

MINUTES – APRIL 21, 2008

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2008. Members present: George W. Ward, Jr., Chairman, Jeremiah Jefferies, Vice-Chairman, William E. Carter, Nathaniel Hall, Larry G. Hamlett, Kenneth D. Travis, and C. Hester Vernon, III. Also present: Kevin B. Howard, County Manager and Angela Evans representing The Caswell Messenger. Wanda P. Smith, Clerk to the Board, recorded the minutes.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

Chairman Ward opened the meeting with a Moment of Silent Prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Ward questioned whether there were any line item transfers included in the Financial Report listed on the Consent Agenda and the County Manager answered that there were no line item transfers in the report.

Commissioner Vernon moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The following items were included on the Consent Agenda:

1) Approval of Minutes of March 3, 2008 Meeting

2) Tax Director's Monthly Report for March, 2008

Total Amount of Taxes Collected for March, 2008	\$397,111.15
Tax Maps/Cards	\$ 55.00
County Maps	\$ 15.80
Beer License	\$ 5.00
Wine License	\$ 25.00
NSF Charge	\$ 150.00
EMS	\$ 4,610.50
2008 Prepayments	\$ 8,820.27

3) Financial Report – July 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Ward opened the floor for public comments.

There were no public comments made.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED VARIANCE TO THE CASWELL COUNTY WATER PROTECTION ORDINANCE

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis that the Board enter into a public hearing to receive comments on a proposed variance to the Caswell County Watershed Protection Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Brian Collie, County Planner, came before the Board and reported that Mr. Ed Pruitt has requested a variance to the Caswell County Watershed Protection Ordinance minimum lot size requirement for his property (Tax Map and Parcel Number 0028.00.00.0193.0000), located off of Apple Road in the Stoney Creek Township. Mr. Collie stated that the current lot size is 5.74 acres and Mr. Pruitt would like to subdivide this lot into two parcels, which would make each lot an approximate size of 2.87 acres. Mr. Collie noted that this land is in the critical area of the Country Line Creek Watershed and in this area the Ordinance states that all lots shall be at least three acres.

Mr. Collie reported that Mr. Pruitt has informed him that he has recently been in ill health and needed the money from the sale of the two lots to pay on medical bills. Mr. Collie stated that the Planning Board reviewed this issue and voted unanimously to recommend the approval of this variance request to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Jefferies stated that the Board adopted the Caswell County Watershed Ordinance with the requirement that lots in the critical area of the watershed must be at least three acres and felt that if they grant a variance to one person, then they will have to do the same for others.

There being no further comments, Chairman Ward declared the public hearing closed.

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter that the Board grant a variance of the Caswell County Watershed Ordinance as it pertains to minimum lot size requirement to Mr. Ed Pruitt and allow him to subdivide a 5.74 acres lot into two lots of 2.87 acres each. The motion carried by a vote of six to one with Commissioner Jefferies voting no.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CASWELL COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICY

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented for the Board's review and consideration proposed amendments to the Caswell County Personnel Policy.

Commissioner Hamlett stated that he has a number of questions concerning the proposed amendments and would like for the Personnel Committee to review them more in depth and bring its recommendations back before the Board.

Chairman Ward questioned why the proposed amendments were submitted to the Board by the Finance Officer and questioned whether the Human Resources Officer was still reporting to the County Manager. Mr. Howard answered that during the upcoming budget process, he would probably move the Human Resources position under the Finance Department since she has a number of finance duties.

Commissioner Hamlett noted that in the past, issues such as this were referred to the Personnel Committee first for their review and recommendation.

