

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

November 1, 2021
OTHERS PRESENT

David J. Owen, Chairman
Jeremiah Jefferies, Vice Chairman
William E. Carter
John D. Dickerson
Rick McVey
Steve Oestreicher

Bryan Miller, County Manager
Carla R. Smith, Clerk to the Board
Debra Ferrell, The Caswell Messenger
Brian Ferrell, County Attorney (Joined Remote)

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Caswell, North Carolina, met in regular session on Monday, November 1, 2021 at 9:00 am in the Historic Courthouse.

WELCOME:

Chairman Owen called the meeting to order and paused for a moment of Silent Prayer. Then the Board of Commissioners and all the guest in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Then Chairman Owen told the Board that an adjustment needed to be made to the agenda. Before we go any further, we need to have a closed session before the Public Hearing. The Commissioners will go downstairs, and the public can stay here.

CLOSED SESSION:

A **motion** was made at 9:04 am by Commissioner Owen and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) with the following individuals permitted to attend: County Manager, Bryan Miller, Clerk to the Board, Carla Smith, County Attorney, and Brian Ferrell. (Commissioner Carter, Dickerson, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher, and Owen voted in favor)

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Oestreicher, seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** to return to open session at 9:29 am. (Commissioner Carter, Dickerson, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher, and Owen voted in favor)

PUBLIC HEARING - REDRAWING THE CASWELL ELECTORAL DISTRIC LINES:

Chairman Owen declared the Public Hearing for the Redrawing of Caswell County's Electoral District Lines open. Then the floor was turned over to the County Manager for a presentation followed by public comments.

The County Manager shared a presentation about redistricting and the redistricting process.

Redistricting: Legal Considerations

Kelly Tornow, Associate General Counsel, NCSBE
August 11, 2021



What is Redistricting?



- The process of redrawing district boundaries every ten years, following the decennial United States Census
- Done to ensure that voting power and representation are distributed equally, based on population
- Congressional and legislative redistricting performed by General Assembly; county, municipal, school board redistricting performed by General Assembly or governing body (or process prescribed in court order/consent decree in some cases)



As those of you that are on the Board understand, we in Caswell County have a consent decree that we operate under that was entered into in 1989 by the Board of Commissioners, Board of Education, and the Board of Elections.

The Process for Redrawing Electoral Districts includes the following:

1. Required by the state of NC following a Decennial Census for those counties that operate with electoral districts. That means the Commissioner for that district has a requirement to live in that district.
2. Contracted with Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) to redraw Caswell Counties Electoral Districts.

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3. PTRC extrapolated the data from the 2020 Decennial Census and redrew Caswell County's electoral district lines and they were presented to the Board of Commissioners as proposed districts.
4. The Caswell County Board of Commissioners reviewed the newly drawn maps and determined they had additional priorities that were not met with the newly drawn version.
5. County Manager worked with PTRC and staff to revisit the proposed district map. Determination was that to meet the priorities of the Board, the newly drawn districts would have to substantially change.
6. After the substantial changes were made, the County Manager presented the altered map to the Board of Commissioners in a special meeting.
7. After reviewing the map, the County Manager received several comments from commissioners and the public which necessitated several changes to the districts.
8. The result is Version 6 (V6) that you will review today.

Priorities that the Commissioners laid out for redrawing electoral districts.

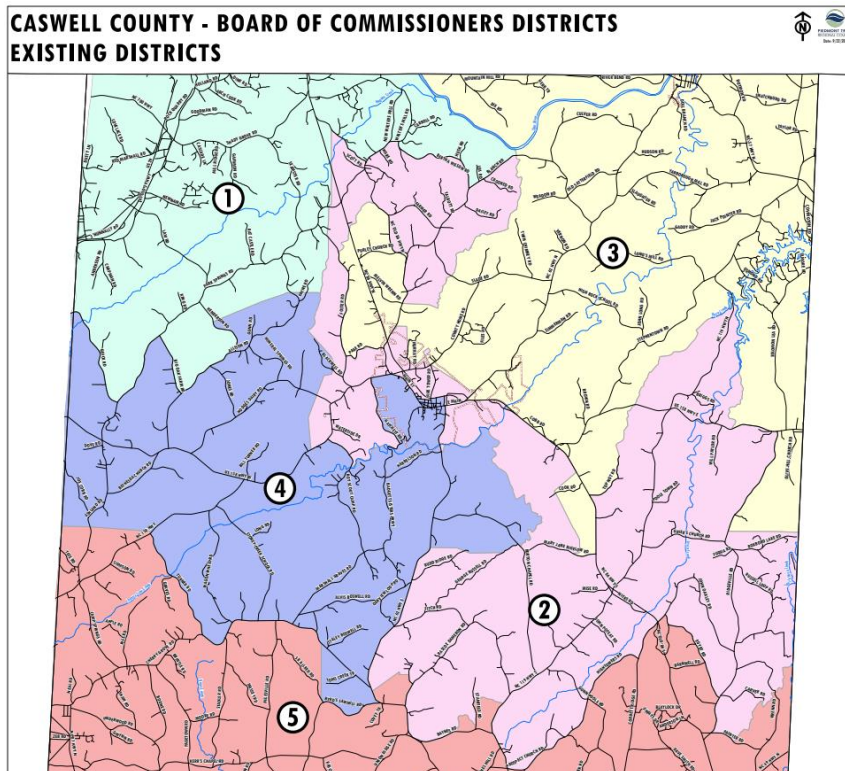
1. Keep all sitting commissioners serving in a district role currently, in a new redrawn district.
 - a. Forces districts 1, 2, and 4 to come together on the western part of the county.
 - b. One district must move north, one district must move south, and one must extend westward.
2. Keep populations in each district as even as possible in each district. This is not only a Board requirement, but also a legal requirement.
 - a. Current Electoral Districts are 16% out of balance between the most populated district and the least populated district. This indicates an almost 7% population shift.
 - b. To get within 2% (5% target) of population in electoral districts, we must follow more than just roads. Bodies of water, township lines, and municipal lines must be used to separate districts.
3. Maintain two minority majority districts within Caswell.
 - a. This comes from the 1989 Consent Decree
 - b. Minority population has declined in Caswell by 506 residents.
 - c. African American population has declined by 1,187.
 - d. Other minority populations have increased by 681.
 - e. This among other things has caused a population shift.

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- f. Both districts must share census tracts in Yanceyville to maintain the minority majority districts.
- g. Minority populations by township.

	<u>%District</u>	<u>%Minority Population</u>
i. Yanceyville	57%	24%
ii. Locust Hill	47%	14%
iii. Stoney Creek	31%	13%
iv. Milton	51%	12%
v. Pelham	30%	12%
vi. Anderson	34%	8%
vii. Dan River	26%	7%
viii. Hightowers	23%	5%
ix. Leasburg	38%	5%

Legal considerations include compactness, the districts being contiguous meaning you don't have a spot district, preserves communities of interest, one person one vote, Consent Decree, and minimizes split precincts. PTRC proposed districts meets the legal requirements for redistricting but not the priorities of Board Commissioners. Other versions meet the priorities of the Board of Commissioners and the Consent Decree, but they may contain some deficiencies in other areas. Then the County Manager shared the Existing Electoral Districts map.



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These districts were drawn in 2010. Many of the districts are elongated and have a funny shape to them. Commissioner Oestreicher asked was the reason for that odd shape to achieve the minority majority aspect of that district. The County Manager said he cannot answer that definitively because he was not here in 2010. The County Manager said he would suspect that was one priority that was used. So, the current proposed version that you will consider today, the County Manager wanted to point out a few things about. It is 1.87% out of balance from the most populated district to the least. If you look at the PTRC version, it is 2.84% out of balance between the most populated district and the least populated district. The current districts that were drawn in 2010 are 8.77% out of balance. The districts that are presented today are much closer in population than the current districts. The population shifts over the past 10 years have resulted in a 16% difference from the most to the least populated district for our current Board of Commissioners electoral districts.

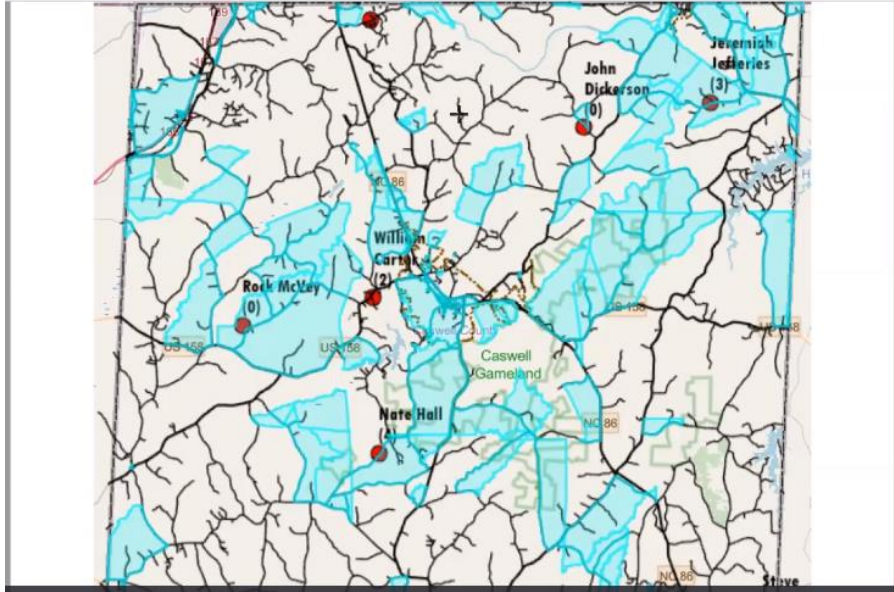
Proposed District V3	2020 Total Population	2020 Minority Population	Percent Minority	
1	4,545	1,275	28.05%	
2	4,536	1,402	30.91%	
3	4,549	2,371	52.12%	
4	4,596	2,412	52.48%	
5	4,510	1,240	27.49%	
Total	22,736	8,700	38.27%	98.13%

Proposed District	2020 Total Population	2020 Minority Population	Percent Minority	
1	4,516	1,228	27.19%	
2	4,514	1,296	28.71%	
3	4,514	2,371	52.53%	
4	4,546	2,350	51.69%	
5	4,646	1,455	31.32%	
Total	22,736	8,700	38.27%	97.16%

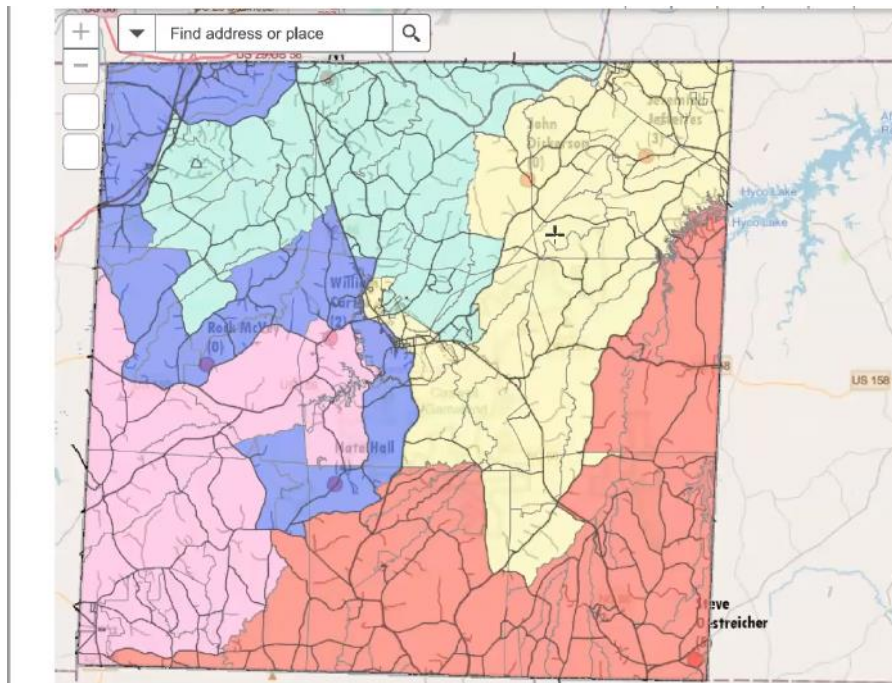
Existing District	2010 Total Population	2010 Minority Population	Percent Minority	
1	4,537	1,119	24.66%	
2	4,837	1,385	28.63%	
3	4,973	2,763	55.56%	
4	4,697	2,650	56.42%	
5	4,675	1,289	27.57%	
Total	23,719	9,206	38.81%	91.23%

The County Manager then pointed out that there are true minority majority districts, which are district 3 and district 4, that have at least 52% minority majority. Then to give you a graphic

demonstration of why the districts look like they do, the County Manager pointed out that one of the factors, not the predominant factor, was the 1989 Consent Decree. Then this graphic illustration was shared showing the minority majority census tracts throughout the county, and they are becoming more evenly distributed throughout the county.



This is the map we are considering today for the Public Hearing. The Board advised the Clerk and County Manager to put this map on the county website and have it considered for the Public Hearing.



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You can see this version of electoral districts is not unlike our previous version in that there are some electoral districts that are elongated and have irregular shapes. To achieve the priorities of the Board that was one of the things we had to do. The County Manager also wanted to point out that Caswell has a prison work farm and a prison. Those two facilities together house approximately 1100 inmates or residents and about 800 are minorities. This is important to note while going through this process because those two facilities are included in the decennial census.

The Legal requirements for redistricting are compactness, one person one vote, the districts are continuous, the Consent Decree, preserve communities of interest, and minimize split precincts. The Board of Commissioners priorities are each sitting commissioner representing a district should remain in a district apart from other commissioners representing a district, equal populations in districts, and abiding by the consent decree and maintaining two minority majority electoral districts. Then the County Manager paused for any questions.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the County Manager said the Work Farm and the Prison are not in the same district. The County Manager said that is correct. Chairman Owen asked was there anything more from the Board before he took comments from the public. There were no other commissioner comments. So, Chairman Owen said at this time if anyone would like to speak concerning the redrawing of Caswell County's electoral district lines you can come forward.

Rebecca Page: 820 Page Road in Yanceyville. Prisoners can't vote. That is one of the things you lose when you go to prison. So did I understand you correctly to say that the population of the prisons have been included as you decide where these lines are drawn.

County Manager: They are included for the numbers for the decennial census, which are used to redraw electoral districts.

Rebecca Page: Does that make sense since they are not voting?

County Manager: I honestly can't answer what makes sense and what doesn't.

Leslie Zimmerman: 732 Solomon Lea Rd in Leasburg. Can you put the map back up? I was listening to NPR on my way here this morning and Rusty Jacobs was talking about this. The blue line, the nice "S," may work out numerically, but squiggly lines are not allowed. It is supposed to be as square or rectangular as possible. This looks like someone is messing with us. It just doesn't seem normal.

There were no other speakers. So, Chairman Owen declared the Public Hearing closed after November 2, 2021 at 10:00 am. to allow for public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The following individuals appeared before the Board to make public comments:

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Rebecca Page: 820 Page Road in Yanceyville. Thank you for considering the redesign of the Courthouse Square and the relocation of the Confederate Monument.

As a Caswell native, current resident and great granddaughter of a Caswell native who fought in the Civil War, I believe I have “skin in the game” as it relates to the confederate monument! My great grandfather, James Bentley Page, returned home from the war so beaten by the harsh conditions that he never recovered. He wasn’t killed in the war, but it did take his life.

As I’ve grown to understand the motives of the Civil War, the horrors of slavery and the ripple effects people of color continue to experience, I realize the confederate monument never deserved its esteemed position in the center of the county, center of the county seat, high on a pedestal in the center of the courthouse square, as if memorializing the county’s and its citizens’ proudest and defining moment. It simply is NOT that, and never was.

I do believe the monument should be relocated (NOT stored and forgotten) to a less distinguished location...perhaps behind the history museum with the World War II memorial or in the arboretum or private property (or another location) and it’s complete and historical context explained. It should be respectful with interpretive material representing all sides allowing the observer to come to their own conclusions.

This would not be disrespectful to my great grandfather, nor an attempt to forget history, but rather an opportunity to tell the full truth. Acknowledging our less than noble and atrocious actions of the past AND committing to learn from them, and not repeat them, would be the highest honor we could pay our Civil War dead.

If we could allow this process of redesigning the square to broker reconciliation, what a proud moment and glorious legacy that would be! Thank you.

Kent Williamson: 461 Graves Road. First, I would like to thank the Commissioners for moving Caswell County forward, especially in the Education field by Bartlett Yancey having the high-tech school built. Second for supporting higher education through Piedmont Community College, which will help the county as a whole. I was on the Board earlier in late 2020 and the relocating of the monument was on the agenda at that time. We have spent a year trying to put this to rest. It should be moved on by the Commissioners by going ahead and relocating them. Fix the square so that it is inviting to our business district. You did a wonderful job creating a business district, but at the same time you turn around and have the monument sitting there. It’s a sign of hatred. If anyone knows the reason for the Civil War, they will look at that monument and say we don’t need this here for that reason. Remember the oath that you have taken. To be a commissioner, your oath said you would support the laws of the United States not the laws of the Confederacy. Remember that when you are making your decision and remember the people you are supporting. Try and make Caswell County a better county. Thank you.

Danielle Elmore: I work for the Caswell County Health Department, and I have been asked to speak on the flu. What is the flu? Influenza (flu) is a serious disease that at times can lead to

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death. It is very contagious and spreads in the US starting in the fall through the spring. Unlike the cold, flu symptoms start suddenly. They appear 1 to 4 days after a person has been exposed. A person is contagious with the flu 1 day before symptoms start up to 5 to 7 days after they become sick. The only treatment for the flu is antiviral drugs. You can take ibuprofen and acetaminophen to increase your comfort, but there is nothing you can take to actually get rid of the flu. The people that are at the highest risk are your young children, older adults, and the people with weaker immune systems. They will become sicker. What is the best way to prevent the flu? The best way to prevent the flu is to get your flu vaccine. Everyone 6 months of age or older should get the flu vaccine every year. The flu vaccine will not cause you to get the flu. When should you get your flu vaccine? Every year you should get it as soon as possible. It takes approximately 2 weeks to build a fully effective immunity against the flu. Which means before the flu season starts is when you want to get it. Flu season doesn't peak until February through May, but you can get your flu vaccine at any time. Caswell County Health Department offers flu vaccines by appointment or walk-in at any time. Also, you can see your primary provider to receive your flu vaccine or go to a pharmacy. Caswell County Health Department is offering flu vaccines to the Commissioners and to the public today at recess. I will be in the back corner. Thank you.

Earnestine Hamlett: 579 Hudson Road. Commissioners this morning I want to talk to you about several things. First, we are here as concerned citizens to ask you to relocate that Confederate monument and redesign the Town Square. This piece of artwork does not represent the values of this county nor the values of all of the citizens. You are our elected officials, and you represent all of us citizens. You have the obligation to represent us in a way that we would be proud of. So, someone asked the question, where are we going to get this money to relocate it and redesign. Well sir, it seems to me that money is not a problem. We spent \$5,000 on a survey that seems to hold very little value. The proposed or mentioned site to relocate the monument from the front of the courthouse to the left side of the courthouse was not an option on the survey. One other thing as taxpayers, we do not want our tax dollars to go toward upkeeping this Confederate monument that represents so much hatred and racism. Someone asked the question, where are we going to get this money. Well sir, our taxes went up substantially this year. I thought about it for a while last night, and I feel like we are here today off of the neck of George Floyd. When George Floyd died, there were a number of Confederate monuments that began to tumble down because of its negativity and hatred that it holds. I'm sure all of you are well aware of this. It is very disheartening to be in a county where some of our elected officials seem to think this symbol is worth holding on to. And you are willing to turn the other way. We are asking you today to live up to this county motto. Preserve the past and embrace the future. We will continue to march on until victory is won. Thank you.

Vicki Foster: 9532 Pacing Lane Northwest Concord, North Carolina. I am here today because I am a long time Caswell resident. We still have property and a home here. Half of County Home Road is my family. I did not plan to speak today. I'm not normally in town. I'm here on family business, but this is something that is dear to my heart. I'm actually surprised honestly that we are still talking about this. The fact that the center of this town, which is the heart of this town, represents anything that offends the citizens of this county, is amazing to me and that we don't care enough to make sure that it is removed. Where it goes is really not my concern. The fact is we should care enough about the citizens and all citizens. If that monument offended the other side of this town, I would be standing here the same way because this is not about race. It is about what is offensive to the people who are supposed to be included in this county. That center should be the heart of this town and is the heart of this town. Whether it's a park, but it should be a place where all people feel welcomed. We all know what the confederacy stands for. We don't have to go back through history. While history is history, I support history. There are people that died in the Confederacy. I understand that. The fact that this county owns that statue, and don't want to do anything with it is amazing to me. Because you are elected officials, you are here to represent all people in this county. What that means is that you consider how people feel about what they have to walk by every day if it doesn't represent them. It represents some very bad things. We all know that. I'm not going to go into a history lesson. What I expect is for the people of this town is to do better. Because when you know better, you do better. This is not about black against white. This is about right against wrong. This is about making people feel inclusive. I didn't come here with a speech. I came here with a heart. I came here to say that my expectation, if it's about money, I will go on record today saying I will pledge \$2,500 towards the removal of this. Put it where you want to put it. I don't care. I'm not asking for an African American statue. It's not about that. It's about being fair, honest, and inclusive of all citizens. You elected officials; I expect you to do better.

Leslie Zimmerman: 732 Solomon Road in Leasburg. Everything is fishy in Caswell County. You know when you walk up to a fish fry, and it just doesn't smell right. There's only one thing that can out smell the stench of raw fish, and that is the smell of cooked fish that has gone bad. It can cause a massive odor problem. The longer you keep fish around the more it will make you hold your nose when you cook it. Well, it certainly seems that you kept the planning board members that have repeat terms way too long. Actually, it's obvious that many of them feel this way. Since they are never prepared, never informed, and hardly ever attend meetings. As you know making sound decisions regarding land use, zoning, and project appropriateness is not a game. It requires responsible and reliable elected and appointed representatives of the Caswell Community. It is clear that some of the planning board members are incapable of acting in the best interests of Caswell County. The dysfunction of the planning board no longer lies with the planning board. It has now become the Board of Commissioners dysfunction. It is time for you to clean up this mess. Throw them out.

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The following public comments were emailed to the Board and were shared with the Commissioners via email.

Phil Barfield, 910 Melvin Wrenn Rd, Yanceyville. cambarus.davidi@gmail.com

On Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 1:00PM, the Caswell County Planning Board was to meet as the Watershed Review Board in the Historic Courthouse to hear appeals to permits issued by the Watershed Administrator. The hearing did not happen because of a lack of quorum by the Planning Board members. Many citizens, appellants, county officials, county employees, and attorneys were present and ready to conduct the hearing. Taxpayers are now left to pay the hefty tab of attorney fees and employee time for this non-event.

County policy #13 adopted last year establishes policy and procedures for boards such as the Planning Board. All members of the board serve at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners. Members must be prepared and committed to participating in board work in a manner that enhances relationships between Caswell County and the community and serve the people of Caswell County. As such, their role includes their commitment for full participation in board meetings. They **shall** inform the board chair as soon as possible when unable to attend an upcoming meeting - at least 48 hours' notice due to quorum considerations.

Did the absent members give notice in accordance with the policy? If so, why was the meeting still held when a quorum was questionable? If not, what were their reasons for not notifying the board chair and not attending the meeting?

The Planning Board serves at your pleasure and answers to you. The Board of Commissioners can notify members by letter when deemed necessary to release them from their term of appointment on the board. Please investigate and determine what happened, why, and take action to prevent this from happening again. Thank you.

Gay Pleasant, 1268 Painter Road in Prospect Hill. mgaygasper@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

Please see to it that, in the future, the Caswell County Planning Board is composed of members who understand the task at hand and the responsibilities that accompany a seat on that board. There are many thoughtful, respectful community members who could serve our county in this position, but it is up to you to select them. Thanks.

Marcia McNally: 752 Tom Bowes Road, Hurdle Mills, NC

27541 mmcnally@centurylink.net

RE: Complaint against Watershed Review Board

I am one of those being sued by Carolina Sunrock for filing an appeal regarding permits issued by the Watershed Review Board in favor of the Prospect Hill quarry project. Even though I never

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received notice of the appeals hearing, I am also one of the many citizens who were in attendance at the hearing last Tuesday, October 27th. We were asked to be there and attended in good faith, as did our attorney.

As you have no doubt heard, the hearing that was cancelled for a lack of quorum. It is my understanding that this is part of a regular pattern of inappropriate and irresponsible behavior on the part of some of the Watershed Review/Planning Board (WR/PB) members. Irregular attendance, actions made with suspect process, and so on.

As you know, making sound decisions regarding land use, zoning, and project appropriateness is not a game. It requires responsible and reliable elected and appointed representatives of the Caswell community. It is clear that some of the WR/PB members are incapable of acting in the best interest of Caswell County. I hope the Board of County Commissioners will take this seriously and act accordingly.

RECOGNITIONS:

Chairman Owen started off today by recognizing the Bartlett Yancey High School Volleyball team. They are one win away from playing for a State Title. They play tomorrow night I believe. If they win that, they will be playing for the State Title. I would like to congratulate them for a job well done this year.

Commissioner Oestreicher wanted to recognize I believe it's the Chamber of Commerce that sponsored or set up in conjunction with the town the candy trail for Halloween. It was a resounding success. It was very enjoyable watching all these children dressed up like everything from death to a fairy. It was just wonderful seeing all the people out roaming around. We ran out of candy where we were because it was so many people.

Commissioner Dickerson said he wanted to echo what Commissioner Owen and Oestreicher said. The candy trail was excellent. An excellent idea. I hope to participate in that next year as well. As far as the volleyball, those girls are really doing good. Looking forward to them winning the State championship.

County Manager Miller said he would like to recognize the staff at the library because they put the candy trail together and organized and distributed maps. Most of the organization and work was done by the Gunn Memorial Public Library and their staff.

RECESS – FLU CLINIC:

The Board took a brief recess to allow Commissioners and members of the public to receive a flu shot if they chose to.

AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Jefferies and seconded by Commissioner McVey.

Then the County Manager asked the Chairman was he going to leave the redesign of the Town Square on the agenda. Chairman Owen said Commissioner Hall has not talked with him, and he is not sure what all that conversation was going to be. So, we will remove that because I don't know what all that would have included. We will remove number 8 since Commissioner Hall is not here. Then the County Manager said Commissioner Hall was very involved with the Ethics Policy. I don't know if the Board wants to leave that. Chairman Owen asked if the Board was okay to remove number 8 and there were no objections from the Board. Then Chairman Owen asked about removing number 9 the Ethics Policy. Commissioner Oestreicher asked how long the policy was. County Manager Miller said the policy is three pages long. There is not a huge discussion surrounding the Ethics Policy. It's simply an Ethics Policy that would be for the Board of Commissioners, County Employees, and Boards and Committees. So, the Board agreed to hold off with any action until Commissioner Hall was here to review that policy.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Jefferies and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** to approve the agenda as amended. (Commissioner Carter, Dickerson, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher, and Owen voted in favor)

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. October 18, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. October 21, 2021 Redistricting Meeting Minutes

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were no discussion items.

ACTION ITEMS:

OPIOID RESOLUTION:

The County Manager said at your last Board meeting you asked us to move forward with the opioid litigation Memorandum of Agreement between the state of North Carolina and Caswell County. As part of that we included the resolution in your agenda packet. We would just ask that you would approve the resolution and the resolution would serve as the Boards action on moving forward with the opioid litigation.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Owen and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried 5 - 1** to approve the resolution. (Commissioner Carter, Dickerson, Jefferies, McVey, and Owen voted in favor. Commissioner Oestreicher voted against the motion.)

COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATES:

County Manager Miller said he had two updates for the Board today. Mr. Miller wanted to inform the Board that today is the official closing date for the operations of Home Health. We

will officially close on that today. We expect \$675,000 deposit for the sale of that Home Health operation to be deposited within three business days to our account. Much of which as discussed with the Board before should be allocated to Home Health fund balance. The County Manager wanted to let the Board know that we are going to move forward as soon as the closing occurs with the payout for those employees that were dedicated enough to the County to stay with the County throughout the process. As we discussed in the earlier parts of the process.

Also, the Department of Transportation has verbally accepted the plat from Shadow Ridge Road. We expect the final plat to be completed today, reviewed by the Planning Department, and filed with the Register of Deeds later this week. After that occurs, we will move forward with the process for the special assessment of Shadow Ridge Road.

Then Chairman Owen said he apologize for skipping over the consent agenda and we need to go back and approve. If there are no corrections to the October 18, 2021 regular meeting minutes and the October 21, 2021 redistricting meeting minutes, those minutes stand approved.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Carter: Talking about redesigning the square, I still have not heard what it is going to cost. Chairman Owen said that will be our next meeting. We instructed our County Manager to have those numbers for us at our next meeting. Commissioner Carter said okay, I will have a response then.

Commissioner Oestreicher: October 26th, there was the regular scheduled Planning Board meeting, and they were to sit as a quasi-judicial body on the Watershed Review. There were 40-60 people that attended and lawyers that were here racking up very expensive costs per minute. They were waiting for the Planning Board to review their comments. The Planning Board did not fill the quorum and had to suspend the meeting. I felt this was very disrespectful to the people out there and the citizens of this county. It represents a pattern of avoidance of the Planning Board. In April they failed to make the comment that they were directed to do for a citizen petition on zoning. When they were directed to make a comment on consistency with the proposed zoning ordinance, they failed to make a comment to the Board as directed. In the meeting last Tuesday, they failed to meet once again to do their duty. I have a mind to make a motion regarding this, but I will wait until we talk with the Chairman about this. I did instruct the Chairman, Russell Johnston, that as the Board of Commissioners representative I was extremely displeased with his ability to call a quorum together, and extremely displeased with the members that did not have the courtesy to show up. I'm repeating that again and I am hopeful that this board will agree with me on that. I would also like to read a public comment from Gaye Pleasant.

Dear Commissioners,

Please see to it that, in the future, the Caswell County Planning Board is composed of members who understand the task at hand and the responsibilities that accompany a seat on that board.

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There are many thoughtful, respectful community members who could serve our county in this position, but it is up to you to select them.

You also received another letter that I don't have right in front of me, but everyone received a copy of it. I think we need to take these letters and thoughts to heart and do something about this.

Commissioner Jefferies: I just want to ask the County Manager about the status of Jack Pointer Road. The junk is the same. I have been bringing this up for a couple of months. Has the citation been served? The County Manager said yes. We have started the process on Jack Pointer Road. Many times, if the owner of the property does not immediately respond to the notice given by the Planning Department, this can take months. It's a process that we have to work through, but we have taken the initial steps to get that cleaned up. This situation is a little bit different than maybe situations that we have dealt with in the past because the owner of the property is not the resident. So, there's some mitigating circumstances in this situation. Commissioner Jefferies said so you don't have any idea of how long it will take. The people in that neighborhood want to know something. We can require the property owner clean up the property, but what we cannot make them clean up the property. We can issue a summons, or we can take them to court. But it's a long process. I can not tell you how long the process will take, but I can tell you that we have started the process.

Commissioner Dickerson: We hear a whole lot about the Planning Board. Complaints about issues surrounding that. We can each reach out and talk to the members of that board individually, but I propose that we invite the chairman and other members here so we can hear what they have to say about the issues. I think it would be very informative to get both sides of the story before we continue to get burnt.

Chairman Owen said he has to back up again. I failed to ask this question regarding the redrawing of Caswell County's electoral district lines after the Public Hearing. Chairman Owen said he failed to ask the Board's pleasure regarding the redistricting of Caswell County's electoral districts. If we do not do anything today, we will have to have a special meeting this week. The County Manager said it is imperative that we move forward with this as quickly as possible. The County Manager said he is happy to do whatever the Board ask him to do.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Carter and seconded by Commissioner Jefferies and **carried 5 - 1** to adopt the latest version of the map done by the County Manager. (Commissioner Carter, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher, and Owen voted in favor. Commissioner Dickerson voted against the motion.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **November 7, 2021 Open House Tours at Bartlett Yancey High School** If you can't make it on the 7th, you can call and they will try to set up an individual tour for you.
- **November 11, 2021 – Veterans Day Observed**

November 1, 2021

- **November 15, 2021 Board of Commissioner Meeting 6:30 pm**
- **November 25 & 26, 2021 - Thanksgiving Holidays**

CLOSED SESSION:

A **motion** was made at 10:35 am by Commissioner Carter and seconded by Commissioner Oestreicher and **carried unanimously** to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) and to consider the qualifications, competence, character, or conditions of initial employment of an individual, which is hereby acknowledged NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6) with the following individuals permitted to attend: County Manager, Bryan Miller and Clerk to the Board, Carla Smith. (Commissioners Carter, Dickerson, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted for the motion)

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Carter, seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** to return to open session at 10:48 am. (Commissioners Carter, Dickerson, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted for the motion)

Chairman Owen said we now sit back in open session. Is there anything further for the Board today? If not, we need a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made at 10:52 am by Commissioner Oestreicher and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** to adjourn the meeting. (Commissioners Carter, Dickerson, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted for the motion)

Carla R. Smith
Clerk to the Board

David J. Owen
Chairman

Attachments: