

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

August 15, 2022
OTHERS PRESENT

Rick McVey, Chairman
David Owen, Vice Chairman
John Dickerson
Nathaniel Hall
Jeremiah Jefferies
Steve Oestreicher
H. Vernon Massengill

Bryan Miller, County Manager
Carla Smith, Clerk to the Board
Brian Ferrell, County Attorney (Joined Remote)

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Caswell, North Carolina, met in regular session on Monday, August 15, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the Historic Courthouse.

WELCOME:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments emailed or in person.

RECOGNITIONS:

Commissioner Jefferies: I would like to say thank you to Commissioner Massengill, who was at the incident on August 10, 2022, which was just down the road from me. Good job.

Commissioner Hall: This is just for information at this point. I attended the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Conference this past week, and on the final night agenda, they had a list of commissioners that had passed over the year and a list that had passed during the year that were sitting commissioners. They had omitted Commissioner Bill Carter's name. So I brought that to their attention so that they could update their list.

AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chairman McVey said we do need amend the agenda. Number 11 we want to drop the Acquisition of the lot and add the proclamation.

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

August 15, 2022

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

a. August 1, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

INTERLOCAL WATER AGREEMENT:

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, as you all know many years ago the county entered into an interlocal agreement with Roxboro, Person County, and the Town of Yanceyville to have a raw water intake from the river and run it down into Person County into Roxboro and eventually into Durham. It's my understanding that the water was going to be bought at that time by Durham. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers has requested a meeting this week to discuss the raw water intake. They've received evidently some money, or they have some money available to initiate the studies that are needed to complete the raw water intake. They've asked for all parties involved in the interlocal agreement to participate in a joint phone call to talk about the raw water intake and about the study that may be performed. So I'm just updating the Board at this point in time that there is that discussion scheduled actually for tomorrow. If the Board wants to instruct me to do one or another thing, I'll be happy to do those things. This raw water intake has a long-standing history here in Caswell. I know there's a lot of folks that are not happy about the raw water intake. So I received this information last week, I wanted to update the Board. I think I sent the entire Board a copy of the email that was sent to me just to keep the Board of Commissioners up to date on the issue. That's what I know about the subject right now. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Commissioner Dickerson said Mr. Miller that's before my tenure on the Board. That was proven long ago. Could you kind of give us a snapshot of what's in it for Caswell County by allowing the water to be pulled back across our territory. Durham's going to make out really well, but wasn't it for us? County Manager Miller said yeah, unfortunately Commissioner Dickerson that's a little bit before my time too. So I can give you somewhat of an overview, but the specific details I don't necessarily have until after this conversation that's to be had with the Corp of Engineers. If I remember correctly, there was, I believe, one cent per gallon. Don't quote me on that because I may be wrong, but I think there was a one cent per gallon or per 100 gallons that was to be paid to Caswell County. I'm happy to go back and look at the interlocal agreements, and bring that back to the Board. I know the one condition in the interlocal agreement that the county had to comply with was we had to help with the permitting process. The way I read that is the permits that would be needed to complete the line here in Caswell County. Commissioner Dickerson said I'd be curious to know that one cent per gallon or whatever the figure is. How does that stack up with what other fidelities get when water is taken from them? This was done a long time ago, and I think it needs some due diligence on our part to make sure that we're not

August 15, 2022

being taken advantage of because it seems like a great deal for Durham. There's no telling how much water they'll pull out of there, but we want to protect our resources. We need to make sure if we are supplying that to another locality, that at least we are well compensated. County Manager Miller said yes, I believe you're exactly right. I will say this is a long-standing issue here within the county. I think the Board of Commissioners has tried to address the interlocal agreement before with little to no avail. That's one of the reasons I wanted to bring this back before the Board now is because I realize it is such a contentious issue. I'm happy to provide you with as much information on the subject as I can at your next meeting.

Commissioner Massengill said well it was initiated originally by the Town of Yanceyville. The Town of Yanceyville was going to furnish the raw water plant lines, which were going both ways. Raw water coming here treated sent back at a cost to whomever buys it. I don't know the cost but it was the Town of Yanceyville and the Town of Roxboro who originally entered into this in the talking stages. No money was appropriated by the Corp of Engineers for the study or the infrastructure work, but now I understand there is.

Commissioner Hall said I assume then at that time the issue of moving water from one watershed to another had been addressed. County Manager Miller said I think that's one of the things that the Corp of Engineers study that they're proposing now will probably come to light at that point in time. I think this is the first study that, outside the local governments, has been conducted. So I'm sure those items will be discussed. I'm happy to bring that up during our meetings if you would like me to. Commissioner Hall said I would hope so. I was trying to find term, and the term is innovation transfers. That's been a contentious problem ever since I've been on the Board. If you could, could you find a copy of that interlocal agreement? It was signed years ago, and let us take a look at it. County Manager Miller said yes, I can. Mrs. Miller is bringing me a copy of that right now. I'm happy to provide this copy to the Board a little bit later on tonight.

Commissioner Jefferies said I was in a meeting once, and I think George Ward was chairman. I think he signed that agreement to let the water go. I'm not sure because it's been a long time. Chairman McVey said so does it still stand? Commissioner Owen said I would assume unless this Board is taking action otherwise. Commissioner Hall said but as far as I know there's been no interest in transfers. When it comes to the academic issue and how things have changed. So if we're going to look at something like that, we really need to pay close attention to the water level. I'm assuming they're talk about taking it out of the Dan River in Caswell County. So we need to take a look at that. We need to take a look at any opposition from downstream of the Dan. County Manager Miller said I'll be happy to discuss this in depth with our county attorney and have him look into the situation and the legal proceedings that have occurred before today. We'll bring all that information back at your next meeting. Commissioner Hall said one other thing I think we should consider or at least think about as we look forward, and that is water for the Town of Milton. Before I'm comfortable giving water to somebody else, I'm going to start with water for Caswell County citizens. Commissioner Massengill said Mr. Hall if I remember correctly, that was in the agreement originally. I don't know if it's been changed or not, but that

August 15, 2022

was originally in the agreement. Chairman McVey said are there any more questions. Hearing none, he moved on.

ACTION ITEMS:

REIMBURSEMENT RATES:

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, after looking at the reimbursement rates on the federal level and the state level, it seems that both agencies have similar but separate reimbursement rates especially when individual locations for those rates are looked at. Asheville, Atlantic Beach, Morehead City, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Durham, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Kill Devil Hills, Raleigh, and Wilmington all seem to have higher rates than maybe a lot of other places within the state. The minimum meal rate per day is \$59. You add these other locations in and you take an average, and the average is \$66 a day for per diem rates for meals. So that's the information I have. I can tell you that most of the conferences and most of the traveling that county employees do are to places like Asheville, Atlantic Beach, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Durham, Raleigh, and Wilmington. Most of the conferences that I've been aware of fell in one of those jurisdictions over the last four or five years. Probably rightly so because those are the jurisdictions that are large enough to handle large conferences of four to five hundred people like you saw at the NCACC conference this past weekend. So having said that I do believe \$66 a day is a reasonable and fair per diem meal rate. I'm happy to answer any questions you have. Chairman McVey said your recommendation was what? County Manager Miller said \$66. That's the average. If you take those numbers and you average them together, that's the average per day meal rate per diem rate for meals. Commissioner Massengill said what was the state rate? County Manager Miller said the state was different. I think it was about \$39 to \$49 per day, and the reason being, they had that same structure built in to where different locations had different rates. I think setting the standard rate for county employees and county staff would be much more reasonable than us picking the per diem rate based on the location. While we were over at the NCACC conference, I can tell you I did go out to eat one night. The meal for two people was \$75 which is about \$37.50 per person, and that was simply for dinner. So \$66 seems to be a reasonable rate. Chairman McVey asked if there were any questions. Then said what's the pleasure of the Board.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Owen and seconded by Commissioner Hall and **carried 4-2** to accept the county manager's recommendation of \$66 per day. (Commissioners Hall, Jefferies, Owen, Oestreicher, Massengill, and McVey voted in favor. Commissioner Dickerson voted no against the motion)

ARPA 501C-3 GRANT APPLICATIONS:

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, as you know last year in the county's budget we had \$100,000 available for 501C-3s to apply for, and they received up to \$10,000 per application for their 501C-3 non-profit organization. We also had \$100,000 in small business grants available and about \$120,000 of that went unspent. So it was returned back to the county's

August 15, 2022

budget. We received two grant applications during July. One from the Food Cooperative, and one from the Boy Scout Camp Reservation. We do have a presentation from the Local Foods Council. They're here tonight to tell you a little bit about their grant application, and I think they have a PowerPoint that they'd like to go through. So at this time I'll ask Travis Hoesli, Cooperative Extension Director, and the Chair of the Local Foods Council to come up and go over the presentation.

a. **FOOD CO-OP**

Good evening, Commissioners. I'm Travis Hoesli, Cooperative Extension Director, and actually the acting Chair for the Caswell County Food Council here in Caswell County. Thank you for allowing us to come and make the presentation tonight on behalf of our organization, and what we've got plans of doing within the county as a food council. First I'm going to give a little brief history of what we've got going on and what has gone on with the food council here in the county to get you updated. Then Austin Meadows is going to come up, who is another board member. He has a presentation he put together for our Board for a program that he wants to implement here in Caswell County to address some food security issues, and that's part of our request for the funds that we have. Then the slide show began.



