

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

**December 5, 2022**  
**OTHERS PRESENT**

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Nathaniel Hall, Chairman  
John Dickerson, Vice Chairman  
Finch Holt  
Jeremiah Jefferies  
Rick McVey  
Frank Rose  
Tim Yarbrough  
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Bryan Miller, County Manager  
Melissa Williamson, Deputy County Manager  
Aisha Gwynn, Assistant County Manager  
Carla Smith, Clerk to the Board  
Brian Ferrell, County Attorney

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Caswell, North Carolina, met in regular session on Monday, December 5, 2022 at 9:00 am in the Historic Courthouse.

**WELCOME:**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM PROJECT GRANT:**

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Jefferies and seconded by Commissioner Owen and **carried unanimously** to enter the Public Hearing on the Community Transportation Program Project Grant. (Ayes: Commissioners Dickerson, Hall, Jefferies, Owen, Oestreicher, Massengill, and McVey)

Melissa Williamson said good morning. Caswell County Area Transportation System (CATS) is required to complete the Community Transportation grant application and the capital call for project grant application for fiscal year 2023-24 by January 6, 2023. We are required to hold a public hearing on the proposed projects to allow members of the community the opportunity to comment on the transportation needs and the grant application. We did run a public hearing notice in the Caswell Messenger for the meeting on today. We are requesting to replace one of the buses in our fleet that has met the useful life required mileage and the FY24 grant application. We are requesting administrative funding in the 5311 CTP grant application. The Capital 5310 purchase of service's objective is to provide transportation services that meet the special needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities to who mass transportation services are unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate. We will need to have a motion made by the Board members and seconded by another Board member for the adoption of the grant applications. All local matching funds required are transportation dollars. No ad valorem tax dollars are required for the operations of CATS. CATS is operating as a stand-alone Enterprise Fund. We are requesting a \$132,257 in administrative funds, which is our salaries, benefits, and it includes things like office materials, the copier, and our internet which are things that are administrative

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costs. We are asking for capital to replace one of the buses in our fleet, and the estimated cost to replace the bus is \$130,000. That has more than doubled since the last bus that we did purchase, but that is the cost that they're estimating for FY24 for buses to cost with the cost of inflation. In 5310 Capital, we're requesting \$20,000. So our total project is \$282,257 that we're requesting in grant applications, and our local share for our matches is \$34,840. Like I stated that will come out of the Enterprise funds from our CATS transportation.

Chairman McVey asked if there were any questions?

Commissioner Oestreicher said I move that we accept the grant application.

County Manager Miller said if you will. This is a public hearing. If you will offer the public the opportunity to comment on the grant applications and CATS before we move forward with the motion. I think that would be appropriate.

Chairman McVey asked if there was anyone who wanted to speak? Hearing none, the Board moved on with the motion.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Oestreicher and seconded by Commissioner Owen and **carried unanimously** to accept the Community Transportation Program Grant application. (Ayes: Commissioners Dickerson, Hall, Jefferies, Owen, Oestreicher, Massengill, and McVey)

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

- a. November 17, 2022 Joint Meeting Minutes
- b. November 21, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

**David Owen:** Mr. Chairman, I just want to take a moment to thank especially the residents of District One that not only elected me but re-elected me. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve for the past eight years. There are parts of this that I will miss, and there are parts that I will not miss. I want to do a little jig almost at times, but I do appreciate everything and the support that I received. I especially want to thank those citizens who were willing to call me. Not just in my district, but across the county when they had issues and when they had problems. We were able to work towards getting those problems resolved instead of them just running out, putting it on Facebook, and making all kind of comments. I appreciate that. Most of it time will greatly resolve or at least get it where they were okay with it. So I want to especially thank the Commissioners, but especially Commissioner Hall, Commissioner Jefferies who have been with me. You've been here for eight years with me, and I just appreciate your help through the years.

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You've given me some great comments and helped to direct my comments sometimes to where they needed to be. Commission McVey, Commissioner Oestreicher, and Commissioner Massengill thank you guys for being willing and all of you that have been willing to sit down a million times when we were butting heads on different things. But we were able to sit down discuss those things, talk about them, and leave that meeting not necessarily being close friends but still being friends. And again not running and placing all that on Facebook and trying to make us or the Board look bad. I want to thank the staff from the County Manager down and across the whole county. We have worked through some difficult times. My first term was very easy. We had very few problems, and then of course COVID came. The staff has worked in very difficult times through COVID, and also we have seen the ugly political environment that has been created in Caswell County. They have worked through that, and some have left because of that. Believe it or not, they have. Most of all I want to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave me the strength to endure this for eight years. He gave me wisdom and discernment. I pray that I honored him in all that I said, did, and the way I've reacted and responded to many of you even when we disagreed. To the ones that will be left on Board and the upcoming ones, you will see me from time to time. I have a lot more I'd love to say, but I'm going to save that for public comments later on in the year because it will take up too much time. So again just thank you for the opportunity, the privilege, and the honor of serving the residents of Caswell County. Thank you.

