regular evaluations of ROAP funded passenger trips provided throughout the period of performance.
- The county will only use the ROAP funds to provide trips when other funding sources are not available for the same purpose or the other funding sources for the same purpose have been completely exhausted.
- The county will notify the Regional Grant Specialist assigned to the county if any ROAP funded services are discontinued before the end of the period of performance due to the lack of funding. No additional ROAP funds will be available.
- The county will provide an accounting of trips and expenditures in monthly reports to NCDOT – Integrated Mobility Division or its designee. Back-up documentation is required to support the monthly reports, failure to provide documentation will affect future disbursements. The June report will be considered the annual report.
- Any interest earned on the ROAP funds will be expended for eligible program uses as specified in the ROAP application. The County will include ROAP funds received and expended in its annual independent audit on the schedule of federal and state financial assistance. Funds passed through to other agencies will be identified as such.
- The county is applying for the following amount of FY2024 Rural Operating Assistance Program funds:

State-Funded Rural Operating Assistance Program Allocated Requested

Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program

(EDTAP) 93,371 93,371

Employment Transportation Assistance Program (EMPL) 19,269 19,269

Rural General Public Program (RGP) 110,832 110,832

TOTAL 223,472 223,472

WITNESS my hand and county seal, this day of , 20 .

ARTICLE IIIApplication for Transportation Operating Assistance

ARTICLE IVFY2024 Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) Funds

Name of Applicant (County)	Columbus County
County Manager	Edwin H Madden, Jr
County Manager’s Email Address	emadden@columbusco.org
County Finance Officer	Lacie Jacobs
CFO’s Email Address	lacie.jacobs@columbusco.org
CFO’s Phone Number	910-642-6825
Person Completing this Application	Joy Jacobs
Person’s Job Title	Director, Columbus County Transportation
Person’s Email Address	joy.jacobs@columbusco.org
Person’s Phone Number	910-641-3929
Community Transportation System	Columbus County Transportation
Name of Transit Contact Person	Joy Jacobs
Transit Contact Person’s Email Address	joy.jacobs@columbusco.org

Application Completed by: _____ Date: _____

Signature

I certify that the content of this application is complete and accurately describes the county’s administration of the ROAP Program, and the use of the ROAP funds in accordance with applicable state guidelines. I certify and understand that if the monthly and annual milestone reports and any other status reports required by the Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) are not submitted on or before the due dates, the next scheduled disbursement will be held until all reports are submitted.

I further certify that ROAP funds will only be used for program purposes to provide trips and will not be used for Administrative or Operational expenses. If it is determined that ROAP funds have been misused, repayment of funds must be made.

Transit Director: _____ Date: _____

Signature

County Manager: _____ Date: _____

Signature

County Finance Officer: _____ Date: _____

Signature

ARTICLE VApplication Instructions

County officials should read the ROAP Program Administration Guide which contains guidance on the administration of the ROAP Program and information about the preparation of grant applications.

- The application must be completed by an official of the county or his/her designee.

- Click on the **gray rectangle** and type each answer. If necessary, the text will automatically wrap to the next row. The answer may wrap to the next page if necessary.
- If the county wishes to explain their response to any questions or provide more information, the county may include additional pages with this application form. All the pages of the application and any pages added by the applicant should be scanned into the same file.
- If there are questions regarding this application, contact the NCDOT-IMD Regional Grant Specialist assigned to the area served by the transit system.

ARTICLE VIFY2024 ROAP Program Schedule

Application Deadline	October 11, 2023
<u>Anticipated Funds Disbursement</u>	Week of November 13, 2023

***Counties with unspent FY23 funds will retain the funds and the disbursement will be adjusted accordingly.**

***Monthly reports are due via SmartSheet 45 days following reporting period (i.e., July reporting period, report due September 15th)**

County’s Management of ROAP Funds

ARTICLE VIICounty governments or regional public transportation authorities created pursuant to Article 25 or Article 26 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes (upon written agreement with municipalities or counties served) are the only eligible applicants for ROAP funds. As a recipient of ROAP funds, the county must implement administrative processes that will ensure the following:

- ROAP funds are expended on needs identified through a public involvement and/or planning process.
- **ROAP funds are expended only on eligible activities as described in Appendix A of the ROAP Guidance.**
- **Supporting documentation of expenditures by all sub-recipients is required.**
- Service recipients meet eligibility requirements, and their eligibility is documented.
- Trips funded with ROAP funding are monitored and evaluated throughout the period of performance.
- An accounting of trips and expenditures is provided on a monthly basis to IMD with supporting documents.
- ROAP funds received and expended are included in the local annual audit.