August 15, 2022



2017-2018 They started the community luncheons that were there and functioned every second Wednesday I think up until 2020. Through the COVID lockdown, it was some challenging times for them. They did get some funding from other sources to help support the Farmers Market through in 2021.



There was an opportunity for some people to step up, and we had some new reorganization at the Board. On the board currently, I have seen that we have a good 501C-3 in the county that we need to preserve and kind of keep working on some local food issues with what we've got going

August 15, 2022

on. The extension office decided to take part in that along with a couple other people from the previous board who got back on and got re-engaged. Then we had some new members join, and Pastor Austin Meadows is one of them to help with some food security. After we reorganized, we sat down and did some strategic planning as an organization. We looked at what we wanted to accomplish here in Caswell County and came up with three strategic priorities for the organization.



That has been the first and foremost priority for us in 2021. This summer we've been ranging about 120 something upwards to 150 community members coming in. We're looking at this fall to go in and really look at the Farmers' Market, its future, where we want to have it, try to find a more permanent location, and possibly start looking to do some fundraising for a permanent structure. We, as a board, agree that it probably needs to stay here in Yanceyville somewhere. We've got about 25 to 30 vendors that are coming in and out during the weeks and about 15 that are constant vendors and local Caswell farmers and producers. On the National level, we're seeing a lot of local food policy initiatives coming out of the USDA and a lot of local food council support coming out of some grants programs and others.

Now I'll let Austin Meadows give an overview of his project that he submitted called the Community Food Co-op. That's the bulk of our request for tonight, which is to help fund his project.



Austin Meadows said thank you all for taking your time today to hear about our project and our work here in the county in partnership with farmers, with community organizations, with Duke, state and national organizations as well. I'm Austin Meadows, Pastor at Bethel and Locust Hill United Methodist Church. I'm on the Board of the Food council, and I'm the Director of Locust Hill food pantry. So the project being presented today with the food council again is called Community Food Co-op. This approach is looking at food insecurity holistically not just as putting food in bellies, but also addressing the root issues of that food insecurity along with community involvement and engagement.

The infographic has a light green background with a dark green vertical bar on the left. A red arrow points from the left towards the title "Caswell County, NC". Below the title, a list of facts is presented with red square bullet points. The facts cover population, poverty ratios, racial inequity, and recent community organizing experience.

Caswell County, NC

- Population: about 22,000
 - 61.2% White, 32.9% Black/African American, 4.6% Hispanic/Latino, etc.¹
- Breakdown of Poverty Ratios:
 - 37.5% White, 42.6% Black/African American, 10.4% Hispanic/Latino.²
 - About 5,000, or 22%, of the population face food insecurity
 - About 30% of Caswell Households are above the 200% Federal Poverty Level, so they do not qualify for benefits or "food insecure" status yet still have a need.
- Racial Inequity Facts:
 - Last county to desegregate schools in North Carolina
 - Home to the largest and most active KKK group, Loyal White Knights.
- Recent Community Organizing Experience
 - Caswell Issues Group, IAF, wins with Rural Broadband federal grants and GREAT grant at the state level across racial and cultural lines.

August 15, 2022

Caswell County does face a significant poverty and food insecurity rate, and it is one of the top counties in the state. 22% of county population faces food insecurity, and looking at a combination of USDA's definition along with food pantry definitions is the lacking of reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable nutritious food. Along with falling under the 130% threshold of federal poverty level, which is the maximum allowed to qualify for SNAP benefits without exclusions and along with qualifying for second harvest food pantries. The community here in Caswell county is willing to work together on this at a ground level, but there's just a lack of access to resources that are needed to do this. So with this issue, there are things happening there is movement for accessing these resources.



What Is Being Done About It?

- County Government Involvement:
 - \$1,000 to the Local Food Council who runs the local farmers market in Yanceyville.
 - \$10,000 to the Caswell Parish who, runs the twice-weekly pantry and other projects.
 - This \$11,000, if given directly to the 5,000-food insecure, would average \$2.20 per person per year.*
- Currently, there are 4 food pantries in Caswell County (Map on next slide).
 - 3 run on a once-per-month basis including Locust Hill UMC
 - 1 runs on a twice-weekly basis, but a family can only come once a month
 - Food Pantries feed about 1,800 out of the at least 5,000 people per month on average
 - Lower amount fed than in need due to:
 - Transportation
 - Health
 - Trust

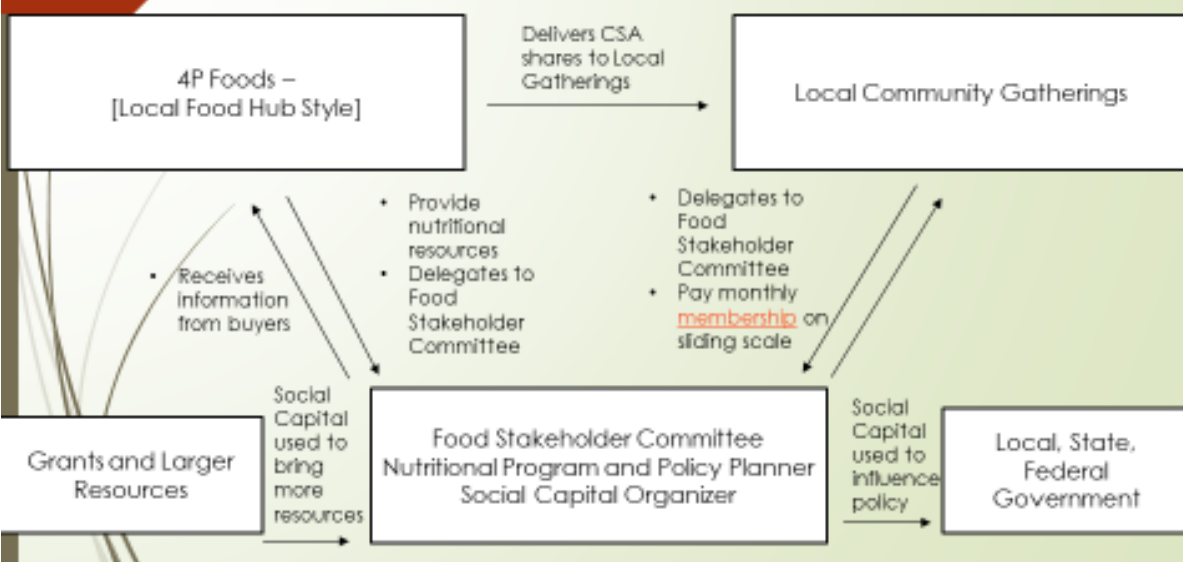
The county government involvement, those numbers, are a little out of date. I was looking at the budgets today that you all approved for 2022 to 2023. So looking at that budget, you all have given \$16,500 for food insecurity with \$1,500 for a local student council along with \$15,000 for the Parish. If that \$16,500 was given equal amounts to those five thousand food insecure persons, that would be \$3.30 a year. If you go to your local Food Lion and get a single serving salad, it's going to cost you about \$4. So there are food pantries trying to assist trying to bridge this gap of resources.

On our next slide there is a map of the county. The red spots are the food pantries in addition to Milton with High Street Baptist Church, who is able to give a little bit to the elderly in their area.



This is where this project comes in. It has a very complicated graphic here, and I'm going to break it down really quick to try to make it a little more legible. Pastor Meadows went over the aspects of the project.

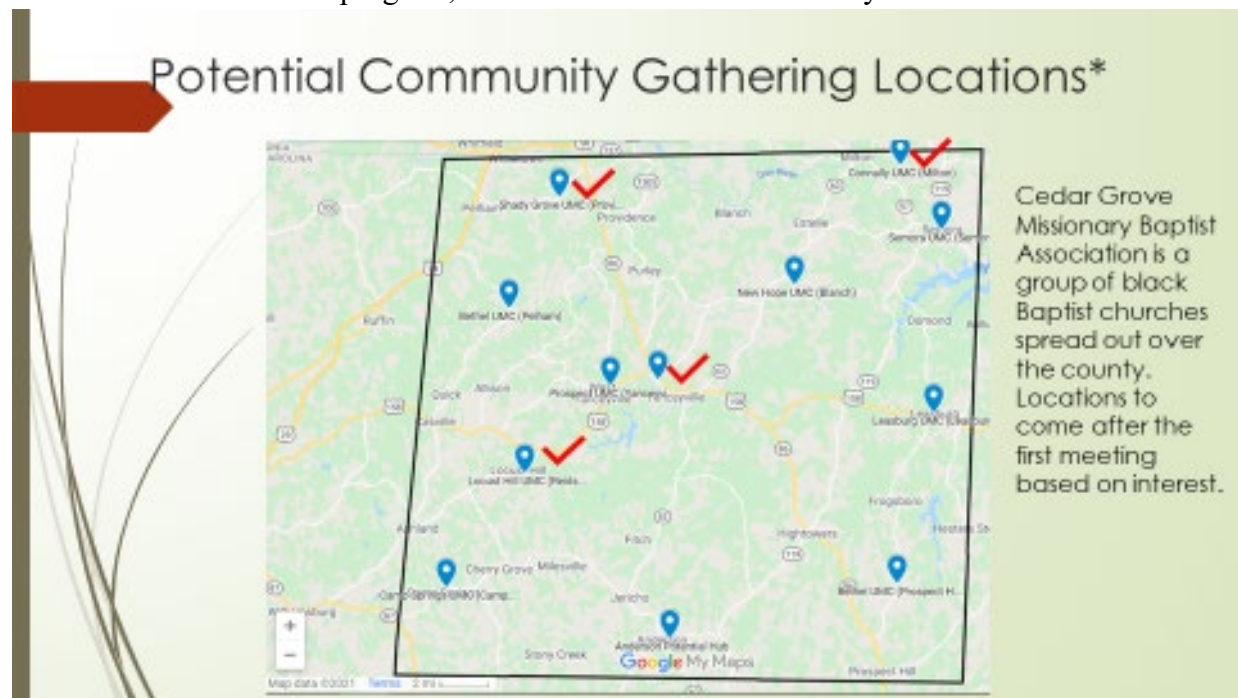
100



This project envisions local gatherings throughout the county, and the big goal is to be no more than a 15-minute drive from anyone's house. So that everyone is able to come to these local gatherings. This program though it's not just for those that are food insecure, it is for anyone and everyone in the county. The average box will be about \$40 which is eight to ten items feeding a

August 15, 2022

family of four for one week on average. This committee will connect the county together. They will go through the program, figure out is the cost working out, apply for grants, help bring forth this nutritional education program, as well as food related advocacy initiatives.



so looking at this map here, the check marks are those places where there are food entries.

