

**CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**September 5, 2023**  
**OTHERS PRESENT**

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John Dickerson, Chairman  
Tim Yarbrough, Vice Chair  
Ethel Gwynn  
Finch Holt  
Jeremiah Jefferies  
Rick McVey  
Frank Rose

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Tony Smith, Interim County Manager  
Carla Smith, Clerk to the Board  
Melissa Williamson, Deputy County Manager  
Jennifer Hammock, Finance Director  
Russell Johnston, County Attorney

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The Board of Commissioners for the County of Caswell, North Carolina, met in regular session on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Historic Courthouse.

**WELCOME:**

Chairman Dickerson called the meeting to order, and welcomed everyone to the Caswell County Board of Commissioners Meeting. I'd like to start off the meeting with a moment of Silent Prayer, and then the Board of Commissioners and all the guest in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX EXEMPT LOAN TO PROVIDENCE FIRE & RESCUE:**

A **motion** was made by Commissioner McVey and seconded by Commissioner Gwynn and **carried unanimously** to enter into the public hearing. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Gwynn, Jefferies, McVey, Rose, Yarbrough, and Dickerson)

**Irvin Dailey:** On behalf of Providence Fire and Rescue, thank you guys for putting us on the agenda and considering our request. We're new to this. So we don't know what information you need, but please feel free to ask us. I'm Irvin Dailey, President of the Board of Directors and this is Sledge Sartin, my Deputy Chief. We have several rows of volunteers and line officers here to support us tonight. So again thank you for putting us on the agenda. Sledge is going to briefly summarize our substation process.

Sledge Sartin said so our substation will be located close to the intersection of Allison Road to Park Springs Road. It will serve the western side of our district. It'll help get homeowners who are outside of the five mile and six mile district into under a five mile district. It'll help homeowners not only in Providence Fire District but also Pelham, Casville, and Yanceyville's district. They'll be able to use our insurance rating even though we aren't actually covering that district as a fire service. We do in mutual aid, but it's not our primary district. The building will be roughly 60 by 50. It'll have four bays, heat, electricity, lights, and no bathroom. We want to plan for a bathroom in the future, but it will not be one currently. Land was donated by two different families to the fire department to build it, and the grading has been done for potential builders to come and look at the actual site where they will be building the building.

Irvin Dailey said we're hoping our total project's going to run about \$250,000 or less. We're shooting at \$250,000, but I'm hope it'll come in less. We've looked at a 20-year loan, but again this is part of the process with the lending institution that we're talking to.

Chairman Dickerson asked if there were any questions from the Board. Commissioner Holt asked who will be securing the loan? Mr. Dailey said Providence Fire and Rescue will be securing the loan through Roxboro Savings and Loan.

Commissioner Yarbrough said is it \$250,000 just for the building itself? Mr. Dailey said no, that's the total project. That's because the two plots of land were donated. So the \$250,000 is going to be total project. We're hoping it's going to come in a little bit less than that.

Commissioner Yarbrough said total project, are you talking about equipment in that total project price? Mr. Dailey said no sir because we're not having to buy any special equipment. We've got plenty of equipment, apparatus, and that type of things in our current department. Commissioner Yarbrough said so you're just going to put a part of your current apparatus in your substation. Mr. Dailey said that is correct. Yes, sir.

Chairman Dickerson said it's my understanding that this is like an IRS formality that you need the approval from the Board that the fire department has a personal obligation on the loan. Mr. Dailey said that is correct. I was a little unclear myself as to why it was needed so I talked to the loan officer today. Basically with that lending institution because we're a non-profit, they're able to go in at a much lower interest rate than if it were not non-profit. Since we're considered or applying for a tax exempt loan, that's why it has to come before the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Dickerson said is there anything you all want to add or clarification.

Commissioner McVey said Mr. Chairman, I'll just go ahead and make a motion to let them have this. Chairman Dickerson said I agree with that. Commissioner Gwynn said I'll second it.