ROAP funds shall be disbursed in the traditional program allocations in each of the ROAP programs in one disbursement however, if it is determined that a single disbursement is not possible, IMD reserves the right to change the method of distributing the funds. Counties have the flexibility to determine how the funding will be used to meet the needs of the citizens and how to sub-allocate the funding to meet the transportation needs, but the guidelines for each program used must be followed and trips accounted for by program used.

ARTICLE VIIITransportation Needs and Public Involvement in Funding Decisions	ARTICLE	ARTICLE X No
A. Did the county ask the Community Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), which is affiliated with the Community Transportation System, to recommend how the ROAP funds should be sub-allocated? If no, how were recommendations made and by whom? (<i>Type here</i>) How many individuals assisted in the determination? (<i>List number here</i>)	ARTIC	ARTICLE XII
B. Were outreach efforts conducted to inform agencies about the availability of ROAP funds and to discuss transportation needs BEFORE the county decided how to sub-allocate the ROAP funds?	ARTIC	ARTICLE XIV
C. Is the method used to sub-allocate the ROAP funds fair and equitable? Open and transparent?	ARTIC	ARTICLE XVI
ARTICLE XVIIFinancial Management of ROAP Funds	ARTICLE	ARTICLE XIXNo
D. Does the county pass through any ROAP funds to agencies or organizations that are not county governmental departments or agencies?	ARTIC	ARTICLE XXIX
E. If yes, does the county have a written agreement with these agencies that addresses the proper use, return and accountability of these funds? (<i>Include a sample agreement with application</i>)	ARTIC	ARTICLE XXIII
F. Do any of the organizations or departments receiving ROAP funds plan to use private transit contractors to provide the ROAP funded trips? (<i>Their procurement practices will need to meet all federal and state requirements for procurement of professional services.</i>)		X
G. Are ROAP funds deposited in an interest-bearing account?	X	
H. Does the county provide local funds for transportation operating assistance to any of the ROAP sub-recipients in addition to the state ROAP funds?		X

ARTICLE XXIVMonitoring and Oversight Responsibilities	ARTICLE XXV	ARTICLE XXVINo
I. Subrecipients of ROAP funds are required to provide sufficiently detailed progress reports and statistical data about trips provided and rider eligibility with ROAP funds. How frequently are these provided to the county? In what format? The County must be prepared to provide documentation that an eligible citizen was provided an eligible service or trip on the billed date, by whatever conveyance, at a specific cost. What form of documentation is collected? Driver manifests are used to record the daily trips. The software system we use generates an operating statistics report that we use to fill out reports for IMD each month.		
ARTICLE XXVIII. Does the county require the subrecipients of ROAP funds to use the coordinated transportation services of the federally funded Community Transportation System operating in the county?	ARTICLE XXIX	
K. Will any of the subrecipients use their ROAP sub-allocation as matching funds for any of the following programs? (<i>Matching funds for operating assistance or purchase of service only.</i>) <i>No</i> 5310 – Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Program 5311 - Non-urbanized Area Formula Program 5316 – Job Access and Reverse Commute Program (JARC) 5317 – New Freedom Program		
L. Will any of the subrecipients charge a fare for a ROAP funded trip? If yes, which programs. Yes. We charge fares for the general public trips.		
M. Describe the eligibility criteria to be used in this county to determine who will be provided ROAP-funded trips. What documents are used to determine eligibility? We have them to fill out an application to help determine what their needs are and what they qualify for.		

