

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

January 28, 2022
OTHERS PRESENT

Rick McVey, Chairman
David Owen, Vice Chairman
Nathaniel Hall
Jeremiah Jefferies
Steve Oestreicher
John D. Dickerson (Remote)

Bryan Miller, County Manager
Carla R. Smith, Clerk to the Board

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Caswell, North Carolina, met for a Work Session on Friday, January 28, 2022 at 9:00 am at the Gunn Memorial Library.

WELCOME:

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

RECOGNITIONS:

There were no recognitions.

AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Hall apologized for not sending in the item for discussion but asked that the Board consider the County moving toward renewable energy, if we have time. Chairman McVey said we will add Renewable Energy as item 11 on the agenda.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

CASWELL COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

Commissioner Oestreicher asked how many of the Commissioners have read the Comprehensive plan. It has had no annual review as prescribed by the plan in at least the past five years. Matthew Hoagland was present at the meeting and Commissioner Oestreicher said Mr. Hoagland could correct him if he was in error on that. The Comprehensive Plan is supposed to be review annually and the findings are supposed to be presented, but that has not happened. The document is around 120 pages and it is truly comprehensive. The plan was put together by citizens and stakeholders, and Mr. Oestreicher believes the statistics were put together by the Piedmont Triad Regional Council or PTRC. Commissioner Oestreicher suggested that the Board review the goals

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at least 2-3 times a year because there's a lot of work that went into this. It has not been updated since it was created in 2013-2014, and it needs to be done. Commissioner Oestreicher recommends that the Board commission an update not a rewrite. The new data from the 2020 census would be wonderful if it could be included in this. It is Mr. Oestreicher's understanding that PTRC should be available to help with an update, and the cost associated with this should be relatively affordable. It is suspected that the cost might even be covered by some COVID or ARP funds if it can't be funded out of the budget. It is a significant project. We just had a new development approved by the Planning Board, which is the Robert Leon Wiley development with the Briar Ridge Major Subdivision with 11 new lots. We are surrounded by growth coming to this county and we need to get this plan updated. We need to update the goals, strategies, and the policies. Commissioner Oestreicher recommends that we use the same methodology that was used to create the plan, which involved citizen and stakeholder input. A considerable task force was put together to do that, and Commissioner Oestreicher would like to see the Board agree to do an update this year.

Chairman McVey asked if this was a tweak to the plan, and Commissioner Oestreicher said that it was more than a tweak. There is a lot of data that needs to go into it and the Board needs to revise goals and strategies. It is not a complete rewrite, but it's a significant update. Then Chairman McVey asked if each commissioner needs to look at this plan and come back with ideas to give to the Planning Board. Commissioner Oestreicher said there was a large group of people that participated in the creation of this. There was a steering committee and he would like to recreate that group to supervise the update. Commissioner Oestreicher said he would like the commissioners to read the existing plan. Chairman McVey said they should address any issues they have with the committee and then send it out.

Commissioner Hall then asked the County Planner, what issues he has seen that have come up already or issues that may come up involving the Comprehensive Plan. Matthew Hoagland said that Commissioner Oestreicher talked about the update more or less and the good work that went in that. A lot of the same issues that these folks were concerned with in 2013 and 2014 are really a lot of the same issues today. They talked about health and wellness, education, Piedmont Community College, and broadband connectivity which are some of the same issues today. One thing that stuck out to Mr. Hoagland was the desire for some sort of innovative agricultural center and having the community college involved in that. Mr. Hoagland feels that goal is basically accomplished in the CEAD project, although construction is still awaiting. That is something the county identified as a goal in the Comprehensive Plan and has made unbelievable progress in accomplishing it. In terms of future developments or future changes, the casino coming into Danville, VA has a tremendous potential to change things in the county, and we are seeing growth. The area of the county where we saw population growth as a result of the census was down in the Prospect Hill area as obviously an identifiable growth corridor. Mr. Hoagland thinks there are things in the Comprehensive Plan that have more or less been accomplished, but there have been things that have changed since 2013 and 2014 that would necessitate some sort

