

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

March 4, 2024
OTHERS PRESENT

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

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

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Caswell, North Carolina, met in a Regular Meeting on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Gunn Memorial Library.

WELCOME:

Chairman Jefferies called the meeting to order, and welcomed everyone to the Caswell County Board of Commissioners meeting on March 4, 2024. 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:

John Claggett: Good evening. My name is John Claggett. I am a resident of Caswell County, and I reside at 108 Jaye Lane in Providence, NC.

I thank you for this opportunity to speak publicly, and would like to remind this Board to continue to refresh your memories with your current Ethics Policy as well as Caswell County's current Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Policy. I would also like to remind this Board that your constituents understand the difference between a reason and an excuse. I thank you for your time.

RECOGNITIONS:

There were no recognitions.

AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. February 15, 2024 Joint Town Meeting Minutes
 - b. February 19, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
- March 4, 2024

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

PARKS AND RECREATION WALKING TRACK:

Chairman Jefferies said last Sunday I got call, and I've been getting calls. I'm certain you all are getting them too about that track. I decided to walk that track last Monday. It was raining, but I took my umbrella and walked that track. Asphalt has busted up, and in some place there isn't any asphalt. Now we just sitting with a lawsuit if somebody falls over there. My suggestion would be and I hope somebody else's will be to have the track closed. That's just my suggestion. What's the pleasure of the Board? I mean it's in bad shape.

Commissioner Gwynn said I think it would be a good idea to close it. I know with the rain and all they haven't been able to do the pavement, and that is in the works. I feel like we just need to close it until that is fixed.

Chairman Jefferies said County Manager is that in the budget already? County Manager Meszaros said so I believe it's not in this year's budget. It is in our budget packet for next year. So I think the estimate is \$39,000. The staff did highlight with yellow the trip hazards. I walked it too. I went with the Park and Rec. Director and the Maintenance Director, and if you cut it short to make one mile is four loops. Coming inside the tennis courts, it takes out those sections on the corner. There's a couple of sections that are pretty bad on the west side. We can put up signage to say the difference in the track distance. The plan looks good. The estimates look accurate. That's a proposed budget item next year. You don't have the extra money this year in the budget with the current scheduled projects.

Vice Chairman Holt asked what are the estimates running? County Manager Meszaros said so the low bid that we had when they put the bids out was \$39,900. Right at \$40,000.

Commissioner Yarbrough said can a portion of it be blocked off now and the remainder still be accessible? County Manager Meszaros said so we can close down that side around the tennis courts coming up from the building. They would have to walk there. One lady, while we were walking, said she didn't like to walk the long ways to get to the walking trail. It's a little longer walk, but she didn't want to walk the other way. But we could shut down that side if that's what you determine we should do.

Commissioner Rose said I guess my question would be we got ball season and everything else starting at the Rec. itself, how would you keep them off of the track? County Manager Meszaros

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said yeah I mean we could put up some barricades and say Trail closed, but if they circumvent that and still walk around, I don't know.

Attorney Johnston said Scott is this the part next to the tennis courts? County Manager Meszaros said correct. The section that's beyond that, the paving has been taken out. So it is crushed rock. So that's not really a trip hazard. It's just not an overlay with pavement. The plan does call for fixing and correcting all the roots and all the bad areas, then the overlay where it is bad, and then a complete reseal on the parts that are still good. Crack, build, and reseal. So that's the whole track not just the sections that are bad, and it is one of the items in the coming budget. It's just one of the few that we've looked at already. We can make that happen if you choose to shut down that section. I think we can get some barricades up and say section closed. It's really hard to keep people off of that if they want to choose to go in there.

Chairman Jefferies said I think that'll be one way. We need to do something. We don't need to sit there. We need to get it in our budget when we know what's wrong. County Manager Meszaros said okay. Chairman Jefferies said are we going to shut it down or are we going to block it off half?