Agenda Item #17: EMERGENCY SERVICES – ANNUAL APPROVAL of the REVISED EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN:

Emergency Services Director David Ransom requested the annual approval of the 2023 reviewed and revised Emergency Operations Plan.

MOTION:

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

Revisions of the Columbus County
Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

The formatting and the look of the 2023 EOP has been updated from the look of the 2013 EOP version. When this project was contracted in 2021, the draft version referenced local plans that had not been developed yet. I highlighted those throughout the plan that are now “under development” but will also list those along with page numbers below.

1. The “Signatories To the Plan” was revised to only include signatures of the Board of Commission Chair, County Manager, and Emergency Services Director. This plan is representative of many stakeholders. They all were distributed (distribution list included in new plan p.7) and given an opportunity to submit suggestions for revisions but we didn’t think, since this is a county-approved plan, that signatures, from all parties involved, were needed therefore, the “Letter of Agreement” page was removed. Also, the old plan required all “county departments) to sign off on the plan. The BOCC and County Manager represents the county organization as a whole.
2. Plan Review page #6, of the old EOP, was removed. This verbiage is mentioned in a different format throughout the new document.
3. New EOP added a Mission and Vision Statement for Emergency Services on p. 9.
4. p. 20 makes reference to “Standard Operating Guidelines” for emergency operations. This did not exist in the prior EOP, but is under development.
5. p. 46 “Continuity of Government” plan under development. We will begin with Emergency Services, but this is a continuity of operations plan that each department within the county organization should have in the event the departments cannot operate in their normal facilities. Emergency Services, Emergency Management Division, can help facilitate discussions and guidance to the departments for this plan.

6. p. 49 makes reference to “Columbus County Emergency Operations Center Policies and Procedures”. This policy is under development. It did not exist in the old plan.

7. Just for reference, pages 50-51 references local, state and federal laws that support this plan. Under local ordinances/supporting plans, the items listed are plans, bylaws, ordinances, etc. that do exist for the support of this plan currently. The Ingestion Pathway Zone (IPZ) Plan is a new plan and also on the agenda.

8. p. 54 Memorandum of Understanding has been created between Columbus County and Columbus County Board of Education to use their buses in the event citizens need to be evacuated. This was referenced in the EOP, but there was not a MOU in place to support this statement. Columbus County BOE is reviewing it now.

9. p. 97 Verbiage was changed to reflect that Columbus County “does not” have permanent generators at the (5) schools that are designated for emergency shelters.

The verbiage, in regards to out-of-county evacuation has been revised. The old EOP made reference to host counties of Harnett and Johnston counties as being locations inland that evacuees could be transported to. This was part of the Coastal Region Evacuation Study (CRES) plan that, in whole, is not part of the state’s evacuation plan any longer. I spoke with NCEM Director W 30 at the NCEM Forum, in regards to this section of our EOP. He advised me to include the reference to NCEM Emergency Operations Plan and their Mass Casualty Plan to help support this portion of the Columbus County EOP.

10 p.103 Under Mission #4 Assignment 4-2 a reference is made to “Donations Management Annex.” This annex is also under development. We have had conversations with the President of the Columbus County Disaster Response as well as NC Volunteer representative in regards to them handling donations/volunteer management in Columbus County. Once the annex is complete, we will enter into a memorandum of understanding with this group to help with donations/volunteer management during disaster.

11. p. 115 Notes County Resource Guide is under development.

12. p. 202 List of Supporting plans were updated to include all current existing plans, ordinances, bylaws, etc.

In summary, this process began in 2021 with a contractor. Emergency Services went through some transitions before the project was fully completed on their end. The updated plan submitted, by the contractor, included references of plans that didn’t exist. After many months of combing through this plan, additional plans, contracts, etc were identified and are under development. We intentionally left these references highlighted in the plan to bring them to your attention easily. Once these plans have been completed, they, too, will be submitted to the BOCC for review/approval.

Agenda Item #18: APPROVAL of the INGESTION PATHWAY ZONE (IPZ) PLAN for RADIOLOGICAL RESPONSE:

Emergency Services Director David Ransom requested approval of the Ingestion Pathway Zone (IPZ) Plan which is a basic radiological response plan required by the nuclear regulatory agency.

