

MINUTES – AUGUST 18, 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, August 18, 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.

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 Commissioners Hall and Vernon absent.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Hamlett to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Hall and Vernon absent.

The following items were included on the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes of June 2 and 4, 2008 Meetings
- 2) Tax Director's Monthly Report for June, 2008

Total Amount of Taxes Collected for June, 2008	\$180,377.73
Tax Maps/Cards	\$ 86.15
County Maps	\$ 5.95
Beer License	\$ 150.00
Wine License	\$ 130.00
NSF Charge	\$ 155.00
EMS	\$ 953.63
2008 Prepayments	\$ 5,603.58
- 3) Tax Director's Monthly Report for July, 2008

Total Amount of Taxes Collected for July, 2008	\$186,433.94
Tax Maps/Cards	\$ 75.45
County Maps	\$ 11.85
Beer License	\$ 70.00
Wine License	\$ 125.00
NSF Charge	\$ 25.00

EMS	\$ 540.00
2008 Prepayments	\$ 14,870.12

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Ward opened the floor for public comments.

(Commissioners Hall and Vernon entered the meeting at this time).

Ms. Tracey Clary, of 498 Green Pasture Lane, Ruffin, NC came before the Board and stated that she, along with other homeowners on the road, are present tonight to ask them what they are supposed to do. Ms. Clary informed the Board that about ten years ago she purchased her property along with about 38 other owners on a three-quarter mile road, with 30 of those living there full-time. Ms. Clary stated that all of the property owners were told that the road would be paved by Cedar Creek Land Company and when all of the houses were placed in there the State would take over and maintain the road because it was being built according to State standards. Ms. Clary added that the covenants that were in place for the property have expired and new property owners are no longer signing the covenants and no one is maintaining the road any more. Ms. Clary stated that she has gotten all property owners on the road to sign a petition which she has presented to the North Carolina Department of Transportation and they have told her that since the road was built after 1975 they cannot help them. Ms. Clary informed the Board of problems they are having in receiving their mail because of the condition of the road and safety issues with school buses picking up children. Ms. Clary added that the Sheriff's Office, EMS, and fire departments all agree that the condition of the road could cause loss of life or home. Ms. Clary stated that she has also contacted a number of people in Raleigh about the road, and felt that if the County would help they could possibly get something done. Chairman Ward requested that Ms. Clary leave her contact information, as well as the petition with the Clerk to the Board and he and the County Manager would discuss this further and the Board could possibly at its next meeting submit a letter of support to NCDOT for this road. Ms. Clary also told the Board of an incident in which a 14 year old was driving a vehicle on the road with three individuals sitting on the back of the trunk and when she contacted the Highway Patrol was told that there was nothing that they could do because it is a private road.

Ms. Tina Jones of Green Pasture Lane, Ruffin, NC came before the Board and told of speeders on the road who also tear up the road. Ms. Jones added that the Highway Patrol has also told her that they cannot do anything about the speeders because it is a private road. Ms. Jones stated that there are about 30 children on the road and it is unsafe for them to be outside because of the speeders and noted that there have been a number of near accidents on the road. Ms. Jones requested any help the Board could give.

PUBLIC HEARING – CDBG SCATTERED SITE HOUSING APPLICATION

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis that the Board enter into a public hearing to receive comments on the submittal of a Community Development Block Grant Scattered Site Housing Application to the North Carolina Division of Community Assistance. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Michael Walser of Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates came before the Board and stated that the Community Development Block Grant Scattered Site Program is the same program that the Board has received funding for in the years 2002 and 2005. Mr. Walser added that the County is on a three-year cycle and it is now time to apply for those funds in the amount of \$400,000 for owner occupied single family housing rehabilitation and/or relocation assistance for low and moderate income persons in Caswell County. Mr. Walser stated that this funding cycle is different in that they will be able to provide comprehensive rehabilitation to seven homes and provide emergency repairs to eight homes. Mr. Walser informed the Board that 87 applications were received and the majority of those are eligible. Mr. Walser requested that the Board authorize approval to submit this grant application to the State. Mr. Walser provided the Board with a copy of the Caswell County Community Development Block Grant, Scattered Site Project, Policies, Procedures, Plans, Resolutions, and Ordinances for 2008-2011.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Hamlett, Mr. Walser answered that the limit per house for comprehensive rehabilitation is \$40,000 and the limit per house for emergency repairs is \$5,000.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Jefferies concerning houses in very poor condition, Mr. Walser answered that the State has a set of standards to follow in order to spend any of their funds on homes and these guidelines determine which houses qualify for rehabilitation. Mr. Walser added that sometimes the homes are in such poor condition that they cannot meet the State's guidelines and the only solution is to move the residents out of the house and tear the house down, which is not what the property owner wants, therefore, sometimes the comprehensive rehabilitation program cannot help those with homes in the worse condition. Mr. Walser noted that the emergency repairs program gives them some options because with this grant they do not have to bring the house up to the State standards, and they are limited to doing only one thing, such as replacing a roof, handicapped accessibility modifications, replacement of heat system, or dealing with electrical or plumbing issues.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Hamlett, Mr. Walser answered that \$40,000 is set aside for each of the seven homes and the remainder of the grant is used to conduct lead inspection and lead removal in all of the homes and they do not know the cost until they are tested, along with the \$40,000 for emergency repairs and administrative fees. Commissioner Hamlett stated that he would love to see the program install more roofs on houses because a lot of citizens come to him that need roofs on their house.

Mr. Walser informed the Board that there is an Urgent Repair Program that is similar to the Emergency Repair Program that was awarded to the County in 2006. Mr. Walser stated that he applies for this grant for the County every year, but is not always able to get it, and it is in the amount of \$75,000 and treats 14 homes. Mr. Walser noted that this grant addresses only roofs, heating systems, and handicapped accessibility.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Hamlett as to whether local contractors are used in these grants, Mr. Walser answered that they always promote local contractors and the award is by sealed bids.

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

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Hamlett to adopt the following Resolution granting approval to submit an application to the North Carolina Division of Community Assistance in the amount of \$400,000 as funding for the Caswell County Scattered Site Housing Program and the following Resolution adopting Community Development Program Policies, Procedures, Plans, Resolutions, and Ordinances as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION
OF THE CASWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Division of Community Assistance is a significant source of funding for affordable housing within Caswell County; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Division of Community Assistance has conditionally awarded Caswell County \$400,000 for Scattered Site Owner-Occupied Housing funds for Caswell County residents; and

WHEREAS, the funds are expected to assist up to (15) fifteen low income families; and

WHEREAS, Caswell County will realize additional social benefits in the form of preserving its affordable housing stock for low and moderate income citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

That the Board of Commissioners of Caswell County will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the project and to Federal and State grants pertaining thereto.

That George W. Ward, Jr., Chairman, Board of Commissioners, and Kevin Howard, County Manager, and successors so titled is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate governmental agencies may request in connection with such applications for the project; to make the assurances and certifications as contained above, and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the construction of the project.

That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

That the County will submit an application to the North Carolina Division of Community Assistance in the amount of \$400,000 as funding for the Caswell County Scattered Site Housing Program.

Adopted this the 18th day of August, 2008.

S/George W. Ward, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

S/Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board

CASWELLCOUNTY
POLICIES, PROCEDURES, RESOLUTIONS
AND ORDINANCES
FOR THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Caswell County will be awarded a Community Development Block Grant Scattered Site Housing Award for \$400,000; and

WHEREAS, Caswell County desires to adopt Community Development Program Policies, Procedures, Plans, Resolutions, and Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Office has created Community Development Program Policies, Procedures, Plans, Resolutions, and Ordinances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Caswell County hereby adopts Community Development Program Policies, Procedures, Plans, Resolutions, and Ordinances as herein contained.

Adopted this the 18th day of August, 2008.

S/George W. Ward, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

S/Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board

PROPOSED CASWELL COUNTY RECREATIONAL VEHICLE ORDINANCE

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

Mr. Brian Collie, County Planner, came before the Board and reported that at their July 21, 2008 meeting, he was requested to contact all of the three pre-existing campground owners in the County. Mr. Collie informed the Board that he contacted the property owners and a couple of concerns have been raised since then, particularly the driveways meeting the North Carolina Department of Transportation specifications, and the three-month time limit of the campers being sited on the campground.

Commissioner Vernon stated that he has had some people ask him about the situation by which they rent a space to construction people who may be there a year or two and asked how this would be handled. Mr. Collie stated that currently the time limit section is rather vague and got a sense from the pre-existing campground owners that the three-month limit may be too stringent and maybe they need to take another look at this and determine if the time limit needs to be extended. Commissioner Vernon added that he felt that the Planning Board needs to take another look at this and consider some kind of language to the effect that if a person is in the county working construction or a job, it is not a permanent residence and a permanent residence is maintained somewhere else in the State, that there should not be a time limit because he is there as a temporary employee of a construction business.

