

MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 15, 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, September 15, 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, Angela Evans representing The Caswell Messenger, and Shannon White. 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 Hall requested that the Closed Session on the agenda be amended to include a personnel issue. Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Hamlett to approve the agenda as presented, with the addition of a personnel issue to be included in Closed Session. 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 June 5, 9, 11, 16 and July 1, 2008 Meetings

2) Tax Director's Monthly Report for August, 2008

Total Amount of Taxes Collected for August, 2008	\$159,392.73
Tax Maps/Cards	\$ 196.50
County Maps	\$ 33.60
Beer License	\$ 30.00
NSF Charge	\$ 50.00
EMS	\$ 1,221.20
2008 Prepayments	\$ 20,447.53

3) Financial Reports for July and August, 2008

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Ward opened the floor for public comments.

Ms. Jeanne Riddick West of 4115 Hendley Road, Sanford, NC 27330, came before the Board and stated that she would like to discuss EMS concerns that were brought up at the Board's last meeting. Ms. West added that she was present tonight on behalf of her father, Sam Riddick, to express her concerns about the EMS transport policy. Ms. West informed the Board that her father passed away on September 3, 2008, and he had wanted to talk to the Board of Commissioners and County Manager about the problems that he experienced with EMS and she was here tonight to do this for him. Ms. West stated that on April 6, 2008, her father woke up with shortness of breath, an EMS unit was called, and when it arrived her father requested that he be taken to Durham Regional Medical Center. Ms. Webb added that her father had to give directions to the EMS personnel to get to the hospital and en route no IV was started, vital signs were not rechecked, he was not asked if his breathing was better, and was given a blanket only when her father told them he was cold. Ms. West stated that the EMS personnel missed the hospital and her father had to look out the window to determine where they were so he could tell the driver how to get to Durham Regional. Ms. West informed the Board that on his last trip with EMS on July 18, 2008, her father needed a transport due to a fall and concerns that his hip may be broken. Ms. West stated that EMS informed her mother and brother that they had to transport him to the closest hospital, which was in Danville. Ms. West added that her mother told the EMS personnel that he was going to Durham Regional and after about 20 minutes of discussion and phone calls, EMS made a decision to take him to Durham Regional. Ms. West noted that it made no sense to transport her father to Danville because while they could have assessed his hip, they would not have had any information on his condition otherwise and added that his fall was due to complications from his multiple myeloma and all of his records were in Durham with his doctor of 18 years. Ms. West stated that it is her understanding from being a former First Responder and EMT that EMS protocol in cases of life-threatening emergencies such as heart attack, stroke, trauma is that the transport is to the closest facility, but in all other cases the patient or family can request where they want to go. Ms. West added that with no hospital in the County, the citizens of Caswell County deserve the right to choose where they feel is best for them and families do not need the stress of having to argue about where their loved one is going to be transported. Ms. West stated that she understood that with only two full time units the concern is covering the County when one unit is out of the County, but this can be solved by having three full time units available at all times because Caswell County is too large a county in area to have only two units available. Ms. West added that this is a budget issue that the Board needs to address, all citizens are paying taxes to support EMS, and at a base fee of \$520 and \$9.50 per mile, for a total bill of \$1,337 to transport to Durham Regional, there should be some funds available to support a third unit. Ms. West stated that her family takes great issue with comments made at the last Board meeting about EMS being used as a taxi and assured the Board that it was only as a last resort that her family called EMS and in both incidences they needed the services of EMS, but it was in her father's best interest to be at Durham Regional with his doctor and she did not see this as being a taxi ride. Ms. West confirmed that there are abuses of this system, but asked that the Board not penalize those who really need the service.

#### PUBLIC HEARING – ROAP GRANT

Commissioner Vernon moved, seconded by Commissioner Hall that the Board enter into a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed Rural Operating Assistance Program Grant

application to be submitted to the NC Department of Transportation. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Melissa Williamson, CDOT Director, came before the Board and noted that the Board held a public hearing on this grant application at its meeting on July 21, 2008, however, The Caswell Messenger failed to publish the Public Hearing notice twice as she had requested, only publishing it once, and this caused the State to flag the grant application. Ms. Williamson stated that the North Carolina Public Transportation Division informed her that since the ROAP Application was submitted correctly and on time, they would not penalize the County, but would require that the County hold another public hearing.