****A COPY OF THE INGESTION PATHWAY ZONE (IPZ) PLAN IS HOUSED IN THE CLERK’S OFFICE****

MOTION:

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

Agenda Item #19: DSS – MONTHLY UPDATE AUGUST 2020:

Social Services Director Algernon McKenzie presented the monthly Social Services update and commented on the following:

*One of the issues I would like to spread awareness about is that some SNAP Benefits Cards have been hacked and benefits stolen off of them. If you or anyone you know have had their benefits stolen, they can call and let us know so we can report it. We have heard that they will be able to restore a portion of the benefits back but they will need to go online and refuse to allow the cards to be used out of state.

**Monthly Administrative Update
For August 2023
September 18, 2023 Meeting**

On August 2-4, 2023, I attended the Social Services Institute in Hickory, NC along with five staff members. The theme was “Stronger Together”. There were many workshops related to the various programs administered by local DSS agencies. We were given updates on Medicaid Expansion as well as some upcoming policy changes. Secretary, Kody Kensly thanked and recognized county DSS staff for the hard work that has been done during the pandemic. His remarks were very encouraging. We also had an opportunity to network with other agency staff around the state and share experiences.

During the institute the Directors Association held its Directors Executive Board meeting. During the director’s session we discussed Medicaid Expansion readiness efforts at the local level. We also discussed Senate Bill 20, which will require local DSS agencies to provide monthly payments to unlicensed kinship placements for children in Foster Care. This will allow these unlicensed placements to receive one half of the current board rate paid to licensed placements based on the age of the child. This is a non-funded mandate which means the county will pay for a portion of the payment (one fourth) and the state will pay a portion of (one fourth) according to a Dear County Director Letter received on August 24, 2023. These payments are scheduled to start on November 16, 2023.

On August 9, 2023 the Income Maintenance Administrator and I participated on a 100 county call with DHHS officials. The purpose of this call was to provide counties with information on Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Card Skimming/Cloning. NCDHHS has become aware of around 650 EBT cards that have been compromised, which means that benefits have been stolen by making unauthorized purchases online. Most of the fraudulent activity has occurred on Walmart and Amazon websites. USDA will allow North Carolina to replace certain benefits stolen October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2024. On August 24, 2023, we received a Dear County Directors Letter with information and instructions on the procedure to follow when we are notified of stolen benefits by FNS recipients. The state will be conducting webinars to provide training and answer questions staff may have.

On August 23-25, 2023, the Child Support Supervisor and five Child Support Agents attended the annual Child Support Conference in Cary, NC. To their surprise during one of the sessions, the Columbus County Child Support Unit received an award. This award was the Gold Medal Award for “Most Improved Overall in Self-Assessment Measures” for the Fiscal year 2023, out of 100 counties. This is a great accomplishment for the unit and a testament of their hard work in spite of being short-staffed for almost a year. Hats off to the Child Support Staff!

On August 28, 2023 and most of the day, August 29, 2023 our computer system was completely down due a storm the night before. Our main server had to be repaired and we were informed by the technician that there are some upgrades that will need to be done in the near future to keep the system operable. This is important as most of our work requires computer access.

Lastly, I attended seven zoom and in person meetings in August.

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD REPORT

Dwella M. Hall, Program Manager

Vacancies/Updates/News for August, 2023

Intake/Investigation/Assessment:

The Intake/Investigation/Assessment Unit continues to be fully staffed. This Unit continues to receive referrals involving substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental health issues, among other things. The after-hours positons continue to be fully staffed as well; they are assisting the FC unit with incoming cases due to the high volume of children entering custody. Our Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) conducted a virtual consultation to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

In-Home Services:

The In-Home Services Unit continues to be fully staffed. The total caseloads with contacts of children served continue to increase indicating more intensive involvement with SW's and their current caseloads. In home services continues to assist the FC unit until they are fully staffed. Our Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) conducted a virtual consultation to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

Foster Care/Permanency Planning:

