

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

May 12, 2022
OTHERS PRESENT

Rick McVey, Chairman
David Owen, Vice Chairman
Nathaniel Hall
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 Monday, May 12, 2022 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, Sherry Gerrard, Cathia Stewart, Valerie Sottile, and Shirley Wilson, Town Clerk. Absent: John Wallace.

WELCOME:

Chairman McVey called the Caswell County Board of Commissioners meeting to order, and following that Board of Commissioners, Council members, and all the guest in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Owen 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.

County Manager Miller thanked everyone for coming out for the joint meeting. County Manager Miller introduced Carla Smith, the Clerk to the Board, Melissa Williamson, Deputy County Manager and Aisha Gwynn, Assistant County Manager, who was not present at the meeting. The new Finance Director is Jennifer Hammock and Melissa Miller, Deputy Finance Director. The County also has Ashley Powell as the new Payroll Coordinator. Then the Board of Commissioners, Town of Milton, and Town of Yanceyville introduced themselves. County Manager Miller took a moment to remember Commissioner William Carter, who passed away a couple of weeks ago, which was a great loss to the county. Mr. Carter had served on the Board of Commissioners for many years, and his presence on the Board will be sorely missed.

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Mayor Foster said the Town had also lost a member, Margie Badgett-Lampkin, and she will be missed.

Then County Manager Miller asked to have a moment of silence to honor those we have lost.

GENERAL UPDATES FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

TOWN OF MILTON

Mayor Williams said this year we have been working on our **Comprehensive Plan**, and they are planning to adopt their budget at their June 14th meeting. We are also looking to make the **Thomas Day Museum** a North Carolina historic site. The Town has been working with the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to figure out what needs to be done. Governor Cooper has allotted some funds towards that project so that we can finish the Thomas Day Museum. Then the Town of Milton is purchasing the bank diagonally across from the Museum. Both of those buildings will be part of the Historical site. The **Post Office** has arrived and is set up. It is only waiting on internet, phone system and computer set up. The Town is currently updating our ordinances for NC GS 160D. Milton has a **garden shop** opening where the old service station was in the Town of Milton, and it is going to be called Milton 66. This establishment will serve alcoholic beverages. The **walking trail** is starting to be cleared. Everyone is excited about that, and we are hopeful that trail will bring in more people to the area to eat in our restaurants, go to the Garden Shop, and walk the trail. Some of you may have heard that Milton is going to be **the gateway to the Music Festival** taking place at VIR (Virginia International Raceway). This festival will be September 8-11. We have been meeting with the VIR staff to figure out how the traffic will flow and hoping it will not shut down Milton. Our concern is that our citizens will not be able to get emergency services to them, or have trouble getting school buses with our children through safely or our workers. We do not want things to be blocked, but want them to be able to get in and out of town. We are trying to be proactive so that we do not face the issues Chatham County saw last year from the music festival.

TOWN OF YANCEYVILLE

Mayor Foster said he will start with something that will affect everybody. **Main Street** will be paved this summer. The **old Dillard School Project** is progressing, and that project will end up being between \$16 and \$18 million. That building will be revitalized with 53 apartments. **ARP monies** will be used for a water modeling study for our water system. What's in the ground is old. The Town of Yanceyville is going to spend most of its ARP funds in water and sewer because that is where they can spend the money and have the most impact for our citizens. The **old Baptist Studio project** is moving forward. The facility was built in the late 1960s and the Department of Health and Human Services out of Raleigh are helping them with this project. Mayor Foster also thanked the Building Inspector for working with the Town on this. This project will bring jobs to the Town of Yanceyville.

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Bradley Davis went over the **Comprehensive Plan** for the Town of Yanceyville. The University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill is helping them with this plan. They are hoping to have the second draft submitted June 7th. They are going to be focusing on three areas, which are Highway 86, Dillard School triangle, and Downtown or the square. They are looking at zoning that is conducive for the area.

Mayor Foster said last but definitely not least, our **First Fridays** will go through October this year. Events start at 7 pm. There will be food vendors and entertainment.

CASWELL COUNTY

County Manager Miller said from the County standpoint, it has been a busy two years. Mr. Miller had 17 updates. He will read through the updates, and if anyone has specific questions on any of these updates, feel free to ask.

1. The first update was the staff I introduced at the beginning of the meeting.
2. The last time we met, **Cosquare** was being framed, and now we have a fully functioning building that is generating income. The internet here is super-fast.
3. **Project CEAD** (Center for Educational and Agricultural Development) The Board of Commissioners granted Piedmont Community College about 70 acres to put a campus at the Pelham Industrial Park and the groundbreaking will be next August.
4. **Moratorium**-extended to give the County Commissioners time to develop and consider zoning regulations to limit where polluting industry development occurs in the county.
5. **Zoning**- Many meeting to discuss zoning and lots of public comments, but ultimately the decision was that zoning was not ideal for Caswell County.
6. **Compliance with GS 160D Land Use and Development**- The County as well as Milton and Yanceyville went through compliance for the 160D Land Use Development. The Board has made the necessary changes to the 160D Land Use Development Ordinance.
7. **Explosive Ordinance**- We also implemented an Explosive Ordinance because we had people exploding natural gas tanks in the county.
8. **Vaya Health- New Mental Health Provider**-Vaya took over for Cardinal. They are not the providers, but they handle the federal and state funding that flows through the county.
9. **Sale of Home Health to Healthview**- The company continues to provide service to the citizens in Caswell. So we have not lost our home health services.
10. **P-Card Program**- We have changed the way we purchase services and items. The system is similar to a credit card system where we are able to procure goods and services using our p-cards rather than the traditional way. The transactions are imported into our Financial system.
11. **ARP (American Rescue Plan) ARPA Policies**-We received our ARPA funds. The first allotment was \$2 million and we expect our second allotment to be similar. We were awarded over \$4 million in ARPA funds and we are using those funds based on the

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regulations. We have had to adopt new policies and procedures. Deputy County Manager, Melissa Williamson, had to take an 8-hour class to be able to figure out how we can spend these funds. The rules are extremely tough.

12. **Opioid Settlement**-We expect those funds this calendar year.
13. **Redistricting**-We had to redistrict the county because we divide our county by district for election purposes.
14. **Redesign of Court Square**-We went through a process to talk about the redesign of the Court Square, and through that process the Board determined that redesign was not necessary at this point in time.
15. **Premium Pay**-We rewarded some of our employees for working during COVID through premium pay. We were able to do this through the use of ARPA funds.
16. **Salary Study**-The Board so graciously raised the salaries of our County Employees after we went through a salary study. This was done to help Caswell compete with neighboring counties.
17. **High Impact Development Ordinance (HIDO)**-We passed the HIDO, which is the process that regulates land use.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked Mr. Miller to update the group on Broadband. County Manager Miller said the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) grant was awarded to Charter-Spectrum. There were a couple of other providers awarded census blocks in Caswell such as Space X, but not many. Charter-Spectrum is building in the southern part of the county. They have told us that they plan to have the build out finished in Caswell by the end of 2022 for areas they won in RDOF. County Manager Miller has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow, May 13, 2022 with Charter-Spectrum. We will be meeting some of the operational folks and we will have more information. After this process is complete, the GREAT Grant, which is the second tier, will start. The GREAT Grant award should happen in the next couple of months. Through the GREAT Grant process, we will be able to cover more areas in Caswell County that wasn't covered in RDOF. Finally, we have a program called Completing Access to Broadband (CAB). Cori Lindsay, our Economic Developer has been working with Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) to develop the expertise to go out and identify these addresses that weren't capture through RDOF or the GREAT Grant. We set aside some of our ARPA funds for the 5% match for the CAB program. Spectrum RDOF grant is fiber to the home, which is the best internet you can receive.

Council member, Valerie Sottile, asked about the Preliminary Engineering Report and getting started on this to repair infrastructure in Milton. The cost is understood, but they need help. County Manager Miller said it is \$2.4 million to complete the process. Commissioners Jefferies and Owen and myself have set down with the Town of Milton and explained the process that Milton needs to undertake. You are talking about your pipes and water system and replacing those kinds of things. That will be an extensive process that may cost more than the \$2.4 million.

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Since that meeting, Mr. Miller doesn't know what has been done or how Milton is going about this. Milton will need to apply for different funding for the reports and process.

Mayor Williams said Council woman Sottile is referring to the \$30-\$40 thousand for the Preliminary Engineering Report. Mayor Foster can probably share some idea with Milton on this too. In order to do this, Milton will need to dip into our ARP funds, which will take all of our funding. The Council agreed we needed to get this report done, but we will need ARP funds to take the next steps also. Mayor Williams said she has come before the Board of Commissioners in the past to ask for help to get this process started. Funding up to \$25,000 in external funding was discussed with Milton to help with that process. Mayor Williams said we spoke with people and gathered information, but when the information was brought back to the Council, they did not agree. Therefore, that is where that stopped. Mayor Williams and Bryan Miller agreed to sit down and discuss this matter at a later time.

Then Mayor Williams asked said she understands that Spectrum is using fiber to home, but wanted to know if the Milton township was included. County Manager Miller said there are some areas in that are included, but urged her to do the Rural Digital Opportunity Funding map to see what specific areas are included.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Shirley Deal has been on the Economic Development Commission since it began. Mrs. Deal has stepped down. It has been brought to Mayor Foster's attention to make Mrs. Deal a lifetime ex officio member. If she feels like stepping back in, she will be welcomed to do so. In order to have a lifetime ex officio member each board has to approve this.

The Town of Yanceyville did not have a quorum, so they will bring this item back to their council at their June meeting.

Caswell Board of Commissioners: A **motion** was made by Commissioner McVey and seconded by Commissioner Oestreicher and **carried unanimously** to make Shirley Deal a lifetime ex officio member of the Economic Development Commission.

The Town of Milton: A **motion** was made by Valerie Sottile and seconded by Cathia Stewart and **carried unanimously** to make Shirley Deal a lifetime ex officio member of the Economic Development Commission.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be hosted by the Yanceyville Town Council on Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 6:00 pm at the Yanceyville Municipal Building in Yanceyville, NC.

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The Town of Milton: They were excused because the closed session matter did not affect them. Mayor Patricia Williams adjourned the meeting for the Town of Milton, and all council agreed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION:

A **motion** was made at 7:25 pm by Commissioner Owen and seconded by Commissioner Hall and **carried unanimously** to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations, which privilege is hereby acknowledged NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4).

The Town of Yanceyville: A motion was made by Mayor Alvin Foster and seconded by Council woman Odessa Gwynn to enter the closed session.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Owen, seconded by Commissioner Oestreicher and **carried unanimously** to return to open session at 7:38 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made at 7:40 pm by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Owen and **carried unanimously** to adjourn the meeting.

Carla R. Smith
Clerk to the Board

Rick McVey
Chairman

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