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

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CASWELL COUNTY  
MANUFACTURED HOME SITING ORDINANCE

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Vernon that the Board enter into a public hearing to receive comments on proposed amendments to the Caswell County Manufactured Home Siting Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Brian Collie, County Planner, reported that at the Board's August 18, 2008 meeting he brought before them a revised Caswell County Manufactured Home Siting Ordinance which contained a number of proposed amendments after months of review by the Planning Board.

Mr. Mike Ferrell, County Attorney, suggested that the wording, "as it may be from time to time amended" be added to the language in Article 5, Section 5.1, Drainage and Grading, and Section 5.2, Manufactured Home Space Requirements.

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

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Chairman Ward to adopt the proposed amendments to the Caswell County Manufactured Home Siting Ordinance as presented, with the inclusion of the wording suggested by the County Attorney. The motion carried unanimously.

RENAMING OF PRIVATE ROAD

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis that the Board enter into a public hearing to receive comments on renaming a private road, presently known as Beau Matthews Road in Milton Township, to the new name of Big Dipper Drive. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Harvey Rudd, 911 Director, came before the Board and reported that 75% of the property on this road is owned by one individual and his holdings, which totals 2,324 in road frontage. Mr. Rudd stated that a petition has been submitted to rename the private road, presently known as Beau Matthews Road in Milton Township, and running from Covington Road, NC SR 1560,

west for approximately 1580 feet to the terminus of the paving, to the new name of Big Dipper Drive.

Commissioner Hamlett expressed his concern for assurance that neighboring residents are fully aware and agreeable to this change.

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

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Hamlett to table this issue until it is determined that the neighbors are aware and agreeable to the proposed road name change.

Commissioner Travis moved to amend the motion to state that the request for the road name change would be approved contingent upon the approval of the neighbors on the road, and after further discussion, withdrew his motion to amend.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

#### REQUEST BY 911 DEPARTMENT

Mr. Harvey Rudd, 911 Director, came before the Board to request the purchase of a truck for the 911 Department. Mr. Rudd informed the Board that the 911 Department erects all of the road signs for the County and they have been experiencing a lot of problems with the truck that they use to install these signs and repair bills are becoming very costly. Mr. Rudd stated that he has contacted State Surplus about the availability of a service truck and would be able to purchase a 1995 Ford F-350 truck that has a welder, air compressor, and a hoist that would be very useful. Mr. Rudd added that the truck and hoist could be purchased at a cost of \$4,500 and the truck with the welder, air compressor, and hoist could be purchased at a cost of \$5,500. Mr. Rudd informed the Board that there are 911 Funds that could be used to purchase this truck.

After further discussion, Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Hamlett to approve the purchase of a 1995 Ford F-350 truck, to include a welder, air compressor, and hoist, from State Surplus at a cost of \$5,500, to be appropriated from 911 Funds. The motion carried unanimously.

#### REQUEST FOR REPLACEMENT OF GENERATOR FOR 911 COMMUNICATIONS AND DETENTION CENTER

Sheriff Michael Welch came before the Board to request the replacement of the generator for 911 Communications and the Detention Center. Sheriff Welch stated that he has been working with and discussing the current generator with the County Manager over the last six months and trying to determine how much longer it would operate. Sheriff Welch added that recently he has learned that some of the replacement parts needed for the generator are no longer available and in light of some of the problems they have experienced with the current generator, he is before the Board to request the purchase of a new generator.

Sheriff Welch provided a quote from Guardian Elite in the amount of up to \$26,074.92 to replace the generator. Sheriff Welch noted that he plans to make a request to the 911 Board to appropriate funding for 50% of the cost from 911 Funds and would like for the Board of Commissioners to consider appropriating the remaining 50%. Sheriff Welch added that he is in the process of securing another quote for replacement of the generator.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Hamlett, Sheriff Welch answered that the current generator is a 1970 model and replacement parts are no longer available. Sheriff Welch stated that recently there has been an incident in which the generator went out, not restarting, and having to be restarted manually and added that he is concerned about safety issues.