The Foster Care Unit have 2-vacancy. 1 applicant has applied; an interview is being scheduled. There are currently 111 children in care. The CPS and In-home Services unit continue to assist Foster Care with case management duties, until staff can be hired and properly trained. Our Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) conducted a virtual consultation to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

Transitional Unit:

The Transitional unit is fully staff; one employee continues to be out on Maternity leave. This unit continues to work caseloads while assisting the other Child Welfare Units as needed, particularly in the areas of courtesy requests from other counties, assisting with supervising visits and transporting children in custody. This Unit continues to assist particularly in the area of making monthly contacts with the children in foster care. Foster Home Licensing continues to work on completing more licensures to help increase the number of foster home in the county. A new MAPP training course has begun. We currently have 3 families participating in the training. Our Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) conducted a virtual consultation to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

Adult Services:

The Adult Services Unit has 1 vacancy. The position has been reposted. The supervisor is out on medical leave. This unit continues to serve ages 18 and above, with protective services, persons under guardianship, and special assistance in-home case management. The guardianship cases continue to demand extensive time due to severe and persistent mental illness and the lack of resources for this population.

Work First Employment:

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

Child Day Care:

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

Program Integrity:

Repayment agreements were implemented. Recoupments are occurring for overpayments. Staff are working to clean up a backlog, establishing cases and repayment agreements, all while assisting with the Energy Programs.

Energy Assistance:

CIP continues with the cooling season which means helping with clients with their electric service provider. Applications for CIP continue to be available on EPASS where applicants can complete and submit applications on-line, but continue to be available in our lobby for pick up and completion. One in-house staff person is currently processing applications. Program Integrity staff are assisting as needed due to influx of applications.

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

LIHWAP was sent to end as of May 31, 2023. This program is a federally funded program that will provide emergency assistance to low-income households to prevent disconnection or provide assistance with the reconnection of drinking and wastewater services.

Economic Services Narrative

Darlene Jenkins-Parks, Income Maintenance Administrator

Vacancies/Updates/News for August 2023

F&C Medicaid Intake/Processing Unit: The Family and Children Medicaid Unit is currently fully staffed. This unit has been discussing the new Medicaid expansion program. Workers have a lot of questions about Medicaid expansion and the upcoming changes. The unit supervisor is encouraging all staff to make certain that clients have been evaluated for ALL Medicaid products.

F&C Medicaid Review Unit: The Family & Children Medicaid unit has (1) vacancy and are in the process of scheduling interviews for this position. Congratulations to F&C Medicaid caseworker, Teresa Faircloth on her retirement as her official retirement date is 09/20/2023. This team has completed more than 1000 reviews each. During our unit meeting we discussed the changes and continue to address them as we encounter new situations.

Updated Policy Changes and Updates:

DHB Adm. Letter 14-23 (Breast and Cervical Cancer)

DHB Adm. Letter 13-23 (Child Support and other Post Eligibility Benefits)

DHB Adm. Letter 06-23 Amended (CCU Period)

Adult Medicaid Intake/Processing Unit: The Adult Medicaid Intake & Processing Unit is fully staffed. We have (3) caseworkers in the middle of their training. The Supervisor along with the lead worker is continuing to train the new staff and on a weekly basis, we do second party reviews for all of the veteran staff members.

Policy Updates & Changes

- August 15, 2023 – Change # 11-23 - Security of Internal Revenue (IRS) SSA
- August 16, 2023 – Change # 12-23- Procedure for Requesting Corrections
- August 18, 2023 – Child Support Cooperation and Applying for Other Monetary Benefits Post Eligibility CCU Period
- August 23, 2023 – 2023 Internal Inspection, Safeguard Awareness

Adult Medicaid Review Unit: The Adult Medicaid Review Unit currently has no vacancy and (1) employee that is in the beginning stages of her training as of August 21, 2023. Although she is new to this unit, she is not new to our agency. This IMC II caseworker comes from the Family and Children Reviews Unit. All workers in this unit were able to complete the Mandatory Annual Security Training, the SSA Security “Individual Training” and the FRR-Beer Training on August 28, 2023. This supervisor was able to attend this year’s Social Services Institute in Hickory NC. While at the SSI she was able to attend several valuable workshops that was a great learning experience for her in the new role as a Medicaid Supervisor. She also was able to bring back new information and ideas that will be valuable to the workers in this unit.