We're going to start with a focus group period which is already 100% funded through Resourceful Communities with a Duke Endowment grant.

Focus Group Period

- ❑ 6 months focus group with 30 families meeting once per month to:
 - ❑ Receive CSA box
 - ❑ Eat together
 - ❑ Participate in health/nutrition program (recipes, resources, wellness screenings)
 - ❑ Participate in the Community Forum
- ❑ The expected outcomes of this focus group period are to:
 - ❑ Measure changes in health and habits
 - ❑ Discover operational pros and cons to assist in the community roll-out
 - ❑ Increase awareness of the program

August 15, 2022

Expected Outcomes

- To improve access and choice of healthy, local foods which, in addition to Nutritional Programs, will improve the health of the community.^{3,4}
- To improve the local economy by keeping the purchase of products and produce locally.⁵
- To encompass the social capital of different groups into one unifying theme (Local, Healthy Foods) to better help one another in the local areas of community, economics, and health.⁶
- To leverage the social capital of the community to impact local, state, and federal policy to address the root causes of food insecurity.

It can be an expensive project. It's not something that's going to be easy to do right off the bat. It's going to be something that's going to take time to implement and funding to implement.

Funding

- Membership Fees: (To pay for CSA box and small yearly fee)
- Fundraising: (To support all parts of the program)
 - "Buy One, Give One" drives
 - Donations by members (Pay a little more each time or one-time donations)
 - Church donations/partnerships
- Grants: (To be used primarily for food purchases. Additional support based on the grant)
 - Resourceful Communities
 - RAFI
 - USDA
- Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement (LRP) style: (To support all parts of the program)
 - County, State, and Federal

August 15, 2022

Our two-year plan can be seen on the screen.



So here's some of the studies referenced.

References

- 1 <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/caswellcountynorthcarolina/POP010220>
- 2 <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/caswell-county-nc>
- 3 Grimm, K. A., Moore, L. V., Scanlon, K. S., & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2013). Access to healthier food retailers - United States, 2011.
- 4 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 62(3), 20-6. 4 Larson, N. I., Story, M. T., & Nelson, M. C. (2009). "Neighborhood environments: Disparities in access to healthy foods" in the U.S. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 36(1), 74-81
- 5 Krause, L. and Galluzzo, T. "Iowa's Local Food Systems: A Place to Grow." *The Iowa Policy Project*, 2007, <https://www.iowapolicyproject.org/2007/docs/070206-LocalFood.pdf>
- 6 Hagan, Erin, and Victor Rubin. "Economic and Community Development Outcomes of Healthy Food Retail." *Policy Link*, 2013. <https://doi.org/2/3/2021>.

Pastor Meadows said thank you all for hearing this project. We'll pass it back to Travis Hoesli and have a time for questions at the end.

August 15, 2022

Mr. Hoesli said so Austin put this project together as part of his education and seminary school. He did a ton of work on researching the county and the food insecurity in the county with the pandemic. We feel strongly about the community aspect of it. We really want to put effort into finding funding to implement this in the next few years and keep it going throughout. Up on the screen right now is kind of just a breakdown of what we feel we're going to need as a board.



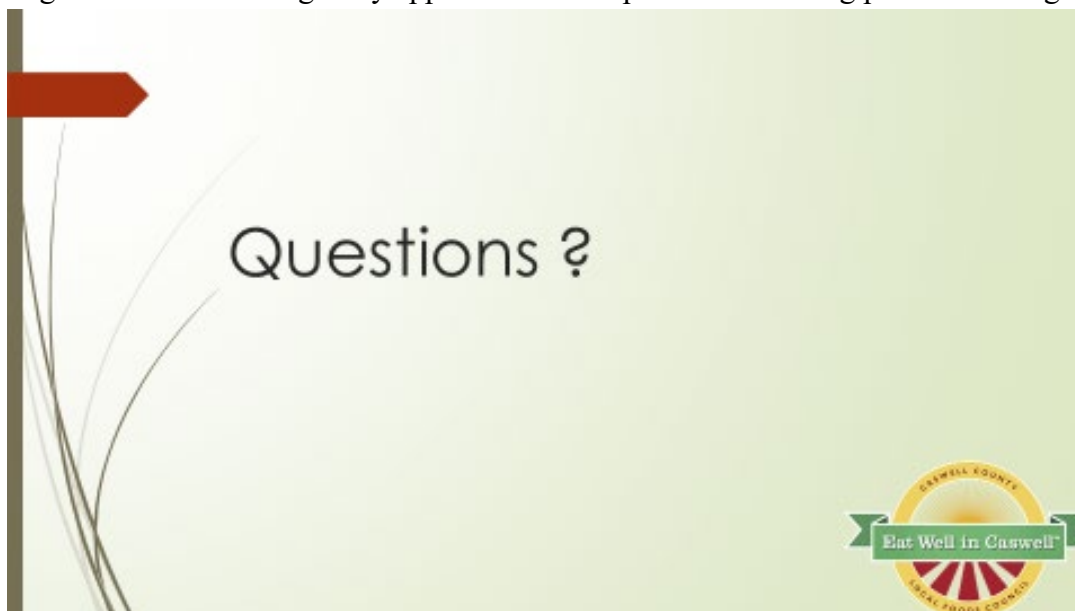
Caswell County Local Food Council

Community Food Co-Op Project Budget 2022-2024

Expense Item	2022-2023	2023-2024
Advertising	\$1500	\$750
Block Grants for Producers	\$2000	\$2000
Block Grants for Caswell Food Pantry's	\$3000	\$2000
Sliding Scale CSA box Support to cover 1/2 box Cost for 100 Participants	\$24000	\$24000
Community Engagement Program cost	\$2000	\$2000
Yearly Total to Implement Program	\$33500	\$30750
Two Year Total		\$64250



When we start having these meetings, so the parents can focus on the adult topics we want to possibly have, working with 4-H and some safe city training, some baby daycare and things for these sites too. So we built some cost in for that. Any support that the Commissioners would like to give to us would be greatly appreciated to help us as a founding partner moving forward.



August 15, 2022

Commissioner Oestreicher said two questions. I'm sorry I didn't take good notes, but very excellent presentation. I was impressed by that. Can you tell me what's in this CSA box again, or describe that a little bit more? Travis Hoesli said correct me if I'm wrong, but we're going to work with 4p. They already have a CSA type deal going up, and they have recipes that go along with these boxes. It's going to be kind of local stuff that is available at the time of the boxes. So it's going to vary from month to month. We're just not going to give them a box that has stuff that they're not going to be able to take home and use. We're going to try to really focus on pairing it with the recipes. Then actually at the community meetings, the other goal of that is to have boxes there that we prepare at those community meetings. So they get to see the food that they're preparing, take the recipes home, and do it. It'll be mostly fresh produce is what we're looking at doing. Commissioner Oestreicher said anybody that's been subjected to my questions before have always been asked what are the metrics for success? How do you measure if you're being successful? Travis Hoesli said we're actually looking at the numbers that we reach. As with extension involved, that's what we always are concerned with. How are we reaching the numbers? What kind of level of content? We'll do some evaluations at the community forums to get feedback from them. The main metric we're looking at is improving health through fresh produce, fresh products, as well as looking at growing our local food system here. So having more and more of our local farmers partnering with us to supply and produce at different times of the year is going to be a kind of a logistic thing to work through, but that's where we're going to partner with 4p that has the background in that to help us start building those networks throughout the county. Commissioner Oestreicher said that's how you're going to do it. One of my questions is how do you know that you're being effective. Mr. Hoesli said we want to look at the numbers. Commissioner Oestreicher said you said you want to improve the health and presumably maybe an objective is to get people above the poverty level. Those are the kind of things I want to know how you measure them. I'm not being contentious. I'm just curious. Austin's gotten more on that as far as the project. Austin Meadows said that's a wonderful question, and that's one we face a lot when applying for grants. So to measure these outcomes, surveys for local farmers as well as the participants will be used to measure how much produce are you able to sell versus what you used to sell. How much more income, which is completely optional. For the receivers of these boxes, how much more are you eating? How do you feel versus survey number one versus number two? We're going to also measure that on the logistical scale with poundage per box, total boxes, total poundage, and total number of families present at each community gathering. As well as to partner with the health collaborative to bring out their mobile health van to do free health screenings for those who are participating, and have that offered every six months, every year, or whatever that partnership plays out to be so that we can see, with permission from those that are willing, if there are any measurable health outcomes which have been shown in other studies across the world. Those are some of the ways we're looking at right now. Commissioner Oestreicher said that would be lovely to have that included in your presentation. Austin Meadows said thank you for that advice.