After discussion, Commissioner Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to refer the proposed amendments to the Caswell County Personnel Policy to the Personnel Committee for further review. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT TO JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Vernon to appoint Ms. Tonya T. Pegg to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT TO KERR-TAR WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to appoint Mr. Charles E. Dix to the Kerr-Tar Work Force Development Board. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY

Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to appoint Mr. George L. Woods to the Planning Committee for Services to the Elderly. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT TO RECREATION COMMISSION

Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to appoint Ms. Gladys L. Garland to the Recreation Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF 2008-2009 BUDGET PROCESS

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, reported that he plans to present the Proposed Budget for 2008-2009 to the Board at its first meeting in May. Mr. Howard questioned whether the Board wished to hold a planning workshop prior to presentation of the budget. Chairman Ward stated that he felt that the Board needed to hold a workshop to discuss major issues and increases that would be included in the upcoming 2008-2009

budget. Chairman Ward added that it would be helpful for the Board to have a breakdown of each employee's salary for the fiscal year 2006-2007 as compared to 2007-2008 to evaluate cost-of-living adjustments over the years and for the coming year.

Commissioner Hall stated that he felt it would be good to have a general overview of anticipated revenues and major changes.

After discussion, Commissioner Vernon moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to schedule a special meeting on Monday, April 28, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. to hold a workshop to discuss the 2008-2009 budget process and major issues that would be discussed during budget work sessions, as well as other issues of concern. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Kevin B. Howard, County Manager, presented for the Board's consideration the following Change Order Request on the Senior Center from Dewberry and Davis:

1) Provide 5/8 inch roof sheathing in lieu of ½ inch	\$ 1,400
2) Provide Fiberglass shingles in lieu of metal roofing	<u>(\$72,000)</u>
Total	(\$70,600)

Mr. Howard reported that after talking with the contractor and looking at the way the building is designed, it was felt that it would be best to go back to a shingle roof rather than a metal roof, and in talking with members of the Senior Center Board, this would give them additional funds for purchases in other areas of the building. Mr. Howard noted that the warranties are the same for both types of roofing.

Commissioner Hall stated that he did not see why the Board would want to change from a metal to shingle roof, because some metal roofs will last 100 years. Commissioner Hall added that there are funds now for the metal roof and in the future, the funds may not be as readily available.

Commissioner Vernon questioned the County Manager as to how far along the contractor was and whether they could still put on a metal roof. Commissioner Vernon noted that the contractor is now installing the sheathing and asked if they are preparing for a metal or shingle roof. Mr. Howard answered that the sheathing has already been changed to 5/8 inch because they decided it would be stronger. Commissioner Vernon stated that he agrees with Commissioner Hall in that they now have the money for the metal roof and if it is spent on other things in the Center, later if the roof needs to be replaced, the funds may not be available. Commissioner Vernon added that he is a firm believer in metal roofs because the original metal roof on his house lasted for 75 years.

After further discussion, no action was taken on the change order .

Mr. Howard reported that concerning Mr. Ed Carter's waterline request, he is still looking for an Operator for the system. Mr. Howard stated that he has been talking with Yanceyville and he has a list of private contractors in this area and he will be talking to them as well.

Mr. Howard reported that RFP's for the Pelham Industrial Park Water Project have gone out and he will be reviewing them the first of May and provide copies to the Board at its first meeting in May. Mr. Howard requested that a Committee of three Commissioners be appointed to assist him in review of the RFP's. Chairman Ward appointed the Building and Grounds Committee to assist in review of the RFP's.

Mr. Howard reported that he received a telephone call today concerning political campaign signs being placed on the Courthouse lawn located on 139 East Church Street. Mr. Howard informed the Board that the County's Maintenance Supervisor removed the political signs this morning because he said he was told in the past by the Board that they were not to be placed on County property.

Commissioner Vernon stated that with the one-stop voting at the Courthouse, this is a voting place and the candidates should not be denied the opportunity to place their signs there as they are allowed at all other voting locations. Commissioner Vernon added that he felt that signs should be restricted between the employee parking lot and the public parking lot and be located no closer than 50 feet to the entrance as required. Commissioner Vernon stated that he felt that the signs should be removed by the candidates when the polls close.

Commissioner Hall stated that he had hoped that the signs would not be removed by staff until the issue had been discussed with the County Manager. Commissioner Hall added that when the Board agreed to have the Board of Elections Office at the Courthouse and to provide one-stop voting there, then the Board agreed to treat this location just like any other polling place in the County and the Board cannot place these restrictions on the signs.

Chairman Ward agreed with Commissioners Hall and Vernon in that the signs should be put back up.