LTC/CAP/SA Unit: The Long Term Care (LTC), Community Alternative Program (CAP) and Special Assistance (SA) unit is fully staffed. On 8/31/2023 – In person meeting with the State Special Assistance representative was held with all LTC/SA staff & Program Administrator in attendance.

Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation (NEMT) Unit: The MA Transportation unit has no vacancies. This unit continues with daily calls, new and updated assessments, scheduling for pickups from vendors, as well as billing for van and mileage.

Housekeeping: The Housekeeping unit welcomed new hire on August 21, 2023. This unit currently has no vacancies. These (2) housekeepers keep up with daily routines throughout their day with keeping the agency sanitized, clean and neat.

FNS Intake/Processing: FNS intake unit has (2) vacancies. As of July 21, 2023 we have been able to fill (1) of the three positions that were opened. We currently have 2 others in training. This unit has a clerical in training, she currently assigns applications to the workers, is learning how to deny / withdrawn applications, also learning how to do other clerical duties such as mail, filing etc. They have a steady flow of intake, mail in/ drop offs, and e-pass applications coming in.

Food Nutrition Services Review: The FNS Review team is fully staffed. However, we have (1) worker out on FMLA since 7/20/23 for approximately 6-8 weeks and another anticipated to go out on FMLA 9/14/23 to 9/28/23. We have 4 reports of EBT card skimming thus far in Columbus County and will act accordingly upon release of DCDL and begin replacing as per guidelines on 8/28/23. Evaluations are up to date and conferences are being completed monthly to make staff aware of any changes, job performance, and remind them I am open to any suggestions.

Child Support The Child Support supervisor, (1) lead agent, and (3) agents were able to attend the 38th annual NC Child Support Conference held in Cary, NC. The conference which consisted of various trainings, tips and guides to improve

work efficiencies as well as new policies and procedures being implemented. During the conference the Columbus County Child Support Department was presented the **Gold Medal award “Most Improved Overall in Self-Assessment Measures” for the state fiscal year 2023** out of 100 counties. This was an outstanding achievement!

The Child Support department has (2) Agent positions and (1) Supervisor position vacant. They prepared 213 cases for court action this month. They completed 189 Orders for the month of August 2023.

August 2023
Human Services

Adult Services (APS)
APS Reports Accepted: 8
County Wards: 27
Number of Payee Cases: 4
Adults Served APS: 0
Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: 1,180
Amount Requested for Reimbursement: \$35,429.21

Children’s Protective Services (CPS)
Reports Accepted: 24
Reports Screened out: 31
Families Receiving In-Home Services: 30
Children Served: 62
Contacts with Families Monthly: 310
Assessments: 14

Foster Care
Foster Children in Foster Homes: 103
Children Placed Outside County: 24
Agency Adoptions: 0
Pending Adoptions: 8
Total Foster Homes Licensed: 8
Total Children in Foster Care: 111

Work First Employment (TANF)
Applications Taken: 18
Applications Approved: 3
Individuals Receiving Benefits: 145
Entered Employments: 0
Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 0

August 2023
Human Services (continued)

Program Integrity
Collections for Fraud: \$5,115.84
New Referrals: 3
Cases Established: 1

Day Care
Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 476
Children on the Waiting List: 0
Amount Spent on Day Care Services: \$246,108.00

August 2023
Economic Services

Food & Nutrition
Applications Taken: 147
Applications Approved: 156

Active Cases: 6,474
Benefits Issued: \$2,007,835.00
Participants Served: 12,608

Adult Medicaid

Applications Taken: 86
Cases Terminated: 40
Redeterminations: 199
Applications Processed: 74

Family & Children’s Medicaid

Applications Taken: 109
Applications Processed: 261
Redeterminations: 1,446
Total Medicaid Cases: 15,044
Total Individuals Receiving: 22,854

Child Support

Absent Parents Located: 45
Orders Enforced: 785
Active Cases: 3,913
Collections: \$392,985.00

Respectfully submitted,
Algernon McKenzie

Agenda Item #20: ADMINISTRATION – REQUEST to ESTABLISH PUBLIC HEARING for the 2023 CDBG NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION:

Gail Edwards requested to establish a public hearing on October 2nd and October 16th at 6:30 P.M., or as soon as can be heard, for the 2023 CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Grant Application.

