

MINUTES – MAY 7, 2007

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 7, 2007. 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, Robert V. Shaver, Jr., County Attorney, and Shannon White 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.

WELCOME TO COUNTY MANAGER HOWARD

Chairman Ward welcomed newly appointed County Manager Kevin Brian Howard to Caswell County.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Hall noted that the Hyconeechee Regional Library System Contract Renewal needed to be corrected on the last page to reflect that the contract is for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the noted correction. The motion carried unanimously.

The following items were included on the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes of April 12, 2007 Meeting
- 2) Hyconeechee Regional Library System Contract Renewal
- 3) Resolution in Support of Clean Water Act

Resolution of Support for the Clean Water Act of 2007

WHEREAS, North Carolina's continued prosperity depends on protecting the State's water resources for current use and future generations; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina is expected to grow by 3.5 million people to exceed 12 million by the year 2030, placing pressures on the State's water resources and local water providers; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina's businesses, traditional and emerging industries all depend on reliable supplies of clean water, reasonable utility costs, well maintained water infrastructure and an attractive natural environment; and,

WHEREAS, the 1998 Clean Water Bonds delivered significant benefits to North Carolina communities and citizens, supporting 1,103 projects in 97 counties, which

- Helped create or retain 42,000 jobs
 - Corrected major regulatory violations in 97 communities
 - Addressed failing septic systems and contaminated wells in 59 counties
 - Resulted in 50 communities receiving sewer service for the first time
 - Encouraged regional efficiencies, sound planning and conservation practices;
- and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina's public water, sewer and storm water utilities will require investments totaling \$16.63 billion to keep pace with necessary improvements and population growth over the next 25 years, including \$6.85 billion in investments within the next five years;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Caswell County Board of Commissioners urges the North Carolina General Assembly to enact the "Clean Water Act of 2007", which provides for a \$500 million bond issue to be expended over the next five years, and an annual appropriation of \$50 million in recurring funding to address urgent needs.

Adopted this 7th day of May, 2007.

Attest:

S/Wanda P. Smith
Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board

S/George W. Ward, Jr.
George W. Ward, Jr.
Chairman, Caswell County Board
Of Commissioners

4) May, 2007 – Older Americans Month Proclamation

Older Americans Month

May 2007

A Proclamation

WHEREAS, Caswell County is home to more than 4,600 citizens 60 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, the older citizens of Caswell County represent a dramatic trend in our nation's demographic make up; and

WHEREAS, older persons are diverse, respected citizens who continue to contribute to our nation's social and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of baby boomers are rapidly becoming older citizens, and the number of individuals providing care to family members and friends is expanding significantly; and

WHEREAS, the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead require us to think differently about health and long term care, and work together to rebalance and modernize our current systems so that we may adequately plan for and address the needs of current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, older persons are entitled to live lives of dignity and independence through:

Streamlines access to information and community services;

Information about cost-effective prevention practices and activities that will improve health and quality of life; and

Innovative, affordable options of care and support that will provide an array of choices about how and where to live.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of Caswell County do hereby proclaim **May 2007** to be Older Americans Month and urge all citizens to honor older adults, and those who care for them, during May and throughout the year. We urge all to promote and participate in activities that contribute to helping older Americans make choices for a healthy and rewarding future.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2007

Caswell County Board of Commissioners

By: S/George W. Ward, Jr.

5) <u>Tax Director's Monthly Report for March, 2007</u>	
Total Amount of Taxes Collected for March, 2007	\$451,201.52
Tax Maps/Cards	\$ 152.75
County Maps	\$ 51.35
Beer License	\$ 50.00
NSF Charge	\$ 464.85
2007 Prepayments	\$ 4,501.69

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Ward opened the floor for public comments.

Mr. Melvin Butler, Planning Board Chairman, stated that he did not feel that justice is being done to the citizens of the County by not having a Planner, especially since a tremendous amount of work is going on with the Planning Board. Mr. Butler urged the Board once again to consider appointing Ms. Sylvia Johnson as County Planner.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

Chairman Ward recessed the Board of Commissioners and reconvened the Board of Equalization and Review.