of update. Commissioner Hall then asked as far as we know the casino plan is still on track to come. Matthew Hoagland said yes as far as he knows and they are targeting late 2023. Commissioner Owen said they are starting on the destruction of the property now. Commissioner Oestreicher said Apple has announced 3,000 very high paying jobs that will be coming to the RTP area, and we all know the real estate market right now has nothing available. You can't buy a house in that area. So Caswell County is going to look very attractive other than the limited roads, but even those aren't bad compared to where some of these people are coming from. Even if it takes them an hour to get there; that's probably half the drive that they've been experiencing in areas such as California. Commissioner Hall said there's two new huge major projects coming to the Piedmont Triad air force area also.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Hall to review and update the Caswell County Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the motion could be amended to create a steering committee, like when the plan was created, to manage that part of the update. Commissioner Hall agreed to the amended motion. Commissioner Oestreicher said the critical part of this plan is citizen and stakeholder input. We need to manage that. This is not something we can hand over to Mr. Hoagland and have him update it. Commissioner Hall said he agree and that the County Planner and County Manager may have some suggestions for changes as they start to put this together and maintain real estate. We really need to have some local realtors involved because things are changing and changing quickly. Then Commissioner Oestreicher **seconded** the amended motion and it **carried unanimously** (Commissioners Dickerson, Hall, Jefferies, Owen, Oestreicher and McVey voted in favor of the motion)

RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL GROWTH:

Commissioner Oestreicher said he mentioned this growth that we're seeing in the southern part of the county, as Mr. Hoagland mentioned. We need to manage that growth, how it occurs in this county, and address the needs that will accompany this growth. We need to encourage high value properties and non-polluting agriculturally based industries. Those will increase the tax base so we can support the needs of the people that are moving into the county, especially if they are building quarter of a million dollar homes and tracks of land. They are going to have certain expectations on how we provide infrastructure to them, and that infrastructure includes high speed internet, electrical, natural gas would be lovely if we could get it, transportation, improving the highways, making sure there is enough water, and the quality of education for their children and employees. We need to consider once again putting together a group to do this. The Board needs to consider ways to encourage that growth. One suggestion is a ramped 3-5% discount on property tax for higher assessed value properties. We will need to make sure these suggestions are doable. For example, the first year of a three-year plan, you would get a 9% discount on your property tax. The second year you get a 6% discount, and the third year you get a 3% discount. This would encourage people to come to the county and build a high value property. Out of that we could reduce or pay for that by subsidizing contract trash pickup,

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but we would need to work out the details on that. Another example to encourage growth would be discounting permit fees maybe by 25% for these higher assessed value properties. The Board should be capable of coming up with some other ideas for a smaller group. To address the educational aspect of this we need to link the budget provided to the schools to the capital budget and any supplements requested to improvements made in attendance, graduation rates, and evaluations the schools are given. Right now they are very low, but they need to be linked to some measure of the quality of education to encourage schools to address the needs of the people moving into this county who have expectations for a good education for their children. Again Commissioner Oestreicher would like a group put together to look at ways to do this.

Chairman McVey asked if the Board had any comments or questions. Commissioner Dickerson said he wholeheartedly support the last comment that Commissioner Oestreicher made and he would like to be part of the group looking at ways to improve the school system and tying the funds to making better strides toward the education of our children. Then the Chairman said we need a motion to form a committee. Commissioner Oestreicher said yes to look at these incentives or look at ways to address the issues mentioned such as infrastructure and education.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Owen and seconded by Commissioner Oestreicher and **carried unanimously** to proceed with the formation of the group. (Commissioners Dickerson, Hall, Jefferies, Owen, Oestreicher and McVey voted in favor of the motion)

Commissioner Oestreicher said part of his item that was not specified was high speed internet. Mr. Oestreicher said Rockingham County just put on their webpage an announcement about them partnering with Spectrum Charter that blew him away when he looked at it. There was a video in there about a panel discussion in a meeting that they had as part of this announcement. It was well done, comprehensive, and Mr. Oestreicher was amazed by the sheer commitment of what they're doing with Spectrum Charter and the other groups who are contributing to it. Commissioner Oestreicher said he would send the link to the clerk so that she could distribute that to everyone that is interested. Mr. Oestreicher said he would be happy to share the 37-minute video with the Board. He also sent the link to the County Manager and asked for his comments. Bryan Miller said he did view the video, and it was a great panel discussion. They spoke about cost and how they were covering their cost. Mr. Miller thinks the total cost of the project was around \$14.5 to \$15 million. Charter was covering a lot of that leaving Rockingham County with about \$3.85 million. It was an impressive project. Mr. Miller said he convened that the same group of people for Caswell County is who you will see in the video from Rockingham County. About two months ago, the president of the community college system, Caswell County School system, the medical center, the Economic Developer, the County Planner, and Mr. Miller met with the same group of people. Charter gave a presentation and discussions have begun. Mr. Miller thinks Caswell County is in a good place and have started those discussions. The recent legislation that's been passed is a little bit prohibitive from Mr. Miller's perspective on how Caswell County can specifically move forward and use funding to

do that. What it basically says is if we use ARP money or our county dollars to fund broadband internet, then we're no longer eligible for any kind of state programs like the Great Grant or the newly announced CAB Program in the future. So we need to take a good hard look at this. Mr. Miller plans on speaking with the Rockingham County Manager to see how exactly they are setting their funding up so that we can move forward with our discussions.

SALARY STUDY:

County Manager Miller said he would like to inform the Board that we have most of the information we were scheduled to receive from the salary study. It is not yet ready for public consumption. There are some things that need to be addressed in it. So Mr. Miller said he will move through those processes. The Board can expect a presentation, if not in February, in the first meeting in March, but Mr. Miller is hoping to get this on the agenda in February. The basis for the salary study was to bring employees up to the minimum of the new grades. When they are brought up to the minimum then to provide them with a 1% increase for every year they've served in that position. That's kind of how the salary study was structured. When Mr. Miller says served in that position, we may have employees that have been county employees for 20 years, but they may have only been in their current position for two years. So it is really position specific not necessarily longevity specific. So, we've a little bit more work to do, but we hope to have it in front of you fairly soon.

Commissioner Hall said as you make the presentation on the salary study, make some kind of projection or indication on regional competitiveness as it relates to new jobs coming in the region. We can compare the jobs that are here, but let's consider the new supersonic jets that are going to be built and they pay about \$150,000 plus. There is another new place coming and you are probably talking about over \$100,000. We've got to have some kind of field for the new jobs and how that will affect us, especially when you've got GTCC who is already starting training. Companies coming in to recruit some of our employees who are making for example \$20/hour and they are willing to pay them \$25/ hour to take the training and \$30 /hour when you get your certificate. We have to be able to visualize the impact not only on the county but on other local jobs here. Mr. Miller said we can certainly do that.

Commissioner Oestreicher then asked if part of that salary study was the creation of job descriptions. The County Manager said that is correct. Then Commissioner Oestreicher asked if those descriptions will be in there for all employees, and the County Manager said yes for all positions. Commissioner Oestreicher then asked what the plan was with those. Will they be reviewed by the employees and that employee's supervisor to make sure they are applicable and accurate? The County Manager said yes they will and the departments will have the opportunity to review those. The job descriptions were written based off what has already been approved by the supervisor and was submitted by the employees. So Mr. Miller doesn't think there will be a wide gap in any one job description. The salary study did encompass every department including the Sheriff's Office, Department of Social Services (DSS), and the Health

Department and everybody in them. Not everybody was specifically asked the questions like some departments were because we have some employees that fall under the State Office of Human Resources jurisdiction which is DSS, Emergency Management, and the Health Department. They already have standard grades so we couldn't really affect that much. Interestingly enough those departments are some of the departments that need attention for their current salaries the most. So hiring is becoming increasingly difficult in not only DSS but in EMS, 911, and the Sheriff's Department, which are facing an increasing challenge. Even since this salary study, all public safety roles around us are increasing starting pay for deputies and 911 telecommunicators. So since this data has been gathered their pay has increased. To get people or bodies in seats we're going to have to make some changes.

Commissioner Oestreicher said that just reinforces the need for us to increase the tax base because this has to be paid for somehow. People are not going to come just because we have a beautiful courthouse. This is getting significant. How many open positions do we have? The County Manager said there are several at DSS, EMS always has open positions, and the Sheriff's Department has open positions. Then Commissioner Oestreicher asked if it was at least 5% of the total population. The County Manager said he would say 5% at least. Commissioner Oestreicher said that impacts our ability to get the work done. The County Manager said yes it does. Mr. Miller thinks the emergency services department, Sheriff's Office, EMS and 911 are going to suffer extra pressure because of the development we're seeing with the casino and what will carry over from Danville into Caswell County and from the developments in the south and east. Because of the extra pressure they are going to see if salaries aren't brought up and they're not able to hire, it's going to cause extreme difficulties with emergency services.

Then Commissioner Oestreicher asked if Virginia has state income tax. The County Manager said yes. Then Commissioner Oestreicher said so a Caswell County resident that works in Virginia has to file 2 state income tax forms, and we need to point that out.

SOUND SYSTEM IN HISTORIC COURTHOUSE:

Chairman McVey said he doesn't think it can be improved. Commissioner Oestreicher said we tried once when we got the microphones, a new set of speakers, and with the COVID money we purchase the screens and the cameras. Every meeting Mr. Oestreicher said he gets calls and complaints from people who can't hear what is being said. It's like conducting a secret meeting in public. In the audience all you hear is noise. Part of the issue is some of us don't use the microphones properly. But even when you do, Mr. Oestreicher said he can't even hear what Commissioner Owen is saying. These days with the electronics and things available, there has to be a better fix. Part of it is, and Mr. Oestreicher thinks it's going to be unacceptable, is the acoustics in that room are terrible because of that super high ceiling and no curtains or any way to baffle that noise. So you get echoes in there when they start to bounce around that negate the sound. They are 180 degrees out of phase with sound generated. Mr. Oestreicher said he was

not sure if transparent baffling could be put up, but it's not necessarily an electronic fix. Have we looked at getting a sound engineer to come in? Is that possible?

The County Manager said we have had not necessarily sound engineers but we have had sound people come in and look at the room to advise on equipment. We have implemented that equipment. For various reasons it just doesn't seem to work. We will give it another shot. Commissioner Oestreicher said we have already discussed items that are going to load your wheelbarrow pretty high. Mr. Oestreicher said he understands that, but this is important. The County Manager said he understands. Commissioner Oestreicher then said maybe you can have a department head undertake this or someone else other than the County Manager. It needs to be done and we need to fix this or we need to meet somewhere else. Chairman McVey said he thinks the Board had talked years ago about the same situation and we even talked about moving. Mr. McVey said he couldn't remember if the Board actually did move for a meeting or not, but it seems like they did. Chairman McVey said he doesn't think you can do much to the Courthouse being that it is a historic building it's going to be difficult to do much to it.

Commissioner Oestreicher said it's technology out there now that wasn't out there three years ago. Then Chairman McVey asked can we afford it. Commissioner Oestreicher said he doesn't know, but he thinks we cannot afford to do nothing. The County Manager said we are happy to take another look at it and maybe get a sound engineer in that can help us work through the different aspects and challenges we face with this historic building. Commissioner Oestreicher said get someone in there with sound meters during the meeting, especially when we have public comments. Have them listen with the equipment and figure out what the problem is. Commissioner Oestreicher thinks there's got to be a fix and part of it is that the Board need to use the microphones. That's one of the bigger things we can do.

IMPROVE COMMUNICATION WITH COUNTY RESIDENTS:

Commissioner Owen said he thinks we discussed this one other time a couple of years ago and we came up with a list of suggestions. Mr. Owen said he wasn't sure if we still had the list or not, but one of those suggestions was to put a video monitor into various Dollar Generals and convenient stores that would scroll constantly with Caswell County information. Commissioner Owen said that is one idea he could remember but he can't remember what the actual product was called. Mr. Owen could not remember if Rockingham County used that or what county it was. That was one of the suggestions so if the County Manager could look back and find that lists. The County Manager said we will definitely look into that.

Commissioner Oestreicher said he thinks he originated that a couple of years ago. Mr. Oestreicher said what he had put on his list was where is the action plan for doing that. Commissioner Oestreicher said he would like to see the plan reenergized and have a plan put together for the Board to review and act on. Return recommendations as Mr. Owen mentioned

about putting up information and linking it to the county webpage. The Facebook page is difficult, but we need to put that information in there as well. Commissioner Oestreicher thinks we just need to do a better job of getting information out. Maybe we can have someone and part of their job is dedicated to informing the public so they know we're thinking about these kinds of things. Commissioner Oestreicher would like to see an action plan put together and have some suggestions on how to do this.

The County Manager said he thinks this is something that there needs to be community engagement before the Board decides this is the way we are going to do it. Because we can guess all day long how people receive their information but without understanding how our residents actually receive information and the different channels that they all receive information through, Mr. Miller thinks it's very possible we will miss the mark if we don't do some type of community engagement before. That may be part of the process. Commissioner Oestreicher said that's certainly why he said action plan. This is how to go about doing this and that is certainly one of the steps. It's part of the comprehensive plan. It's community meetings and if we link it together in that, that's fine. It probably should be part of the comprehensive plan. Commissioner Oestreicher said holding meetings with the public right now with COVID still underway is difficult to gather people around here because we are a large county with a very low density population. That population is not shy about telling us we're not doing a good job of communicating. We need to address that. Your point is well taken and it needs to be part of an action plan.

Commissioner Owen said in his second year as a commissioner he tried community meetings. Mr. Owen had one in Yanceyville, one in Providence and one in Milton. Two people showed up for three different meetings. Mr. Owen thinks that is a good thing if we could have meetings in communities, but our residents have to be willing to come and hear. Any way that we can improve the communication, whether it's through community meetings or if we have to look at staff and have someone deal specifically with that part of the time, it would definitely help to improve relationships.

UPDATE OF DEVICES:

The County Manager said he knows that each commissioner at some point in time has had some issues with the Surface Pro. We're at a point where we can move forward with purchasing new devices for the Board of Commissioners. If you would like to do that, we are happy to yield to whatever you guys want to do. We are at a point where we can purchase new devices if you would like to do that. The Board has had the chance to experience both iPads and Surface Pros. Commissioner Owen said he is not a big fan of the Surface Pro. He uses it, but he is not a big fan of it. Mr. Owen said we have not had these devices long, so unless the Board cannot be efficient with them at all, he would hate to spend more money on devices. But if we do we do, he would vote for an iPad not another Surface Pro. Commissioner Oestreicher asked does everyone have to have the same device. The County Manager said yes, it's advisable that

everybody has the same so you can work across platforms on those devices and so our IT department isn't constantly fixing different devices for different commissioners. When members of the Board change, we don't always order new devices at that point in time.

Commissioner Oestreicher felt the iPad was a pain to work with. Commissioner Dickerson said he has had an extreme amount of problems with this Surface Pro. Matter of fact, Commissioner Dickerson has to take it back to the IT department again because he could not get the device to connect. He had to join this meeting on his phone. It's not an internet problem but it's some kind of glitch that happens and IT has to work on it. Mr. Dickerson said this device is just not workable. We need to do something different. Commissioner Oestreicher asked what are the options. The County Manager said first he needs to know if the Board is inclined to do something different. If the Board is inclined to do something different, we'll bring you back a list of options. One maybe a small laptop or an iPad, but we will bring you back the list of options and let the Board decide. If you choose for everybody to be able to choose their own device, that's fine. We'll work with that, but it's not the easiest thing to do. Chairman McVey asked if the County Manager needed a consensus from the Board. The County Manager said you can do that, but this may be a topic for our budget discussions and add this money into next year's budget if you think you can make it another six months. If you don't think you can make it another six months, then we can definitely proceed now. Commissioner Owen said he is good because he still has his iPad, so he has both he can use. Mr. Owen said he struggled earlier, but he has gotten the hang of it much better now. The iPad was easier for Mr. Owen to operate. Commissioner Oestreicher said if he could get a mouse on the Surface Pro he would be good. Then Mr. Oestreicher asked if someone could order him one. Commissioner Owen said it's up to the Board because he doesn't know who else struggles with it or has problems with it that's not related to internet service. Commissioner Dickerson said his issue is not related to internet service. Mr. Dickerson said he could be in a city where he's on the latest and greatest street connection and he still has issues with the device. Mr. Dickerson would like to get the options now rather than later. Commissioner Owen said it never hurts to get options so we would agree to go ahead and get what options are available. Then we can proceed with the cost and where the money could come from. The County Manager said we will have some options for you at your upcoming Commissioner meeting.

Commissioner Hall then said he wanted to make a comment that is not directly related. Mr. Hall said he has had so many problems with the Surface Pro he has quit using it. He uses his laptop at home. Personally what got him is when he called the IT department and they agreed to look at the device. Mr. Hall was told when to bring it in, but when he got to the courthouse the deputy would not let him in. That bothered him. Mr. Hall told the deputy that he was bringing the device to the IT department and was told they didn't care who he was coming to see, but he was not bringing no computer in there. Mr. Hall said he didn't want to over react, so he went outside and called the IT department again. The IT guy came out and took Mr. Hall in the back door. If we are going to have a department at the Courthouse that serves county employees

there ought to be a way to get in. The deputies need not be so hostile. Mr. Hall said he did not call the Sheriff or the County Manager, because he didn't want to over react. Then Commissioner Owen said so we have a consensus to look at the options that are available. Commissioner Oestreicher said he was told to call IT and they will meet you at the side door to go in. He believes the door between the IT department and the courthouse is a secure door already, so it can't be a security issue to do that. Chairman McVey said he has never had an issue getting into the bottom of the courthouse. Chairman McVey said Mr. Hall should have pointed to the picture on the wall of the Board of Commissioners. Chairman McVey asked the County Manager to speak with the deputies about this kind of stuff, and the County Manager said we can.

RENEWABLE ENERGY:

Commissioner Hall said he has been trying to stay up on the news with this stuff on renewable energy. Mr. Hall thinks it's time the county start thinking and planning to start using some type of renewable energy be it solar, electric vehicles, or something else. It has been a few years since Mr. Hall has looked at that, but we need to consider any combination of renewable energy that staff or anybody else can come up with.

Commissioner Owen said he would like to see how we compare now to where it used to be since they have put in different lights. Mr. Owen would like to see if that made any difference in our utility bill at all because those newer lights were supposed to be way more efficient. Commissioner Hall said they probably are, and he is thinking more about our heating and cooling. When we go into some of our buildings in the summer time, the air conditioners are running and staff has heaters under their desks. Those kind of factors we need to figure out a way to mitigate. Commissioner Oestreicher asked who the electric provider was and the County Manager said we use Duke. Then Commissioner Oestreicher asked if Duke offered an assessment. The County Manager said yes, he was sure they would be willing to come out and take a look and make recommendations and suggestions. As part of this process, we can have that done. Commissioner Oestreicher said he thinks it goes beyond renewable energy and it's just energy efficiency. Renewable would be a portion of that but the bigger picture is the whole energy utilization. Commissioner Oestreicher then said what about throwing in with Enterprise the electric vehicles just to see what their input is. The County Manager said we can do that. That's an energy use said Mr. Oestreicher.

Then Commissioner Owen said since you brought up cars, he spoke to the Sheriff on yesterday and he still has not received his cars. Why has he not received those cars yet? Mr. Owen said don't misunderstand me. It's not just an issue with Enterprise. He thinks it is a problem all across the country. The County Manager said we have not received ours either. Commissioner Oestreicher said it took him 4 months to get his new vehicle, and that is because he got the order in early. This chip shortage in cars and re-outfitting those cars is yet another stage of complications.

COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATES:

The County Manager had no updates. Mr. Miller said this is a work session and this is for the Board to tell us the areas you want to focus on.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Jefferies: Mr. Jefferies thinks Economic Development should have been in this meeting. There are some things we are going to have to do, if we are going to have more economic development. Mr. Jefferies look at t.v. and things are happening all around us, but nothing is happening here in Caswell County. We can't continue to put out money and raise things for tax payers. The other issue is tax base. People in Caswell County need a raise and they always have. We have always been behind in pay and Mr. Jefferies guess we will always stay behind. But we have to have tax base here in Caswell County.

Mr. Jefferies said another thing is that we do not need to order those big trucks for employees to drive like Section 8 or the County Planner. Mr. Jefferies think we need a mid-size truck for gas purposes. Those big trucks burn gas. Mr. Jefferies bought one and he wish it had not been bought. It made him think of the trucks the county bought that probably also have a v-8 engine. We need to look at this before because we need to cut back on some of that.

Chairman McVey asked if Mr. Jefferies would like for a meeting to be set up with the Economic Developer. Mr. Jefferies said yes, but he wants to know what is going on. Then Chairman McVey asked if they wanted to do that at a regular Commissioner meeting or do a planned meeting for Economic Development to come in. Commissioner Owen said he thinks an update like they have had in the past, but with COVID it has misdirected all of it. The Board was having the Economic Developer come every quarter just to give an update. What the Board has to remember too is that there are some things that the Economic Director cannot give out information about. There are just things she can't tell. Mr. Owen think she should just come to give an update for the Board because there are things that have happened. Chairman McVey asked if that can be placed on the next agenda. The County Manager said not the next agenda but the agenda following that one.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the Board wanted he could put the broadband video on the screen, but Chairman McVey said they could watch it individually.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **February 7, 2022 – Board of Commissioner Meeting at 9:00 am**

ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made at 10:08 am by Commissioner Jefferies and seconded by Commissioner Owen and **carried unanimously** to adjourn the meeting. (Commissioners Dickerson, Hall, Jefferies, Owen, Oestreicher and McVey voted for the motion)

Carla R. Smith
Clerk to the Board

Rick McVey
Chairman