

MINUTES – JUNE 4, 2007

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, June 4, 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 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

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, requested that Item No. 8, Approval of Letter of Amendment Between Danville Regional Foundation and Caswell County, NC be removed from the agenda.

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Hamlett to approve the agenda as presented, with the deletion of Item No. 8, Approval of Letter of Amendment Between Danville Regional Foundation and Caswell County, NC. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Jefferies 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 April 20 and May 7, 2007 Meetings

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Steve Chapman, 363 Moorefield Road, came before the Board and stated that he has been a resident of Caswell County for 10 years and is present to speak about property taxes. Mr. Chapman informed the Board that he has been reading in the local newspaper about tax foreclosures. Mr. Chapman stated that he is a taxpayer, registered voter, serves on jury duty, has a right to speak, and cannot understand all the conflict about enforcing tax collections. Mr. Chapman added that the Board members have a responsibility to this county and its citizens and even though a delinquent tax bill may only be for \$50, it should still go to foreclosure. Mr. Chapman stated that everyone needs to be governed by the same rules and be required to pay their taxes, no matter what the amount.

AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Mr. Kevin B. Howard, County Manager, reported that at the last meeting he presented the following two proposals for solid waste collection, transportation, and disposal for Caswell County.

- 1) First Piedmont Corporation - \$461,703.33
- 2) Republic Services of North Carolina - \$506,170.30

Mr. Howard reviewed in detail the contract submitted by First Piedmont Corporation and recommended that the Board approve this contract as presented.

After discussion, Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to award a three-year contract for solid waste collection, transportation, and disposal for Caswell County to First Piedmont Corporation in the amount of \$461,703.33 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF CASWELL JCPC FUNDED PROGRAMS

Mr. Joey Knight, Cooperative Extension Service Director, came before the Board and stated that he has been involved with Juvenile Crime Prevention programs in the past and shared with the Board a JCPC Program Agreement with Person County. Mr. Knight added that the JCPC funded programs could be placed under the 4-H Youth Enrichment Services and noted that the average cost per youth is \$860. Mr. Knight stated that this Program consists of referrals mainly from the court system.

Mr. Knight stated that his suggestion is that if he is going to manage these Programs and its employees, it needs to be under his roof and added that there would also be an Advisory Council made up of Attorneys, Judges, as well as State representatives of the Program. Mr. Knight reported that there would also be monthly updates on the Program. Mr. Knight stated that the JCPC Program would fall under the umbrella of the Extension Service, staff would be employees of the Extension Service, and they would attend training like his other employees. Mr. Knight added that he will advertise for the program positions and he may hire the current employees and he may not. Mr. Knight informed the Board that for the first two years he will micro-manage the programs. Mr. Knight stated that these are needed programs and it meets the State initiatives for the youth-at-risk programs. Mr. Knight added that he has received approval from Administration and he would be happy to manage these JCPC funded Programs for the County.

Chairman Ward noted that the JCPC funded Programs will be managed by the Caswell Parish through June 30, 2007, and after that date will have to be managed by the County or another organization.

After further discussion, Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis that the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Programs be managed by the Cooperative Extension Service. The motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST TO SUBMIT DELINQUENT TAX FILES OVER THE AMOUNT OF \$400

Mr. Thomas Bernard, Tax Director, came before the Board to request approval to submit delinquent tax files over the amount of \$400 to the Contract Attorney. Mr. Bernard stated that an additional letter from the Tax Office was sent to these delinquent taxpayers and the 30 days will be up on June 7, 2007. Mr. Bernard added that there were 89 parcels with delinquent taxes over \$400, which totaled \$93,026. Mr. Bernard noted that there were 116 parcels with delinquent taxes in the amount of \$300 and up, which totaled \$105,152 and there were 158 parcels with delinquent taxes in the amount of \$200 and up, which totaled \$118,675. Mr. Bernard added that there were 178 parcels with delinquent taxes of \$199.99 and down, which totaled \$18,713. Mr. Bernard informed the Board that the total amount of delinquent taxes owed which is not under a payment plan or bankruptcy is 336 accounts totaling \$137,388. Mr. Bernard noted that three percent of the delinquent taxes were collected as a result of the additional letter, which amounted to approximately \$4,000.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Hall as to what other action was taken to collect the delinquent taxes, Mr. Bernard answered that he sent the additional letter out while still garnishing wages and calling and trying to locate the delinquent taxpayers. Mr. Bernard stated that he felt that all of the delinquent taxes, regardless of the amount, need to be collected. Upon questioning from Commissioner Travis, Mr. Bernard answered that the taxes owed are for the year 2006.

After discussion, Commissioner Vernon moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter that all 336 delinquent tax accounts be turned over to the Contract Attorney for collection.

Commissioner Hall clarified that his issue is not and has never been whether people should pay their taxes, rather it is how much work has the Tax Office done to collect these taxes. Commissioner Hall stated that to him, sending out an additional letter to collect these taxes is not enough.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion carried by a vote of five to two with Commissioners Hall and Jefferies voting no.

NCACC – HEALTH INSURANCE

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, requested that the Board consider continuing its health insurance with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Group Benefits Pool. Mr. Howard recommended that the Board approve the proposal which would allow for five tiers of coverage.

After discussion, Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Vernon to approve the County continuing its health insurance with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Group Benefits Pool, and implementing the five-tier coverage. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Ward moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the County continuing its Workers' Compensation, Property Liability, and Dental Insurance with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Group Benefits Pool. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2007-2008

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to schedule a public hearing on Monday, June 18, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. to receive comments on the Proposed Budget for Caswell County for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. The motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST TO GRANT COUNTY MANAGER AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE
BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR REMAINDER OF FISCAL YEAR

Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to grant authorization to the County Manager to approve Budget Amendments for the remainder of the current fiscal year. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, provided the Board with a copy of a letter he sent to the Danville Regional Foundation requesting a 45-day extension for site certification, approved design, and substantial progress toward a construction contract for the proposed Senior Center.

Mr. Howard informed the Board that he has scheduled three interviews for County Planner and the process should be completed by June 12, 2007.

Mr. Howard informed the Board that he has received several telephone calls regarding the County Attorney position and has received one application.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Travis announced that the Bartlett Yancey Senior High School graduation ceremony would be held on Saturday, June 9, 2007, at 10:00 a.m.

THE ADJOURNMENT

At 7:10 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
