

MINUTES – NOVEMBER 19, 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, November 19, 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 Lauren Chestnut 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 Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies 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 October 15, 2007 Meeting
- 2) Budget Amendment No. 5
- 3) Tax Director's Monthly Report for October, 2007

Total Amount of Taxes Collected for October, 2007	\$1,255,152.85
Tax Maps/Cards	\$ 36.20
County Maps	\$ 23.70
Beer License	\$ 25.00
NSF Charge	\$ 160.00

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Ward opened the floor for public comments.

Ms. Donna Gibson, of 168 Aldridge Road, Yanceyville, NC came before the Board and stated that she was present regarding a proposed Citizens Review Committee. Ms. Gibson informed the Board that she has a meeting tomorrow with Chairman Ward and the County Manager concerning the details of her proposal for this Committee. Ms.

Gibson stated that the proposed Committee would be for citizens of Caswell County to come to with complaints regarding law enforcement and for them to feel that they can speak freely without retaliatory measures. Ms. Gibson added that law enforcement is accountable to the public and should fall under the same guidelines as citizens. Ms. Gibson stated that after their meeting the Chairman and County Manager would share the details of her proposed Review Committee with the entire Board.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS.
GERTHA ANN FAIRCLOTH BLACKWELL

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Vernon to adopt the following Resolution in honor of the 100th birthday of Mrs. Gertha Ann Faircloth Blackwell. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Caswell County Board of Commissioners would like to congratulate and honor Mrs. Gertha Ann Faircloth Blackwell who will be 100 years of age on December 5, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Blackwell was born to John and Repsie Faircloth on December 5, 1907 in Cumberland County, being one of nine children, with all being deceased except for Mrs. Blackwell and one sister, Mrs. Barbara Ellen Faircloth Horne, who was 91 years of age on November 4, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Blackwell is the wonderful mother of seven children, five sons and two daughters, with three of her sons being deceased; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Blackwell was married to Luther Franklin Blackwell for more than 50 years. Mr. Blackwell is now deceased and served his country during World War I, and they had four sons that served their country in the United States Military, with three serving during wartime; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Blackwell has seventeen grandchildren and five generations through ten of her grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Blackwell is now a resident of the Penn Nursing Center in Reidsville, North Carolina and had formerly been a resident of the Brian Center in Yanceyville for two years, being known as "GRANNY" to all the workers and nursing staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Caswell County Board of Commissioners would like to join in the celebration of this wonderful occasion and milestone in the life of Mrs. Gertha Ann Faircloth Blackwell, on the occasion of her birthday of 100 years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caswell County Board of Commissioners would like to congratulate and honor Mrs. Gertha Ann Faircloth Blackwell for her long and prosperous life and extend

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO
MRS. GERTHA ANN FAIRCLOTH BLACKWELL**

on the momentous occasion of her 100th birthday.

ADOPTED THIS THE 19TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2007.

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

ATTEST:

S/Wanda P. Smith
Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board

Chairman Ward presented the adopted Resolution to Ms. Dale Blackwell-Coons, daughter of Mrs. Gertha Ann Faircloth Blackwell. Ms. Blackwell-Coons expressed her sincere appreciation to the Board on behalf of her entire family.

FINANCIAL REPORT – JULY 1 – OCTOBER 31, 2007

Ms. Gwen Y. Vaughn, Finance Officer, came before the Board and presented the following County's Financial Report for the period of July 1 – October 31, 2007.

CASWELL COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT					
FINANCIAL REPORT					
BUDGET vs ACTUAL					
July 1, 2007 - October 31, 2007					
		<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Amended</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>GENERAL FUND REVENUES</u>					
Ad Valorem Taxes		9,511,082	9,511,082	2,660,978	28%
Other Local Taxes & Licenses		21,000	21,000	4,832	23%
Unrestricted Intergovernmental		3,064,280	3,064,280	509,823	17%
Restricted Intergovernmental		7,356,699	7,356,111	1,817,139	25%
Permits & User Fees		486,075	486,075	140,653	29%
Sales & Services		631,193	631,193	213,436	34%
Other General Revenue		150,381	150,381	47,232	31%
Transfers From Other Funds		1,269,703	1,269,703	254,725	20%
Appropriated Fund Balance/Encumbrances		0	12,274	0	0%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND / REVENUES		22,490,413	22,502,099	5,648,817	25%
<u>GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES</u>					
General Government		2,539,461	2,309,011	937,754	41%
Public Safety		2,666,720	2,734,225	960,076	35%
Emergency Services		890,669	909,029	283,988	31%
Economic & Physical Development		232,301	235,084	66,717	28%
Environmental Protection		73,787	75,958	23,704	31%
Human Services		9,057,256	9,190,549	2,603,310	28%
Cultural & Recreational Services		241,105	244,569	125,989	52%
Regional Agencies		123,986	123,986	0	0%
Special Appropriations		147,592	149,392	59,335	40%
Public Education		3,191,533	3,191,533	995,517	31%
Reserve for Fund Balance		1,264,008	1,264,008	203,319	16%
Debt Service/School Bonds		927,203	927,203	83,475	9%
Debt Service/Installments		573,235	573,235	251,308	44%
State & Federal Grants		127,637	132,911	43,743	33%
Pass-Through Funds		0	0	9,892	0%
Transfers to Other Funds		220,233	227,719	47,183	21%
Contingency		13,687	13,687	0	0%
Reserve for Fund Balance		200,000	200,000	0	0%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND / EXPENDITURES		22,490,413	22,502,099	6,695,311	30%
<u>GENERAL FUND/SUB-FUNDS</u>					
Court Facilities Fund					
	Revenues	66,650	72,050	16,407	23%
	Expenditures	66,500	72,050	13,531	19%
Register of Deeds Fund					
	Revenues	11,498	11,498	4,137	36%
	Expenditures	11,498	11,498	0	0%
Library Fund					
	Revenues	256,043	282,441	77,140	27%
	Expenditures	256,043	282,441	87,518	31%
Section 8 Housing Authority					
	Revenues	1,034,539	1,034,539	382,972	37%
	Expenditures	1,034,539	1,034,539	329,405	32%

Mini Grants Fund					
	Revenues	0	5,000	17,555	351%
	Expenditures	0	5,000	3,558	71%
<u>OTHER FUNDS</u>					
Special Fire District Fund					
	Revenues	404,000	404,000	109,887	27%
	Expenditures	404,000	404,000	129,897	32%
Revaluation Fund					
	Revenues	73,936	73,936	18,295	25%
	Expenditures	73,936	73,936	25,457	34%
Emergency Telephone System Fund					
	Revenues	267,900	274,364	76,786	28%
	Expenditures	267,900	274,364	62,436	23%
Community Development Block Grant					
	Revenues	0	1,194,839	1,201,562	101%
	Expenditures	0	1,194,839	1,193,963	100%
Special Revenue Fund					
	Revenues	0	133,816	55,206	41%
	Expenditures	0	133,816	102,612	77%
School Capital Reserve					
	Revenues	1,279,008	1,279,008	211,396	17%
	Expenditures	1,279,008	1,279,008	254,725	20%
Senior Center Project					
	Revenues	2,500	2,002,500	2,035,830	102%
	Expenditures	2,500	2,000,000	92,862	5%
Equipment Automation Fund					
	Revenues	1,200	1,200	405	34%
	Expenditures	1,200	1,200	0	0%
Special Projects Fund					
	Revenues	82,432	181,564	83,664	46%
	Expenditures	82,432	181,564	29,796	16%
Library Development Fund					
	Revenues	1,300	1,300	541	42%
	Expenditures	1,300	1,300	0	0%
<u>ENTERPRISE FUNDS</u>					
Solid Waste Management Fund					
	Revenues	753,214	825,961	238,818	29%
	Expenditures	753,214	825,961	200,676	24%
Caswell Division of Transportation Fund					
	Revenues	423,275	430,064	80,313	19%
	Expenditures	423,275	430,064	107,875	25%

REQUEST TO PURCHASE REMOTE DEPOSIT BANKING SYSTEM

Ms. Gwen Vaughn, Finance Officer, stated that she would like to remove her request to purchase a remote deposit banking system at this time for further consideration at budget time.

PROPOSED 2008 EMS TOOLKIT GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Jim Gusler, EMS Director, came before the Board to present for approval the 2008 EMS Toolkit Grant Application to fund Emergency Medical Dispatch. Mr. Harvey Rudd, 911 Director, was also present.

Mr. Gusler stated that this grant application in the amount of approximately \$150,000 has already been filed with the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services. Mr. Gusler informed the Board that the Office of Emergency Medical Services received a grant in the amount of \$1.5 million from Duke Endowment to fund EMS and EMD Programs across the state. Mr. Gusler informed the Board that one of the biggest problems EMS and fire services has had is getting good and appropriate information from callers. Mr. Gusler noted that the County's telecommunicators are not trained to the level of emergency medical dispatch because resources have not been available and the number of telecommunicators needed in the Communications Center to operate this program effectively has not been available. Mr. Gusler stated that this grant would enable them to fund the implementation of EMD and allow them to buy computer software programs that will be needed for this system. Mr. Gusler added that a match will be required, but it will be provided out of administrative funds that are already in place and they will be using 911 funds to rebuild some of the infrastructure.

Mr. Gusler informed the Board that this grant includes the hiring of three additional employees. Mr. Gusler noted that the period of the grant is for one year and did not know if it would be available after that time, so there would be recurring costs after the expiration of the grant.

Mr. Harvey Rudd, 911 Director, stated that he felt the County would eventually be forced to go to Emergency Medical Dispatch and it would be helpful to offset the cost by applying for this grant. Mr. Rudd noted that all surrounding counties have already gone to Emergency Medical Dispatch and it probably will not be long before the State requires that telecommunicators be EMD certified. Mr. Rudd informed the Board that the 911 Center has only two employees more than it had in 1980, and the amount of workload has increased four times that of 1980.

Mr. Gusler stated that 89 counties in the State have already gone to some type of Emergency Medical Dispatch and eventually Caswell County will be forced to do the same.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Carter, Mr. Rudd answered that approximately 15% of the calls received through 911 are for the Town of Yanceyville. Commissioner Carter noted that the County had requested that the Town of Yanceyville fund an additional Telecommunicator position, but they did not. Commissioner Carter stated that he felt that the Town of Yanceyville should be approached concerning contributing towards the hiring of telecommunicators. Mr. Rudd informed the Board that 911 calls are increasing by approximately 1,000 per year and they currently have approximately 16,000 calls per year, not including calls that do not require dispatch.

Commissioner Travis stated that the people in the Town pay County taxes and they deserve the same as County residents and did not feel that the Town owes it to the County to pay for additional telecommunicators.

Mr. Gusler noted that if the County received the grant, it would be May or June, 2008, before they could implement Emergency Medical Dispatch in the County.

Commissioner Travis stated that if the County receives the grant and additional personnel is hired, they need to be told up front that if the grant is no longer funded, they may not have a job.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Hamlett as to whether they could apply for two people instead of three, Mr. Harvey answered that three would be a minimum in order to operate, and in actuality they need five. Upon questioning from Commissioner Hamlett concerning the elimination of overtime, Mr. Rudd answered that if additional personnel are hired, then overtime should be reduced some, but not completely.

After further discussion, Commissioner Vernon moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the 2008 EMS Toolkit Grant Application as presented by the EMS Director and 911 Director. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE WATER AND SEWER PROJECTS FOR NC RURAL CENTER GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, reported that the North Carolina Rural Center has a grant program this year to fund water and sewer projects throughout the State. Mr. Howard stated that he has talked with engineers concerning the possibility of County-wide water and a proposed water project at the Industrial Park in Pelham.

Commissioner Hall stated that he would hope that the County would move forward on this and expressed particular concern that water is needed at the Pelham Industrial Park since a property owner at the Park is ready to move forward and construct a building and determine whether he needs to have a well dug.

After discussion, Commissioner Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis that the County move forward in applying for possible water and sewer projects through the North Carolina Rural Center Grant and Loan Program. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ward questioned whether there are grants that would provide for tapping onto water that is already available and Mr. Howard answered that he would check into this.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, reported that the bid opening for the proposed Senior Center will be held on November 30, 2007, to accommodate the contractors who are bidding on the project and he would bring these bids to the Board at its December 3, 2007 meeting.

Mr. Howard reported that he has received information from Robert S. Segal, CPA PA, the only CPA firm in North Carolina devoted exclusively to non-personal expense reduction enhancement consulting performed on a contingent fee basis. Mr. Howard informed the Board that this firm has worked successfully with 70 of the 100 North Carolina counties. Mr. Howard stated that he would like for Mr. Segal to come before the Board to present additional information. The Board was agreeable to this.

Mr. Howard reported that the Girl Scouts has requested permission to place luminaries around the Square on the day of the annual Christmas parade in Yanceyville. Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Vernon to allow the Girl Scouts to place luminaries around the Square on the day of the annual Christmas parade in Yanceyville. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hall stated that since the County Manager is in charge of the building, he has the authority to grant these types of requests.

Mr. Howard informed the Board that a date needed to be set for a Commissioners workshop. Chairman Ward stated that a date would be established for the first of the year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Ward announced that a member of the public did not arrive in time to sign up for *Public Comments* because he thought the Board met at the New Courthouse and went there. Chairman Ward stated that he would like to allow the individual to speak. The Board was agreeable to this.

Mr. Bill Compton came before the Board and stated that he and his wife live at 153 Bill Compton Road, which is off of Longs Mill Road. Mr. Compton added that he just became aware that there is an effort to seek relief from the County's Noise Ordinance for a dog kennel operation that is next door to him. Mr. Compton informed the Board that the dogs are located on a hill near his home. Mr. Compton stated that approximately 10 years ago the Board adopted a Noise Ordinance and in Section 4(h) of that Ordinance, it states that a business must take reasonable measures not to disturb neighbors within that

immediate vicinity. Mr. Compton added that about six years ago he had a considerable problem with noise from these dogs and the Sheriff's Department came several times to appeal to these people concerning the noise and after several visits a Noise Ordinance violation was issued. Mr. Compton stated that he came to the Courthouse on the court date and the Assistant District Attorney talked to them to see if they could work out something. Mr. Compton added that they met with the Brewers and their Attorney, Mr. Stuart Watlington, and they agreed to move their dogs to the far side of the hill where the noise could not be heard as well. Mr. Compton noted that a shed and some dogs were moved, but eventually over time dogs were moved back, they built more pens, and it became increasingly noisy. Mr. Compton stated that they have tried to work with the Brewers, but it got so bad that he called the Sheriff's Department and they came out and talked with the Brewers. Mr. Compton informed the Board that in November the Sheriff's Department came out and issued a warning of the Noise Ordinance, then about a week later an officer came back and issued a violation of the Ordinance. Mr. Compton added that the court date is December 5th and since that violation has been issued and now, the Brewers have demonstrated that they can keep their dogs quiet for the most part. Mr. Compton appealed to the Board not to grant an exemption of the Noise Ordinance to the Brewers. Mr. Compton stated that all he wants is peace and quiet and to be able to enjoy his home and would really appreciate help from the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Carter reminded the Board that the Annual Christmas Parade would be held on December 1, 2007, at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Hall announced that in October he was appointed to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' state-wide Steering Committee on Education and they had their first meeting on November 13, 2007.

Commissioner Vernon announced that he is serving on the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' Board of Directors as Co-Chair of the Agriculture Committee. Commissioner Vernon stated that they met this past week and discussed extensively the drought and the need for water and regulations across the state if the drought continues. Commissioner Vernon informed the Board that there was also discussion at this meeting of a grant that could be available for some value added prospects here. Commissioner Vernon stated that he and Mr. Joey Knight, Cooperative Extension Service Director are looking at this and noted that this will be coordinated through the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

Chairman Ward noted that he canceled the joint meeting scheduled with the Board of Education at 5:00 p.m. this evening after discussion with their Chairperson. Chairman Ward informed the Board that the Board of Education would like to meet at the Civic Center or Senior Center for a roundtable discussion about the School system, their needs, test scores and testing process, and the Board of Commissioners' expectations. Chairman Ward stated that this item would be placed on the Board's next agenda for possible dates to meet.

Chairman Ward discussed the possibility of the Commissioners planning a date to go out for dinner during the Christmas holidays. Chairman Ward requested that each Board member notify the Clerk to the Board as to possible dates.

ANNUAL EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

The County Manager informed the Board that the Annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon hosted by the Board of Commissioners would be held on Wednesday, December 5, 2007, at 12:00 noon at the Caswell County Civic Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Margo Compton came before the Board and requested permission to address the Board. Chairman Ward and the Board were agreeable to this.

Ms. Margo Compton of 153 Bill Compton Road, came before the Board and asked if Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager granted an exemption from the Noise Ordinance to the Brewers for their dog kennels and then direct the Sheriff not to answer any calls from the Comptons about noise from their dog kennels. Ms. Compton asked if they are exempted from calling for protection from the noise. Ms. Compton stated that if their rights have been usurped under the County Ordinance, then they need to bring civil action.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies that the Board enter into closed session to consider the competence, terms of appointment, and performance of an individual public officer (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)). The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

At 8:15 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