Commissioner Rose said I'd like to block off the parts. I don't know how you going to shut the whole thing down if you got kids out there playing baseball on all those fields. How you going to stop them unless you just close the Rec. off completely, and you'll get into a mess with that.

County Manager Meszaros said I mean it is painted so you can see the trip hazards. There is one hole that's pretty bad. We can put some hole patch in that. That doesn't last very long. It's a little better. I've walked it, and it's not like a trip hazard everywhere you go. There's ADA issues in all communities, and I think that most people walking, they would see the hazards and walk around them. The one person that did fall it wasn't even on the trail. It was going down to the building in the parking lot.

Chairman Jefferies said so let's give the County Manager a chance and let him block it off and see what he thinks. Then we'll walk it again and see if this is going be satisfying, if that's okay with the Board. Hearing no opposition, Chairman Jefferies said we'll move on.

ACTION ITEMS:

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR DOLL BRANCH ROAD:

Chairman Jefferies said I think we got everybody but one. The clerk said I got everybody's signature, but you still have to make a motion to approve it.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner McVey and seconded by Commissioner Rose and **carried unanimously** to approve Resolution of Support for Doll Branch Road. (Ayes: Commissioners Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Gwynn, Dickerson, McVey, and Jefferies)

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HEALTH INSURANCE RATES:

County Manager Meszaros said so the last meeting we held we did hear from West Grigston. He's our Gallagher Representative. We do need an affirmative vote. We haven't looked at other options with the healthcare because it is affordable and a good plan. So we do need to confirm that we're going to renew with them. That that was due March 1st, and they've extended it until tomorrow. So we need to reach out to them, and I have to have a motion to approve to extend benefits. As far as who absorbs the cost, we did present the scenarios. I've had people call, and we did go through the different cost shares. It's staff's recommendation that there's a lot of things with retention, pay, and benefits. We're tier one pay. We are a smaller rural county. There's several potential hires since I've been here that we talked to that when they find out the cost of the benefit plans, it's disenfranchising. So for like a basic spouse coverage just for medical, it's \$800 a month. Family is \$1,250 a month. So to put more burden on that, I think that's going in the right direction to have retainage. We want to address pay and benefits for all staff. I just feel like this could be absorbed in our budget. We haven't gotten into budget yet. A \$30 million budget and the \$100,000 at this point is something we could easily figure out and move forward. But I do think that's a concern, the cost. We have to look at alternatives and some of the ways we can attract employees. I would say that retention and losing employees to hire new people, it's a constant revolving door, and it cost you more to do that than maybe to invest in some of the other things. So you do have the recommendation there. You do have the scenarios of if it's 100% county, it's 100% employee, or if it's a cost share split of 50/50. We can look at different cost share ratios, but I do need a motion to renew. We can figure out what you determine you want the cost share should be tonight, you can do that. If you don't, that's okay. We can visit that at a later date too. I do need you to determine about the renewal because when they did go to this plan, the year that they did that there was a 30% increase on the previous plan which was more expensive than it is now. So I think you're not going to find another plan that's going to compete with the group. I think the average is 2.5, and you just have to put that marker in your budget and say we budget for 3% increase moving forward. That's just kind of the cost of having benefits. So that's our recommendation. If you have further questions, I know he was pretty thorough on explaining the plan, how it works, and how they keep those costs low. I will tell you that in 2018 I tried to get on their list to be one of the first, and we didn't qualify because our costs and our outlays were not acceptable to them. So they are difficult to get into, but they also want to manage those claims. We had claims. Last year they paid out 102%. So there is a contingency and a backup reserve that we keep, and that's dwindled down. So I think it's fair, and they think it's manageable to move forward with the 4.75% increase.

Chairman Jefferies said do any Board members have any questions?

