

## MINUTES – MAY 14, 2007

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in special session at the Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 14, 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a work session to discuss short term priority issues and to meet in Closed Session to consider the competence, terms of appointment, and performance of an individual public officer (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)). Members present: George W. Ward, Jr., Chairman, Jeremiah Jefferies, Vice-Chairman, William E. Carter, Nathaniel Hall, Kenneth D. Travis, and C. Hester Vernon, III. Absent: Larry G. Hamlett. Also present: Kevin B. Howard, County Manager 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.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

### DISCUSSION OF SHORT-TERM PRIORITY ISSUES

#### Senior Center

Mr. Kevin B. Howard, County Manager, reported that he and the former County Attorney met with architects of Dewberry, the architectural firm responsible for the proposed Senior Center Project. Mr. Howard noted that June 30, 2007 is the deadline for architectural plans to be submitted to the Danville Regional Foundation. Mr. Howard added that the deadline for construction will be met. Mr. Howard reported that he and the Building and Grounds Committee would be meeting with Ms. Donna Pointer, Senior Center Director tomorrow to discuss the proposed Senior Center Project. Mr. Howard informed the Board that there is a workshop scheduled on May 24, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the Senior Center for all seniors to attend and give their input on the proposed Senior Center Project. Mr. Howard stated that he would be requesting approval for a 45 day extension on the deadline for architectural plans.

#### Flood Plain Ordinance

Mr. Howard reported that he has contacted the North Carolina Division of Community Assistance to request their assistance in review and update of the County's Flood Plain Ordinance. Mr. Howard stated that he would send copies of this Ordinance to the Division of Community Assistance and felt that \$500 would be the maximum that would need to be paid to them for travel time, mileage, and meals.

(Commissioner Carter entered the meeting at this time).

#### NC Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Mr. Howard reported that discussion of management of the programs funded by the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention would be held during the budget process. Mr. Howard informed the Board that Cooperative Extension Service has expressed an interest in managing these programs.

Commissioner Hall expressed concerns in the way that the DJJDP budget was prepared, noting that all indirect costs need to be covered.

#### Planner/Economic Developer

Mr. Howard reported that he has received four applications for the position of Planner/Economic Developer and would probably interview two of the applicants who have planning experience. Upon questioning from Mr. Howard, the Board confirmed that they would prefer someone that is stronger in the area of Planning, and that Mr. Howard could assist in some Economic Development duties.

Commissioner Vernon stated that he hoped that the County could attract someone that would be sincere and dedicated, with good work ethics, and committed to doing a good job, rather than someone just looking for a job.

Commissioners Hall and Travis suggested the possibility of the Chamber of Commerce assisting the County in its economic development efforts.

#### RFP/Attorney Services

Mr. Howard reported that there have been no applications submitted for the County Attorney position. Mr. Howard informed the Board that he would have a Letter of Interest prepared for the Board to approve at its next meeting for an Interim County Attorney.

#### Code Enforcement

Mr. Howard stated that he felt that a Code Enforcement Officer could work within the Building Inspections Office.

Commissioner Vernon stated that he felt that Building Inspections/Code Enforcement/Planning should be together.

#### Zoning

Mr. Howard suggested that professional Planners come before the Board and explain zoning and how it can work for Caswell County.

Commissioner Vernon stated that he is not for zoning as it has been proposed in the past, but yes, he did feel that the County needs something to develop and to move it along, but suggested taking small steps first and then add to it as the County grows. Commissioner Vernon added that he would be in favor of broad zoning which is not so restrictive.

Commissioner Hall stated that the broad zoning that Commissioner Vernon is suggesting is what he has in mind also. Commissioner Hall added that there could be broad zoning for the categories of residential, agricultural, and commercial.

#### Other Issues

Chairman Ward opened the floor for any Commissioners to bring up topics of interest.

Commissioner Hall stated that the Board had previously talked about some type of Leash Law and fee. Commissioner Hall added that something should be done to prevent a pack of dogs from running and attacking a citizen and the Animal Control Department should be involved in this planning. Chairman Ward instructed the County Manager to contact Animal Control and get their ideas on this issue.

Commissioner Hall stated that when the Board of Commissioners met with Danville Regional Hospital officials, there was very good discussion about how they could work with Caswell County and one issue was Caswell County EMS. Commissioner Hall added that Danville Regional Hospital decided to pursue this through the Caswell Family Medical Center. Commissioner Hall stated that he felt it would be good for the Board of Commissioners to approach Danville Regional Hospital officials again to discuss some issues. Commissioner Vernon stated that Danville Regional Hospital officials have a meeting scheduled tonight at Yanceyville Town Hall to address damage control and negatives of the hospital operation. Commissioner Vernon added that he agreed with Commissioner Hall's comments in that EMS needs assistance in non-life threatening transports. Commissioner Travis brought up concerns he has with ambulance units being placed at locations throughout the County. Commissioner Vernon stressed that there should be better cooperation between departments in serving the citizens of Caswell County.

Mr. Howard requested that Board members contact the Clerk to the Board to schedule a time that he could meet individually to discuss issues of their concern.

Commissioner Hall stated that he is still very much disturbed about the list of delinquent tax accounts that was presented to the Board for approval for submission to the contract Attorney. Chairman Ward clarified that the Tax Director was instructed to mail out one more registered letter to the delinquent taxpayers.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

At 7:25 p.m. Commissioner Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

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Wanda P. Smith  
Clerk to the Board

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George W. Ward, Jr.  
Chairman

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