Commissioner Hall stated that the Board should be aware that they are working on a Recreational Vehicle Ordinance, not a permanent Mobile Home siting facility and added that the whole idea is that it is recreational and temporary. Commissioner Hall stated that he did not feel the Board should be looking at making something permanent to fit a particular circumstance and that would need to be dealt with in a different way.

Mr. Collie informed the Board that he went out and did site inspections on the three pre-existing campground sites and they meet the general rule requirements within the current language, except two of them would not meet the NCDOT driveway specifications. Upon questioning from Commissioner Hall as to whether the driveway specifications was a requirement of NCDOT or something proposed by the Planning Board, Mr. Collie answered that this requirement was proposed by the Planning Board.

Chairman Ward agreed with Commissioner Vernon that this needs to go back to the Planning Board for further review, to include the road construction and building permits required.

Commissioner Hamlett stated that the Board was originally looking at individual campers, and had no problem with the Planning Board proposing this Ordinance, but felt that it needed to go back to the Planning Board for further review.

Mr. Bobby Dodson of 455 Cunningham Road, Semora, NC came before the Board and stated that he owns one of the parks that has been discussed and is in agreement that something is

needed. Mr. Dodson added that he has expressed his concerns to the County Planner and one of his main concerns is that there is a 30-day limit for someone in a campground, yet individual use allows for 180 days.

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

Commissioner Vernon moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies that the proposed Caswell County Recreational Vehicle Ordinance be referred back to the Planning Board for further study. The motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CASWELL COUNTY MANUFACTURED HOME SITING ORDINANCE

Mr. Brian Collie, County Planner, came before the Board and reported that last year he brought to the Board an amendment to the Caswell County Manufactured Home Siting Ordinance. Mr. Collie added that at the Board's December 17, 2007, they referred the proposed Manufactured Home Siting Ordinance back to the Planning Board for review of the entire Ordinance. Mr. Collie informed the Board that the Planning Board has spent several months reviewing the entire Ordinance and presented the revised version to the Board.

Mr. Brian informed the Board that the biggest change to the Manufactured Home Siting Ordinance is in Section 6.3(b) as it pertains to a manufactured home being set up for temporary use while in the process of constructing a stick built home.

Chairman Ward announced that a public hearing would be scheduled on the proposed Caswell County Manufactured Home Siting Ordinance at the Board's first meeting in September.

REQUEST FROM PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ms. Doris Carver, with Piedmont Community College, came before the Board to request facility space for the Joblink Career Center at the current Senior Center upon the completion of the new Senior Center. Ms. Carver informed the Board that the Joblink Career Center is the only Level Two Joblink in the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board area and they are able to offer services at a much higher level than a Level One Joblink. Ms. Carver added that with the current facility space they could not consider moving to a Level Three Joblink. Ms. Carver provided the Board with a list of the numerous partner agencies with which they work, with Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Security Commission being two of their primary partners. Ms. Carver noted that if it were not for the Joblink in Caswell County, its residents would have to drive to Burlington or Wentworth for these services. Ms. Carver informed the Board that Joblink also partners with a counseling service that offers consumer credit counseling for Caswell County residents.

Ms. Carver requested that the Board consider granting them shared space at the current site of the Senior Center and provided them with a floor plan of the proposed space that they would like. Ms. Carver informed the Board that if there were any needed renovations to the facility,

there would be no cost to the County and Piedmont Community College would utilize inmate work labor to complete what is needed.

Ms. Carver provided the Board with statistical data about utilization of Joblink and noted that over 800 people came through their office last year.

Ms. Carver informed the Board of a grant awarded to Piedmont Community College by the Danville Regional Foundation in the amount of \$1.8 million which will help Caswell County, Pittsylvania County, and City of Danville residents bridge their educational goals from when their unemployment benefits run out until the time that they actually complete their degree. Ms. Carver added that this grant will pay for tuition and fees, travel, supplement their unemployment benefits, and health insurance so that they can finish their educational goals.

Ms. Carver respectfully asked that the Board consider her request for office space at the current Senior Center location for the Joblink Center.

Chairman Ward referred this request to the Building and Grounds Committee to consider when the new Senior Center is near completion.

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX DOCUMENTATION

Mr. John Claggett came before the Board and stated that on June 2, 2008, he requested from the Caswell County Board of Commissioners a copy of or excerpts from a publication provided by Tax Equity Consultants regarding the fair market value of his vehicles for tax purposes. Mr. Claggett added that after addressing the Board of Commissioners, he was told that he would receive the documents by the next Commissioners meeting, if not sooner, and this did not happen. Mr. Claggett stated that he felt at that time that the stonewalling he had experienced from Tax Equity Consultants and the Caswell County Tax Director now included the Caswell County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Claggett added that the North Carolina Department of Revenue has provided the documents that he requested. Mr. Claggett asked the Board how is it that he can get these documents through regular channels as a matter of public record and the Caswell County Tax Director and Board of Commissioners cannot as promised. Mr. Claggett also asked if this is the level of service that taxpayers can expect from Caswell County in the future.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 2 – REVISED – FY 2008-2009

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented and reviewed Budget Amendment No. 2 – Revised, for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. After discussion, Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to approve Budget Amendment No. 2 –Revised, for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 as presented, with the exception that *Human Services/Senior Services* in the amount of \$66,568 be removed from the Budget Amendment for further discussion at a later time. The motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET TRANSFER NO. 2 – REVISED - FY 2008-2009

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented and reviewed Budget Transfer No. 2 – Revised, for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. After discussion, Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Hamlett to approve Budget Transfer No. 2 – Revised, for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET TRANSFER NO. 5 – FY 2008-2009

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented and reviewed Budget Transfer No. 5 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. After discussion, Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Vernon to approve Budget Transfer No. 5 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET TRANSFER NO. 6 – FY 2008-2009

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented and reviewed Budget Transfer No. 6 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. After discussion, Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Hamlett to approve Budget Transfer No. 6 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET TRANSFER NO. 7 – FY 2008-2009

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented and reviewed Budget Transfer No. 7 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. After discussion, Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve Budget Transfer No. 7 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET TRANSFER NO. 8 – FY 2008-2009

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented and reviewed Budget Transfer No. 8 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. After discussion, Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to approve Budget Transfer No. 8 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET TRANSFER NO. 9 – FY 2008-2009

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented and reviewed Budget Transfer No. 9 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. After discussion, Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Hamlett to approve Budget Transfer No. 9 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, reported that he received a request from Commissioners to look into allowing Board members to purchase County health insurance after they leave office.

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented for the Board's information the health care coverage that Orange County provides to its Commissioners. Mr. Howard informed the Board that in Orange County if the County Commissioner has served two or more full terms in office (eight years or more), the county makes the same contribution for health insurance coverage that it makes for an employee who retires from Orange County after 10 years service as a permanent employee. Mr. Howard added that if the Commissioner is age 65 or older, Medicare becomes the primary insurer and group health insurance ends. The County makes the same contribution for Medicare Supplement coverage that it makes for employees; the County provides no cash payment in lieu of such coverage.

Mr. Howard noted that in Caswell County while a Commissioner is serving on the Board, he is eligible to enroll in the County's health insurance coverage at his own expense.

After discussion, Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to adopt a policy for Caswell County that as long as a Commissioner serves two full terms (eight years) on the Caswell County Board of Commissioners, he is eligible to receive coverage under the County's health insurance until age 65 years, at his own expense. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, reported that the materials for the roof for the Senior Center should be delivered this week and installation should begin within a week. Upon questioning from Commissioner Hamlett as to delays in the Senior Center project, Mr. Howard answered that the completion date is scheduled for November 30, 2008.

Mr. Howard presented a proposal from Progress Energy for the Senior Center parking lot lighting that will cost the County \$373.79 per month. Mr. Howard informed the Board that Progress Energy suggested a different style of lighting which reduced the original cost of \$640 per month. Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Vernon to accept the proposal submitted by Progress Energy for lighting at the Senior Center parking lot at a cost of \$373.79 per month. Commissioner Hamlett stated that he would like to know what it would cost for solar lighting. Commissioner Hall stated that he suspects that solar lighting would cost more, but added that the real issue is that the Board has not developed a budget for the Senior Center and noted that with the approval of this lighting, they are starting off with an operating cost of \$4,000 per year and it is not known where the money will be coming from and this is just for outdoor lighting. Commissioner Hall stated that the Board needs to decide on some type of budget so they will know what perimeters they are working with when the architect comes back with the next change order and then they can make a sound decision. Upon a vote of the motion, the motion failed by a vote of five to two with Commissioners Ward, Jefferies, Hall, Hamlett, and Travis voting no. Chairman Ward directed the County Manager to obtain cost figures for solar lighting for the Senior Center parking lot for the Board's next meeting.

Mr. Howard reported that Mr. Scott Erhart, Engineer with Dewberry & Davis, was on vacation this week and he was unable to get an update on the Pelham Industrial Park project.

Mr. Howard reported that Mr. Ed Carter's waterline request is tied into discussions with the City of Danville to assist them in operating the system until it is large enough to stand on its own.

Mr. Howard reported that he has not yet finalized a lease with the Local Management Entity for office space at the Guilford Mills Building. Mr. Howard informed the Board that Alamance County is charging them \$1 per building per year and LME does not provide services in Rockingham County. Mr. Howard requested direction from the Board. Commissioner Hall stated that this Board voted to charge market rate rent to the providers in the Guilford Mills Building for office space and clarified that the providers in that building are not with LME, they are private providers. Commissioner Hall added that Alamance County is not providing space for private providers and these providers are renting their own space. Mr. Howard stated that he had made them aware that the County would be charging them rent at market rate and they had no problem with this.

Mr. Howard presented a request from the Clerk of Superior Court for an additional \$2,640 to be appropriated from Court Facility Fees to complete the security project at the Caswell County Courthouse located at 139 East Church Street.

Mr. Howard presented a Rental Agreement for Roll-off Containers from the Solid Waste Department which would increase the rate from \$35 to \$50 per pull and increase the one-time spotting fee from \$35 to \$50. After discussion, Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Hamlett to approve the Rental Agreement for Roll-off Containers for the Solid Waste Department as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tim Smith, Solid Waste Director, reported that the General Assembly passed a House Bill on August 1, 2008, establishing a Solid Waste Disposal Tax which will allow landfills to charge \$2 per ton for disposal. Mr. Smith stated that the landfills in the State have attached a \$.75 per ton charge for the paperwork that will be involved. Mr. Smith added that the tonnage disposed of by Caswell County for FY 2007-2008 was 7,756 tons and it went directly to Upper Piedmont Environmental. Mr. Smith noted that 3,400 tons went through First Piedmont's transfer station and they increased their tipping fee from \$43.89 to \$45.60. Mr. Smith informed the Board that it will cost the County an additional amount of approximately \$23,000 in the next year for disposal. Mr. Smith stated that the County's household user fee is pretty much on target, but the tipping fee has not increased since 1993. Mr. Howard stated that he would include this item on the Board's next agenda in order for discussion on how to absorb these extra costs.

Mr. Howard presented for the Board's consideration requests to release positions from 911 Communications and the Library from the hiring freeze. After discussion, Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Chairman Ward to release from the hiring freeze a part-time 911 Communicator position for the 911 Communications Department and a part-time Library Assistant I/Outreach position for the Gunn Memorial Public Library. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard presented a request from the Department of Social Services to approve Inter-County Professional Services Contracts which include: 1) DSS – CDOT (for transportation services); 2) DSS – Sheriff’s Office (for fingerprinting services); and 3) DSS – Building Inspections (for fire inspections). After discussion, Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to approve the following Inter-County Professional Services Contracts: 1) DSS – CDOT; 2) DSS – Sheriff’s Office; and 3) DSS – Building Inspections as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard presented a request from Caswell Division of Transportation to approve a professional services contract between CDOT and the North Carolina Department of Transportation for confirmation of compliance of 2009 budget funding. After discussion, Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the professional services contract between CDOT and the North Carolina Department of Transportation as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard presented for the Board’s consideration a professional services contract between the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments and the Criminal Justice Partnership Program for administration of grant funding. After discussion, Commissioner Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the professional services contract between the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments and the Criminal Justice Partnership Program as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard presented for the Board’s consideration a Golden Leaf Foundation Broadband Grant Application in the amount of \$100,000. After discussion, Commissioner Vernon moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the Golden Leaf Foundation Broadband Grant Application as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard reported that Mr. Joey Knight, Cooperative Extension Director, informed him that they are experiencing problems with two computers that are used by the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Program. Mr. Howard stated that Mr. Knight is requesting that the Board allow him to purchase two computers at a cost of \$1,630 with County funds and then when the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council meets in September they can then approve this expenditure and transfer the money back to the County. After discussion, Commissioner Carter moved to approve the purchase of two computers for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Program to be appropriated from County funds and that the funds be transferred back to the County if the JCPC Board approves the expenditure, as presented. The motion died for lack of a second. After further discussion, Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter that if the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Board approves the request for two computers for the JCPC Program, to approve the purchase as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

SEPTEMBER MEETING SCHEDULE

Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to schedule one meeting for the month of September, to be held on Monday, September 15, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Mr. Kevin Howard reported that included in the Board package is a memo from the County Attorney concerning the usage of mobile phones while driving. Mr. Howard stated that in the memo Mr. Ferrell notes that he has only found two such laws, one relates only to drivers under 18, and the other one relates to use while operating a school bus. Mr. Ferrell also provided information that House Bill 527 was introduced in the last legislative session, prohibiting the use by all drivers (except for hands free), but it did not reach the House floor for a vote.

Mr. Howard reported that also included in the Board package is a memo from the County Attorney informing them that it appears that the Board of Health has the authority to enact smoking restrictions throughout a county (School of Government opinion), even within municipalities, within the restrictions imposed by the General Assembly (basically publicly owned or leased spaces), and that would include public buildings and the grounds around the Health Department and Social Services buildings. Mr. Ferrell also stated in his memo that the regulations can apply to public transportation vehicles and these are defined as vehicles “used by the public” and would include buses, CDOT vehicles, etc., but it does not currently include vehicles used by the Sheriff or Building Inspectors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Vernon stated that in reviewing the New Hire Report, he noticed that the Health Department hired an individual for a part-time position at the rate of \$87.50 per hour and had questions about this. The Clerk to the Board clarified that this is a Physician position.

Commissioner Hall stated that at the Board’s June 2nd meeting, a memo was submitted by the County Attorney concerning EMS not being required to transport a patient to their hospital of choice and he recommended that protocol be developed on this issue. Commissioner Hall stated that there are emergencies in this County and its ambulances are sitting somewhere outside of the County because someone said that they wanted to be transported to Duke, Chapel Hill, or Greensboro. Commissioner Hall added that the County is in the emergency services business, not in the transport business, and the County’s citizens are being put at risk. Commissioner Hall stated that if someone just wants to be transported, they need to get a non-emergency ambulance service to do this.

Commissioner Travis stated that he understands what Commissioner Hall is saying, but if he were having a heart attack he would like to go to the hospital of his choice. Commissioner Travis added that the County’s biggest expense is when patients are transported to Chapel Hill. Commissioner Travis stated that until this County comes up with written rules and regulations, when an ambulance answers a call and that individual wants to go to a specific hospital, then that patient needs to go to that hospital.

Commissioner Carter stated that he agrees with Commissioner Travis because if an ambulance comes to his house on a call and he requests to go to a Greensboro hospital, then that hospital is where he wants them to transport him.

Chairman Ward stated that this issue would be referred to the EMS Director in the morning.

Commissioner Hall stated that this Board is a policy-making Board and there are certain things that they must do for the citizens of Caswell County and transporting patients at their pleasure is not one of them. Commissioner Hall added that the EMS personnel have to make some medical decisions, but for someone to say they are not going to a certain hospital and it is not an emergency, then they do not have to go and they can call someone else to take them. Commissioner Hall noted that if it is an emergency, the County is bound by law to take them to the nearest hospital, that is the law, and the County needs to get this into a policy.

Commissioner Hall stated that he noticed in the June 4th meeting that the appraisal contract with Pearson Appraisal has ended and asked if this is correct. Mr. Howard answered that the Tax Director plans to come and discuss this issue with the Board in September because the Board did not decide during the budget process whether it wanted to hire an in-house appraiser or prepare an RFP for an appraisal contract. Commissioner Hall stated that this Board needs to decide first what it wants to do as far as in-house or contracted appraiser. Chairman Ward stated that a special meeting could be scheduled to discuss this further.

Commissioner Carter reminded the Board members of the Annual Bright Leaf Hoedown scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2008.

Commissioner Carter informed the Board that he has just learned that Caswell County District Court Judge Philip Allen passed away and also expressed condolences to Chairman Ward on the passing of his mother.

Commissioner Carter asked for confirmation that the three-year contract between the Town of Yanceyville and Caswell County for the Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement protection has been approved and signed. Mr. Howard confirmed that the contract was approved and signed by the Town this past Tuesday at its meeting.

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, reported that the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' Annual Conference will be held this week and they have requested that a Commissioner be designated to carry the County flag during scheduled ceremonies. Commissioner Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to designate Commissioner Vernon to carry the Caswell County flag during ceremonies at the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' Annual Conference to be held in Craven County on August 21-24, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Ward thanked the Board members for flowers and the support expressed as a result of the passing of his mother.

Commissioner Carter questioned whether the Chairman would like for him to speak at the upcoming Bright Leaf Hoedown as he did last year. Chairman Ward was agreeable to this.

THE ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20 p.m. Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Hamlett to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board

George W. Ward, Jr.
Chairman