MOTION:

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
COUNTY OF COLUMBUS
APPLICATION FOR
2023 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING

Notice is hereby given that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on September 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. or as soon as can be heard at the Columbus County Commissioners Chambers within the County Administration Building to solicit public input on local community development and needs in relation to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for a project in the community.

The County of Columbus anticipates submitting a CDBG application in 223. Information on the amount of funding available, the requirements on benefit to low-and-moderate income persons, eligible activities, and plans to minimize displacement and provide displacement assistance as necessary will be available. Citizens will also be given the opportunity to provide oral and written comment on the County's use of CDBG funds. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

Persons with disabilities or who otherwise need assistance should contact the Jana Nealey, Clerk to the Board, at 910-640-6640 or TDD# 1-800-735-2962. Accommodations will be made for all who request assistance. Request should be made at least 2 days prior to the public hearing.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Natalie Carroll, at 910-640-6630 or at 127 W Webster St., Whiteville, NC 28472 for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o cualquier otro lenguaje a petición. Póngase en contacto con Natalie Carroll, en 910-640-6630 o en 127 W Webster St, Whiteville, NC 28472 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

Ricky Bullard
Chairman
County of Columbus
EEO Employer



Agenda Item #21: ATTORNEY’S OFFICE – CONSIDERATION of BOUNCY HOUSES and other INFLATABLES in COUNTY PARKS:

Attorney Amanda Prince requested the boards consideration of bouncy houses and inflatables in County Parks.

MOTION:

Commissioner Floyd. made a motion NOT to allow bouncy houses and inflatables in county parks, seconded by Vice Chairman Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #22: 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 V:	Brent Watts
Zone II:	Chris Smith	Zone VI:	Ricky Bullard
Zone III:	Giles E. Byrd	Zone VII:	Scott Floyd
Zone IV:	Lavern Coleman		

COMMITTEE	ZONE/EB	PERSON(S)	EXP. DATE	BOARD ACTION
Community Advisory Committee Nursing Home	EB	Ruth Robeson	06/30/2025	Appointed MOTION: 1-Byrd 2-Watts
Community Advisory Committee Nursing Home	EB	Ethel Godwin	06/30/2025	Appointed MOTION: 1-Byrd 2-Watts
Department of Aging Advisory Council	EB	Barbara Featherson	06/30/2026	Chris Smith reappointed Barbara Featherson

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

MOTION:

At 7:20 P.M. a Motion was made by Vice Chairman 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 #23: APPROVAL of WATER and SEWER COMBINATION MINUTES:

- **March 21, 2023 (5 sets)**

MOTION:

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

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

MOTION:

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

Agenda Item #24: COMMENTS:

A. Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Watts commented:

- I'd like to thank the rescue units and the children involved in the Basic Life Support Competition, I think it is great these children are learning these things and they are our future.
- Also, there is quite a lot going on in the next couple of weeks and months like the Brunswick Stew Festival, the fair, parades and festivals and I want to encourage citizens to go out and support these events.

Commissioner Byrd commented:

- There is another address I need to add that is having the same water and drainage issues as Mrs. Millie Freeman that is in the Buckhead area. Please add it to the letter to the DOT.
- Some people have contacted me about maybe considering lowering the speed limit on Sam Potts Hwy due to the amount of traffic because of the new Dollar General.

Vice Chairman Coleman commented:

- Thank you to the staff for all you do
- I have had many complaints about the mosquitos since the storm

Facility Services Director Stuart Carrol commented on how in previous years the Health Department handled the mosquito spraying and that they would spray upon complaint or request to Environmental Health. Facility Services is now handling the spraying and he has three men that are certified and are spraying as overtime for the moment. He and his staff are working on learning the details of how to go about it. on Mr. Carol also commented on maybe taking a more proactive approach and spraying areas on a rotation during the required months instead of only spraying when requested.