**Steve Oestreicher:** Charles Dickens wrote in his book, *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." That pretty well describes my first 2 years and the second two years as a Caswell County Commissioner. The best of times. During my term I helped implement or supported the implementation of several items that I'm very proud of, including: the HIDO (High Impact Development Ordinance), the Moratorium on polluting industries, school bond financing with a very low USDA interest rate, improved budget process including contingency financing, improved contract reviews, improve public comments receptivity, careful and judicious spending of our taxpayers' money. I am very pleased and blessed to work with two fellow commissioners, the County Manager, the Clerk to the Board, and the county department heads, namely: David Owen, whose integrity, virtually limitless work ethic, attention to detail, and concern and support for the people of the county is amazing and should be an inspiration for current and future commissions. Vernon Massengill, like David, his attention to detail, understanding of the big picture and impact of the issues put before us, willingness to put in his time and effort out of an already and completely full schedule, and his focus on what are the right things to do for the people of the county is also inspirational. Bryan Miller, the county is fortunate beyond words to have such a knowledgeable, hard-working, and dedicated Manager. I have learned a great deal about local and state laws from Bryan, and I'm also pleased he picked up a few bits of knowledge from me. Carla Smith and the county department heads and their staff are amazing, dedicated, and hard-working people that we were fortunate to have. If you want to know about the worst of times, come see me later.

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**Vernon Massengill:** Mr. Chairman, first of all I never have been a political person. I never have desired to be a political person, but when one of your friends asked you to take his place, if something happened, you do so. That's the reason I'm sitting here today. I'd like to commend and thank the three new Commissioners who are coming on the Board. I'd like to thank this Board for their acceptance of me as a friend and fellow commissioner. But you know what these chairs we sit in, they don't belong to us. We only have a name tag up here that says our name. These chairs belong to the people of Caswell County. We're allowed for a certain period of time to sit in these chairs and to do the work of the people. We should listen to the entire population of this County and not a small group or a certain pact. We and you, as commissioners, should attend as many functions as you possibly can because that's where you learn the real needs and desires of the people of this County. And after you attend those meetings even with the Towns you learn what's needed to make this County what it can be. This is a position of services that does not stop when the sun goes down. It's a 24-7 job. I too would like to thank the employees of this county. They deserve our respect, and we should be of service to them. They are one of the largest and best resources we have in this County, and we are here to listen, to be respectful, and to allow them as County Employees to move this county forward. I would also like to thank the County Manager for his never-ending and sometimes thankless job that he does and all the staff that supports him. This Board also has to understand and to help with the education of our young people. They are the ones that will be sitting in these chairs at some point, and we, this body, does not want to be the ones that have denied them the resources that they need to succeed in life. I've lived in this county most of my life and would not change my decision to come back after college to raise my children, my grandchildren, and now my great-grandchildren. You know this county may be known as a poor county financially or statistically, but in my view because of the people that live in this county, we are the richest. Thank you for your support and words of gratitude that I have received during my tenure.

Chairman Mcvey asked if there were any more commissioner comments?

**John Dickerson:** Yesterday my mother-in-law had a serious health emergency, and I just want to thank the Caswell County EMS Department, Duke Life Flight, and Danville Regional Medical Center for their professionalism and the way they handle the whole situation. Kudos to all of them.

**David Owen:** Mr. Chairman, before you take your recess, there's just one thing I did forgot. For the Commissioners coming on, I'm sorry I can't stay for your swearing in. I have a funeral that I have to do, so I'll have to leave as soon as we take the recess. But I wish you the best of luck.

**Nate Hall:** I want to give an applause to all of the commissions that are not going off. It is something that's well deserved for anyone that will step forward from the public sector. I applaud all three.

**Jeremiah Jefferies:** I would like to say to all the Commissioners going off, I enjoyed working with you. Thank you Mr. Massengill for coming on and taking Mr. Carter's place. Thank you all and I appreciate you. May God bless all of you.

**Rick McVey:** I want to thank you all for all the times you put up with me, especially you, Mr. Owen. I would be out on the tractor, and we would be discussing money issues and stuff. I would pick up the phone and call David and say hey, take a look at this and see what you think. I'm bailing hay right now. It wouldn't be a long, David would take a look at it, call me back, and tell me what he thought we could do or not do. He doesn't know how much I appreciate it, and the same way that Mr. Massengill and Mr. Oestreicher. It was a lot of times I was on the phone with Mr. Massengill late at night and early in the morning asking him what he thought about things and questions. All these guys helped make decisions, and I just want to tell you thank you and I will miss you boys.

**Carla Smith, Clerk to the Board:** Before we take recess, I would like to say on behalf of the employees and the citizens of Caswell County, we do appreciate all your hard work. We do want to give you a small token of our appreciation just to thank you for your service to Caswell County and its citizens. Plaques were given to David Owen, Steve Oestreicher, and Vernon Massengill.

#### **RECESS:**

The Board took a brief recess.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:**

##### **OATHS OF OFFICE:**

The Clerk asked the elected Commissioners to take their seat at the table. Then we will get ready for the swearing in of the Commissioners by taking their oaths. The floor was given to John I. Satterfield who administered the oaths.

