

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

February 16, 2023
OTHERS PRESENT

Tim Yarbrough, Vice Chair
Finch Holt
Jeremiah Jefferies
Rick McVey
Frank Rose

Bryan Miller, County Manager
Melissa Williamson, Deputy County Manager
Aisha Gwynn, Assistant County Manager
Carla Smith, Clerk to the Board

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Caswell, North Carolina, met in a joint meeting with the Town of Milton and Town of Yanceyville on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm at CoSquare.

Members present from the Yanceyville Town Council: Mayor Alvin Foster, Odessa Gwynn, and Kamara Graves, Yanceyville Town Manager. Absent: Brian Massey and Keith Tatum.

Members present from the Milton Commissioners: Patricia Williams, Mayor, Valerie Sottile, Cathia Stewart, John Wallace, and Shirley Wilson, Town Clerk. Absent: Sherry Gerrard

WELCOME:

Vice Chairman Yarbrough called the meeting to order with a moment of silent prayer and the Board of Commissioners and all the guest in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Rose offered a blessing before the meal. The Board and Town Councils then had dinner.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Yarbrough called the Caswell County Board of Commissioners meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending.

Mayor Foster called the Yanceyville Town Council meeting to order.

Mayor Williams called the Milton Town Council meeting to order.

GENERAL UPDATES FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

TOWN OF MILTON

Mayor Williams gave the following updates:

- Aunt Millie's has opened with a new owner. Alcohol is not sold until the license is received, and they are only taking cash payments now.
- The Thomas Day House is a historic landmark, and the State has started the paper work on acquiring the Bank.

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- Sunday, April 30th is the grand opening of the Walking trail, and this is the Year of the Trail.
- People are working to find funding for food insecurity.
- Plug Tobacco Factory in Milton on Bridge Street has been awarded two grants to help renovate the building.

TOWN OF YANCEYVILLE

Mayor Foster then gave the following updates:

- Farmers Market moving in front of the Pavilion and looking for advancements such as electronic signage, and they are applying for a grant to cover the concrete in that area.
- Farmers Market will open April 20th and be open from 4:30 pm to 6 pm every Thursday.
- Fourth of July celebration will be on June 30th. There will be food, vendors, music, and fireworks.
- First Friday is at 7 pm at the Pavilion starting in May thru September. There will be food, vendors, and music provided.
- 911 award will be on the corner of the square. Construction is to start March 7th.

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County Manager Miller gave the following updates:

- Broadband Update:
 - Progress has not been as quick as Spectrum had wanted. One node was turned on since the last meeting, which is 256 addresses, and they hope to turn on 3 more nodes this week. RDOF, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, build hoped to be completed by mid-August.
 - State awarded GREAT (Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology) Grant funds of \$4 million to Zitel, out of Moneta, VA. This will be fiber to the home like Spectrum. The State has not signed the contracts for this project. It will be a 3-Party signature grant so the Board of Commissioners will have a grant before them at the March 6, 2023 meeting.
 - CAB (Completing Access to Broadband) and the Last mile grants have not started yet. State hoping to complete the GREAT grant before starting the CAB grant.
 - Spectrum is now on 86 headed to Prospect Hill.
- We were saddened by the loss of Chairman Nate Hall. We are going thru the process of filling that position. The Board of Commissioners don't take this lightly, and they have 60 days to fill the position before it goes to the Clerk of Court.

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- Met with Chris Albright, Manager of Caesars Casino. Jillian Medlin, Chamber of Commerce Director made that meeting happen. We learned about the operations and that the Casino is hiring now. They held a job fair a few weeks ago and only 2 people showed up. The temporary Casino is to open the end of this year or by the first of next year.
- Caswell is having a difficult time hiring Emergency Services workers. It is difficult to get people to apply for these jobs. If people do apply, they need to be trained. Our employees going to other jurisdictions and requiring higher salaries. We are trying to find alternative ways to hire.
- Commissioner Rose as member of the PTRC TAC committee attended a meeting in December about the Highway 86 project. There was \$14.6 million for the King's Highway project, but due to issues with that project, they moved the money to the Highway 86 project. This upgrade will be on Highway 86 by the Convenience site location and include a turning lane there.
- Stop light on 86 by parks Spring-No information on when that will be turned on.
- Doll Branch Road is still being worked on and still some homeowners on that road they have not heard from to get signatures to pave the road. The Town of Milton is to work on getting contacts on that road so that the road can be completed.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be hosted by the Town of Yanceyville on Thursday May 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm at Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made at 6:52 pm by Commissioner McVey and seconded by Commissioner Jefferies and **carried unanimously** to adjourn the Board of Commissioners meeting.

Mayor Foster Adjourned the Town of Yanceyville's meeting.

Mayor Williams adjourned the Town of Milton's meeting.

Carla R. Smith
Clerk to the Board

Tim Yarbrough
Vice Chairman

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