Commissioner Yarbrough said all you need from us is approval to continue with this same group. County Manager Meszaros said yes sir. Commissioner Yarbrough said not necessarily what the county's portion and the employees' portion will be. You don't need that tonight. County Manager Meszaros said it would be nice to know for budget where that might sit. But yes sir that

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is correct. Commissioner Yarbrough said well question for either you or Finance. Looking at this the current rate employee pay \$15. Am I looking at this right? Finance Director Hammock said for the base. Commissioner Yarbrough said for the base. Okay. If an employee absorbs all the increase, it goes to \$47.71, which if my math is right, that's a \$32.71 increase. Correct? All right looking down to the next one, if we split it 50/50, the employees cost is only going up \$10. How does that math work? Commissioner Dickerson said that's what I've been looking at Mr. Yarbrough. Commissioner Yarbrough said because half of \$32.71 is \$16.35 and a half. County Manager Meszaros said I'm not sure. They have two plans. They have the buy up plan. Commissioner Yarbrough said yes, but this is all base what these numbers are. Finance Director Hammock said right. Commissioner Dickerson said and the same math is not adding up right on the next column either. County Manager Meszaros said I think they just rounded them off. I'm not sure why they're trying to get the entire amount to be 4.75% so they're adjusting the amount. These are just numbers that we got from them. Commissioner Yarbrough said so they furnished them. County Manager Meszaros said yes sir. Commissioner Yarbrough said okay, but still I don't get the math. County Manager Meszaros said yes, it's a little bit different. Those are wrong. Is that the monthly rate? Finance Director Hammock said it is the monthly cost.

Melissa Williamson said didn't he say it would be like... When he presented it, if the county absorbs the whole cost, it would be like \$33 and something. Well if you take and split to 50/50 their extra 10 and our extra 20 would make up like that 30. You see what I'm saying? Finance Director Hammock said oh. Melissa Williamson said I don't know if that's how they're looking at it. I'm not sure either.

Commissioner Rose said so they supplied all these numbers? County Manager Meszaros said yes. They tried to do a comp ratio where it's roughly the 50% match, but it's the rounded offness. It's different as you get into the higher tiers and start having a different rates. They're rounding and trying to make it... I mean the thing that jumps out to me is that you only have two employees, well there's four of us. There's only four employees at the entire County that chose spouse. It's because the cost is extremely high. I mean only eight employees actually do their children. That seems weird with 250+ employees.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** to we stick with this same company. We'll address the employee portion and county portion during the budget time. (Ayes: Commissioners Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Gwynn, Dickerson, McVey, and Jefferies)

Commissioner Rose said Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask the County Manager to reach out to them and see if this correct. County Manager Meszaros said have them double check it. They gave us about 12 sheets. So that's a lot of ...they're not all apples to apples. I think they just picked out three that were out of those different categories we've asked them to produce. We'll make sure that when we bring it back to you that it's accurate.

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FY 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT # 13:

Jennifer Hammock, Finance Director, said so you have in your packet budget amendment number 13, which is for the Sheriff's Department. You have your cover page which gives you your background information. The Sheriff's Department applied for and received a grant for \$100,972.30 from the state of North Carolina Department of Public Safety GCC, which is the Governor's Crime Commission. The grant is to be used towards the prevention of domestic violence. There is an in kind match from the county in the amount of \$61,672.30. This is already budgeted in the fiscal year 24 budget. So no additional funds are required from the county. Basically what this means is the county or the Sheriff's Department is going to be providing service for domestic violence, and that service is valued at \$61,672.30. So there's not actual cash matching from the county. They're providing a service, and they are using an existing officer, an investigator, to provide this service specifically for the prevention of domestic violence. You'll notice that attached is a breakdown that the Sheriff's Department has provided to show you exactly which lines would be utilized for these funds. It is the recommendation of staff that the grant has been reviewed and the budget amendment completed. We recommend, if the Board so chooses, to approve this.

Chairman Jefferies said it's no match from the county. Finance Director Hammock said no cash match. No sir. Then Chairman Jefferies said you heard the amendment Mrs. Jennifer Hammock. What's the pleasure of the Board?