The oaths are attached below. They were executed following the swearing in.



# CASWELL COUNTY

*"Preserving the Past - Embracing the Future..."*

NORTH CAROLINA

CASWELL COUNTY

OATH OF

## COMMISSIONER OF CASWELL COUNTY

I, **MARVIN FINCH HOLT, JR.**, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the Constitution and laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as Commissioner of Caswell County, so help me God.

S/Marvin Finch Holt, Jr.

**Marvin Finch Holt, Jr.**

Subscribed and sworn to  
before me this 5<sup>th</sup> day  
of December, 2022.

S/ John I. Satterfield

John I. Satterfield

Clerk of Superior Court

Title

144 Court Square • P.O. Box 98 • Yanceyville, NC 27379  
Phone: (336) 694-4193 • Fax: (336) 694-1228

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# CASWELL COUNTY

*"Preserving the Past - Embracing the Future..."*

NORTH CAROLINA

CASWELL COUNTY

OATH OF

## COMMISSIONER OF CASWELL COUNTY

I, **FRANK EDWARD ROSE, JR.**, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the Constitution and laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as Commissioner of Caswell County, so help me God.

S/ Frank Edward Rose Jr.

**Frank Edward Rose, Jr.**

Subscribed and sworn to  
before me this 5<sup>th</sup> day  
of December, 2022.

S/ John I. Satterfield  
John I. Satterfield

Clerk of Superior Court  
Title

144 Court Square • P.O. Box 98 • Yanceyville, NC 27379  
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# CASWELL COUNTY

*"Preserving the Past - Embracing the Future..."*

NORTH CAROLINA

CASWELL COUNTY

OATH OF

## COMMISSIONER OF CASWELL COUNTY

I, **TIMOTHY EDWIN YARBROUGH**, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the Constitution and laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as Commissioner of Caswell County, so help me God.

S/ Timothy Edwin Yarbrough

**Timothy Edwin Yarbrough**

Subscribed and sworn to  
before me this 5<sup>th</sup> day  
of December, 2022.

S/ John I. Satterfield

John I. Satterfield

Clerk of Superior Court

Title

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### **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:**

The Clerk to the Board called the organizational meeting to order and opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner McVey nominated Nathaniel Hall as Chairman. Commissioner Dickerson nominated Tim Yarbrough as Chairman. There were no other nominations, so the floor was closed for nominations. After a roll call vote, the vote carried 4-3. (Commissioners Hall, Jefferies, McVey, and Rose voted in favor of Hall as Chairman. Commissioners Dickerson, Yarbrough, and Holt voted in favor of Yarbrough as Chairman.) Commissioner Hall was appointed Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for this upcoming year.

Chairman Hall presided over the remainder of the meeting.

### **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR:**

Chairman Hall opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Rose nominated Rick McVey as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Yarbrough nominated John Dickerson as Vice Chairman. The floor was closed for nominations with 2 said names. After a roll call vote, the vote carried 3-4. (Commissioners Hall, McVey, and Rose voted in favor of Rick McVey as Vice Chair, and Commissioners Dickerson, Jefferies, Yarbrough, and Holt voted in favor of Dickerson as Vice Chair.) Commissioner Dickerson is the Vice Chair for the upcoming year.

### **RECESS:**

The Board took a brief recess.

### **CALL TO ORDER BY NEW CHAIRMAN:**

Chairman Hall said we will now call the meeting back to order. Again, I want to welcome our newly elected Commissioners. Thank you for putting yourself forward and being willing to serve. I want to thank all of the Commissioners for nominating me to be your Chair for a year and the faith you put into me for what we've got to do in the next coming year.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments.

### **RECOGNITIONS:**

There were no recognitions.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **COMMISSIONER BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:**

Chairman Hall said now I don't know if the new Commissioners had opportunity to look at these Board and Commissions. The new Commissioners verified that they had seen them. I'll give a

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little deference about current sitting Commissioners and see if there are any Boards they wish to maintain, to keep, or if there are any they want to give up.

I'll start with Mr. Jefferies on the end. Mr. Jefferies said he was on the Social Services Board, Piedmont Behavioral Health Board, Caswell County Adult Advisory Board, Home Health Advisory Committee, and Vaya Health Board, and he wanted to stay on those boards. Chairman Hall said County Manager or the Clerk you will be able to better assist me with this because you have the list. Is that correct? County Manager Miller said yes sir. Chairman Hall said okay, you just hold it there, and you can just tell us out loud.

Commissioner McVey said he was asked about taking the DSS Board. I'll be glad to take that, and I will let the Recreation Commission go. Somebody else can handle that, and Commissioner Holt said he would like to take that. County Manager Miller said Commissioners, before we move forward we just need to make sure that that's an appointment from the Board of Commissioners. That may be a DSS Board appointment. We'll check into it, and we'll leave it at this swap for now. If there's something different we'll get back with you.

Commissioner Dickerson said I'm willing to stay on the current committees I'm on which include the Cyber Security Committee, Personnel Committee, Caswell County Hunting and Wildlife Advisory Committee, and the Cemeteries Board of Trustees. He will remain on those four committees.

Chairman Hall then said I don't know the appropriate way to do this because I don't want to discriminate against any Board member that might have something they want to do. So if there's a particular board either one of you have a mind that you would like to serve on, speak up now and we'll work it in. Commissioner Yarbrough said Mr. Chairman, of the six boards that I have been given, I'm fine with five out of the six. However, the EMS Peer Review Committee I feel maybe a conflict with me having a family member that worked at EMS. So I respectfully decline that one. Commissioner Rose asked when does that board meet? County Manager Miller said it meets periodically during the day. Commissioner Rose asked what do you mean by periodically? County Manager Miller said it usually meets as needed or on a quarterly basis. Chairman Hall said they don't have a standard meeting date. Commissioner Rose said he didn't mind taking the EMS Peer Review Committee for Mr. Yarbrough. Commissioner Rose said Mr. Chairman, myself and Commission Holt swapped one. Holt wants to be on the Hunting and Wildlife Committee. So I will switch with him and take the E911 Board. Commissioner Rose said I looked at Mr. Owen's list here, and there's quite a few. Some of these like the NCACC stuff, I don't know about. One thing I will say is I know that there's some meeting for this month about Highway 86 North. The Clerk said that meeting is December 21<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Hall said that's the North Carolina DOT, and Mr. Rose replied correct. Mr. Rose said me being a newly elected Commissioner, I was just going to bring it to the attention of the gentlemen to see if they would like to have somebody else that has been on the board a while that is familiar with the subject matter due to its seriousness. That's totally up to the Board. Chairman Hall said I can tell you from experience that once you go to one of these meetings and it's something you're interested

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in; as a public servant you just dive right in. If you are familiar with what the subject matter is and you said it was Highway 86. Commissioner Rose said yes sir. Chairman Hall said you know how important it is for the citizens of Caswell County. Commissioner Rose said when is the meeting going to be held. County Manager Miller said on the 21st of this month at PTRC in Kernersville. That is a Wednesday, and I'm happy to attend the meeting as well, if the Board would like. Chairman Hall asked was it one on the record? County Manager Miller said it's one of the regular meetings. It's one of the TAC meetings. Commissioner Rose said as far as some of these like the NCACC Health & Human Services and the NCACC Joints Risks Meetings, what do those would mean? The reason I'm asking, I work three days a week contracted, and I'm trying to see if I would be able to be there. County Manager Miller said the NCACC Joint Risks Management Advisory Board of Trustees, Commissioner Owen was no longer a part of that committee. So that's one you can mark off. Commissioner Rose then asked what about the North Carolina Health and Human Services subcommittee? County Manager Miller said I do believe he currently serves on that committee. Chairman Hall said theirs is one of the standard meetings of the NCACC. Health and Human Services, Education, the Government and a few other things. So we can get dates and find out what dates they meet. If it's a conflict with your schedule, you can just let the Board know. The Board will ask someone else to attend, and we will also check with the NCACC Board on these appointments. Normally there's not enough people to go around, but we do encourage as many Caswell County Commissioners to attended that as possible. That does not necessarily mean to the NCACC that you have to attend them all. If you attend them and have Caswell County written across your chest, they'll get to know who you are.

Chairman Hall asked if we covered everything? Commissioner Holt said just to review. I've switched with Mr. Rose on the Hunting and Wildlife Advisory Committee, and I took the Recreational Commission. I've got the Local Emergency Planning Committee, Cyber Security committee, and the Library Advisory Board. I don't know how good I'll be with that one, but I can take on something else if someone feels they have too much. County Manager Miller said Commissioner Hall, if I may make a suggestion that the Commissioners just work together over the next couple of weeks, and we can have this back on the agenda for our next meeting. The Board members can make us aware of the changes. Chairman Hall said I think that is a good idea. I was going to make a suggestion that we delay at all, but instead the sooner we get started the sooner we will get to some import. That's a good idea. We will proceed right now as we have discussed. All Commissioners can get together and discuss changes they want to make. At our next meeting we will take a vote on all the assignments so that we can notify all the appropriate agencies and departments who our representative or who we plan for it to be for the next year.

#### **COMMISSIONERS' PLANNING WORK SESSION:**

Chairman Hall said this is probably a twofold. One is to get an idea of what we would like to do in the next year and where we would like to start working for the next year. I think this is a little early to do that. I know the commissioners, especially the new commissioners would want to take a look at what's gone on over the past year if you haven't already. Then let's take a look at

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schedules. Now the last couple of years we've had these meetings, I think, on Saturday. Probably a Saturday morning. It's sometimes difficult to jam and plan a session in four or three hours of work on a Saturday. We tried to do it and I don't remember the last time, but some members had already decided they had to leave at noon. Personally I don't think we covered everything to the extent that we wanted to cover it. So what I would suggest we do is we'll put this on the agenda and discuss at the next meeting what time you would like to have this meeting. If we want to do it on Saturday in the morning or if we want to do it in one or two sessions. Do we want to do it in the evening? The consensus of the Board is what I would tend to go with. I hope the consensus of the Board is what the majority will go with. So let's do that for the next meeting also. The planning session, we need to decide whether we want to do it on a weekend, Saturday and if we want one or two sessions.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