Mr. Howard stated that he would have the Maintenance Supervisor replace the signs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Carter reported on a meeting he attended of the Hyconeechee Regional Library Board and announced that the Bill Gates Foundation has donated 30 computers to the region, of which three will be placed at the Gunn Memorial Library. Commissioner Carter noted that the library will now have a total of ten computers.

Commissioner Hall reported that a citizen mentioned to him that the brush on the back ramp at Farmer Lake needs to be cut.

Commissioner Travis questioned the County Manager as to whether he has instructed staff to save as much fuel as possible and restrict driving to a minimum. Mr. Howard answered that he has discussed fuel consumption at a couple of staff meetings and he would continue to review the fuel situation and make adjustments if necessary.

Commissioner Vernon reported that he attended the Triad Transportation meeting last week and they reviewed all of the upcoming projects and also had a presentation whereby they are encouraging the Department of Transportation to use some land use plans in locating roads. Commissioner Vernon stated that the main discussion and comments came from Representative Nelson Cole, House Transportation Committee. Commissioner Vernon added that some issues are coming up that are being discussed by some legislative panels that counties really need to stay abreast of because there was a Bill passed in the last session in which the State is trying to pass road maintenance on to counties if they so desired. Commissioner Vernon stated that there will be some Bills in the upcoming legislative session and they may also be researching other ways in which citizens could pay the fuel tax.

Chairman Ward instructed the Clerk to the Board to contact each Commissioner to determine who will be attending the *Water Vision* seminar on May 22, 2008, and submit the necessary registration.

Chairman Ward stated that he has received some calls from citizens requesting that gravel be placed at the solid waste convenience sites and he would like this done as quickly as possible.

Commissioner Hamlett stated that there have been articles in the paper and discussion in the County recently about the Town of Yanceyville wanting to dissolve the Yanceyville Police Department and that the Caswell County Sheriff's Office provide protection for the Town of Yanceyville. Commissioner Hamlett added that he would like for the Board of Commissioners to receive some information on this.

Chairman Ward stated that there has been a request that the Commissioners' agenda package be bound as it once was rather than being placed in the binder. Commissioner Hamlett stated that he preferred the package being bound because he could take it home and study it further rather than leaving it. Upon a poll of the Board, the majority wished to have their agenda packages placed in the binder as it is currently being done. Commissioner Hall suggested that to save paper, the agenda summary could be eliminated. The Board was agreeable to this.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies that the Board enter into closed session to consider the competence, terms of appointment, and performance of an individual public officer (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)). The motion carried unanimously.

RECESS

The Board held a brief recess.

REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Vernon to resume regular session. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. April Baynes came before the Board and stated that she lives on Hughes Mill Road in Caswell County. Ms. Baynes informed the Board that she has become a member of the Caswell County Community Watch and noted that there has recently been a rash of crimes in the southern part of the County. Ms. Baynes stated that there have been drug problems, but now people's homes are being broken into, and there are gang problems. Ms. Baynes added that they are trying to work with law enforcement and have these people arrested, but there seems to be a breakdown in court with the criminals getting probation or walking free instead of serving time. Ms. Baynes noted that in talking with law enforcement as to what they can do, they were told by them to get a permit to purchase a gun. Ms. Baynes stated that there are a lot of people in the County that are elderly, widowed, and live at home alone that need protection. Ms. Baynes added that people do not feel safe in their homes and do not feel that they are getting the protection they need. Ms. Baynes stated that she and her neighbors are going to continue coming to these meetings and push to have something done in their neighborhood because the situation is getting bad. Chairman Ward requested that Ms. Baynes give her contact information to the County Manager so that he can schedule a meeting with her, and possibly the Sheriff. Chairman Ward suggested that Ms. Baynes also talk with the District Attorney. Chairman Ward stated that the Board would like to help in getting this problem corrected.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies that the Board enter into closed session to consider the competence, terms of appointment, and performance of an individual public officer (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)). The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Vernon moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to resume regular session. The motion carried unanimously.

THE ADJOURNMENT

At 8:15 p.m. Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board

George W. Ward, Jr.
Chairman
