

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

November 17, 2022
OTHERS PRESENT

Rick McVey, Chairman
H. Vernon Massengill
Steve Oestreicher

Bryan Miller, 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, November 17, 2022 at 6:00 pm at the Yanceyville Municipal Building.

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, Sherry Gerrard, Valerie Sottile, Cathia Stewart, John Wallace, and Shirley Wilson, Town Clerk.

WELCOME:

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order and welcomed all for coming out. Commissioner Shirley Wilson offered a blessing before the meal. The Board and Town Councils then had dinner.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman McVey called the Caswell County Board of Commissioners meeting to order.

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

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County Manager Miller gave the following updates:

- Broadband Update: RDOF, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, has 1,400 passing completed in the county. They hope to add 500 in November and 500 more in December. They build out by nodes that come out of Alamance, Rockingham, and Person counties. They will work clockwise to turn on the nodes. Bryan Miller is not sure how many has signed up for service of the 1,400 that has internet service available to them.

Mayor Williams said Spectrum is in Milton, but she wanted to know if that would upgrade the speed of the internet? County Manager Miller said Spectrum won the RDOF award. The Federal government determined which areas were available. The GREAT grant is also available, and Zitel, out of Moneta, VA, will service areas in Milton. The State plans to sign

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the agreement in December, and they have a 2-year window to build out. Zitel won 3 awards in the state.

Mayor Williams said they have service in Milton town limits, and the hope is that it will incorporate the surrounding areas.

County Manager Miller said the plan is to provide every area in Caswell County with service. NCDIT is scheduled to receive another billion dollars to help with continued coverage and broadband.

Bryan Miller and 14 people from all over the state met to see how the NCACC can help with broadband. There was 4 million dollars awarded and the county did a match.

Another grant coming through is CAB, Completing Access to Broadband, and the county has more control of that. After that, the Last Mile will provide service to those furthest from the road, and citizens can contact the internet service provider to get the process started to get internet at their addresses.

- Board of Commissioners will be hearing about heating bills and providing funding to provide assistance to those not able to pay heating and fuel bills. County Manager Miller thinks there will be an award to the Caswell Fund to offer that assistance. Mayor Williams had a call for help with heating bills and routed them to the Senior Center.
- More of a need in Caswell with food insecurity. The issue is with amount of food and the nutrition is another thing. Traditional methods are not working. The Senior Center does Meals on Wheels, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson provides food and local churches provide food. Some elderly people in the area may not be able to get to stores to get food. So it may not always be the cost. Milton and Yanceyville has to work with the county to tackle this issue.

Thanksgiving Tailgate is an event at Parks and Rec, which is put on by RDF, Recreation Development Foundation. Shirley Wilson asked if people can't get to Parks and Rec can someone else pick it up? This is a fun event for the community that will include up to 400 Thanksgiving meals provided to the community as well as a clothing drive, canned food drive, kids crafts, and a Santa visit. Shirley Wilson said we have been trying to help with the people in Milton. We need to give them food because some are elderly and can't get out. Bryan Miller will set something up and try to bring in people from the Piedmont Triad Regional Council and Danville Regional Foundation.

TOWN OF YANCEYVILLE

Mayor Foster then gave the following updates:

- The Christmas tree lighting at the Pavilion will be at 6 pm, and the event starts at 5 pm. Tree will stay on until January.
- December 3, 2022 is the Christmas parade, which starts at 10 am.

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- The Dillard Project is progressing after faced with some safety issues. This is about a 16-million-dollar project that is targeted to apartments for the seniors.

TOWN OF MILTON

Mayor Williams gave the following updates:

- The Thomas Day Art Walk was Oct. 15th, and it was a big success. It was done by the Caswell County Arts Council. Boule played at Milton 66, there were artist demonstrations, flower arranging, and much more. The weather was good, and many visitors came to the area. We hope this will be a yearly event.
- Milton Heritage Trail is making progress. There will be a celebration in 2023 called the Year of the Trail.
- Milton had a tent at the Brightleaf Hoe Down.
- Milton was pleased with the VIR Music Festival. Traffic was smooth during this time. We were very appreciative of the law enforcement presence in the area. There was no influx of business in Milton because the people were shuttled to VIR. Many campers came in on Tuesday before the music festival began. There is talk about another music festival next year. They did have one business closed for fear of mayhem during the event.
- Milton will be celebrating Christmas in Historic Milton December 3 from 1-5 pm

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be hosted by the Caswell Board of Commissioners on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Co-Square.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:13pm, Chairman McVey adjourned 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

Rick McVey
Chairman

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