Commissioner Byrd and Commissioner Watts responded by saying that they would help and spray in their areas if Mr. Carol would let them know if they could do it under their license to handle industrial chemicals.

County Manager Mr. Madden responded by saying that typically spraying is conducted by request during a two-month period of the year because it is too expensive to contract those services out. This will likely result in a stipend that we will give them employees that go out and spray in addition to their normal job duties. This program has been managed by the Health Department and Environmental Health for many years and has been highly successful. This year because of the increase in the number of Building Permits, Septic Applications and Restaurant Inspections, the Health Department asked others within the department that could help. This resulted in the services being run through Facility Services instead of Environmental Health. We have been in the spraying business for many years it is just being run through a different department.

Chairman Bullard commented that a proactive approach would be helpful and the citizens can purchase biofin which works well and tabs for free from Environmental Health for standing water.

- I would like to state that the county does not own an airplane for spraying. I was told that the citizens think we do. But we absolutely do not.

Commissioner Featherson commented:

- I would like to congratulate the young people from the EMS staff in Tabor City and Whiteville for their victory this past weekend. Also, I am impressed with the fact that almost half of the EMS staff are females so kudos to them.
- Also, congratulations to Mr. McKenzie's Child Support Staff for their achievement and was able to bring home the gold even being short staffed

Commissioner Floyd commented:

- I would like to thank the county employees for all of their hard work it does not go unnoticed. We can see how hard you work throughout the week.

Commissioner Smith commented:

- I think I am correct in saying that we are putting up sheetrock in the new Historic Courthouse. I am proud of all of the work that has been done to lead up to this point. We are getting close to it being complete.

Chairman Bullard commented:

- I just like to say I appreciate the things everyone is doing to make Columbus County better. Thank you very much to the EMS staff and Mr. McKenzie’s group we are very proud.

B. County Manager

County Manager Eddie Madden commented:

- Share with you this past Friday, we accepted the resignation of Miss Julie Strickland, our Parks and Recreation Director, her resignation as effective December 29. I will be posting the position very soon in order to have someone on board with us before the end of the calendar year certainly will be recognizing Mrs. Strickland for her many, years 30+ years of service to Columbus County and I know you’ll look forward to recognizing her for her endeavors.
- I also, have a couple things I know Commissioner Watts alluded to your calendars that Mrs. Nealey has provided to you so I will point out the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the boys and girls home this Wednesday at 9 o’clock, I think dedication for the optimist house if I’m correct. There is a Duke Energy storm resiliency training this Wednesday also at 10:00 o’clock that same morning it’ll be located in the emergency operation center next door. The county fair right around the corner October 10 through the 15th, we are tentatively scheduling a ribbon-cutting ceremony for November 6 for the Madison Street building and we will be inviting representative Jones, members from Golden Leaf, and the North Carolina Department of Commerce. The Veterans Day parade is on November 11. The Intergovernmental Meeting November 27 and that will also be located in the EEOC next door and we are the host of that dinner and we look forward to you attending. The Employee Luncheon Dinner is December 7 from 11 A.M. to until.
- We scheduled the Gragg Tract approval for this evening but we postponed the action item until we can work out some negotiations on the on the infrastructure piece of the project and will keep the board posted as to our progress.
- We are anxiously awaiting a state budget meeting. We have all indications are the debt budget may be approved as early as this week and Mr. Elgin and McKenzie probably is also closely monitoring the issue of Medicaid expansion, because I understand it might be back on the table again, so I will keep you posted there as well.

Commissioner Byrd commented: If there anyway that we can put something in place with Building Permits that will not allow businesses to come in and only have self-checkout? We work hard to get more jobs in this area and this Dollar General comes in and hurts the mom and pop stores and only hires 1 person and the rest is self-checkout. This is taking away jobs. There has to be a way to make the permits higher for companies that plan to do that.

Agenda Item #29: ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION:

At 7:46 P.M., Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Floyd The motion unanimously passed.