Attorney Johnston said Mr. Chairman, thank you. Board of Commissioners, good evening. I'll just follow up on what Mr. Sartin and Mr. Dailey said. My research for the IRS regulations in regards to the volunteer fire departments request, it seems that there's actual language in the IRS code that relates to bonds of certain volunteer fire departments. So in order for a volunteer fire department to secure a tax exempt loan, the IRS requires that they seek approval from the local governmental authority, which in this case would be the Board of Commissioners. And in this resolution, the language is clear that such approval does not obligate the County of Caswell or its Board of Commissioners in any way regarding repayment.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner McVey and seconded by Commissioner Gwynn and **carried unanimously** to allow the Providence Fire Department to apply for the loan. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Gwynn, Jefferies, McVey, Rose, Yarbrough, and Dickerson)

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Rose and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** to close the public hearing. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Gwynn, Jefferies, McVey, Rose, Yarbrough, and Dickerson)

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Caswell Business Broadcast Network:** Good evening Commissioners, County Manager, County Attorney, Caswell County patrons and citizens. We're back here again tonight. First of all, before we get started tonight we wanted to be able to show the Commissioners and we want to be able to show the county that we are not just a Facebook page. Okay that's good. Let me show you a little demographics over here. We are now, as Caswell Business Broadcasting Network, LLC, we are a business. We are a licensed media business. Over the last 90 days, as you can see, we've gained 280,908 engagements. That's just not somebody passing by our little Facebook page looking at it. That's 280,000 engagements in 90 days. These are real demographics from social media. We'll have the next slide. This is just engagements. Our reach in the last 90 days has been almost 150,000 up seven percent. Next slide. In the last 90 days, we've gained 600 new followers. We're at 4,850 followers. Those followers are within 100 miles of where we're standing right now. The county speaks. This is our transparency and our accountability for Caswell County now. Next slide. Age and gender, looks like the women got all you men beat out. 69% of the of our viewing population are women. 30% are men, and the other part I don't know if they exist. Next slide. These are the top cities that we have. Yanceyville, 670 viewers in Yanceyville alone. 500 in Danville, and it goes right on down the line. They're all over; they're all following us because of what we're trying to accomplish with transparency and accountability from our Commissioners, our County Managers, and all of those that are involved in public speaking here in this County. We even have followers in Italy, Philippines, and so forth. Not that they count, but they're still there. So that's a little demographics about us and who we are. We're not going anywhere; we're not going to quit. You're not going to see us run away. We're not going to hide. We're going to continue to put out the news. We're going to continue to put out the truth, whether you like it or not. Some people don't. Some people don't like the truth. We're going to make sure that happens in Caswell County from now. We are your oversight, and we're not going anywhere.

We addressed some FOIAs to you. All of you Commissioners were sent FOIAs. You'll comply with those FOIAs eventually. One of them was for Brian Miller, the former County Manager. The crook, Brian Miller. I'll say that out loud because I caught him doing business with one of his buddies without a contract when he was Manager of Caswell County on film. So let's go back to this little piece of paper that y'all sent to me through an attorney. One thousand two hundred and sixty dollars from several years ago for a FOIA. I asked for FOIA from Brian Miller. What does he do? He doesn't send it electronically; he goes and makes up \$1,260 worth of pages and lays him on his desk. Come on up here and get your FOIA now big boy, and pay for them. That's bologna. I never agreed to that at all. I never signed an agreement, but it was supposed to have

been sent electronically. Anyway that's a moot issue. You've already done your thing with your attorney.

Chairman Dickerson said you're at your three-minute limit, sir. Can you wind it up? Mr. Heintz said yes.

Mr. Heintz said so I want to thank y'all for at least understanding where we're coming from and where we're going. We want transparency for the county. We want our FIOAs answered. They will be. There's some more on the way. So we'll get them one way or the other. The other thing, the last part of it is, you take care of it. It's the accosting of citizens and threatening citizens from Frank Rose and Tim Yarbrough. That's the next agenda. Thank you.

**Sherry Stanfield-Oakley:** Good Evening, Commissioners. My name is Sherry Stanfield-Oakley, of 587 Egypt Road in Prospect Hill. Minus my four years in Chapel Hill for college and the first five years of my marriage spent in Orange County, I am a lifelong resident of Caswell County. I have always been proud to call Caswell County home, as the people here are genuinely good and caring people. I regularly read the Caswell Messenger's accounts and the minutes from your meetings to keep up with what's going on in our county, as I am a taxpayer and am locally involved in my community. As an observer looking from the outside, this county seems to be falling apart. Chaos reigns from the top down and the bottom up. My impressions are that not only does the right hand not know what the left hand is doing, but the left index finger doesn't even know what the left thumb is doing.

During the August 21 meeting, several rules were violated during the public comments portion, #'s 7 and 8. The speaker was allowed to individually attack some of your members, and no one stepped in to ask the speaker to refrain. This was difficult to watch and I'm sure difficult to endure. There are rules regarding public comments, and they should be followed. In another incident during this meeting, a motion was made and the discussion, and I use the term lightly, was not respectful or professional. There were guests from NC offices at the meeting, and to be candid, the discussion that followed the motion was embarrassing. I see no problem in voting against a motion, but the discussion should be relevant, not a personal attack.

As elected commissioners, you represent Caswell County. Mam, sirs, I respectfully submit that you all did not represent me on August 21. Your collective job is to manage the county's resources for the betterment of the citizens of Caswell County. You are the face of Caswell County. Your motions, your seconds, your discussion, and your votes should reflect your constituents' wishes, not your individual wishes. I suspect you would all agree with me that the actions in Washington are a disgrace to the reputation of most Americans, given the bickering that goes on across the aisles. Is that how you all wish to be seen? I think not. I urge you to put your personal agendas aside and work TOGETHER to make Caswell County the best county in the state.

In conclusion, I leave you with Paul's words to Timothy, concerning men who are in leadership positions: 1 Timothy 2:1-3

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— <sup>2</sup>for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. <sup>3</sup>This is good and pleases God our Savior.

Thank you for your time and attention. I have sent each of you a copy of my comments to your county email.

**Laura Pichardo:** Good evening, County Commissioners. I hope you're all doing well. I'm here solely from a data perspective. I'm helping my friend, Jamie apply for the tourism grant for Caswell County, and I found some data I just wanted to come and share with y'all. This is regarding the Danville Casino. The one I was looking to see was the traffic. How much traffic was coming to the Danville Casino? According to the June report, they made 19 million dollars in the month of June. One of our objectives is to grab traffic, and try to get them to enjoy the Caswell County area. According to the Danville Casino, we get this three-month report card by Grace Mammon, with the Cardinal News. It is estimated between four and five thousand visitors are coming to the Danville Casino on the weekend. I also wanted to note that we seriously need a sidewalk from the Dollar General to those apartments. I noticed that some of the residents walked from the Dollar General to the apartments, and the other day I noticed a mom with the stroller and her baby walking from those apartments to Dollar General and back. I didn't catch her in time to offer her a ride, but I really would appreciate if y'all put in a sidewalk and consider moms out there who might not have enough resources, especially with gas prices being so high. Thank you.

## **RECOGNITIONS:**

There were no recognitions.

## **AGENDA:**

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

A **motion** was made by Commissioner McVey and seconded by Commissioner Jefferies and **carried unanimously** approve the agenda. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Gwynn, Jefferies, McVey, Rose, Yarbrough, and Dickerson)

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. August 17, 2023 Joint Town Meeting Minutes
- b. August 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Jefferies and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** approve the consent agenda. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Gwynn, Jefferies, McVey, Rose, Yarbrough, and Dickerson)

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **ADDITIONAL LAND USE REGULATIONS:**

Matthew Hoagland, Planning Director, said thank you Mr. Chairman and thank you Commissioners. The draft outdoor advertising and billboard ordinance that you have before you tonight originated from your directive during the July 17, 2023 meeting. During that meeting, you instructed the County Manager to have staff draft a potential ordinance on this issue for your review. This draft ordinance before you would do the following: It would create different definitions for digital billboards versus non-digital billboards. It would only allow billboards on actively used commercial or industrial properties. It would not allow any billboards on scenic byways, other state maintained roads, or private roads. It would impose historic and natural aesthetic design and height standards on non-digital billboards and would only allow them along interstate highways or state highways. It would only allow digital billboards along designated interstates, which in our case would be future I-785. It would create a development review process and an annual renewal permit inspection fee would be established. The proposed fees on this will be \$500 for an initial permit, and \$100 for annual inspection and renewal. Finally, the intent is that it will be ultimately formatted to fit into article 9 of the Unified Development Ordinance. Where we are in the process right now; this is simply a draft ordinance that does not require a public hearing at this point. At this stage in the process, you may instruct us to amend, discard, or really make any changes in any manner that you would like. We will then make those changes as requested. Ultimately before this ordinance can go into effect, the Planning Board would need to review, make recommendations, and submit a consistency statement per North Carolina General statutes. Finally, it would then come back to you for a Public Hearing in final consideration. Again, I just want to stress that this ordinance is simply in the draft stage at this point, and I'll be glad to make any changes that the Board requests. With that, I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have about this draft ordinance or billboard regulations in general.

Chairman Dickerson said you threw a lot out there pretty fast. Did I miss it? Did you have any information on the recommendations you all are going to have for the distance between billboards? Mr. Hoagland said that's really something that's up to the Board ultimately. There's nothing in this draft ordinance that talks about distance spacing between billboards, but if that's the desire of the Commissioners, then that's something we can certainly impose into the ordinance. Chairman Dickerson said I know they have been talked about it in prior meetings here. The thought was, I believe I actually threw that out there, that we would wind up looking like South of the Border. On the way there, how you've got them stacked up going through. Mr. Hoagland said yes sir. There is a distancing requirement for spacing from residential homes drafted in the ordinance. So yes something like that. Distance spacing from Interstate intersections, other billboards, or residential structures, that's all within the purview of the county to create those types of regulations.

Commissioner Rose asked so how does this affect the current billboards that are located on 86? Mr. Hoagland said yes. The current billboards would certainly, if it's a non-digital billboard along the state highway, there's no issue there. We don't yet have any digital billboards in the county, but we have received development proposals for one on North 86, just before the state line. What this would do is basically say that digital billboard in the future, if the developer elected to take it down, they could not replace it with a new digital billboard. They would have to replace it with a non-digital billboard. Similarly, if there are non-digital billboards on state highways, they cannot be replaced with digital billboards. Again digital billboards would only be allowed on the interstate. So effectively most of the billboards on County properties right now wouldn't be affected by this at all that I'm aware of. There may be some double stacked billboards. They wouldn't be able to rebuild, but there's non-conforming divisions in the ordinance that allows them to rebuild if a billboard is torn down, damaged, or something of that nature.

Commissioner Yarbrough said your heritage map that you passed out, and Mr. Hoagland said yes sir. Commissioner Yarbrough said I'm taking by what you said that all this area, the Heritage Route so to speak, billboards will be prohibited all together. Mr. Hoagland said yes sir. That's correct. Commissioner Yarbrough said that would be on 86. It would be everything from 86 South to the County line. Mr. Hoagland said yes sir. That is correct, and that's actually a North Carolina DOT regulation. So they only regulate billboards on interstates and state highways. Outside of that, they don't touch it at all, but they also prohibit billboards on scenic byways. So our draft would really just kind of reinforce that. Typically, in the past, if there's a state regulation that applies county-wide, it's good to just have the text in the local ordinance so our citizens don't have to go look on the state level; they can look on the local level. So this regulation would more or less just simply reinforce the existing state regulation. Commissioner Yarbrough said thank you. Chairman Dickerson asked if there are there any other questions. Hearing none they moved on.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **COUNTY MANAGER SEARCH USING NCACC:**

Commissioner Yarbrough said thank you Mr. Chairman. Commissioners, at our last meeting, Miss Amy Cannon, from the NCACC, was there talking about several different things, and I questioned her concerning their ability to help us with the County Manager search. She went over the details, and since that time, she has forwarded all of you an email more or less restating those same things that they would be willing to do to help us. We got to begin this process sometime, and I think it would be good of this Board to maybe go down this route. Not saying that they would find the perfect candidate or a candidate that we would even be willing to consider hiring, but it's a way to start the process anyhow. I just put it out there for discussion to start with. If it moves favorable, then we'll go from there.

Chairman Dickerson asked was the statement made that there was no cost. Commissioner Yarbrough said she did. I asked her about the cost, and she said there was no cost. I told her the price was right.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner McVey that we contact the NCACC to begin the process of that organization assisting us in the search for a new County Manager.

Chairman Dickerson said last call for discussion on the NCACC helping us look for a county Manager. Did you have any questions or anything you would like to add? Commissioner Rose said one thing I'm going to ask myself is, excuse me, do we need to reach out to them or will that be something HR would do? Chairman Dickerson said I'm assuming they would be working through HR, the County Manager, and Assistant County Manager. County Manager Smith said I will reach out to them. HR Director said we will have to schedule a work session for all the details.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** that we contact the NCACC to begin the process of that organization assisting us in the search for a new County Manager. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Rose, Yarbrough, Jefferies, McVey, Gwynn, and Dickerson)

#### **COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATES:**

Interim County Manager Smith said Commissioners, at the last meeting it was a question about the Child Fatality Prevention Team. It was asked if it was a county or state board, and it is a Caswell County board headed by Danielle Elmore.

Next, I'm pleased to give you a financial report. Next week, we expect the final draft from the 2021 Audit. It's going to take approximately three weeks going through the audit team to get it approved and submitted by the first of October hopefully to the final review. At that time, we'll be working on the second year 2022, and hopefully we'll have it ready to present to the Auditors by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Next, last week we had five members attend the NCACC Conference in Raleigh. Two Commissioners and three staff. At that time, we had some very good conferences. We had seminars on Understanding your Financial Departments, on Complete Access to Broadband, where we want to serve area with the CAB program, and at that time we talked about an Introduction to Grant Writing to go hand to hand with that. There was one seminar, Working Together as a Board. Finally, there was an educational seminar promoting education at the UNC School of Government, which I found to be very interesting. So I think it was time well spent.

The next item, last Commissioners Meeting, there was a question asked on the budget amendment for the Gunn Memorial Library. I think we left that hanging so we want to see if it's any questions. See if we can get it cleared up tonight and address it with the Commissioners. As I



understand the former Library Director left a line item off the 23-24 budget. That line needed to be there because in a sense it has on going expenses. It's for digital software. So I think it's something we had to look at and discuss where the money comes from, but it's something we need to address in my opinion.

Finally, the Caswell Parish sent us a letter of appreciation for the \$15,000 we allocated, and they never used to assist 19% of the Caswell families that are now below the poverty level. They went on to say that person's requiring food assistance since March is up 25 to 30 percent. So that money is being well spent. Thank you.

Chairman Dickerson moved on to Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Yarbrough said Mr. Chairman. Mr. Smith back up to what you were talking about as far as the library budget amendment. Go into or delve into that a little bit deeper. County Manager Smith said okay. In talking to Jennifer today, there was an omission in the budget of 23-24. They left off a line item for software for communication basically or digital communications. It's basically, maybe not necessarily Verizon, but digital providers that we have to use for the library every day. It's a monthly on-going expense, and it's something we need to address. We need to find the money somewhere to address that. It's not to transfer money; it's a new allotment. It's added to the budget. Chairman Dickerson asked how much was that? County Manager Smith said \$21,650. It's the same amount it was last year, but it was just kind of omitted. Commissioner Yarbrough said it's not a new expenditure, it just was left out of the budget. County Manager Smith said yes, but the Director is no longer with the County. Commissioner Yarbrough said didn't we discuss this at the last meeting? County Manager Smith said we did, but there was no decision made on it. So until the decision is made, we need to do something. Commissioner Yarbrough said is this a monthly subscription? Is that what you just said? County Manager Smith said monthly. Finance Director, Jennifer Hammock said it's digital subscriptions. It's various monthly subscriptions that the library has with different vendors. It hasn't changed in several years. Commissioner Holt said so \$21,000 is yearly? Mrs. Hammock said yes. Commissioner Holt said they had a huge increase that was left off. I'm not sure how the math is adding up. County Manager Smith said it was an omission. I think she was fairly new at what she was doing.

Chairman Dickerson said talking about expenditures at the library, there was another request on there being kicked around. Where are we at as far as the County financial situation? When will we know more about how dire it is? Are we expecting any...? County Manager Smith said next week we should have a final draft for 2021, and then that would go to the Auditors hopefully by October 1st. We'll have it ready to presented to the State. Through this time, we will be working on 2022, and by October 1<sup>st</sup>, we would hope to have it ready to present to the auditors. Then we will proceed to work on 2023, and on October 31<sup>st</sup> we hope to present it. Hopefully in about a year we'll be current to where we can start the budget process in January of next year. Chairman Dickerson said so are we currently under the restriction of the State as far as the \$50,000 loan

that you have to have state approval, etc. based on what we heard in here? County Manager Smith said that's my understanding from Ms. Edmundson. We'll be so until we get current on the audits. So I see that and what I'm doing as priority number one. I'm trying to do what I can to make things run smoothly to where we can meet those goals.

Commissioner Holt asked could we move some money around inside the library until we can find out where we're at financially? Attorney Johnston said I apologize Mr. Chairman. I just spoke with Jennifer Hammock, and I think she'll be able to shed some light on this issue, if she can be recognized in reference to the library budget amendment. Finance Director, Jennifer Hammock, said so the amendment was actually approved in the consent agenda from last month. The consent agenda included the amendment for the library as well as DSS. It was voted on, and it was approved. So to bring it back to the Board today, it's as a discussion item only because it has already been approved via the consent agenda. So we we're just clarifying. Commissioner Dickerson had a question about what the actual digital subscription consisted of so we were just clarifying what those digital subscriptions were, and why it was left off of the budget for 23-24 originally. So what actually happened was there was a brand new library director, who had never done a budget, and it was accidentally omitted from a request for the \$21,000. The interim director discovered it, and that's why we did the amendment.

Commissioner Holt said Mr. Chairman, I remember that lady getting up there and talked about everything that was the same. I do not remember anything they said about it being another \$21,000. Mrs. Hammock said it was supposed to be on there, but for some reason it was left off. But if you will remember, in the original request Miss Walters requested at 10%, I believe it was at least a 10% increase, in the salary lines because she was asking for another position. So the overall budget had increased, and that's why we didn't catch the \$21,000 not being in there. Chairman Dickerson said so are you saying that \$21,000 was already included in the total for their budget, and it just left off as a line item. The money was already allocated. Mrs. Hammock said no, it was not originally in the budget at all. It was completely left out. The request was more than last year because she was requesting additional funds for a salary position, but the actual line item was not in the budget for the digital subscriptions. Commissioner Holt said it was not talked about but we voted on it. Chairman Dickerson said so where are we with this? Has it been approved and is in it already, or is it still something that the Board needs to take action on? Mrs. Hammock said the Board doesn't need to take action on it. It was approved in the consent agenda.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner Jefferies:** The only thing I had was that we went down to the NCACC Conference, and it was a good conference. I wish some more of my colleague could have been there. One section I went in dealt with how to get along as a Board working together. I thought it was very good section. I heard this young lady talking and it fell in my lap what she was saying. It's not up to us to agree on anything. If I come up with an idea and you don't like it or it might

not be the right idea that you want, but at the same time, we are supposed to be able to go along with it if we think it's right. The man that don't agree with it, he would somewhere along the line come with the team. The next thing I thought was very important tax base. They are saying that we shouldn't do too many things that are not a taxpayers concern because that is what promotes Caswell County. They brought out a lot of good examples and things they brought out about teamwork. I know my county and I threw out some points in that meeting. That was some of the things they were saying. We've got to work together. It starts right here with this Board. I might not like what you saying, but at the same time, I don't need to go behind you and dig up something to come back and throw it at you. These things were thrown out there, and I thought it was very important about the Board. The next thing, I went in another section about affordable homes. They were saying like a kid might be out of college and you can't raise taxes on them. Let them stay there as a lower paid person until they get their feet on the ground. There's a lot of things I didn't know that they talked about in the sections down there. I wish this Board, every one of us, could have been there and heard it. I thought it was really good, and I appreciate you letting me go. A lot of good things came out of the sections down there. Maybe some of the other Commissioners or the County Manager will have some comments. Thank you. Chairman Dickerson said thank you for your feedback.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- September 11, 2023 at 11 am the 911 Memorial dedication will be held in the front lawn of the Historical Association.
- September 18, 2023 Commissioners Meeting at 6:00 pm at the Gunn Memorial Library with the Board of Education and the NC DOT.
- September 23, 2023 Caswell County Bright Leaf Hoedown

#### **CLOSED SESSION:**

A motion was made at 7:14 pm by Commissioner Gwynn and seconded by Commissioner Rose and **carried unanimously** to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3). (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Gwynn, Yarbrough, Jefferies, McVey, Rose, and Dickerson)

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried 5-2** to buy out the former County Managers contract by agreeing to the settlement agreement and approving Mr. Miller's signed agreement as long as it is the same language as the original contract. It will include 6 months' salary, vacation, and sick time as long as the signed agreement terms are like the original terms. (Ayes: Commissioners Jefferies, Gwynn, Yarbrough, Rose, and McVey. Nays: Commissioner Dickerson and Holt)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A **motion** was made at 8:14 pm by Commissioner Gwynn and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** to adjourn the meeting. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Gwynn, Jefferies, McVey, Rose, Yarbrough, and Dickerson)

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Carla R. Smith  
Clerk to the Board

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John Dickerson  
Chairman

# COUNTY APPROVAL

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF CASWELL

## **CERTIFICATE OF CLERK RE APPROVAL OF TAX-EXEMPT LOAN TO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT BY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The undersigned, being the duly qualified Clerk of Caswell County, North Carolina, does hereby certify that the following is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution passed by the Board of Commissioners of Caswell County, North Carolina, at its regular meeting on the 5th day of September, 2023, which Resolution was duly introduced, seconded, and approved, and that said Resolution remains in full force and effect:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Caswell County, North Carolina does hereby approve (within the scope of the qualifying language set forth below) a tax-exempt loan to the Providence Fire and Rescue, Inc. (the "VFD") from Roxboro Savings Bank, SSB in the principal amount of \$250,000, which loan is for the following purpose:

For the construction of a fire department substation.

RESOLVED, FUTHER, that the approval of the loan to the VFD set forth above is given solely for purposes of the public approval requirements for tax-exempt financing applicable to the VFD because of Section 150 (e) (3) and Section 147 (f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and such approval does not obligate the County of Caswell or its Board of Commissioners in any way regarding repayment of the debt.

Duly certified by the execution hereof and the placing hereon of the seal of said County, this the 5th day of September, 2023.



*Carla Smith*

Carla Smith, Clerk

Caswell County, North Carolina