

MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 4, 2008

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in special session at the Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 4, 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Senior Center Project, the Work First Program, and Budget Amendments. Members present: George W. Ward, Jr., Chairman, Jeremiah Jefferies, Vice-Chairman, William E. Carter, Nathaniel Hall, Larry G. Hamlett, Kenneth D. Travis, and C. Hester Vernon, III. Also present: Kevin B. Howard, County Manager and Angela Evans representing The Caswell Messenger. Wanda P. Smith, Clerk to the Board, recorded the minutes.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

SENIOR CENTER PROJECT

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, reported that he obtained a cost for the installation of lighting at the Senior Center parking lot from R&R Electric at a cost of \$30,205.28. Mr. Howard added that Progress Energy submitted a lease proposal in the amount of \$374 per month and it is estimated that \$179 of the \$374 lease per month would be for electricity and maintenance cost and \$195 would be for lease of the poles. Mr. Howard informed the Board that the cost of solar lighting for the Senior Center would be approximately \$120,000, which does not include installation. Upon questioning from Commissioner Hall as to where he obtained the estimate for solar lighting, Mr. Howard answered that he got the estimate off of the internet. Commissioner Hall stated that he would have liked for the County Manager to obtain a quote on solar lighting and added that there are just too many unanswered questions. After discussion, Commissioner Vernon moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to enter into a contract with R&R Electric to install the lighting at the Senior Center parking lot at a cost of \$30,205.28. The motion carried by a vote of four to three with Commissioners Hall, Jefferies, and Travis voting no.

Mr. Howard reported that automatic door openers for the doors at the Senior Center would cost \$3,384 and would come from grant funds. Mr. Howard informed the Board that the architect included the automatic doors in the specs, but failed to include the automatic door openers. Commissioner Travis stated that he felt that there will be a tremendous cost to the taxpayers of Caswell County to maintain the Senior Center when it is completed. After discussion, Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the appropriation of \$3,384 to install automatic door openers at the Senior Center. The motion carried by a vote of six to one with Commissioner Travis voting no.

Mr. Howard reported that the architect has requested a change in design of the exterior columns at no cost. Mr. Howard stated that there are supposed to be six columns on the front atrium, and four of those columns do not fit the high steel beams, therefore, they are requesting that they be able to brick the columns to match the building. Upon questioning from Commissioner Hall, Mr. Howard answered that the specs were wrong for the beams, they were ordered and delivered on site, cut, and do not fit and added that now they cannot be sent back. After discussion, Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Hall to send this request back to the architect and have him instruct the construction company to install four new columns as was originally planned. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard reported that he had the Building Inspector go out this morning and inspect the wood sheeting on the Senior Center roof and there are problems with that. Mr. Howard stated that he called the architect and had him contact the contractor to come out and replace it. Upon questioning from Commissioner Hall, Mr. Howard answered that the press board is rotten and coming apart. Chairman Ward questioned whether there has been any damage to the inside of the building, and Mr. Howard confirmed that there has been no damage to the inside.

WORK FIRST PROGRAM

Ms. Dianne Moorefield, Social Services Director, came before the Board and stated that they need to make a decision as to whether the County Work First Program will remain a Standard Program or whether it chooses to revert to an Electing County status. Ms. Moorefield provided the Board with a list of the pros and cons for each status. Ms. Moorefield added that the pros for an Electing County were very short. Ms. Moorefield stated that with the Work First Program, the County is required to meet a Maintenance of Effort and that is a certain amount of money that the County has to pay before it is eligible to draw down Federal funding. Ms. Moorefield added that with the Electing County status, that amount of money required can be reduced by ten percent to a total of 90%, yet the drawback is that while you have a little leeway in establishing some criteria for eligibility for the Work First Program, that leeway is very slim.

Ms. Moorefield informed the Board that the County was an Electing County from July 1988 to June, 2003, and during that process they learned a lot of things that they thought would be positive, but it did not hold true. Ms. Moorefield stated that at that time, counties were told that if they were an electing county and set aside money to operate the program and they ran it under budget, they were allowed to keep any excess money that had been set aside, and this is no longer an option.

Ms. Moorefield stated that as a Standard County, they operate by the State protocol and follow State policy and cannot deviate from that, however, if they exceed the anticipated expenditures for the Work First Program, they have access to additional State and Federal money to cover those expenses. Ms. Moorefield added that as an Electing County, if they exceed anticipated expenditures, that money is 100% County money and there are no additional funds to help absorb any extra costs that were not anticipated. Ms. Moorefield stated that a Standard County follows policy that is written and administered by the State and they receive assistance from the State if there are appeal hearings in which a client is appealing their denial for assistance, while

an Electing County offers no State assistance and any legal interpretation of policy is at County expense.

Ms. Moorefield reported that during the time that Caswell was an Electing County, there was an occasion in which it spent more than was anticipated and at that point was looking for an additional \$23,000 in County money. Ms. Moorefield added, however, that the Director at that time was fortunate enough to find additional federal funding to cover this additional cost.

Ms. Moorefield informed the Board that the Work First Planning Committee needs to meet to devise the County's Work First Plan and a member of the Board of Commissioners needs to be designated to serve on that committee. Ms. Moorefield added that she needs to submit to the State the County's decision as to whether to be designated a Standard or Electing County. Ms. Moorefield stated that she would strongly encourage the Board to remain a Standard County. Ms. Moorefield added that the Program works well now, they have met the Maintenance of Effort for the last few years, and they have required no additional County cost in administering the Program and providing services to their clients.

After discussion, Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis that the County remain designated as a Standard County for the Work First Program. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to appoint Commissioner Jefferies as the Board of Commissioners' representative to the Work First Planning Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 1

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented for the Board's information Budget Amendment No. 1, which provides a breakdown of the Health Department's Fund Balance which was approved by the Board at its meeting on July 21, 2008.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 3

After review and discussion, Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve Budget Amendment No. 3 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 4

After review and discussion, Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve Budget Amendment No. 4 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 5

After review and discussion, Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to approve Budget Amendment No. 5 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST BY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented a request from the Caswell County Historical Association that they be allowed to use the Caswell County Historical Courtroom for its quarterly meeting on September 14, 2008 at no cost. After discussion, Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Hall to approve the request by the Caswell County Historical Association to use the Caswell County Historical Courtroom for its quarterly meeting on September 14, 2008, at no cost. The motion carried unanimously.

NC DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Ms. Donna Pointer, Senior Services Director, requested approval from the Board to accept a grant application in the amount of \$4,200 from the NC Department of Insurance for the Senior Health Insurance Information Program. Ms. Pointer stated that this grant would provide programming funds and a stipend for the Caregiver Support Program Manager. After discussion, Commissioner Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to accept the grant application from the North Carolina Department of Insurance for the Senior Health Insurance Information Program in the amount of \$4,200 pending the County Manager’s review and his consultation with the County Attorney and Chairman. The motion carried unanimously.

THE ADJOURNMENT

At 6:00 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