Mr. Thomas Bernard, Tax Director, came before the Board and reported that Mr. Robert Ezzell, Project Manager for Pearson Appraisal Company, revisited the property of Ms. Mozelle Watkins, located in the Hightowers Township. Mr. Bernard noted that Mr. Larry Watkins, son of Ms. Watkins appeared before the Board of Equalization and Review to ask that it reconsider the value of the 5.53 acres owned by his mother. Mr. Bernard informed the Board that in review, Mr. Ezzell felt that the value of this property was comparable to adjoining properties. Mr. Bernard added that Mr. Ezzell had stated that if some of the property would not perk and he had a letter from Environmental Health stating this, then he would deem that an adjustment would be necessary, but if not, he recommended that the property value remain at \$19,178. Upon questioning from Commissioner Hall as to whether he had contacted Environmental Health to determine whether the land would perk, Mr. Bernard answered that he had not, but would contact them to obtain the information. Chairman Ward directed Mr. Bernard to obtain the information from Environmental Health as to whether this property would perk and report back to the Board at its next meeting.

Mr. Bernard reported that Mr. Ezzell, representing Pearson Appraisal, revisited Caswell Pines Golf Course and recommended that the value on this property be reduced from \$2,086,358 to \$1,377,176. Mr. Bernard stated that this reduction was recommended due to the condition of the two structures and golf greens. Mr. Bernard noted that the golf greens were valued at \$60,000 per green in 2004 and recommended that it be reduced to \$26,400 per green. Mr. Bernard recommended that the Board reduce the value of Caswell Pines Golf Course to \$1,377,176. After discussion, Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to accept the recommendation of the Tax

Director and reduce the value of Caswell Pines Golf Course to \$1,377,176 for the year 2007. The motion carried by a vote of four to three with Commissioners Hall, Travis, and Ward voting no.

Mr. Bernard reported that Mr. Ezzell, representing Pearson Appraisal, revisited the property of Mr. Lacy Hodgin, located in Semora. Mr. Bernard noted that a structure on Mr. Hodgin's property was destroyed by wind and there was damage to another structure and Mr. Ezzell recommended Mr. Hodgin's property be reduced in value from \$90,506 to \$84,994. Mr. Bernard recommended that Mr. Hodgin's property be reduced in value from \$90,506 to \$84,994 for the year 2007. Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to accept the recommendation of the Tax Director and reduce the value of Mr. Lacy Hodgin's property from \$90,506 to \$84,994. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bernard requested that the Board reconsider its motion concerning Caswell Pines Golf Course to make the reduction in valuation effective for the year 2006 also. Chairman Ward stated that the approved motion was for the year 2007 only.

Mr. Bernard reported that Mr. Ezzell, representing Pearson Appraisal, revisited the property of Mr. Troy Martin, located in the Pelham Township. Mr. Bernard stated that there was an error in 2004 in that the house was recorded as being built in 1975, but was actually built in 1950 and Mr. Ezzell recommended reducing the value of the house by \$18,190. Mr. Bernard added that a swimming pool was on the property which was of little or no value and Mr. Ezzell recommended reducing the value of the pool by \$4,100. Mr. Bernard recommended that the value of Mr. Martin's property be reduced in the amount of \$22,290. The Board took no action on Mr. Bernard's recommendation, thereby leaving the value as is.

Mr. Arnold Rogers came before the Board and stated that he recently bought two parcels of property that was bought within the last two years and feels that they are grossly overvalued. Mr. Rogers added that he is looking for relief from what he paid for the properties and their value as assessed by the Tax Office. Mr. Rogers stated that he bought a house and lot from Ms. Maxine Poteat on June 20, 2005, for \$24,855. Mr. Rogers added that the value placed on this property by the Tax Office is \$69,280. Mr. Rogers noted that this property was for sale for two years before it sold. Mr. Rogers requested that the Board reduce the value of this property from \$69,280 to \$24,855 for the tax year 2006 and 2007. Mr. Rogers informed the Board that he bought another parcel of property on December 11, 2006 for the amount of \$23,600. Mr. Rogers noted that the Tax Office has valued the property at \$36,495 and he would like to request that the Board reduce the value to what he paid for it. Mr. Bernard stated that he would like to arrange a time for a walk-through of these properties in order to review them further.

Chairman Ward recessed the Board of Equalization and Review until May 21, 2007, and reconvened the Board of Commissioners.

TAX FORECLOSURES REQUEST

Mr. Thomas Bernard, Tax Director, came before the Board to request authorization to submit delinquent tax files to the contracted Attorney to begin tax foreclosure proceedings. Mr. Bernard provided the Board with a list of 387 delinquent properties at a value of \$191,990 and stated that unsuccessful attempts have been made at garnishments and bank attachments.

Mr. Bernard explained to the Board that if he cannot identify social security numbers he cannot successfully complete garnishments or bank attachments.

Mr. Bernard explained that in his tax collection process after the taxes become delinquent, he first sends out a delinquent notice, then a certified letter is sent, followed by attempts at bank attachments and garnishments.

Chairman Ward questioned whether any of these delinquent accounts had been turned over to collection by debt set-off and Mr. Bernard answered that they had not and doing so would not net the County anything until next year and he is doing everything he can to get the tax collection rate up.

Commissioner Hall stated that he felt that these accounts need to go through the Debt Set-off Program, possibly looking at the In Rem collection method. Commissioner Hall added that what really concerns him is the small amount of some of these delinquent taxes, and in looking through the list, he saw the name of a deceased well-known citizen of the County and he felt if someone had contacted the estate, the taxes would have been paid.

After further discussion, Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Vernon to authorize the Tax Director to submit delinquent tax files to the contracted Attorney to proceed with the tax foreclosure process.

Commissioner Hall stated that he felt it is ridiculous to have some of these tax files turned over to an Attorney with no more work than has been done by the Tax Office.

Commissioner Vernon stated that these taxes were due at the end of the year and he has had people tell him that if the County is going to ignore collection of these delinquent taxes by whatever amount, they would like their taxes reduced the same. Commissioner Vernon added that the citizens of this County have the responsibility to pay their taxes just like the ones who are paying and noted that they are demanding services from this County and the only way the County can get the money to provide services such as Sheriff's Office and EMS, is for them to pay their taxes, and if they do not pay them, the County should take measures to collect.

Commissioner Hall clarified that he was not suggesting that the taxes should not be collected, but is saying that the process that the County is using to collect them is not the appropriate process.

Chairman Ward stated that he would like to see the Debt Set-off Program used and one more letter sent out.

Commissioner Vernon stated that the delinquent taxpayers got the same notice that their taxes were due as everyone else, plus two more cards. Commissioner Vernon added that the County has a contract with an Attorney and it can recoup its expenses, the County has done what is required by law, and the County needs to move forward and get these taxes paid.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion failed by a vote of five to two with Commissioners Ward, Jefferies, Carter, Hall, and Travis voting no.

Chairman Ward stated that he would like to see the Debt Set-off Program used, and would also like to see another letter sent out to the delinquent taxpayer. Mr. Bernard stated that he would send another letter out specifying a specific time for them to respond.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE BUDGET PRESENTATION

Sheriff Michael L. Welch came before the Board to present the Budget Proposal for the Caswell County Sheriff's Office for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. Sheriff Welch stated that the following were priorities within the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center: 1) Salary Adjustments; 2) Additional Deputies; 3) Replacement Patrol Vehicles; 4) Mobile Data Computers; and 5) Jail Feasibility Study. Sheriff Welch presented and discussed each priority providing the Board with the following information:

Salary Adjustments

Total: \$60,320.00

Reasons:

- Officer Retention and Recruitment
- Equipment and Training Costs
- Ability to Accomplish our Mission

Fleet Management – Replacement Patrol Vehicles

- 2007 Ford Crown Victoria Patrol Vehicles
- Complete Package @ \$28,472.00
- Four Year Lease Plan for 12 Units
- \$341,664.00 Total Costs
- \$93,331.97 Annual Payments x 4 yrs.

Mobile Data Computers

- 2003 Pilot (Grant Funded)
- Current Status (7 MDT's in operation)
- CJIN Network

- E-Citation
- Sheriff-Pak
- Regional VOIP Pilot
- Funding Request @ \$35,00.00

Workload Assessment – Field Operations

- In 2006, Deputies handled 34,285 calls for service
- Total number of Sworn Personnel (28)
- Total number assigned to Field Operations (23)
- 82% of Sworn Personnel are assigned to Field Operations

Manpower Allocation by Calls for Service

Findings: The current number of personnel is under the actual number needed to adequately respond to the existing workload of the Caswell County Sheriff’s Office.

Request (4) Additional Deputy I Positions

- Additional positions are needed to respond to the increased workload. Deputy I Positions added to each of the four Patrol Shifts would enable a faster response time and better coverage of the county, especially the outer parts.
- Request 4 Deputy I Positions @ \$28,900.00 each plus benefits.

Four (4) Patrol Districts

A-Shift – Sergeant, Corporal, 2 Deputies

B-Shift – Sergeant, Corporal, 2 Deputies

C-Shift – Sergeant, Corporal, 2 Deputies

D-Shift – Sergeant, Corporal, 2 Deputies

Detention Facility Feasibility Study

- “Caswell County Detention Center Inmate Population Forecast” – January 10, 2007
- Grand Jury Reports
- N.C. Jail Standards/Inspections
- Guide to Equitable Sharing of Federally Forfeited Property for State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies March, 1994
- Programming and Conceptual Design

Classified & Peaked

- 2010 98
- 2015 102
- 2020 106
- 2025 109
- 2030 112

Grand Jury Reports

- 03/09/04
- 04/12/05
- 04/11/06
- 10/17/06
- 04/11/07

North Carolina Jail Inspections

- Jail Inmate Overcrowding
- Storage of Property
- Plumbing
- Civil Liability/Civil Law Suits

Federal Asset Forfeiture

- Detention Facilities – The costs associated with construction, expansion, and/or improvement of detention facilities managed by the recipient agency.

Jail Feasibility Study

- Contract with Brennan Associates, Inc. of Charlotte, North Carolina, 2007
- Programming and Conceptual Design Tasks 1-6
- Costs for study \$25,000
- Duration of study up to 120 days
- Final Report to Board of Commissioners

Summary

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| • Salary Adjustment | \$60,320.00 |
| • Additional Deputies | \$28,900.00 each |
| • Patrol Vehicles | \$93,332.00 x (4) yrs. |
| • Mobile Computers | \$35,000.00 |
| • Jail Feasibility | \$25,000.00 |

COURTHOUSE SECURITY ISSUES

Mr. John Satterfield, Clerk of Superior Court, came before the Board to discuss the need for Courthouse security. Mr. Satterfield stated that as the Board reviews the Courthouse Facility Fees Budget for the upcoming fiscal year they will see that he has proposed \$35,000 in the SCS Capital Outlay line item. Mr. Satterfield added that a portion of that amount is to enhance security at the Courthouse facility and he would hope that after speaking with the Board today that the Courthouse could receive additional funding from the County to enhance what small efforts that has been made towards a more secure facility.

Mr. Satterfield informed the Board that recent incidents of violence in courthouses across America have stimulated intense pressures for improved courthouse security. Mr.

Satterfield stated that the State's courts have endured a seemingly endless succession of incidents, including bomb threats, bombs discovered, weapons found or discharged, and countless altercations, threats and erratic behavior. Mr. Satterfield noted that surveys conducted by the Administrative Office of the Courts consistently reveal Judges and other court officials rate fear for their own and the public's safety as among the most pressing concerns for the administration of justice.

Mr. Satterfield stated that in the twelve years he has worked in the Courthouse he has had ample opportunity to observe these threats and they are real, even in Caswell County. Mr. Satterfield added that just over the past year he has seen arguments ensue that led to physical violence in the very halls where justice and order should be preserved and described a couple of incidents that had occurred.

Mr. Satterfield reported that two years ago they were threatened with a bomb and the Courthouse was evacuated for most of one morning which impeded the administration of justice that day, and for the first time put real fear in the staff and others that worked at the Courthouse. Mr. Satterfield stated that he could tell about countless incidents in which weapons were found at the Courthouse and attempts of violence on Judges and staff over the years.

Mr. Satterfield stated that the Courts and the Sheriff have been able to secure grant funding for metal detectors which have not cost the County a penny; however, there is so much more including updated duress systems, security cameras, key pad locks – all technology related that can be partially funded by the facility fees generated by court costs, yet human personnel must be provided to man the technology such as metal detectors and video monitors and court facility fees cannot be used for personnel.

Mr. Satterfield stated that the duty to provide court security is truly intergovernmental and it requires at the State level both the Legislature and the Judicial Branch to be involved with the local governing body, the Board of Commissioners, the County Manager, and the Sheriff. Mr. Satterfield added that it is a complex relationship as the Legislature has committed the facility fees collected as a part of court costs to aid the County in meeting the State Courts' facility needs, but leave issues such as security solely in the hands of the Sheriff and the County Commissioners to administer. Mr. Satterfield noted that the Sheriff is the central player in the resolution of these issues, but he cannot do it without the financial support of the Board.

Mr. Satterfield provided the following information:

- Facility Fees are a part of court costs. A certain amount is determined by State Statutes to go from the Clerk to the County Finance Office to a fund that assists the County in maintaining the court facilities.
- Facility fees cannot be used for personnel, only for capital needs, maintenance and utilities.
- The courts pay 2/3 of the utilities at the Courthouse through facility fees generated.

- These are not tax dollars, but court user fees.
- Courts generate approx. \$50,000/yr. in fees and interest.
- There is a reserve to help pay for court security technology and very little will be needed from the County's General Funds.
- The real need is in security personnel.

Mr. Satterfield asked for the Board's support of his proposal for technological advances at the Courthouse to improve security and asked that the Board work diligently with the Sheriff for more personnel and noted that it will certainly serve the County's citizenry better as they do deserve the protection.

RECESS

Chairman Ward called for a brief recess of the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Ward announced that this is the last meeting with County Attorney Bob Shaver in attendance. Chairman Ward thanked Mr. Shaver for all that he has done for Caswell County over the last five years and wished him the best. Chairman Ward invited everyone present to join in for refreshments.

UPDATE ON FUNCTIONING OF AMBULANCE SATELLITE LOCATIONS

Mr. Jim Gusler, EMS Director, came before the Board to give an update on the functioning of ambulance satellite locations. Mr. Gusler presented the following information on EMS Operations for 2007.

History Pre-January 2007

- Calls for assistance not always being answered in a timely fashion due to unavailability of units or available units out of position.
- Increased dependence on out of county resources to cover normal operations.
- Response times to some areas of the County unacceptably high.

December, 2006

- Caswell Board of Commissioners voted to increase staffing to assist in covering unavailability of units and reducing response times.
- A plan to be implemented on January 14, 2007.

Plan

- EMS Management Staff along with the County Manager worked to develop a fiscally sound plan that comprehensively addressed the many issues facing EMS.
 - Unit moved to Providence VFD for daytime operations to address heavy call load in the northern half of the County.
 - Captain's position role changed to management/salary exemption position. One Captain's position eliminated.

- Single paramedic unit moved to Anderson VFD to support the medical call load of the Cherry Grove, Anderson, and a small part of Prospect Hill areas.

Plan Components Broken Down

Providence Unit

- Providence and the remaining areas in the northern part of the County account for about 33% of the medical call load in the County.
- Response times to some areas of Pelham were greater than 20 minutes on average.
- Majority of patients were seen at Danville Regional, therefore, the unit traveled less on average for each transport reducing mileage.

Anderson Unit

- Call load in the areas served at about 23% of County's call volume.
- Response time primary concern with some areas of Cherry Grove requiring between 20 and 25 minutes before ALS arrival.
- Paramedic available to join with the Supervisor to become the third available transport unit in times of high call activity.

Supervisor Unit

- Positioned at the Yanceyville Base to provide paramedic coverage to potentially all areas of the County.
- Responds County extrication equipment on motor vehicle accidents.
- Provides paramedic assistance to transport units on high acuity patients
- Teams with the Anderson Paramedic to make a transport unit in times of high call load.

The Numbers

- Response times in many areas of the new response zones have been cut by more than half.
(Example: Some areas of Pelham that had response times of nearly 20 minutes from Yanceyville, now able to get to in about 10 minutes).
- We have only had 6 times since January 14th that we have had to call out of county assistance during daytime operations.

Unit Call Load During Daytime Operations

- Medic 10 (Yanceyville Base): 274
- Medic 20 (Providence Base): 205
- Medic 3 (Anderson Medic): 82
- Medic 30 (Supervisor and Medic): 25
- Medic 1 (Supervisor): 107

Daytime Operations Account for 66% of Total EMS Call Volume!

What Has the Plan Accomplished?

- County Fire Officer:
This is the best thing that the County has done to provide better EMS coverage since I have been in the County.”
- Numerous positive comments about being in the county fire departments. EMS is becoming an integral part of the community by being in the communities that we serve.
- Units are arriving to calls for assistance quicker than ever before.
- Significant less incidence of unavailability.
- Less dependence on non-county resources.

What the Plan Has Not Done

- Gone OVERBUDGET. The plan has remained within the funds budgeted for the project in December.
- Addressed other areas of the county with extended response times. (Prospect Hill, Semora, Milton).
- Address response times and unit unavailability during non-plan hours.

Director's Comments

We should all be proud of the increased service that we have provided our community. We have been able to accomplish the increased provision of human service with limited fiscal impact on the budget because of creative planning. This project should be viewed as one of the things that we, county government, are doing right to provide more for our citizens.

DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEETING TIMES

Due to conflicts with several Commissioners, the Board discussed changing its meeting times. After discussion, Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to set the meeting times of both of the Board's regular meetings at 6:30 p.m., effective with the first meeting in June, 2007.

DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPER/PLANNER POSITION

Chairman Ward reported that at the time of agenda preparation, there had been no applicants for Economic Developer/Planner and he had requested that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion; however, at this time there has been some interest in the position. Chairman Ward stated that the County Manager could now proceed with filling this position.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY ATTORNEY POSITION

Chairman Ward stated that Mr. Bob Shaver has prepared an advertisement for the position of County Attorney and it has been provided to the Board for its input. Chairman Ward noted that a salary has not been included in the ad at this time.

Chairman Ward added that the Board also needs to consider its legal options with a Contract Attorney during the interim period before a County Attorney is hired. Chairman Ward requested that the County Manager prepare an RFP for a Contract Attorney for the Board's discussion at its May 21, 2007 meeting.

The Board discussed a salary range for the County Attorney, after which Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Hall to establish a salary range for the position of County Attorney at \$55,000 – \$70,000. The motion carried by a vote of four to three with Commissioners Carter, Travis, and Vernon voting no.

SCHEDULING OF BOARD RETREAT

Chairman Ward suggested that the Board schedule a Retreat in order to establish a short-term priority list with the County Manager. Chairman Ward informed the Board that he would be getting in touch with each member to determine a date for this Retreat.

PROPOSED SALE OF GUILFORD MILLS BUILDING

Mr. Robert V. Shaver, Jr., County Attorney, informed the Board that Mr. Claude Simon, President, VRTX, Inc. has offered to purchase from the County the former Guilford Mills Building, located at 335-337 Wall Street, Yanceyville, North Carolina, subject to the following terms as submitted by VRTX, Inc.:

- 1) Purchase Price: \$150,000.00 amortized over 3 years at the same rate of interest as we obtain for the construction financing from the bank.
- 2) Subject to our receipt of financing of 75% of approximately \$600,000 in construction financing from a commercial bank at prime rate or better.
- 3) Building to be delivered empty of personal property.
- 4) Water service to be installed.
- 5) Caswell County is to indemnify VRTX, Inc. against loss and damages related to pre-existing environmental issues.

Mr. Shaver provided the Board with a draft of an Advertisement for Upset Bids if the Board wished to accept the terms as set out by Mr. Simon subject to the upset bid process. Mr. Shaver stated that if no upset bids are received during the specified period, the offer would be deemed accepted without further action.

After discussion, Commissioner Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the terms of the sale of the Guilford Mills Building as submitted by Mr. Claude Simon, President, VRTX, Inc., subject to the upset bid process, and proceed with the Advertisement for Upset Bids. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF TRAFFIC CONCERNS ON WALTERS MILL ROAD

Mr. Robert V. Shaver, Jr., County Attorney, provided the Board with a copy of a letter from Sheriff Michael Welch informing him of a meeting he held with a group of concerned residents from the Providence Community. Sheriff Welch stated in his letter that during a two week period prior to this meeting, he had received several complaints pertaining to quality of life issues in the area of Walters Mill Road. Sheriff Welch stated further that as a result of discussion, numerous concerns and problems were identified, including, but not limited to traffic congestion, illegal dumping of gas tanks and tires, illegal gas spills, loud noise, trespassing, debris in the roadway, transportation of unsafe loads, and property damage.

Mr. Shaver stated that Sheriff Welch recommended in his letter that contact be made by the County Manager with Mr. Charlie Wright of Hayes Iron and Metal to discuss the traffic problem on Walters Mill Road. Mr. Shaver added that Sheriff Welch stated also in his letter that he encouraged that an official study be conducted by representatives of the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the results of the study be presented to the Caswell County Board of Commissioners in a timely manner.

After discussion, Chairman Ward moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis that the Board of Commissioners request that the North Carolina Department of Transportation conduct a traffic study on the Walters Mill Road, particularly in the area of Hayes Iron and Metal. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OCCUPANCY TAX

Chairman Ward reported that last week he, along with Commissioner Vernon and the County Manager attended *County Assembly Day* in Raleigh. Chairman Ward stated that in the past the Board of Commissioners supported an Act authorizing Caswell County to impose an Occupancy Tax and this Bill has now again been introduced to the Legislature. Chairman Ward added that Representative Bill Faison and Senator Tony Foriest have requested that the Board adopt a Resolution in support of this Act.

After discussion, Commissioner Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Vernon to adopt the following *Resolution Requesting the General Assembly to Approve an Act Authorizing Caswell County to Impose an Occupancy Tax*. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO APPROVE AN ACT AUTHORIZING CASWELL COUNTY TO IMPOSE AN OCCUPANCY TAX

WHEREAS, Caswell County desires to establish and fund tourism initiatives to promote tourism opportunities within the County and provide visitors with information concerning the County; and

WHEREAS, the County is in need of funds to promote tourism; and

WHEREAS, the Caswell County Board of Commissioners believes that an occupancy tax on the gross receipts derived from the rental of any room, lodging, or accommodation furnished by a hotel, motel, inn, tourist camp, campground, or similar establishment would be an appropriate method to fund tourism initiatives in the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caswell County Board of Commissioners requests that the North Carolina General Assembly approve an act authorizing Caswell County to levy an occupancy tax.

Adopted this 7th day of May, 2007.

Attest:

S/Wanda P. Smith
Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board

S/George W. Ward, Jr.
George W. Ward, Jr.
Chairman, Caswell County Board
Of Commissioners

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 685

Chairman Ward reviewed with the Board a Bill that has been introduced by Representative Bill Faison which would provide a three year moratorium on the collection of property taxes from church-owned day care centers.

After discussion, Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Hall to adopt the following *Resolution in Support of House Bill 685 to Provide a Moratorium on the Collection of Property Taxes from Certain Day Care Centers*. The motion carried by a vote of four to three with Commissioners Carter, Hamlett, and Travis voting no.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 685
TO PROVIDE A MORATORIUM ON THE COLLECTION
OF PROPERTY TAXES FROM CERTAIN DAY CARE CENTERS**

WHEREAS, Representative Bill Faison (Caswell, Orange Co.) has introduced House Bill 685 before the North Carolina General Assembly, which is a bill entitled "An Act to Provide a Moratorium on the Collection of Property Taxes From Certain Qualifying Day Care Centers"; and

WHEREAS, the three year moratorium proposed in the bill will benefit church owned and operated day cares in Caswell County and allow them additional funds to provide services to children in need of day care services in Caswell County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Caswell County Board of Commissioners supports passage of House Bill 685.

Adopted this 7th day of May, 2007.

Attest:

S/Wanda P. Smith
Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board

S/George W. Ward, Jr.
George W. Ward, Jr.
Chairman, Caswell County Board
Of Commissioners

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, reported that he has contacted the Division of Community Assistance concerning assisting the County with its flood maps. Mr. Howard stated that he would have a contract for the Board's review at its next meeting.

Mr. Howard provided the Board with information from the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention concerning the management of its programs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Carter expressed his appreciation to Sheriff Welch and department heads for its presentations to the Board tonight.

Commissioner Jefferies informed the Board that he was contacted by a citizen concerning the recent attack of a young man by dogs. Commissioner Jefferies stated that he visited the victim and was asked by the mother if the Board was going to adopt a leash law. The Board agreed to discuss this further at its Retreat.

Chairman Ward announced that the Board has been issued an invitation by the Person-Caswell Lake Authority to attend its cook-out at Hyco Lake on Thursday, May 17, 2007, at 6:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis 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)), and to instruct the public body's staff concerning the position to be taken in negotiating the price and other

material terms of a contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5). The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to resume regular session. The motion carried unanimously.

EXTENSION OF DUTIES AND PAY

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the extension of duties and pay for Mr. Robert V. Shaver, Jr., County Attorney, through May 9, 2007, and for Ms. Wanda P. Smith, Clerk to the Board, through May 31, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

THE ADJOURNMENT

At 1:10 p.m. Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Hall to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board

George W. Ward, Jr.
Chairman