Commissioner Hamlett questioned whether the new generator would be adequate if a new Jail was built and added that he would like to see another quote and also a quote for a larger generator. The County Manager stated that he could discuss this with the architect to determine the size needed for a generator for the new Jail.

This item was tabled to the Board's next meeting.

#### SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Michael Welch came before the Board and stated that based on the budget process this year, he would like to request that they lift the promotional freeze for the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Welch informed the Board that the Sheriff's Office will be losing some 30-year employees that are facing retirement soon that have been a valuable asset to the Office and he would like to start preparing by looking at and assigning different job functions in trying to prepare administrative and management staff. Sheriff Welch added that funding would be available for promotions from Lapsed Salaries based on the vacancies that will be forthcoming and noted that within the budget process there was funding to create two more promotions. Sheriff Welch stated that he would like the promotional freeze lifted so that he can start working with the County Manager and put these promotions in place and have the effective dates for promotions to occur along the lines of the retirement. Sheriff Welch added that he has one position that will be retiring soon and another that will be retiring in approximately one year and he needs to start preparing now for these transitions because there are a number of job duties assigned to these two positions. Sheriff Welch stated that chain of command will not change, but there will be promotions and job functions will be assigned. Sheriff Welch noted that the two positions that will be retiring have 30 years of experience each and he plans to reassign their duties to be attached to current duties to positions that would, in turn, receive promotions. Sheriff Welch added he is requesting a promotion to a new position, not just filling a position that will be vacant. Commissioner Hall stated that he would like to know how many new positions are being proposed, the amount of dollars involved, and the impact on the current budget and future budgets. Sheriff Welch stated that this is a restructuring plan and added that there are a number of duties and individuals have to be empowered to carry out those duties. Sheriff Welch informed the Board that he is not requesting funds because funding is in his budget and clarified that he is asking that the promotional freeze be lifted for his office so that he can start the planning process. Sheriff Welch clarified that two promotions were approved in the current budget, the Board instituted a hiring/promotional freeze, he has one position leaving

which will create lapsed salaries and these lapsed salaries, through working with the County Manager, will be figured to make these promotions. After further discussion, Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies that the promotional freeze be lifted for two positions for the Sheriff's Office. The motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Welch requested that he be allowed to purchase two ballistic vests at a total cost of \$5,839 for the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (SERT), to be appropriated from Asset Forfeiture Funds. After discussion, Chairman Ward moved, seconded by Commissioner Vernon to approve the purchase of two ballistic vests for the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team, at a total cost of \$5,839, to be appropriated from Asset Forfeiture Funds. The motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Welch requested that accrued sick time be carried forward to Caswell County from previous employment for three potential Sheriff's Office applicants. Sheriff Welch reported that two applicants have over 1,000 hours each and one has approximately 64 hours of sick leave. The County Manager noted that the applicant with 64 hours of sick leave falls within the 240 hour transfer that is allowed. After discussion, Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Chairman Ward to approve the accrued sick leave in excess of 1,000 hours to be transferred from previous employment to Caswell County for two potential Sheriff's Office applicants. The motion carried by a vote of four to three with Commissioners Hall, Hamlett, and Travis voting no.

#### RECESS

The Board held a brief recess.

#### PROCLAMATION – THE BIG READ PROGRAM

Chairman Ward moved, seconded by Commissioner Hall to adopt the following Proclamation in support of *The Big Read* Program. The motion carried unanimously

#### PROCLAMATION

of the Board of County Commissioners of Caswell County, North Carolina.

