

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Wednesday, July 31, 2024
4:00 P.M. – Emergency Called Meeting

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 an Emergency Called Meeting.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**
 Misty Jorgensen, **Attorney**
 Gail Edwards, **Assistant County Manager**
 Jana Nealey, **Clerk to the Board**

APPOINTEE'S ABSENT:

Amanda B. Prince, **Attorney**

Agenda Item #1: EMERGENCY MEETING CALLED to ORDER:

At 4:00 P.M. Chairman Ricky Bullard called the Emergency Called Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #2: ADMINISTRATION – APPOINTMENT of INTERIM FINANCE DIRECTOR:

County Manager Eddie Madden stated the following:

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Mr. chairman, members of the board, and the staff that's here this afternoon, we did request you all meet this afternoon. The term "emergency" is only used because, in order to assemble the board in a short period of time, it has to be deemed as an Emergency meeting. As you all know, we did receive the resignation of Mrs. Lacie Jacobs yesterday. The local government commission and our audit firm has suggested to us that we need to name an Interim Finance director today and based on that I am recommending this evening that Miss Heather Woody be selected as Interim Finance Director. Mrs. Woody currently works in the Columbus County Finance Office as Deputy Finance Director, she has a vast knowledge of local government Finance and is well respected with the Departments of the county and will provide the necessary leadership to the finance department until a permanent director is selected. Mrs. Woody, along with Regina Valente, and Melanie Hester, two ladies who have extensive experience in local government finance and management, will assist Mrs. Heather during this transition period. The other staff members from the finance department, who are on the second and third rows, are also here and we are very confident in their leadership and abilities during this period of time. They will ensure that the office operates efficiently and effectively during the transition. In addition, I have tasked Assistant County Manager Nick West to help with the responsibility of providing continuity and support to the finance department. Mr. West will assist in the transition to the new finance software that's expected to arrive later this fall, as well as, coordinating the FY 24 audit. Mr. Chairman, members of the board, we have an extremely talented and dedicated staff that are committed to providing the highest level of financial management to the county and I'm happy to bring this recommendation to you for your consideration this afternoon.

MOTION:

Commissioner Floyd made a motion to appoint Heather Woody as Interim Finance Director; seconded by Commissioner Smith The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #3: ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION:

At 4:04 P.M., Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Featherson The motion unanimously passed.

JANA NEALEY, Clerk to the Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman