

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

November 16, 2023
OTHERS PRESENT

Tim Yarbrough, Vice Chair

Tony Smith, County Manager

Melissa Williamson, Deputy County Manager

Rick McVey

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, November 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm at Co-Square.

Members present from the Milton Council: Angela Upchurch, Mayor, and Shirley Wilson, Town Clerk, Bob Palmer, and Jackie Jeffers.

Members present from the Yanceyville Town Council: Mayor Alvin Foster, Kamara Barnette, Yanceyville Town Manager, Odessa Gwynn.

WELCOME:

Vice Chairman Yarbrough called the meeting to order, and welcomed all to the meeting. Yarbrough 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.

GENERAL UPDATES FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

TOWN OF MILTON

Mayor Williams gave the following updates:

- Milton has 2 newly elected Commissioners, Jackie Jeffries and Bob Palmer, who were sworn in last Tuesday. Milton also has a new Mayor, Angela Upchurch
- On October 30, Representatives from NC Department of Commerce with Community Visioning Work Corp.
 - 30 people from the town attended
 - Greatest pressing need is to find a way to correct our aging sewer system as well as securing a second source of well water.
- Milton's Christmas Event will be Saturday, December 9th. There will be shopping opportunities and food for sale.

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TOWN OF YANCEYVILLE

Mayor Foster then gave the following updates:

- December 2 the Parade will be in town. Parade is at 3 pm. Christmas Tree lighting will be at 6 pm and the lights will stay on at night through New Year's.
- In respect to the recent violence, we are in the process of adding street lights in the Town of Yanceyville. We don't have a lot of resources to do a lot, but we want to light the area up so they have fewer places to hide.
- Town of Yanceyville received \$500,000 grant to create a structure for Farmer's Market in the Pavilion area.

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Interim County Manager Smith gave the following updates:

- Challenges County faces is getting the financials up to date.
 - 2021 is in the Auditors hand.
 - Hoping to get the 2022 completed by the end of the month.
 - Will try to get a head start on the budget process for next.
- County Manager Search is under way. We're planning to meet with the Committee working with us on Nov. 20th
- Spectrum was awarded the 2nd round of the GREAT grant.
- Spectrum is about finish with the RDOF grant, and we're cranking up on the GREAT grant with Zitel. Beyond that we have money set aside for the CAB program.
- There are 2 new cell towers going up in the county.
- Recently received 1.9 million grant for the Pelham Fire Station
- We were awarded \$254,000 for Co-Square last week.
- New gas line coming across the county and is constructed parallel to the existing one.
- Co-Operative Extension has a grant for a digital training program, and Tyler Cobb will be here in this building.
- Tourism Development has a new website: www.visitcaswell.com

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

- One of my roles with Caswell County is being the Programmatic Point of Contact (PPOC) for funds received from the North Carolina Opioid Settlements.
- In the spirit of transparency Caswell County government has provided a breakdown of all National Opioid Abatement Trust Settlement Funds received. An Additional disbursement was recorded after the Public Notice and an additional \$8,599.13 was transferred. In sum, the total amount of funds disbursed is \$227,594.41.

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- The question is how to invest the funds to fidelity, ensuring that Caswell County Residents directly benefit from this community investment.
- In the Agenda Packet, you will find guidance from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners detailing what activities are allowable under the NCMOA that all counties that receive funds have signed.
- Following that guidance, you will see the allowable activities under Option A and Option B.
- An Opioid Action Committee was formed in response to the signed NCMOA. Beginning in 2024 it will meet about twice a quarter to formulate “allowable” strategies to address the Opioid crisis. It is a goal to have an allowable strategy, ready for review for the County Commissioners prior to the end of the current FY and ready for implementation by 7/1/2024.
- Caswell County Government welcomes and invites the municipal partners within Caswell County to come and help craft a response to the Opioid Crisis gripping our nation and our local communities.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be hosted by the Town of Yanceyville on Thursday February 15, 2023 at 6:00 pm at Yanceyville Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- December 2, 2023 Parade and Christmas Tree Lighting 3 pm-7 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:40 pm Vice Chairman Yarbrough adjourned the Board of Commissioners meeting.

Carla R. Smith
Clerk to the Board

Tim Yarbrough
Vice Chairman

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