August 15, 2022

Commissioner Dickerson said you say that you are primarily targeting produce, how will that affect you in the winter time? Travis Hoesli said we're in a climate here that you can get different types of produce almost 12 months of the year depending on what you're doing. We're going to look at suppliers that are using greenhouses. Ideally we like everything coming from Caswell County, but right now we are not probably adequately equipped currently to supply it year round. That's why we're partnering with 4p. They have the network of producers from this region as well as up in Virginia and southern Virginia that they tap into and bring their produce in. They do a similar box year-round. It's just different types of stuff in the wintertime. More of your kohlrabies and different things that growing in cooler climates through the winter, and some of the things that are produced in greenhouses. With a hoop structure, you can produce almost 12 months out of the year here if you do it right.

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, I will weigh in and just say that in the most recent NCACC Conference that Commissioner Hall and I both attended along with a couple other members of staff that food insecurity was one of the topics that was addressed. So it's not just a local issue. It's a statewide issue as well, and I think it's really good that we've got local partners like Cooperative Extension and the Local Foods Council that are doing this work to address food insecurity. I think we're probably further along than a lot of other counties in the state that are just now noticing the food insecurity. I think we've always known it was there, but COVID had just exacerbated everything. The food pantries were in dire straits at times, and really had an overabundance of people looking for help. So as I said this was one of the topics addressed at the NCACC Conference, and it doesn't seem just to be a local problem. It seems to be a state problem as well. I think these folks are doing a great job.

Commissioner Massengill said I agree Mr. Chairman. I think COVID may be mild compared to what the food prices are going to today. So I think it's going to get worse for you guys than it is today.

Commissioner Owen said not really a question, but you mentioned moving the Farmers' Market. You looking for a permanent place. Travis Hoesli said we are. We would like to find something more permanent with a structure, and what that looks like we don't know. If that's next year or five years out, we don't know. We're going to start those conversations. Commissioner Owen said well I really would like, although I know there's no area here right downtown, but I sure would love to see a Farmers Market on a Saturday here in Yanceyville to bring people into the town. We have Caswell Mercantile, the Arts Council, a museum that that they have tried to open on Saturdays, and I think but I don't know if they're still doing it. Commissioner Oestreicher said some. Commissioner Owen said you're only going to get a handful of people. But if we had events that brought people downtown, I think we might see some economic development even right here in the town because you've got to have people for that to happen. That's just my thought because I know a lot of times if I travel... Travis Hoesli said it's a conversation we have constantly with the food council. We would like to move to a Saturday or a different day just because we feel we would get more participation. But historically a lot of the vendors have been

August 15, 2022

involved in other markets on Saturday, and they are bigger markets that bring more people in. We're starting to see a little trending, so there might be an opening for us to move to a different day. Commissioner Owen said I just know a lot of times in traveling on the weekend and going to a town, the big draw is a Farmer's Market which includes way more than food of course. I know it's a big problem, but we need to do something. Mr. Hoesli said so we're really trying to bridge that gap between the vendors that we do have that are constant and the community's needs. We've even discussed in detail, this fall when we took over, changing the times and maybe going later in the evening. We had some really heated discussions on that. But we decided to stay with our time, and do a little more data collection on numbers that we were getting, when we were getting them, and that type of stuff. Commissioner Owen said I do have one question. I notice in the application the \$20,000 to support the CSA program to expand participation. If you can, just share with me what that money is going to go towards to expand the program. Mr. Hoesli said most of that's going to go to the support of the boxes. Our goal is to get to 100 families after the first initial 30 in the pilot program. We'd like to get 30 to start the pilot program for the first six months, and then after that expand to more locations around the county to get to 100. After that we'll try to get 100 every year if we can and start building out those locations that we're meeting in. So the majority of the funds we're asking for is to go and help financially support that sliding scale of CSA. We don't know if we'll ever get to where it will be 100% funded by fees, but we would like to. We've got different income levels coming and taking part in it so that it supports the majority of it so we don't have to do a lot of fundraising, but we know in the future we probably will have to get fundraising. We just kind of want to get it started, get our feet under us, and get it going. Then we can focus on fundraising for the future.

Commissioner Massengill said at the Farmers' Market, how many vendors do you normally need? Travis Hoesli said we've got about 45 to 50 vendors that are registered and paid fees for the year. We typically have 15 to 20 right now that are in and out and pretty regular. Every week that's about what we have. We're running right now about 120 to 130 consistent numbers every week. Total sales for the market ranging anywhere from \$1,500 to \$2,500 depending on the week and what's coming in. Like the week the watermelons and the week we had some strawberries locally, the income was a little more that week. It kind of varies from the week, but we're ranging from that \$1,200 to \$2,500 total gross sales for the market every week.

Commissioner Oestreicher said on that topic, how are the vendors are satisfied with the sales that they have? Travis Hoesli said there's been some weeks, but luckily we've only had two weeks or three weeks that have really affected us weather-wise. So we've had really good deals and a really good turnout for most of them. They seem to be very happy, and we check in with them every week just to get some suggestions. We did some advertising on the radio and other places. Like I said we've got a real core of people that come every week, but just sitting out there myself and taking tally, I've noticed that we've got a lot of first-timers and non-repeaters that stop in. So we're seeing new faces come into the market too every week. Commissioner Oestreicher said well I meant the vendors. Mr. Hoesli said yes, the vendors are happy because they're developing

August 15, 2022

bonds. They're happy with the market right now. Everybody would love to sell more stuff, but we're happy with the turnout so far. They've been happy. Commissioner Oestreicher said growing anything, whether you do it on a thousand-acre wheat farms or one-acre zucchini farm, it's marketing your produce and marketing your product. Farmers' Market is a great way to do local produce and certainly local crafts. Travis Hoesli said we've got about four or five that are first-time vendors this year that have just kind of started the program. We have one veteran family that's moved in and bought some land outside of town. So we're seeing some traction of those type of individuals moving into the county. We're just getting in contact with them, making sure they're there, and that they have the space to sell their produce and put their marketing out there. We've got Amanda with the Chamber of Commerce helping us. We're getting them in touch with them, helping them develop some marketing trends, and getting some of that out there as well.

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, just one more quick comment. If approved, this type of application will be necessary for the Caswell County Local Government to have an agreement between us and the Foods Council as well as receive their financial statements on a yearly basis. I just want the Board to know, if approved, those kind of things will be required moving forward.

Commissioner Dickerson said when you were talking about the funding going back into the budget, where is the proposed funding coming from for this grant, if we approve it. Where is it coming from? County Manager Miller said so when the \$120,000 was returned basically into the general fund. That's where it went into the general fund. So this funding would come out of the general fund. Then Commissioner Dickerson asked is this proposal for a one-time shot? County Manager Miller said yes, one time shot. This specific application is for I believe \$35,000. Mr. Hoesli said yes.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Oestreicher and seconded by Commissioner Hall and **carried unanimously** to approve the funding of the Local Foods Council in the amount of \$35,000. (Commissioners Dickerson, Hall, Jefferies, Owen, Oestreicher, Massengill, and McVey voted in favor)

b. **BOY SCOUT CAMP RESERVATION**

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, we do not have a presentation from the Boy Scout Camp Reservation. However, I'm happy to go over the application with you. The application says the funding will be used to offset the salary of the Rangers' Station in Caswell County and serving the Cherokee Scout Reservation. So there's a salary associated with this one and it seems to be for their one full time person on the property on a daily basis. The programs last year had about 1,300 participants with the Cherokee Scout Reservation and about 20 of which were Caswell residents. Commissioner Massengill said is that requested fund \$10,000. The County Manager said that's correct. Commissioner Massengill said I'll attest to the people that coming into Caswell to the scout reservation, they actually do spend money in the town and the county

August 15, 2022

when they're here. Chairman McVey asked if there were any more questions, and then asked what's the Board's pleasure.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Massengill and seconded by Commissioner Jefferies and **carried unanimously** to approve the funds for this scout reservation. (Commissioners Dickerson, Hall, Jefferies, Owen, Oestreicher, Massengill, and McVey voted in favor)

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, just once again we'll have to enter in into an agreement with the scout reservation, and we'll also have to request their financials for that. Just so you're aware. Commissioner Massengill said this goes to the old lower state, and County Manager Miller said that's correct.

PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FEES:

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, in front of you and in your agenda packet, you had an updated Environmental Health fee schedule. We have with us tonight Donnie Powell. He's currently our Central Permitting Director, and previously he was the Environmental Health Director. I'll ask Mr. Powell to come up and speak to us about the increases.

Donnie Powell said good evening Commissioners. So we actually are charged with every year looking at surrounding county's fees and seeing if our fees are in line with their fees. Knowing that, we're not like counties. So we obviously take that into account. We have not had a fee increase in Environmental Health for a few years now. I can't tell you exactly, but probably about five. So you'll see a comparison of Rockingham, Alamance, Orange, and Person counties, and on the very end you'll see an average of what they charge for the same fees that we charge for. So we're proposing an increase in the soil evaluation and site evaluation fee from \$200 up to \$250. The average is \$330 for surrounding counties. We're proposing a site revisit fee of \$75, and the average is \$85 in surrounding counties. If you go down the list, the changes are the authorization to construct which is the actual septic permit where we design the layout of the system. We're proposing that that fee change also to \$250 from \$200, and then \$350 for pump system which is currently \$300. The only other major change is for well permits. It looks like right now the average of the area around us, even though this average isn't completely good because some of the other counties have also increased their fees, but they're averaging around \$397. We're proposing \$400 for our well permits. That's the change for those. Well permits actually cost us, probably with all the water sampling that we do, \$300. I think they cost us that amount of money to actually do the well permits. So the \$400 fee is really just about covering our costs because when I say \$300 that's a bare minimum. That's not counting any extras that come in. The only other changes I made were, we had most of our water sample fees that were \$129 put to \$130. So it'll be an even amount because it's just kind of goofy at \$129. So we just increased those to \$130. I will say that one of the reasons we didn't increase fees a lot is obviously I don't want the citizens of the county to have to pay any more money than they have to to have these evaluations done. However, what we have been seeing recently is there's a big uptick in the amount of outside developers that are coming in, and I'm somewhat attributing that

August 15, 2022

to the casino that's being built. We're seeming to see a lot more larger subdivisions. So there's outside developers coming in to develop these lots, and the fee increase will actually more affect these outside developers coming in than they will our current citizens. Also if we're able to get enough value out of our fees to somewhat pay for the services that an individual is looking to do, then it doesn't get spread out to the rest of the taxpayers who might not be using any of our services. So we are including a small increase just because we want to come a little more in line with the surrounding counties, but again trying to keep those costs as low as possible. Are there any questions?

Commissioner Massengill said Mr. Powell if you add up all of these lines, what you're doing now and what's your proposing, have you added that up to see what the total amount would be. Mr. Powell said yes, depending exactly on what we do, but if you took 2022's numbers, which was a record year for us, it would generate between \$20 and \$25,000 of extra revenue.

Commissioner Massengill said and of that \$20 to \$25,000, how much of that do you attribute to outside developers coming in versus local people. Mr. Powell said I would say at least 50% if not maybe a little more especially in the current climate. Because in the current climate right now, we have very few Caswell County citizens coming in applying for evaluations. It's generally mostly either people moving into the county or outside developers. We've just recently done I want to say two different subdivisions that would have totaled, up to about 14 in one and like 15 in another, around 30 new lot evaluations that were completely outside citizens coming in just in the recent months. Commissioner Massengill then said just a question. Can there be a different charge for a developer versus a local citizen? Mr. Powell said I'm not sure. Honestly I'm not sure from a legality standpoint. I'm not sure if there can be, but another thing is it kind of really muddies the waters especially for the person that's coming in and applying, when they apply, who they apply with, and different personnel that are dealing with the applications. You're going to have people that are outside developers who are going to say well I own property in Caswell County, and I'm a Caswell County resident. That's the case with a lot of our outside developers. They will own a big tract of land in Caswell County; so their argument is that they are a Caswell County citizen even though they're developing the property and don't live here. They just own land in the county. Commissioner Massengill said they're not residents. Mr. Powell said yes, but it's difficult to separate those. Like I said I'm not even sure from a legal standpoint, but I can find out. County Manager Miller said Commissioners, what I'll say about that is I believe in all fairness that when our Tax Department sends out the tax notices each individual taxpayer has to pay their taxes at par. Meaning there's no discounts given, and there's no special treatment given. Everybody has to pay the same rate. I would assume the fees need to be the same with Environmental Health. Commissioner Massengill said just a thought.

Commissioner Oestreicher said it startled me a little when you said your fees that you want to move from \$350 to \$400, and your costs are at least \$300 of that \$400 fee. That brings the question in my mind of are any of these fees above or below your actual cost. Donnie Powell said if you did the calculations, it's kind of difficult because you have to use man hours and a lot of different things. We look at our fees and basically what statute charges us with is that we can't

August 15, 2022

charge more for something than what administratively it cost us. The reason I made that comment about the well permits is because there's a physical amount of money we spend when we buy kits from the State. What we've calculated on our trips out to the property and manpower, we've paid literally. We're paying that amount of money, and that's on the bare minimum. So I'd say most of our fees come close to covering our manpower for the fees. Then you've got Orange County that charges \$485 and up for a site evaluation, and their employees make more money than us. Almost two or three times as much as we do. So they have made their calculations, and they maybe do a little more work or more thorough job because they want to be different. Commissioner Oestreicher said that's the point I'm actually making here or asking about. I would hate to think we're going in the hole on these fees. Mr. Powell said I don't think we are. It really is a balancing act though between what we can charge and still be a service to the community. When I propose a fee like going to \$250, that's literally what I think we can do it for. To me it's a break-even fee just because of our time, the manpower, and stuff. So that's what we're trying to do so we're a service to the community, but still trying to at least pay for our time and stuff.

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, we have at least two departments, Environmental Health and the other being Building Inspections, that by statute we cannot make money with those departments. Meaning we can't charge more than it costs us to operate them. So I think that's what Donnie Powell is trying to do by bring us up to where we're not making more but we're covering more of our operating costs with the fee schedule. If I'm not mistaken, I think you'll see a very similar fee schedule coming in front of you over the next couple meetings for Building Inspections that does exactly the same thing. Commissioner Oestreicher said well as I said my point is I don't want to be losing money. We need to be covering our costs, and if you tell me we are, I'm happy. Mr. Powell said one of the things that we will be looking at and Bryan Miller just brought it up is building fees. But we're also looking at Planning fees. The main fee that we're looking at is the cell tower application fee. One of the reasons that we did that was because these cell tower companies are coming to us and saying we don't care what you charge us for a fee. We just write that off. It's pretty much just a given. So we feel like that's our opportunity to try to help take a little bit of the burden off the taxpayers. If they're saying we're willing to pay the fee just because we're going to make a gobb of money, then we want a piece of that too. So we're going to propose that also. I'm doing things to try to take some of the burden off the taxpayer. Commissioner Massengill said but yet we have crappy cell phone service. Donnie Powell said we're trying really hard. there's a lot of new towers going up right now. Matthew Hoagland has done a great job. Chairman McVey asked if there were any more questions.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Owen and seconded by Commissioner Oestreicher and **carried 6-1** to accept the increase in environmental health fees. (Commissioners Dickerson, Hall, Oestreicher, Massengill, and McVey voted in favor. Commissioner Jefferies voted against the motion.)

PROCLAMATION:

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, you have a follow-up proclamation and your seat. The County Manager proceeded to read the proclamation that is attached following this page.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Oestreicher and seconded by Commissioner Jefferies and **carried unanimously** to accept the proclamation. (Commissioners Dickerson, Hall, Jefferies, Oestreicher, Massengill, and McVey voted in favor)

Commissioner Massengill said may I make a comment before we take a break. There was money spent for the Viper 800 radio system for Caswell County. Had that money not been appropriated, had not that money been spent, and had we not already gotten some of the radios, and you just read the list of all the agencies there. Caswell County would have had no connection or no communications from any of the other agencies. When we got on the scene, we did not want the perpetrator to have a scanner and hear what was going on outside. Our 911 people and the Roxboro group asked for and received three private channels that are on the 800 system. Three state event channels, we received the permission to use those, and they were used. Everybody was able to communicate with everybody. I can't tell you how much I appreciate Mr. Miller helping us with this, and the Commissioners voting to do that. That in itself could have been a life-saving remedy to something that happened. Again I just want to thank everybody for that.

Commissioner Owen said Mr. Chairman, I want to add to that. I want to thank, of course, Commissioner Massengill for the vision of fire safety and safety of all of our public safety personnel with these radios, but I think it speaks to the fact that we live in a rural county. If we're not careful, we become very complacent. We think these things are happening elsewhere, and we see now the reality is that we're not exempt from any of these tragedies that are taking place across our nation. It speaks to the fact that this Board, as well as future Boards, need to have a vision for the future. They need to be looking ahead and thinking about things such as the 800 radios and those kind of things that will help protect not only our public safety but our citizens as well. So I thank the Board as well for your vision with the radios and the fire service. I just thank everybody that was involved. I was out of town when this occurred, but I kept in touch with Mr. Miller as best I could. Then I was in Charlotte Friday, but I did have a conversation through messenger with the deputy. I was really impressed, but I won't read what he wrote because I hadn't asked him. I was really impressed at what he said in the message to me about his job, and I will say this. I think this is okay. He said that he would in a blink of an eye do the same thing again. That tells you the kind of people that we have working for us. So thank you.

RECESS

The Board took a five-minute recess.

August 15, 2022



CASWELL COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

PROCLAMATION ACKNOWLEDGING AND HONORING PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RESPONDING IN CASWELL COUNTY ON AUGUST 10TH, 2022 AS WELL AS ALL PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF CASWELL COUNTY

Whereas, in every North Carolina community, public safety personnel are committed to the preservation of life and property, risking their lives to protect us, providing law and order, and serving the cause of justice; and

Whereas, emergency services personnel, including members of:

Law Enforcement
EMS
Fire
911 Communications
Emergency Management, and
Federal and State Agencies

accept a profound responsibility to work and to uphold our laws, safeguard our residents, and serve on the front lines in emergency situations or from those that would cause us harm; and

Whereas, on August 10, 2022 two members of the Caswell County Sheriff's Office were attacked and responded with heroism and bravery, followed by a joint response by Caswell County Sheriff's Office, Caswell County EMS, Caswell County 911, Caswell County Fire Departments, and Caswell County Emergency Management; and

Whereas, during the event, law enforcement and public safety personnel from surrounding counties, state agencies, and federal agencies, offered aid and support to the service men and women in Caswell County; and

Whereas, the collaborative efforts of the responding agencies embodied the spirit of those that serve all residents unselfishly and in a unified effort to serve and protect; and

Whereas, the combined efforts of all agencies involved resulted in a de-escalation of the conflict; and

WHEREAS, it is important for all citizens to know and understand the duties, responsibilities, hazards, and sacrifices of public safety personnel, and that members of our public safety agencies recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting against violence and disorder, by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression, and providing aid in situations where our residents find themselves most vulnerable; and

Whereas, this and every day we honor the public safety personnel who make many sacrifices in service to their community, we ask God's Blessing for their safety and also recognize and pay respect to these heroes;

Now Therefore Be It Proclaimed, that the Caswell County Board of County Commissioners offers their most sincere appreciation for all public safety personnel, past and present, who, by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities, have rendered a dedicated service to their communities.

**THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES ARE TO BE COMMENDED AND
ACKNOWLEDGED, FOR THEIR SERVICE TO CASWELL COUNTY ON AUGUST
10TH, 2022.**

Caswell Sheriff's Office, Caswell EMS, Caswell EM, Caswell Fire Marshal's Office, Caswell 911, All Caswell County Volunteer Fire Departments with special acknowledgement to Semora Fire Department and Milton Fire Department which responded directly with equipment:

Person County Sheriff's Office, Person County EMS, Roxboro Fire, Rockingham County Sheriff's Office, Rockingham EMS, Alamance County Sheriff's Office, Alamance EMS, Orange County Sheriff's Office, Guilford County Sheriff's Office, Vance County Sheriff's Office, Forsyth County Sheriff's Office:

NCSHP, Department Homeland Security, ATF, US Marshal, DOI, SBI.

This the 15th day of August, 2022.

S/ Rick McVey
Rick McVey, Chairman
Caswell County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

S/ Carla Smith
Carla Smith
Clerk to the Board

CASWELL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVISIONS:

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, as you see you have a copy of the Caswell County Comprehensive Plan in your agenda. You also have two letters from the Planning Board. We have with us tonight the Planning Director, Matthew Hoagland. I'll ask Matthew to give us a brief overview of the changes in the Comprehensive Plan, and maybe discuss the letters that we received from the Planning Board.

Matthew Hoagland said thank you Bryan Miller and thank you Commissioners. At their July 26 regular meeting, the Planning Board voted to make certain recommendations to the Comprehensive Plan. As you know it's one of the tasks that they're charged with, which is an annual review of the Comprehensive Plan. They made in summary the following recommendations for your ultimate consideration, approval, or denial. However, the Board may want to handle it. One item would be to add Forestry Service contact information to the appendix. Other items include to also add the Chamber of Commerce contact information to the appendix, to incorporate 2020 census data into section 2, to amend the UDO to allow for a staff recommendation on planning related items, to create Section 4.6, which will be focused on education under Section 4 Issues, Goals, and Strategies, an annual pre-comprehensive plan review meeting between the County Commissioners and the Planning Board, and then certain transportation updates as well. That would be specifically to add a center turn lane along the Highway 86 commercial corridor through Yanceyville, to prioritize a Highway 62 bypass loop around Bartlett Yancey High School, and to emphasize reassessment and prioritization of general traffic in light of the pending Danville casino. In addition to these recommendations, the Board voted for a couple of letters which should be in the agenda packets as well. In summary, they were to request an annual meeting that I mentioned a moment ago between the Planning Board and the Commissioners really just for general guidance on their view. Then to re-evaluate the county's Comprehensive Transportation Plan which I believe was last updated in 2016 or 2018, but I'm not sure I have that date correct. Vice Chairman of the Planning Board, Scott Oakley is here as well, and Mr. Oakley may want to weigh in. I'm certainly happy to answer any questions that you might have about any of those recommendations.

Commissioner Massengill said talk to me again about the transportation plan and what you guys may have suggested. Matthew Hoagland said yes, there are three specific items. I believe they're on page 39 and 40 of the Comprehensive Plan. One would be a center lane down the entire stretch of 86 as you pass basically from the intersection of 158 and main street all the way to 158 on the northern end, if I understand that correctly. Then there was also a previous recommendation in the Comprehensive Transportation Plan which would have created a loop for 62 South around Piedmont Community College (PCC) and the high school, and then connected back in at the main intersection of 86, 158, and Main Street. One of the recommendations is to once again incorporate that loop. I believe it had been removed, but to once again incorporate that in there. Then just a general reassessment of all county transportation issues in light of the fact that the pending casino development is set to open in 2024. The Comprehensive Plan as you

August 15, 2022

know was last touched almost 10 years ago in 2014. So I think the recommendation was just in general to reevaluate anticipated traffic flows in light of the casino development. Commissioner Massengill said I'm totally in favor of looking at the traffic flow. However, where did the idea of the quote-unquote passing lane which is supposedly already approved against the will of several emergency services people in this county. It's dangerous enough to put a third lane in there. We'll just going to station an EMS truck and a fire truck out there somewhere. Who came up with that thought process? Mr. Hoagland said that may be, if I said passing lane I may have spoken in error, a turn lane along Highway 86. That was if I remember correctly, Mr. Scott Oakley. Commissioner Massengill said a turn lane where? Mr. Hoagland said along to 86 Business Corridor through Yanceyville. Commissioner Owen said could I just interject on that. There is in the step plan, which has been put off because of COVID, money. There was originally a turn lane at 86 Convenience Market for the convenience center there, but what you're talking about is a center lane from Yanceyville basically to Danville. Is that what you mean? Mr. Hoagland said no sir, just the business corridor if I understand that correctly. So in front of Food Lion, in front of the Executive Inn, in front of the Mexican restaurant, and that specific corridor as you pass through basically more or less Yanceyville Town limits. Commissioner Massengill said okay. There is a plan because we've met with the State, but as David Owen said it's been put on hold. They're going to put a third lane. Their first project is from Park Springs Road to the Virginia line with a middle lane. You go so far and you can pass from this lane, and then you can pass from this lane coming the other way. Disaster even more waiting to happen. Then they're going to finish it from the Park Springs Road to the stoplight. We have enough out there. We've expressed our opinion emergency services wise against that. I guess it fell on deaf ears because it's still on the books for 2026, 2027, or 2028. But turning lanes is okay at Park Springs Road. I do not disagree with that, and I do not disagree with re-looking at the whole transportation plan. Because when they come from Burlington, they cut through Atwater Street and cut through Pemberton Street to get over here to 86.

Commissioner Oestreicher said Mr. Hoagland, how much input was obtained by Planning Board for revisions on updating the plan? Mr. Hoagland said how much input in general? You mean outside of the Planning Board. Commissioner Oestreicher said outside of one brief discussion by Emily Buchanan of PCC and by Amanda Hodges of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Hoagland said yes sir. I'm probably going to forget some names here, but as you mentioned Emily Buchanan from PCC, Amanda Hodges from the Chamber of Commerce, Kamara Barnett, Yanceyville Town Manager, the Mayor of Milton was invited and spoke, Brian Singleton, the Forestry Service Agent, and there were several invitations where folks couldn't make it or they had a scheduling conflict. If I recall correctly, those were the specific individuals that came and spoke to the Planning Board. Again I apologize if I'm forgetting anybody. It was over the course of several years. Commissioner Oestreicher said was there any input received from the Board of Education, and Mr. Hoagland said no sir. Commissioner Oestreicher said any from the school system? Mr. Hoagland said no sir. Commissioner Oestreicher said any from Ag Extension Department? Mr. Hoagland said I don't believe so. Commissioner Oestreicher said the fire

August 15, 2022

department or the Sheriff's Department? Mr. Hoagland said not that I can recall. Commissioner Oestreicher said from citizens in general? Mr. Hoagland said there were public comments. Commissioner Oestreicher said any community meetings, and Mr. Hoagland said no sir. Commissioner Oestreicher said any input from any African American groups? Mr. Hoagland said groups? No sir. Commissioner Oestreicher said senior center? Mr. Hoagland said no sir.

Commissioner Hall said I really approve the plan that was sent out to us. It looks like it was done around 2014 or sometime. One of the things that I noticed was the plan to focus mainly on agriculture. If we're going to have a balanced economy, we're going to have to focus on some other things. So my suggestion would be that we have a work session to talk about the Comprehensive Plan. One the things we got from the MAPS Book that came from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and it has a lot of updated statistics. We need to be aware of those statistics as we discuss things. Now I recognize that we are a representative government. We can invite people to certain places, and they may or may not attend. But I think it's really important that we get input across the board, or however we have to do it. Some issues are more important than others to certain individuals or to some people, but we need to hear that. So that's why I would suggest that we have a work session. We can get it out, invite people, and even during that work session, we should have public comments. But we need I think take time to really look at it thoroughly. We kind of finally mentioned that one of the roles of Planning Board was to look at this annually. I think the Board should look at it also because things change. There's a lot of new creative things that can be done, if we put our minds to it. I think we should at least give it a shot.

Commissioner Massengill said Mr. Hall, I agree with you 100%. I was kind of amazed and astonished that the Planning board did not meet with the Commissioners on an ever how many times basis. It's a must in my opinion. They're probably the two most important Boards in this county. If they're not both on the same page, we're never going to advance. Now I'm not a nerd but I read that thing completely through and was amazed at how much things have changed but things have stayed the same. If I had not seen the date, I would have thought it was 2021. With that older 2014 other than a declining even more in the population. So I agree with you 100%, Mr. Hall. Commissioner Hall said that's the way I felt also. I just couldn't express it like you did.

Chairman McVey said any more comments. If not, would you like to instruct the County Manager to set up a joint meeting with the Planning Board and let's take a look at this thing in a workshop. Is everyone in agreement with that? All right, Mr. Manager, if you would set up and pick a date and time that both Boards can get together to have a workshop and discuss this. County Manager Miller said yes.

COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATES:

The County Manager said Commissioners, I have several updates for you. I want to start with as anticipated, the Governor did rescind the State of Emergency today, which takes away authorization for the county or for Commissioners at least to participate in remote meetings. So I

August 15, 2022

think I've updated you on that before, but I just wanted to let you know we received official notice today that that had occurred. So all participation will need to be in person from this point on. I wanted to cover a little bit, and I think... Commissioner Hall said how does that impact intergovernmental meetings, like municipalities. County Manager Miller said I don't think that there's authorization for any elected official to participate remotely as a participant in any official meeting.

So I think Commissioner Hall may have talked about this a little bit too, but I did want to mention the NCACC Conference. I want to mention a couple of things. We had several very interesting and fact-filled sessions. One on the opioid crisis, and I'll just put this out there, Commissioners. We have received our first payment of \$42,785, and we're going to need to formulate a plan on how we go about spending the opioid money that we receive as a county. To date, we've received \$42,785. We've got to figure out how we're going to do that, and what our strategy is going to be. Commissioner Massengill said none of that's been allocated for any reason? County Manager Miller said no. None of that's been allocated. Commissioner Massengill said okay. Then Commissioner Dickerson said Mr. Miller, during the budget process when we added a narcotics officer, wasn't the understanding that there was enough money coming in from the settlement to cover that salary, and that's where that was going. County Manager Miller said I don't believe so. I think the subject was brought up, and I believe what I told you at that time were there were stipulations on that money. Specifically, I think the agreements in a & e of the state contract, and I didn't think then and I know for a fact now, that the money wouldn't be an allowable expense for just to have a narcotics officer. That was not an allowable expense. I believe I told the Board that then, but I've since confirmed that. So that is not the case. We cannot use it for a narcotics agent. Commissioner Dickerson said well the understanding when we did that, and Mr. Massengill brought that into play when he pointed out that roughly the amount of money coming in would cover the county's costs for adding an officer. So what are we proposing here? Are we saying that the money is going to be spent in another way, and that officer's salary is going to be added to the taxpayer's burden? Or are we offering to take the money that will be coming in from the opioid settlement and paying other expenses that we would have had to pay to cover that salary? County Manager Miller said well I think how we go about spending that money is up to the Board. I think the programs or whatever you develop, that's up to the Board. We'll find any approach that the Board wants to take and run with it, but I'll just reiterate there are caveats to how we can and cannot spend this money. We're going to have to abide by those. If we don't, we'll end up having to repay those funds to at least the State. I believe that's what I said during that budget session too if I remember correctly.

Commissioner Hall said yes, I did not have that on my list to cover. The conference was very jam-packed, and there were a lot of sections that contradicted each other. I'll tell you that we had one lady in the general session that spoke about opioid crisis, and the idea I got from her and from some others was that maybe we should be looking more at treatment and not officers. I was really I can't say oppressed. I was really hurt that there were at least four or five commissioners

August 15, 2022

at the conference, and one of them spoke that had lost sons and daughters to opioid overdoses. So I think this is another issue as we start looking at the money. With that, we might want to consider another workshop. For some of the things suggested, \$42 to \$100,000 is not enough, but we need to do something. I've heard informally that our EMS has their hands full dealing with overdoses. So we need some type of holistic approach. We don't need to save a person's life today, and then have to come back in a month and save them again. The lady that spoke talked about that and talked about evidence-based approaches. One of the things she said caught my attention. With this problem, there's no end. It's just always a journey. There's just no completion. So we've got to look at some things hopefully that we can do to help our citizens along this journey to stay clean. County Manager Miller said I think that's very well put Commissioner Hall. That's exactly what I took from her speech as well. I did want to let the board know that emergency services protection also seems to be a big discussion within the state. We had a session on emergency services protection. We actually had two emergency services sessions. One was specifically on the protection of our emergency services personnel.

I mentioned earlier food insecurity. We spoke about broadband and cyber security. Which were all once again great sessions. They ran a lot of concurrent sessions, but luckily I think we had several people there. So we were able to split up into different sessions and cover a good number of the topics covered. I do want to let you know that I was proud of Caswell County, in general, when I was at the conference. Even though we had one commissioner there full time, Commissioner Hall, we had Commissioner Owen attend one day of the conference. We were represented in a lot of other different ways. We had several staff members attending the conference. Our clerk to the board thought ahead enough to get you the nice county map books, one for each commissioner. So I appreciate her doing that. But aside from county staff and county commissioners attended the meeting, at the first night celebration which was sponsored by Cooperative Extension, Baldwin beef was served as one of the courses. The sign specifically said as you went through the line from Caswell County. So I was very, very pleased to see that. I also want to let the Board know that we received the Partnership Award. Caswell County received one of five awards that was given that night, and that was for Project CEAD, our partnership with Cooperative Extension and Piedmont Community College. We received an award for that. The Director of Cooperative Extension, Dr. McConnell and I believe the Regional Director, Susan Kelly, plan on coming to the first meeting in September to present the award to the Board as a whole. So there were some very good highlights for us as Caswell County Commissioners, Caswell County staff, and Caswell County as a whole. I think we were very well represented. I wanted to say it was a good conference. I hope more commissioners can attend in the future. Are there any questions for me?

Commissioner Dickerson said yes. I would like the printed out copy of the whole conversation that was had regarding the narcotics officer, and the discussion about how it could be paid for. I know I could find it in emails, but I would like it printed out so I can have it for future reference when we start talking about it again. Feel like I been dealing with a bait switch because that was

August 15, 2022

not my understanding at all, and I want to look at it. I would appreciate it if you can find that for me. County Manager Miller said sure I'll be happy to do that.

Chairman McVey said Mr. Manager, I think Mr. Hall had a pretty good idea. Maybe we need to set up and have a workshop to put our minds together as he said on this opioid money. So maybe we could go through and arrange for us to have a meeting for that. Pick a time and date.

Commissioner Massengill said also if you could find out what some other municipalities and/or counties are doing. Give us some ideas. Chairman McVey asked if there was anything else, and County Manager Miller said that's all unless you've got questions for me.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hall: Yes, let me get my notes out, and see if I can read them. I want to say first of all it was a fantastic conference. When I looked at the agenda when we got it, I wasn't all that excited because the headline well it just didn't excite me. But when I started going and then talking to people, it was very good. We had concurrent sessions, and you just couldn't attend everything. So basically I worked all day Thursday, all day Friday, and all day Saturday at this conference. I wanted to cover a few things that I think is kind of important. First of all, the legislative goals are due September 12th. We need to start working on them, and I think we need to have them ready by our next meeting. Now one of the things we were told in the business session is don't get too carried away about some of the standard stuff such as the internet and the unfunded mandate. We're going to cover that. We, the association, is going to cover those things. But things that are specific to Caswell County that we have an issue with, try to get that as the legislative goal. We've got excellent staff at the association. I was going to stay on the hill, but they're in Raleigh. They're doing something down there all the time. So I hope we'll work on those and get them ready so that we'll have them by the next meeting. Then the Legislative Conference will be in November, and that's when the Board of Directors will vote on that. They're trying to get ahead of things this year as opposed to prior years; so that by December they'll know what they're working on and get them out to the Legislature.

Commissioner Owen asked if he could interrupt for a minute. I agree with you and I think we need to get those goals, and I wonder if we shouldn't have those goals sent to our clerk so they'll be included in the meeting packet. So we'll see them beforehand, and may take care of some of the discussion during the meeting. Mr. Hall said personally I think that's great because to try to handle as much as we need to do by the next meeting, we really would want to see them. If we get them early enough, maybe she can send them to us before the agenda packs go out.

Commissioner Hall said the association has developed a new strategic member services division, and what they've done is they have engaged newly graduated Master's degree young folks to work with the counties on any issues or most any issues that the county would want or need assistance with. So as we work on things like our goals and having these work sessions, if we can

use some help from the association, we need to contact them. They'll send somebody out to help us.

One of the other things is that the finance department of the association has started a 501C-3 department or a nonprofit department. They're doing that so that they can apply for funds, either on behalf of the counties or for all counties, and distribute it to the county. So that's another thing we need to consider as we're working. If there's some things that we think that the association can help us with, then let them know and see if they can find a grant to help out.

Attorney General, Josh Stein, was there, and the Treasurer, Dale Folwell. I think that's his name. The Treasurer reported that North Carolina is one of 13 states to have a triple A bond rating, and they did that by thinking outside of the box, doing some creative things with tactics, and some other things. That's another instance where, as we put our heads together, maybe we can do some thinking outside of the box so that we can progress a little faster. Commissioner Massengill mentioned that when we looked at the Comprehensive Plan. If you hadn't seen the date and the year, you would have thought that was right now. So we need to make some changes so that people can know, our citizens and constituents will know, that we're really trying to make a difference. I made a note about MAP Books, and we got that.

The last thing, in a lot of sessions, there was always some discussion about economic development. That's something else we need to look at. Now we looked at it last meeting. I think the job description of the Economic Developer, but again we need to go deeper than that I think. So I know I'm throwing out a lot on these work sessions, but I think that's another area that, either we don't have a work section and this could be any of them, we limit the agenda so we really have time to talk in the regular meeting. So we can cover things in depth. I think that's all I had to report right now.

Commissioner Massengill said to Commissioner Hall, we thank or I thank you for going and bringing all that information back. We appreciate that.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Joint Meeting with Towns of Yanceyville and Milton August 18, 2022 at 6 pm at the Yanceyville Municipal Building
- Labor Day September 5, 2022 County Offices will be closed
- Commissioners Meeting September 6, 2022 at 9:00 am
- Commissioners Meeting September 19, 2022 at 6:30 pm
- I also want to mention the Farmer Lake Kids fishing day. That will be Saturday, August the 20th from 8:30 to noon. All kids fish for free, free fishing rods and reels, free picnic lunch.
- Back-to-school event over at the Pavilion this Saturday, August 20th also.

August 15, 2022

CLOSED SESSION:

A **motion** was made at 8:38 pm by Commissioner Owen and seconded by Commissioner Jefferies and **carried unanimously** to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee. NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6). (Commissioner Dickerson, Hall, Jefferies, Owen, Oestreicher, Massengill, and McVey voted in favor)

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Jefferies, seconded by Commissioner Owen and **carried unanimously** to return to open session at 8:53 pm. (Commissioner Dickerson, Hall, Jefferies, Owen, Oestreicher, Massengill, and McVey voted in favor)

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Jefferies and seconded by Commissioner Owen and **carried 6-1** that the Board give the County Manager a 7% increase and look at his salary at evaluation time. (Commissioners Hall, Jefferies, Oestreicher, Massengill, and McVey voted in favor. Commissioner Dickerson voted against the motion)

ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made at 8:57 pm by Commissioner Owen and seconded by Commissioner Jefferies and **carried unanimously** to adjourn the meeting. (Commissioner Dickerson, Jefferies, Oestreicher, Massengill, and McVey voted in favor)

Carla R. Smith
Clerk to the Board

Rick McVey
Chairman

August 15, 2022

North Carolina Travel Reimbursement Rates

As of July 1, 2022

PER DIEM Effective 7/1/2022

	IN-STATE	OUT-OF-STATE
BREAKFAST	\$9.00	\$9.00
LUNCH	\$11.80	\$11.80
DINNER	\$20.50	\$23.30
TOTAL FOR MEALS	\$41.30/DAY	\$44.10/DAY
LODGING (actual)		

MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE: Effective 7/1/2022

Trips will be reimbursed at \$0.62.5

TAXI: Reimburse fare only with receipt

PARKING: Actual cost with receipt

OVERNIGHT TRIP – Departure time is time you begin trip	Arrival time is time of day you return from trip
Departure Time – Prior to 6 am	Breakfast
Departure Time – Prior to 12 Noon	Lunch: Arrival time must be after 2:00 pm to claim
Departure Time – Prior to 5:00 pm	Dinner: Arrival time must be after 8:00 pm to claim

***Must include departure and arrival times on travel form to determine number of hours worked.**

North Carolina Per Diem Rates for FY 2022

There are ten areas in North Carolina for which location-specific per diem rates are specified by the federal government. For travel to areas within North Carolina that do not have specified per diem rates, the general per diem rates are used.

The per diem rates shown here are effective beginning **October 2021**. For a full schedule of per diem rates by month and year for these areas, click on any of the North Carolina destination names below.

General North Carolina Per Diems:

\$96.00

per night lodging

\$59.00

per day meals

Destination ▲	County	Meal Rate	Lodging Rate
Asheville	Buncombe County	\$64.00	\$120.00
Atlantic Beach / Morehead City	Carteret County	\$64.00	\$132.00
Chapel Hill	Orange County	\$74.00	\$111.00
Charlotte	Mecklenburg County	\$69.00	\$129.00
Durham	Durham County	\$64.00	\$115.00
Fayetteville	Cumberland County	\$64.00	\$109.00
Greensboro	Guilford County	\$64.00	\$103.00
Kill Devil Hills	Dare County	\$74.00	\$151.00
Raleigh	Wake County	\$64.00	\$123.00
Wilmington	New Hanover County	\$59.00	\$119.00

Per-diems for other cities in North Carolina:

If you are traveling to a city in North Carolina that does not have a specific per diem rate the standard per-diem rates of **\$96.00 per night** for lodging and **\$59.00 per day** for meals and incidentals apply.

**FEE COMPARISON
2021-2022**

Environmental Health Fees April 2022	Rockingham	Alamance	Orange	Person	Caswell (2021-2022)	PROPOSED	Avg.
Soil/Site Evaluation	\$250-\$380	\$265.00	\$485.00 and up	\$200-\$300	\$200(\$100 add. Br)	\$250 (\$100 add. Br)	\$ 330.00
Site Revisit Fee	\$100.00	\$70.00	\$175.00	\$30.00	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$85.00
Authorization to Construct Type I, II, IIIacdefg	\$200-\$250	\$250.00	\$360.00	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$250.00	\$240.00
Authorization to Construct Type IIIb	\$200-\$250	\$485.00	\$360.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$350.00	\$361.25
Authorization to Construct Type IV	\$300.00	\$730.00	\$360.00 and up	\$400.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$482.50
Authorization to Construct Type V	\$300.00	\$1,250.00	calculation	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$762.50
Authorization to Construct Type VI	NA	\$2,000.00	calculation	\$500.00			
New Well Permit	\$375.00	\$365.00	\$595.00	\$300.00	\$350.00	\$400.00	\$397.00
Replacement Well Permit	\$375.00	\$365.00	\$595.00	\$200.00	\$350.00	\$400.00	\$377.00
Well Repair Permit	\$200.00	\$250.00	NA	\$75.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	NA
Well Camera Inspection	NA	\$120.00	NA	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	NA
Manufactured Home Park Existing System Check	\$120.00	\$75.00	\$245.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$148.00
Existing System Check for Change in Use	\$120.00	\$75.00	\$175.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$134.00
Full Panel	\$110.00	\$110.00	\$110.00	\$130.00	\$129.00	\$130.00	\$117.80
Bacterial H2O Sample	\$60.00	\$40.00	\$65.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$53.00
Chemical H2O Sample	\$110.00	\$85.00	\$110.00	\$118.00	\$129.00	\$130.00	\$110.40
Nitrate H2O Sample	\$60.00	\$45.00	\$70.00	\$76.00	\$80.00	\$85.00	\$66.20
Petroleum H2O Sample	\$110.00	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$130.00	\$129.00	\$130.00	\$115.80
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) H2O Sample	\$110.00	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$130.00	\$129.00	\$130.00	\$115.80
Pesticide H2O Sample	\$110.00	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$130.00	\$129.00	\$130.00	\$115.80
Tattoo Permit Application	\$255.00	\$175.00	\$310.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$228.00
Swimming Pool Permit Application (each pool)	\$145.00	\$115.00	\$330.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$178.00
Swimming Pool Plan Review	\$250.00	\$285.00	\$350.00	NA	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$283.75
Restaurant Plan Review	\$220.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$100.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$214.00
Temporary Food Establishment Permit Application	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
ServSafe Course (with book and exam)	\$165.00				\$165.00	\$165.00	\$165.00
ServSafe Course Only (no book or exam)	\$95.00				\$95.00	\$95.00	\$95.00
ServSafe Exam Only	\$50.00				\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
ENGINEER OPTION PERMIT(EOP)							Fee assessed at 30% of IP/CA for proposed facility

Proposed Letter

From: Caswell County Planning Board

To: Caswell County Board of Commissioners and County Manager

The Caswell County Planning Board would like to request an annual meeting with the Board of Commissioners and County Manager. Timing of the annual meeting would be prior to the kickoff of the Planning Board's annual review of the Caswell County Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of the meeting is for the Planning Board to seek input and guidance from the Board of Commissioners on top priorities for the Comprehensive Plan update

The proposed agenda would be the following:

- Guidance from the Board of Commissioners on high priority updates to the Comprehensive Plan.
- Guidance from the Board of Commissioners on the Comprehensive Plan (Section 4: Issues, Goals, and Strategies)
- Guidance on potential ordinances (new or changes to existing) which should be taken up from the Planning Board.
- Review available data or other factors which could change trend data current listed in the Comprehensive Plan (population, residential construction by District and type of construction, job growth by industry, household income, etc.)
- Review and discuss annual Community Input survey results

Sincerely,

Caswell County Planning Board

Proposed Letter

From: Caswell County Planning Board

To: Caswell County Board of Commissioners and County Manager

In light of Danville's Caesars Casino which is now projected to open in the year 2024, the Caswell County Planning Board recommends a re-evaluation of the Caswell County Transportation Plan (CTP) to determine if increased Casino traffic could cause potential safety or nuisance problem areas on local highways and intersections.

The CTP dated 2018; section 2.2 and Tables 31 and 32 in the Caswell County Comprehensive Plan identifies numerous highway improvement projects; all of which would be beneficial to Caswell County. However, with increased traffic a re-evaluation may find that specific projects may need higher priority than previously thought.

For example, if increased traffic is expected on NC HWY 62 from Alamance County through Yanceyville, this would result in additional traffic at the stop sign beside Bartlett Yancey High School (intersection of NC HWY 62 and Main Street). This could result in high congestion and safety issues at the three stop signs (HWY 62/Main St, Pemberton St./HWY 86, Atwater St./HWY 86) and high nuisance traffic through the residential streets of Pemberton and Atwater. The CTP currently lists project "NC 62 Bypass" in Table 31 which could eliminate these potential concerns. The Bypass could also add new areas for Business and Residential development.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Caswell County Planning Board