Commissioner Rose said is this the first year they've been awarded this grant, or is this the second year? Finance Director Hammock said this is the second year I think.

Vice Chairman Holt said he's already got an officer for this? Finance Director Hammock said yes sir. It's an investigator position.

Commissioner Yarbrough said most of this is going toward salaries I see. Mrs. Hammock said yes.

Commissioner Dickerson said so what exactly will they be doing? Finance Director Hammock said let me see if it specifies specifically. I know that this particular grant in researching is really geared more towards domestic violence towards women. So I think that there will be some programming. This particular officer will probably be spending a lot of additional hours not necessarily on other investigations within the Sheriff's Department but specifically anything designated for domestic violence. I can find out for sure any details, if you would like, from the Sheriff. Commissioner Dickerson said so it is basically geared toward services to prevent this working with the victims. Finance Director Hammock said yes, and I do know that it is an investigator that would be working with these individuals. County Manager Meszaros said usually the victim's assistant, they usually have like resources, battered shelters, or some of the connection that help. They have specialized training to be able to provide our citizens with some of those outlets. Finance Director Hammock said and they do work directly with Family Services.

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Commissioner Yarbrough said it's coming from the state, but it's actually federal funds. Correct? Finance Director Hammock said right. Commissioner Yarbrough said from the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. Okay.

Chairman Jefferies asked are there any more questions from any Board members? What's the pleasure of the Board?

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Dickerson and seconded by Commissioner Gwynn and **carried unanimously** to accept the grant for Budget Amendment #13 and accept the grant. (Ayes: Commissioners Rose, Yarbrough, Holt, Gwynn, Dickerson, McVey, and Jefferies)

BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Board of Adjustment: This Board has one vacancy for an alternate, and we received 1 application.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Rose and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** to **appoint Jacob Wrenn to the Board of Adjustment as an alternate.** (Ayes: Commissioners Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Gwynn, Dickerson, McVey, and Jefferies)

COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATES:

County Manager Scott Meszaros said I did pass out a handout. So I.T. provided the bids for the sound system at the Old Courthouse. I did want to point out that the low bid is just for a sound system. So it doesn't have all the software for the system to integrate into this broadcast. So basically it's kind of like an amplifier speaker at each of this people's seats. The other two softwares, I wasn't here when they did that, but apparently the low bid on that was here that did the presentation with you previously. We did get another bid today. It's considerably higher, but it's almost an equivalent bid. So if you look at the bid did originally, there's a lot of softwares. Any time you buy any type of technical equipment software, it takes proprietary licensing. It's not cheap just to buy equipment and put it on the on the web. So I think it sounds like this will meet our needs. The IT. Department has reviewed it. They suggested that it looks like a good one. I know that you're anxious to get things rolling. So if you approve this bid, we'll contact them tomorrow and get them scheduled as soon as they can get in and do the work. I do know that you were brought a budget amendment previously. Is that right? Finance Director Hammock said yes. County Manager Meszaros said so the monies have already been budgeted. Actually Cara's here if she has any input. I really don't have anything to add other than I have talked to our staff, and they do suggest going with the low bid that's going to work on the system. The other bid isn't going to work with the licensing putting it out so that would just be for the commissioners and people in attendance to hear better not the audience.

Vice Chairman Holt said are you talking about Custom Light and Sound? County Manager Meszaros said yes sir. The Custom Light and Sound is basically an amplification system.

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Commissioner Yarbrough said but it won't tie into Zoom or anything like that? County Manager Meszaros said no sir.

Chairman Jefferies said is this the bid of \$42,231? County Manager Meszaros said yes sir.

Commissioner Dickerson said is this the people that came in and spoke to us? County Manager Meszaros said yes.

Chairman Jefferies said you all have the bids. What's the pleasure of the Board?

Vice Chairman Holt said what was his time? County Manager Meszaros said so when they came last time, they said it would be a few months. We're going to reach out to them, and hopefully they can move that up to as soon as possible. I don't have an ETA. Jason is out today, but we'll reach out to him tomorrow. We'll let him know it's urgent.

Chairman Jefferies said can we get a motion for that. What's the Pleasure of the Board?

Commissioner Yarbrough asked have we done the budget amendment, Jennifer? Finance Director Hammock said we have not. Commissioner Yarbrough said we have not. We talked about it, but we wanted the other bid. Finance Director Hammock said right, and the amount that we had in the budget amendment was actually \$42,425. So it's was just a tiny bit more than what is listed here. Commissioner Yarbrough said do we get that set? Do we get a refund on sales tax here? Do we get that money back for sales tax? Finance Director Hammock said yes. Commissioner Yarbrough said okay. So it will likely cost us \$39,560. Finance Director Hammock said right. Commissioner Yarbrough said can you refresh me on the budget amendment. I remember asking you at the first meeting it was discussed if you could find that money somewhere in the budget. Finance Director Hammock said right. We were going to appropriate \$37,000 from fund balance. We were going to move \$5,000 out of the supply line for the Commissioners, and the rest of it would be maintenance and repair. It would go into maintenance and repair for the building, which is the maintenance line. Commissioner Yarbrough said 37 out of fund balance, correct? Finance Director Hammock said yes sir, \$37,425. Commissioner Yarbrough said there's a balance coming out of Maintenance? Finance Director Hammock said the balance coming out of the supply line for the commissioners. Commissioner Yarbrough said \$5,000? Mrs. Hammock said \$5,000. Yes, sir.

Chairman Jefferies said I thought we had a line item with so many thousand dollars left over we took this money from to place it for this sound system. Melissa Williamson said from a previous year. It was something that was... I remember that night we were talking about it; it was something from the previous year. You're right Mr. Jefferies. I remember that too. It was something from the previous year. Finance Director Hammock said that's that \$37,425. It was already rolled into fund balance. So that \$37,425 is actually from an account that was closed out from a previous project that was completed, and it was rolled into fund balance. Yes, sir. So that's where the appropriation from fund balance would come from. That's right. It was another IT project that was finished, and the left over was going to the sound system.

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Commissioner Dickerson said well you gotten several bids, and the sound is atrocious in there. I think it's a good idea that we just want to move forward.

Commissioner Yarbrough said Mr. Chairman, as bad as I hate to spend money, I'll have to agree. The sound is terrible in that building, and we're not getting any use out of it as is. A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to award the bid to Audio and Light for \$42,231.28. Chairman Jefferies said you all heard the motion, any questions?

County Manager Meszaros said do you want to roll that motion into the budget amendment since you're already clear on all the details? That way you don't have to bring it back yet again and explain it. It's already done. Commissioner Yarbrough said I'm good with that. Chairman Jefferies said we will go along with that.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner Rose and **carried unanimously** to award the bid to Audio and Light for \$42,231.28, and include the approval of Budget Amendment # 7. (Ayes: Commissioners Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Gwynn, Dickerson, McVey, and Jefferies)

County Manager Meszaros said so I did want to say...Are we still on the manager's report. Okay. We did attend the Thomas Day event last week. We got to meet the first lady, Governor Cooper's wife and the family. It was a pretty nice event actually, and I appreciate Commissioner Gwynn sending me the invitation. I don't want to poke there, but I did want to ask I send out the details on the mowers. Are we still or do you want to hear about that or not.

Commissioner Dickerson said yes, I got a couple questions about that actually. The gator that they're proposing to buy, my understanding of the reason the Kubota was bought in the first place is that Solid Waste and the Maintenance Department was going to share that. It has been working fine. What's changed to where they cannot continue to share that Kubota. What's the purpose of... I know you getting a good deal on this gator, but you're still spending another \$13,000 that we really should not be turning loose for a luxury item. It's been working well up to this point; what's the problem? County Manager Meszaros said so they do use that for snow operations. It's got a plow on the front of it. I'm told that when it's 2 o'clock in the morning and you have to go two miles up the Pelham trails and every other day do the cleanouts, it's hard to get equipment from another department at 2:00 in the morning when the alarms go off. It's in Parks and Rec. Commissioner Dickerson said well Mr. County Manager, I have to kind of disagree with that because I spoke to the pre previous Maintenance Manager in the county, and he said it worked fine when he was here. It was no problems with it. I'm trying to figure out what's changed to create a problem where we need to spend that money. County Manager Meszaros said apparently they have access issues. So I can't answer that for you, and they're not here tonight. I don't know who the old person was, but I do know I've actually been out there. I know you can't get a truck or a vehicle up there. Commissioner Dickerson said right, and thus is

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why the Kubota was bought to start with. That was an expense that was approved, but it was sold to the Board on we're going to split it between Solid Waste and the Maintenance Department. County Manager Meszaros said sure. So I would just bring to your attention, I'm not big on splitting things with salaries or departments because usually if one department like Park and Rec. uses it for all the ball fields... It sounds great on paper. We're going to share a car, but when I need to use the car someone else has it. It appears to be an issue getting it when they have had issues in the past is what I'm told. Commissioner Dickerson said that would be great, if everybody that work for the county had their own personal car. They wouldn't have to do any kind of bouncing back and forth, but that's not a legitimate reason to justify an expenditure of that magnitude for something that's been working up to this point. County Manager Meszaros said so in talking to the Department Head, this is a remote location. They go out there all hours of the day and night in all weather. I feel like we don't have adequate equipment, but I haven't had an opportunity to assess all of our equipment. I can assure you you'll be seeing some budget requests this year from the Departments that justify their uses and needs. I think not having access to something like that when... I would love to take you all out on a tour of those facilities and walk that trail and show you what is required and the heavy equipment they carry. Maybe that will sway your opinion. I don't know.

Commissioner Rose said what clean outs are they cleaning out? County Manager Meszaros said so we maintain all of the sewer and water lines at Pelham. There's about a two-mile easement. So we have to mow the easement, and we have to clean the cleanouts. So we actually own and operate that water from Danville. So when we have to clean those out, you have to clean out every single inlet, and it's a two-mile span of utility. Commissioner Rose said what sewer line is up there? Commissioner McVey said the one that comes from the business center. It's really a grinder. County Manager Meszaros said a grinder station with the grinder. Commissioner McVey said which get stopped up periodically. County Manager Meszaros said the maintenance on the grinders, the last time they actually did it themselves in the Maintenance Department. You just have to budget. Those are not cheap items when the grinder gets clogged because you can't control what people put down the septic. The sewer lines, we just had last week all three of our buildings, we had to get a jet truck out there because it's a constant issue with the sewer lines. Commissioner Rose said I'm not disputing what you're saying. I guess my question is how long have we had that grinder system out there? How long have they been doing that? Commissioner McVey said ever since I've been on the Board. For a good while. Commissioner Rose said I think we're facing a little more urgent thing as far as this insurance than that. That's my opinion.

Commissioner Yarbrough said I suggest we put this off the budget time. Commissioner Rose said yes and Commissioner Dickerson said I agree. Chairman Jefferies said if that is the consensus of the Board.

County Manager Meszaros said that is all I have.

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COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Yarbrough: Tomorrow is Primary Election Day. I encourage all of you to get out and vote, if you have not done so, and tell your neighbors to do the same thing.

Commissioner Rose: I just thank the ones that came tonight and wish more people would show interested in coming to the meetings.

Commissioner Holt: Well I'll go along with what Frank is saying, but I think that with this sound system, I think a lot of people want to watch it on TV instead of having to come. So that's one of the reasons I feel like spending that money would help the people in Caswell County.

Commissioner Gwynn: I would just add on to what the County Manager said earlier. We did attend the Thomas Day event, and you, Mr. Jefferies were there too. It was a great turnout. It was very successful. They had food set up everywhere, and it was really great. They unveiled the plaque that they had outside. We got to watch Mr. Day's seventh or eighth generation son doing some of the woodwork while over there. So it was a great day.

Commissioner Dickerson: I would echo that it's long overdue to get that sound system right at the Old Courthouse. It's probably some of the best money this Board has spent. It's spent on an ongoing problem.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 9, 2024 NAACP Banquet at 5 pm at the Caswell County Civic Center
- March 18, 2024 Board of Commissioners Meeting at 6:30 pm at the Gunn Memorial Library

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made at 7:08 pm by Commissioner Holt and seconded by Commissioner Dickerson and **carried unanimously** to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, which is hereby acknowledged NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (1) and to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, which is hereby acknowledged NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4). (Ayes: Commissioners Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Gwynn, Dickerson, McVey, and Jefferies)

ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made at 7:46 pm by Commissioner Dickerson and seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough and **carried unanimously** to adjourn the meeting. (Ayes: Commissioners Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Gwynn, Dickerson, McVey, and Jefferies)

Carla R. Smith
Clerk to the Board

Jeremiah Jefferies
Chairman

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CASWELL COUNTY
Board of Commissioners
"Preserving the Past – Embracing the Future"

RESOLUTION
Supporting the Paving of SR 1538 (Doll Branch Road)
Resolution # R2024-01

WHEREAS, G.S. 136-11.1 requires that North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) request a resolution from all counties and municipalities affected by certain planned transportation projects to express their views on the Project prior to any action taken by the NCDOT; and

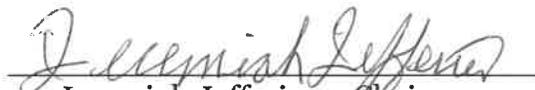
WHEREAS, NCDOT has proposed committing in excess of \$250,000 for the improvements that include the grade, drain, base, and pave of SR 1538 (Doll Branch Road) from the end of pavement to the end of maintenance.

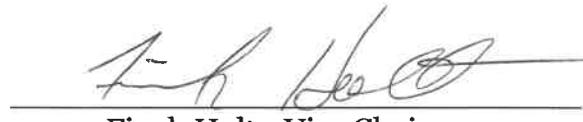
WHEREAS, pursuant to G.S. 136-11.1, the County is provided the opportunity to state its views on the project through this resolution before action of the NCDOT; and

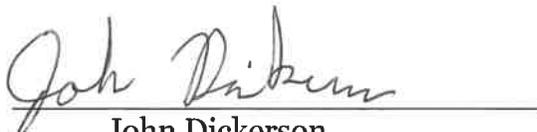
WHEREAS, NCDOT and the Board shall consider, but shall not be bound by, the views of the County regarding this Project; and

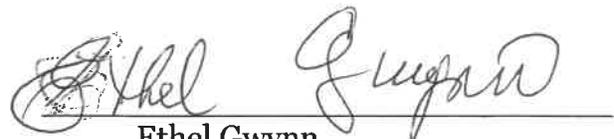
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caswell County Board of Commissioners hereby acknowledge and support this Project because it will enhance the safety of the traveling public with the use of North Carolina Department of Transportation Contingency Funds.

Adopted on the fourth day of March, 2024.


Jeremiah Jefferies – Chairman

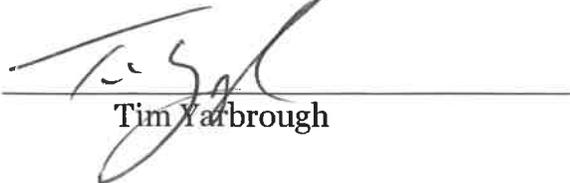

Finch Holt – Vice Chairman


John Dickerson


Ethel Gwynn


Rick McVey


Frank Rose


Tim Yarbrough

Attest:


Carla Smith, Clerk to the Board

CASWELL COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
FISCAL YEAR 2024
BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 13
Board Meeting: March 4, 2024

BE IT ORDAINED by the Caswell County Board of Commissioners that the following amendment is hereby made to the Fiscal Year 2024 budget.

Item 1: Caswell County Sheriff Department - North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NCDPS) and Governor's Crime Commission (GCC) Grant Funding

JUSTIFICATION: The Caswell County Sheriff's Department has received a grant from NCDPS/GCC. This grant runs from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. This grant funding is designated towards the prevention of domestic violence. The Federal award amount is \$100,972.30 with a County in-kind match of \$61,672.30. This match is budgeted in the FY2024 Budget so no additional funds will be required. A budget breakdown of the grant is attached.

REVENUES:		FY24 Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	FY24 Amended Budget
DV/SA/HT Investigative Unit Grant	1004310 336017	0	\$ 100,972.30	
TOTAL REVENUES Federal Funding Award		\$ -	\$ 100,972.30	\$ 100,972.30
EXPENDITURES:				
Small Tools & Equipment	1004310 529500	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 22,750.00
General Supplies	1004310 520000	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 10,390.32	\$ 26,390.32
Uniforms	1004310 521200	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 212.50	\$ 20,212.50
Full-Time Salaries	1004310 512100	\$ 2,072,588.00	\$ 52,496.00	\$ 2,125,084.00
FICA	1004310 518100	\$ 181,449.00	\$ 6,348.60	\$ 187,797.60
Health Insurance	1004310 518300	\$ 310,453.00	\$12,934.92	\$ 323,387.92
LEO 401K Contribution	1004310 512800	\$ 117,204.00	\$ 3,379.92	\$ 120,583.92
Retirement	1004310 518200	\$ 297,508.00	\$ 9,960.00	\$ 307,468.00
Travel	1004310 531200	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 2,500.04	\$ 22,500.04
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$ 3,055,202.00	\$ 100,972.30	\$ 3,156,174.30

ATTEST:

Carla Smith

Clerk to the Board

March 4, 2024

Date

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR
THE COUNTY OF CASWELL:**

Jeremiah Jefferson

Chairman of the Board

CASWELL COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
FISCAL YEAR 2024
BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 7
Commissioner Meeting Room Equipment

BE IT ORDAINED by the Caswell County Board of Commissioners that the following amendment is hereby made to the Fiscal Year 2024 budget.

Item I: Funds transferred to purchase New Audio Equipment for Commissioner Meetings in the Historical Courthouse

JUSTIFICATION: Currently the audio/sound equipment being used for Commissioners meetings in the Historical Courthouse is not the grade required for that room/acoustics. The microphones and speakers are not adequate. Rather than using funds from the current FY2024 budget to cover the cost of new equipment, it is recommended that the majority of the cost be covered by funds remaining from the closeout of an equipment and automation fund which has been dormant with no activity since 2018. This fund (440) will be eliminated at the close of FY2021 and the funds will become part of the General Fund Fund Balance. The remaining cost would be transferred from the Supplies line in the Commissioners FY2024 budget.

		FY24 Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	FY24 Amended Budget
REVENUES:				
Appropriated Fund Balance	100 390000	\$ 1,996,670.00	\$ 37,425.00	\$ 2,034,095.00
TOTAL REVENUES		\$ 1,996,670.00	\$ 37,425.00	\$ 2,034,095.00
EXPENDITURES:				
Governing Body - Supplies	1004110 520000	\$ 12,000.00	\$ (5,000.00)	\$ 7,000.00
Maint & Repair - Building	1004260 535100	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 42,425.00	\$ 77,425.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			\$ 37,425.00	

NOTE: The Governing Body Supply line has a current available budget of \$10,002.12 as of December 31, 2023. The Maint & Repair-Building line has an available budget of \$27,879.47 as of Decmemebr 31, 2023, with projects pending.

ATTEST:



 Clerk to the Board
 March 4, 2024

 Date



 Chairman