**WHEREAS**, Piedmont Community College, Caswell County Schools, and Caswell County Public Library as a member of the Hyconeechee Regional Libraries, are members of the North Central Piedmont Literacy Collaborative (NCPLC), represents one of five organizations in the United States that will receive grants to support the Big Read Program on John Steinbeck's Epic Novel, "*The Grapes of Wrath*" in September and October, 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, the Big Read is a national program by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and Arts Midwest; and

**WHEREAS**, the Big Read encourages literacy reading by asking communities to come together to read and discuss one book; and

**WHEREAS**, NCPLIC in its mission works to increase literacy in Caswell County, will encourage citizens in Caswell, Person, and Orange counties to read John Steinbeck's "**THE GRAPES OF WRATH**"; and

**WHEREAS**, reading and discussing a book is an effective means by which to engage people in discourse, promote the breaking down of barriers between them, and ultimately lead to the building of stronger communities; and

**WHEREAS**, it is through reading that an educated and informed citizenry is able to make positive contributions to the economic, cultural, and political life in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, Piedmont Community College and its collaborative partners will receive a grant of \$20,000 to promote and carry out a month and half long, three County (Caswell, Person, and Orange) community-based reading and discussion programs; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to direct grants, the NEA also will provide participating communities with a library of free material with reader and teacher guides for the Big Read novel, audio guides for each novel, online organizer's guide for hosting a Big Read program, customized public service announcement, Big Read display materials, and a comprehensive program Web site; and

**WHEREAS**, THE BIG READ (*The Grapes of Wrath*) is an opportunity for all to join forces with Caswell County Government, Piedmont Community College, Caswell County's Gunn Memorial Library, and other community organizations and cultural institutions to explore the themes portrayed in *The Grapes of Wrath*.

**WHEREAS**, to encourage community participation in the project, Piedmont Community College, Caswell County Schools, and the Caswell County Library will collaborate with many private and public partners and institutions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners of Caswell County does hereby support **The Big Read** Program in conjunction with Piedmont Community College, Caswell County Schools, and Caswell County Library, and its partners of the North Central Piedmont Literacy Collaborative and hereby officially proclaim September and October, 2008 as **THE BIG READ** months in Caswell County and encourages the entire Caswell County community to participate wholeheartedly by reading and discussing "**THE GRAPES OF WRATH**" to increase reading in our community.

Dated this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008

S/George W. Ward, Jr. \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

S/Wanda P. Smith

### TAX DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

Mr. Thomas Bernard, Tax Director, came before the Board and submitted the following Monthly Report for August, 2008.

#### Foreclosure Process – All Files

1,622 accounts turned over to Attorney  
26 parcels sold  
984 accounts paid in full  
238 accounts entered into payment plan  
10 bank attached by county  
8 difficult title works  
32 accounts that are leasehold properties  
45 entered into bankruptcy  
17 in-rem foreclosure procedure  
17 files on hold for hardship cases  
245 files moving forward

#### Out of 19 Hardship cases reviewed last meeting

17 accounts continued in Hardship case status  
1 account paid in full  
1 account entered into a payment plan

The collection rate for the 2007 tax year is 95.43% as of 6/30/2008.

Mr. Bernard provided the Board with a list of the names of the Hardship cases, along with map/parcel number and reason for hardship designation. Commissioner Hall questioned why there was no action taken on 17 of the 19 hardship cases and asked what constitutes a hardship case within the tax rules. Mr. Bernard answered that he is trying to work with the individuals who have been designated as hardship cases. Commissioner Hall stated that he would like to know how the Tax Director can make a distinction to proceed with the foreclosure process on some delinquent taxpayers and not others. Commissioner Hall added that he is looking for consistency and that all taxpayers are treated fairly.

Mr. Bernard stated that during the budget process, the Board discussed the contract with Pearson Appraisal Company for conducting the County's revaluation and the possibility of hiring an in-house appraiser. Mr. Bernard added that the County's contract with Pearson Appraiser expired with the 2008 revaluation.

Mr. Bernard provided the Board with the following information on an In-house Appraiser and noted that the figures do not include benefits or an amount for gasoline expenses.

In-house Appraiser cost estimate

Appraiser Salary	\$45,000
Appraiser Clerk Salary	\$23,000
Total cost per year	\$68,000 plus benefits
\$68,000 x 6 yrs. =	\$272,000

Equipment

Vehicle	\$20,000/4 yrs.= \$5,000/yr.
Laptop w/GPS & equipment	\$ 5,000/4 yrs.= \$1,250/yr.

Total cost (4 yrs. new construction plus reval.)           \$297,000

Mr. Bernard provided the Board with the following estimated cost for revaluation submitted by four vendors and noted that the cost may increase each year due to gasoline cost.

Pearson Appraisal

2009 New Construction	\$ 10,500.00
2010 New Construction	\$ 11,000.00
2011 New Construction	\$ 11,500.00
2012 Revaluation	\$293,250.00

Wampler Eanes

2009 New Construction	\$28.00/parcel (Not to exceed \$20,000.00)
2010 New Construction	\$28.00/parcel (Not to exceed \$20,000.00)
2011 New Construction	\$28.00/parcel (Not to exceed \$25,000.00)
2012 Revaluation	\$325,000.00

Gary Piner & Sterling Hancock

2009 New Construction	\$ 6,400.00
2010 New Construction	\$ 6,700.00
2011 New Construction	\$ 7,000.00
2012 Revaluation	\$385,000.00

Assessment Solutions

2009 New Construction	\$20.00/parcel
2010 New Construction	\$20.00/parcel
2011 New Construction	\$20.00/parcel
2012 Revaluation	\$308,000.00

Chairman Ward stated that it would be beneficial for the Board to schedule a workshop to discuss this further. Chairman Ward requested that the County Manager and Tax Director gather all the necessary information prior to this meeting.

## REQUEST FOR JOINT MEETING WITH BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, reported that the Board of Education has requested a joint meeting with the Board of Commissioners to hear a proposal from LINC Services on energy conservation measures for schools. The Board tentatively scheduled a meeting date on September 22, 2008, if confirmed by the Board of Education.

## REQUEST FROM REGISTER OF DEEDS

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented a request from Ms. Delores Dameron, Register of Deeds, that the Board appropriate funds from the Preservation and Automation Fund for converting images to microfilm. Mr. Howard stated that Ms. Dameron is requesting the amount of \$2,393.10 from the Preservation and Automation Fund in order to convert images to microfilm for the North Carolina Archives to ensure that there will always be a backup of her records in the event of a disaster.

After discussion, Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Hall to approve the request by the Register of Deeds to appropriate funds in the amount of \$2,393.10 from the Preservation and Automation Fund to convert images to microfilm. The motion carried unanimously.

## BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 6

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

## BUDGET TRANSFER NO. 10

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented and reviewed Budget Transfer No. 10 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 for the Register of Deeds Office. After discussion, Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve Budget Transfer No. 10 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

## COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, reported that he has required the contractor for the Senior Center Project to have the representative for the roofing supplier to come out and inspect the condition of the particle board sheeting before allowing them to continue with the roof installation.

Mr. Howard reported that the engineers for the Industrial Park Water Project are scheduled to appear before the Board at its October 6, 2008 meeting and give an update on the project. Mr. Howard added that he is waiting on information from the NCDENR to determine how they will

need to operate the system and noted that the City of Danville is interested in assisting in operating the system.

Mr. Howard reported that he received information today that the Golden Leaf Broadband Grant and the grant for the Caswell County School System Welding Project have been approved.

Mr. Howard reported that Brennan & Associates has submitted options for the new County Jail and he has received an additional option.

Mr. Howard reported that he is still pursuing Mr. Ed Carter's waterline request with the City of Danville to assist in operating the system.

Mr. Howard reported that he is still waiting on a request from Hayes Iron and Metal.

Mr. Howard reported that the County received a grant from USDA Rural Development several years ago to provide a business loan to Weatherford Racing, which will be paid back by the end of the month. Mr. Howard stated that a program needs to be set up to begin loaning this money to other interested parties. Mr. Howard added that he would be bringing more information to the Board in October after he has met with USDA to see how the County needs to proceed and still stay within the grant guidelines.

Mr. Howard reported that he would be out of the office on September 23, 2008, to complete the Piedmont Triad Leadership Institute and will be out on vacation on September 11, 12, and October 3, 2008.

Mr. Howard reported that bids have been received for kitchen equipment and telephone system at the Senior Center. Mr. Howard stated that four Requests for Quotes were sent out for kitchen equipment and one response was received from Carolina Restaurant Supply in the amount of \$35,965.94. Mr. Howard added that three Requests for Quotes were sent out for the telephone system for the Senior Center, two quotes were received, and the low bid was submitted by Chatham Communications in the amount of \$3,658.35 plus sales tax. After discussion, Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the bid submitted by Carolina Restaurant Supply in the amount of \$35,965.94 for kitchen equipment for the Senior Center and the bid submitted by Chatham Communications in the amount of \$3,658.35 for the telephone system for the Senior Center. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard presented a request from Hospice of Alamance/Caswell for office space in the new Senior Center. It was agreed that the Building and Grounds Committee would consider this request nearing completion of the Senior Center.

Mr. Howard reported that Mr. Woodrow Bigelow, Chief Building Inspector, has submitted a request that he be allowed to employ part-time Contracted Services when he is out of the office while the Building Inspector position is vacant. Mr. Howard noted that the hourly rate for the Contracted Services would be \$25.00 per hour. After discussion, Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to approve the request by the Chief Building Inspector to employ part-time Contracted Services at a rate of \$25.00 per hour during the time

that he is out of the office and the Building Inspector position is vacant, to be appropriated from and not to exceed the budgeted Building Inspections Contracted Services line item. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard reported that before he discussed the lease of office space with the Alamance/Caswell/Rockingham LME he wanted to determine the current rate for renting office space in Yanceyville. Mr. Howard informed the Board that the current rate is \$9.50 per square foot per year and the County is charging \$9.25 per square foot for office space that it rents to others. Mr. Howard noted that the larger the square footage being rented, the more the rate per square foot comes down. Mr. Howard recommended that the Board approve the rate of \$6.00 per square foot for the 3,000 square feet at the Guilford Mills Building being rented to Alamance/Caswell/Rockingham LME, which would be an annual lease amount of approximately \$18,000 - \$21,000. After discussion, Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies that the County enter into a lease agreement with the Alamance/Caswell/Rockingham Local Management Entity for office space at the Guilford Mills Building at a rate of \$6.00 per square foot. The motion carried by a vote of six to one with Commissioner Hamlett voting no.

Mr. Howard reported that there have been some major leaks in the roof at the Cooperative Extension Service building and repairs need to be made. Mr. Howard stated that it will cost \$5,448 to repair the Extension Service building roof and these funds can come from the County Maintenance Department budget. After discussion, Chairman Ward moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to approve repairs to the roof at the Extension Service building at a cost of \$5,448. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard presented a request from Ms. Kathy Upchurch, County Librarian that the Board release from the hiring freeze a part-time Library Assistant I position. After discussion, Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Hamlett to release from the hiring freeze a part-time Library Assistant I position. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard reported that Mr. Jason Barrow, Recreation Director, submitted his resignation this past Friday and requested approval to advertise and fill that position and to approve the hiring of an Interim Recreation Director. After discussion, Commissioner Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Hamlett to authorize the County Manager to advertise and hire a Recreation Director and appoint an Interim Recreation Director. The motion carried unanimously.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Carter reminded the Board members that the annual Bright Leaf Hoedown will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2008.

Commissioner Carter stated that he was very disturbed by the comments made by a member of the Riddick family in Public Comments concerning EMS service. Commissioner Carter added that he was very unhappy to have a citizen of the County come before the Board with that kind of information.

Commissioner Hall questioned the status of EMS protocol that was discussed at the Board's last meeting. Chairman Ward informed the Board that the Personnel Committee held its first meeting today on this issue and it is his understanding that the EMS Director is working on EMS protocol. Commissioner Hamlett reported that the EMS Director presented the Committee today with a draft of Protocol and Procedures. Chairman Ward directed the Clerk to the Board to provide each Commissioner with a copy of the proposed Protocol and Procedures.

The County Manager announced that the Board is invited to Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation's Solar Panel Dedication Ceremony at its office on Rascoe Dameron Road on October 7, 2008.

Commissioner Hamlett stated that the Scattered Site Housing Program will be renovating 15 homes in the County and questioned the rating used in prioritizing homes for improvement. Commissioner Hamlett added that he would like to see a list of the homes that were on the list and a copy of the policy used in determining priorities.

Commissioner Vernon reported on the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' Annual Conference that he recently attended in Craven County and filed with the Clerk to the Board a copy of a report prepared by the Association on the *State of all Counties*.

Ms. Wanda Smith, Clerk to the Board, reported that at the Board's direction she contacted Mr. Buddy Garland, Farmer Lake Board Chairman, and inquired as to why the Farmer Lake Board has not been meeting. Ms. Smith stated that Mr. Garland informed her that he has not called a meeting because there has been no business to conduct, but he does talk to Mr. Charlie King, Farmer Lake Warden, once a week.

Ms. Wanda Smith, Clerk to the Board, informed the Board that the seal she has been using on all legal county documents is over 100 years old and barely makes an impression. Ms. Smith requested that the Board designate the County Seal that was adopted by the Board of Commissioners as the official seal to be used on all County documents. After discussion, Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to designate the County Seal as the official seal to be used on all County documents. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Mike Ferrell, County Attorney, recommended that both the embossed type seal and inked type seal be purchased for the various documents.

Mr. Mike Ferrell, County Attorney, reported that several months ago the Board of Commissioners adopted the Dan River Water Project Contract and there are two actions that they will need to consider soon and that is zoning of the area that is covered in that contract and the second is the necessity for an additional contract with the Town of Yanceyville for use of the facilities that may or may not be constructed some time in the future.

Commissioner Hall asked the County Attorney if the County is clear on the referendum issue for the November election. Mr. Ferrell answered that he has submitted all the required pre-clearance documents to the Department of Justice and they had 60 days in which to respond to the County.

## THE BIG READ PROGRAM

Mr. Lionell Parker came before the Board and thanked them for adopting the Proclamation in support of *The Big Read* Program and the North Central Literacy Collaborative. Mr. Parker stated that the North Central Literacy Collaborative includes Piedmont Community College, the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts grant for *The Big Read* project, and the PCC Learning Resources Centers (Caswell and Person), the Hyconeechee Regional Libraries (Caswell, Orange, and Person public libraries), the Person County Partnership for Children, the Caswell, Orange, Person and Chapel Hill-Carrboro public school systems, and Durham Technical Community College Orange County campus.

Mr. Parker stated that *The Big Read* is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. Mr. Parker added that the kick-off will provide more information on the many activities and special events to be held in the three-county region, including book distributions, film screenings, book discussions, exhibits of Depression-era photos, and canned food drives as well as other age-appropriate activities centered on the book's themes. Mr. Parker noted that the event will signal the official start of a six-week focus on the importance of reading, fueled by the reading of John Steinbeck's American classic, "The Grapes of Wrath". Mr. Parker noted that "The Grapes of Wrath" portrays a significant event in our national history in that the difficulties caused by economic hardship in the novel are common in much of today's rural South.

Mr. Parker provided the Board members with copies of "The Grapes of Wrath" and other related materials as well as a schedule of events promoting *The Big Read*. Mr. Parker invited the Board members to attend the many events which are all free of charge.

## CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis that the Board enter into closed session 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)); and 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 Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to resume regular session. The motion carried unanimously.

## PELHAM INDUSTRIAL PARK

Commissioner Hall reported that he has talked with property owners at the Pelham Industrial Park and they have noticed that there is a lot of hunters going onto the County's property and requested that the County post the land and possibly install a gate. Chairman Ward instructed

the County Manager to look into installing a gate leading into the Pelham Industrial Park and to post the land.

THE ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30 p.m. Commissioner Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Hamlett 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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