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

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

#### **APPROVAL OF BONDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS:**

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, each year there's a schedule of approvals for bonds for the Register of Deeds, the Tax Collector, the Sheriff, and Finance Officer. These bonds are required by State Statute. We would just request that you approve these bonds as they are, and the amounts of the bonds are required by Statute. Chairman Hall asked for the amount of those bonds. County Manager Miller said the Register of Deeds is \$25,000, and the Tax Collector is \$75,000. The Sheriff is \$25,000, and the Finance Officer is \$1,000,000. The Finance Director, they're having a change to the bond for the Finance Director. The reason for the change is that the requirements for the bond changed to 10% of the County's budget or one million dollars, whichever is the lesser amount. One million dollars is our lesser amount. So that's the reason for the one-million-dollar bond for the Finance Officer. Chairman Hall asked if there were any question about these bonds. Then MR. Hall said one question Mr. Manager. Do these bonds cover everybody that handles cash for the county? County Manager Miller said no, these cover the individual on which the bond is placed. Chairman Hall said okay. So for the next meeting, can you provide the Board with an idea of a list of those other County employees that may handle cash for the county for the Board's consideration. County Manager Miller said yes. Hearing no other questions, the Chairman asked for a motion.

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

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## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 2023 MEETING DATES:**

Chairman Hall said as a rule and probably by the State statute, we meet on the first and the third Mondays each month. However, we do make adjustments from time to time for holidays. So County Manager, what holidays will impact our meeting dates or just tell us the proposed meeting dates that we followed last year with the holidays. County Manager Miller said so the 2023 meeting dates are listed in your agenda packet. January 17<sup>th</sup>, it is a meeting day and that's due to a holiday. Tuesday, September 5, 2023 is also a holiday that would impact your first meeting in September. So those meeting dates historically fall on a Tuesday after the holiday. So instead of January 17<sup>th</sup>, it will be January 18<sup>th</sup>. And instead of September 5<sup>th</sup> it would be September 6<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Yarbrough said Mr. Chairman. According to your printout those dates are already showing a Tuesday. So it won't be changed to the 18<sup>th</sup> it will be the 17<sup>th</sup>. County Manager Miller said that's correct. The 17<sup>th</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> are the correct dates, and they are Tuesdays. Commissioner Hall said thank you for that observation. Are there any other questions or observations as it relates to the Commissioners meeting dates?

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, I'll just add that the first Monday as a rule of thumb is the nine o'clock in the morning meeting. The second meeting is 6:30 in the evening. That may be something else the Board would like to discuss. Commissioner Yarbrough said Mr. Chairman, going to the County Manager's point of meeting times. When I ran for this office, I had several constituents complain to me about daytime meetings while they were at work, and they could not attend because of their work schedule. I completely understand that. I know that Commissioner Rose and myself and maybe Commissioner Dickerson still actively employed and trying to make a living. For those that are retired, I hope to get there one day. I don't know if I'll make it or not, but that being said, I would like for this Board to consider changing our meeting times to all evening meetings at six, six thirty, seven or whatever will be the pleasure of the Board. I would like it to be discussed. Now the floor is open for discussing evening meetings.

Commissioner McVey said you do realize that this is up for some discussion. You do realize that if we have these meetings in the evenings, that our employees are on overtime. Commissioner Yarbrough said yes sir. I do. Commissioner McVey said this is costing our taxpayers extra money. Commissioner Yarbrough said I do, but the tax payers are my boss as well as everybody else that's on this Board or County employees. If a tax payer tells me that I can't attend a meeting because they're in the morning what can you do about it. This is the only solution that I see. Commissioner McVey said well just be aware that it cost us extra money when we have to have them in the evening. Commissioner Rose said is that something that being a department head if they have comp time where they can take it off like on Friday. The Board was having a hard time hearing Commissioner Rose so they changed his microphone. Chairman Hall said the question is are staff people able to take comp time off later in the week. County Manager Miller said yes at times. At times there are opportunities for staff to use comp time and at other times there are not opportunities for staff to do that. So we will try to make that available to staff. Sometimes the duties they are required to do, do not avail them to be able to do that. So having said that, there's

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other county employees that may need to be here before the Board and give presentations or be present that are not comp time employees or flex time employees. They would be hourly employees. So they would generate overtime. That's rare, and will not happen much. It would be comp time or flex time that would be received. Commissioner Rose asked do they have a year to take the comp time? County Manager Miller said no comp time builds, and they can take it any time. It continuously builds. Commissioner Rose said but what I'm saying is within the year if they cannot take it, then they have to be paid for it. County Manager Miller said no. It continues to build and we have an internal limit. State statute says we can have up to 240 hours of comp time. After 240 hours, we have to pay that comp time out. Flex time, we have an internal limit of 200 hours. That way if something happens, we're not building over that 240 hour limit. After 200 hours, we speak to the employee and ask can they start taking it off. If they still can't do that in certain situations, we pay that comp time out. At the end of someone's employment, we pay the remaining comp time out.

Commissioner Jefferies said Mr. Chairman, we tried this before and had all night meetings. We had a lot of peoples that didn't come, and we had a lot of employees that couldn't. So we changed it back to daytime. I know it'd be better for some people at night. My suggestion is they need to stay in the day. We have comp time to face if we go to night. We have tried this before. We have all night meetings, some of you may recall. Chairman Hall then asked if there were any other discussion.

Commissioner Yarbrough Mr. Miller how many County employees are required to be at the meetings other than you and the clerk? County Manger Miller said the clerk and I are the only two that are required to be here as well as the county attorney. We are the only employees that are required to be here. From time to time there are other subjects that come up and they're subject to experts like Finance, I.T and so on and so forth that the board might want to discuss. That would require another department head to be here. Commissioner Yarbrough said getting back to the issue of comp time, does the employee have the option of either getting paid or comp time? County Manager Miller said no, employees are scheduled one of two ways. They either are paid; that's not true. They're either paid, or they receive comp time. There are certain limited situations where an employee's board will make a request that they get paid for comp time in lieu of comp time. That happens occasionally with Elections and DSS. EMS is hourly so they can be you know hourly. They don't receive comp time or flex time. 911 is the same.

Chairman Hall said for clarity, Mr. Manager, if for whatever reason there's an EMS employee. County Manager Miller said from time to time Elections during an election and 911. Chairman Hall yes, 911. Those that are asked to attend a meeting for information or clarification, we would be required or are now required to pay them. County Manager Miller said if it is an EMS non-exempt employee, yes. If it's a 911, EMS, or Sheriff's Department employee that serves as a non-exempt employee, then yes we would be required to pay them an hourly rate. Chairman Hall said other questions, comments, or further discussion?

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A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner Dickerson and **carried 4-3** to change our meeting times to 6:30 pm for all regular Board meetings (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month). (Ayes: Commissioners Dickerson, Holt, Rose, and Yarbrough. Nays: Commissioners Hall, Jefferies, and McVey)

Chairman Hall said one thing we did not indicate was the starting date. May I suggest that we start this in January if that's not problematic with your motion. Commissioner Yarbrough said that is fine with him. Commissioner Rose said which one Chairman? The third, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Chairman Hall said yes the first meeting. The motion carried and the person that made that motion accepted my suggestion that we start this in January at the first meeting.

County Manager Miller said in years past the Board has chosen to cancel the second meeting in December due to the holidays and holiday schedules. This year that meeting would fall on the 21<sup>st</sup>, which is also the RPO TAC meeting. So I would suggest that the Board review that at this time, and see if the Board wanted to cancel the second meeting in December as you have in years past. Commissioner Hall said I think with the Board delegating also that day. County Manager Miller said so for a certain Commissioners it's already been a long day. County Manager Miller said I'm sorry. That's incorrect. The meeting date would be the 19th not the 21<sup>st</sup> so it would not fall on the same day. It would fall in the same week as RPO TAC meeting. Commissioner Dickerson asked is there any pressing business that needs to be taken care of at that meeting? County Manager Miller said not that I'm aware of. There's no public hearings. No. Chairman Hall said well as your new chair, I might be speaking a little out of order, but to my way of thinking, there is always pressing business in the county of Caswell. There are things for us to do but with that statement, I'll still leave it up to the consensus of this Board whether we cancel the second meeting and in December or not. Is there any further discuss on this matter? Commissioner Yarbrough asked Mr. Miller, how many years have you been canceling the second meeting in December? County Manager Miller said I can only remember one year that we had this second meeting in December. Commissioner Yarbrough said that you actually had the meeting? County Manager Miller said that's correct. It's usually cancelled. Chairman Hall asked if there were any more questions or comments about the cancellation of the second meeting in December? Hearing none, the Chair would entertain a motion.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner Dickerson and **carried 4-3** to cancel the second Board of Commissioners meeting in December. (Ayes: Commissioners Dickerson, Holt, Rose, and Yarbrough. Nays: Commissioners Hall, Jefferies, and McVey.)

### **2023 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:**

County Manager Miller said before we move on, we also need to discuss the holiday schedule. Mr. Chairman these are the holidays observed by the State. We follow the State schedule. We just ask that you approve the holidays listed here. Chairman Hall asked how many total are

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there? County Manager Miller said there's 10 holidays that make up 13 total holiday dates. Chairman Hall asked if there were any question or comments about holiday schedule?

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

#### **APPROVAL OF RULES OF PROCEDURE:**

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, included in your agenda packets are the rules and procedure for the County Board of Commissioners. We have the County Attorney with us today as well as myself, and we're happy to answer your questions about the rules and procedure that you may have. If there are none, we ask that you approve the Caswell County Board of Commissioners Rules and Procedures. Chairman Hall asked did everyone have an opportunity or a chance to read the Rules and Procedures? Commissioner Yarbrough said I got a question Mr. Chairman. Mr. Miller, under the organization of the Board rule number four organizational meeting (a). Even-numbered Years, which this is one of those years. Just a question from my own lack of knowledge I guess. The last sentence in that reads: "As the fourth and fifth orders of business, the Board may appoint a Clerk and an Attorney." Do we do that at this meeting or is that something that we don't take action on or what? County Manager Miller said no. That's not something that's usually taken up. All three of us serve at the will of the Board. End of story. The Clerk's position is the clerk's position, and it states the Clerks position. The County Attorney's position is currently handled by contract, and that was done maybe three months ago or four months ago. County Attorney Ferrell said but to be clear and just to follow on what the Manager said, I serve at your pleasure. So tomorrow or today should you want to make a change, you're free to do that at your discretion. So we do obviously have to have a contract about certain things. I serve at your pleasure as the Manager said. Chairman Hall said just one observation. Earlier in one of our conversations we heard through our General Counsel that our Attorney, he is not an employee of the County. He's a contracted position, and that makes a difference with the Federal Standards Act and other rules and regulations as to how he is compensated.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner McVey and seconded by Commissioner Dickerson and **carried unanimously** to appoint Commissioner Hall as the delegate and Bryan Miller as the alternate. (Ayes: Commissioners Dickerson, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Holt, Rose, and Yarbrough)

#### **CASWELL FUND FOR HEATING ASSISTANCE:**

Chairman Hall said I think this is something that was left open from the last meeting. County Manager Miller said that's correct. Commissioners, at your last meeting you heard from the Caswell Parish well as our Caswell County Senior Center Director serving as President of the Caswell Fund. Last year between these two entities, there was \$46,000 appropriated to these funds to help Caswell County residents pay for heating assistance. So the issue is back for you this year as to what the Board, if any, wants to appropriate for any assistance for the residents of

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the county. I can tell you I am aware of several residents that have approached the Senior Center Director and asked. I know the Caswell Parish has already receiving requests for help with heating assistance. With an increase in price of heating oil, I do believe that there's a real need by the citizens of our county. As I said between the two entities, ten thousand dollars going to the Parish and thirty-six thousand dollars going to the Caswell County Senior Center Caswell Fund. We're happy to answer any questions you may have. We do have our Senior Center Director with us here today. She can answer any questions you may have.

Commissioner Dickerson said you're saying that the amounts were 36 and 10 that were given last time. County Manager Miller said that's correct. They received \$7,500 from Duke Energy, \$36,000 from the county, and \$9,500 on the Town of Milton for a total of \$53,000 for the Caswell Fund. Then there was ten thousand dollars given to the Caswell Parish. So all in all, they had sixty-three thousand dollars to help with heating oil. There was some in that that was also some utility assistance, rent assistance, and mortgage assistance. The issue that comes before you today is I think strictly dealing with heating, heating oil, and electricity for heating homes. Chairman Hall said so at the last meeting Mr. Manager, we discussed some dollars, but we didn't appropriate anything. County Manager Miller said that's correct. Chairman Hall said I can only hope at this point that our newer Commissioners had an opportunity to read the minutes so they will know what we discussed at the last meeting. Is there any further discussion on this issue? Is there a motion needed for action to be taken?

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, as was previously said in years past or last year the Board appropriated forty-six thousand dollars for this heating fund. If I'm not terribly mistaken, I believe the way that happened was you appropriated I think twenty thousand dollars initially, and then after that money ran out and they had not served everybody that they needed to serve, that money dissipated and there was an additional request for additional funding. I might suggest that if it pleases the Board, the Board move forward in that same vein and appropriate instead of thirty-six thousand dollars maybe twenty thousand dollars. See what the need is through that twenty thousand dollar appropriation, and if additional funds are needed then we can come back to the Board. Chairman Hall said is everybody clear on what the County Manager has suggested. Commissioner Rose asked is that money already in the budget and the County Manager said no. Commissioner Dickerson said Mr. Miller, regardless of what we decide to do today, I would suggest that this is an item that we need to put into the budget process. All that off budget approval of extra spending over and above what we have allocated in the budget, it's going to get this county in serious trouble with their taxes.

Chairman Hall asked if there was any further discussion. Commissioner Yarbrough said just for clarification. Is this in the packet that we have? Those funds are \$7,500 from Duke Energy, the \$36,000 from the county, and the \$9,500 from the Town of Milton, is that what was used last heating season or is that what's proposed to this heating season? County Manager Miller said no. That was used last year. We did not receive \$7,500 from Duke Energy this year, and we did not receive \$9,500 from the Town of Milton this year. So what you appropriate is all that the

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Caswell Fund is going to have to work with, and they will be working in conjunction with the Caswell Parish. We're not or I'm not recommending that you make two appropriations serving the same need. Let them all go through the same organization. Just letting the Caswell Fund work with the Caswell Parish to achieve that. Commissioner Yarbrough said now I know you said that we're could break it down and maybe do X dollars now and X dollars later if it's needed. Go back over what you're maybe recommending we spend or appropriate. \$20,000? County Manager Miller said well I think that's a good place to start I think. Maybe our Senior Center Director Jeannine Everidge, who receives the requests and received the requests last year, can speak to the need of the fund better than I can. I think there's a need out there. Twenty thousand dollars, I think that's a good place to start.

Commissioner Rose said one quick question. Do we know what happened to Duke Energy and the Town of Milton this time? County Manager Miller said the Town of Milton, they appropriated \$9,500, and that was to be spent for their residents. So that was just for their residents. Duke Energy, I don't think we received \$7,500; I think we received \$2,500. Jeannine Everidge said we received twenty-five hundred dollars two months ago from them. County Manager Miller said for heating. Has that been spent? Jeannine Everidge said we have \$1,000 left, and that will be gone shortly. Then the County Manager asked what do you think we need? Mrs. Everidge said I'll give you an example. One of my senior ladies, who came to me for fuel assistance, who lives alone and is currently battling cancer. She told me that she had gone to Thomas Oil, and it will cost her \$587 for just 100 gallons of fuel. She gets \$900 a month, and she still has to pay for food, electric bill, and whatever utilities she may have. She rents the home she lives in. It's an older home so it probably needs new windows and stuff. But the biggest issue at this point is how much the fuel has gone up for these individuals who are heating with fuel. So we would definitely look at last year. It was COVID funding so that's why we were able to use those funds to help. We help across the county because it was Caswell Fund. The Parish did the same thing. We had a cap of \$500, which we decided when we started working on this. If there was an exception, the committee would discuss what that exception was. Not all of those utilities and fuel bills were \$500, but some of them were. Like I said this this particular individual has already contacted Oil and it's \$587 just for 100 pounds. That will not get her through a month especially if it's a hard winter.

Commissioner Rose said when you say it's a cap of \$500, is that \$500 one time. Mrs. Everidge said yes sir. Commissioner Rose said for the whole year, and Mrs. Everidge said yes sir. Chairman Hall asked if there were any other questions for Mrs. Everidge? Then Chairman Hall said the floor is now open for actions to be taken.

A **motion** was made by Chairman Hall to start with a grant of at least twenty thousand dollars for the Caswell Heating Fund and did not receive a second and **motion failed**.

## **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS:**

Chairman Hall said now Mr. Manager the next thing we've got is board and commissions appointments. Did we not include that with the other appointments? County Manager Miller said this is for citizen boards. Chairman Hall said we have how many boards? We have two boards that are now open for appointments that we have to receive some information on. Could you name those for us. The County Manager said those are the Planning Board and Social Services Board. Chairman Hall said how many nominations do we have for the Planning Board? County Manager Miller said you had three applications received for the Planning Board. Those three applications are from Russell Johnston, Stephen Harrelson, Jr and Ron Richmond. You have two applications expiring, and those are for Russell Johnston and Ron Richmond. Commissioner McVey asked are we doing all of them at one time? Chairman Hall said how many positions, and County Manager Miller said two positions and three applications. Commissioner McVey said you have two on the Planning Board and one on Social Services. Are you going to vote on all or you're going to vote on all of the members at one time like we've done before? Chairman Hall said I'm going to try to get the Planning Board since we got three applicants and two vacancies. Commissioner Jefferies nominated Russell Johnston and Ron Richmond for the Planning Board and Commissioner Rose seconded that. Hearing no other nominations, the Chairman closed the floor for nominations.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Jefferies and seconded by Commissioner Rose and **carried unanimously** to appoint Russell Johnston and Ron Richmond to the Planning Board. (Ayes: Commissioners Dickerson, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Holt, Rose, and Yarbrough)

Chairman Hall said for the Social Services Board. Mr. Jefferies said I wanted to nominate Patricia Thompson, but I think that was an appointment by the State I believe. I'm not sure, but it keeps coming back on the Board. Nobody applies. Chairman Hall said I that's one of things the County Manager's going to check on. County Manager Miller said just as a point of procedure, let us let us look into that, and we'll bring this one back to you on your next agenda. I see you do have an application received by former Commissioner Owen for this position. So let it sure up the positions, and we'll bring this back to you on your agenda. Chairman Hall said okay, that sounds good. Now is there other position that we will be appointing in the future that we may not yet have applications for? County Manager Miller said yes there's several positions that we still need applications for. Chairman Hall said okay, we will handle that as we move forward.

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

The County Manager said Commissioners, I do want to just inform the Board that the Tree Lighting Ceremony that we had this past Friday night brought a lot of people to town and was very festive. I just like to thank the groups that worked on that. I know a lot of our Emergency Service folks did that or helped out with that. Our Fire Departments helped out a lot and North

Village Pharmacy helped out. So I just like to thank the different groups, and I know I'm probably forgetting one. But I'd like to thank the groups that helped out with that.

I'll just inform the Board too that the Christmas parade is rescheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup> at three o'clock. So that's a Sunday. The 18th at 3 o'clock, and we will have vehicles there for Board members to participate in parade. We will also have utility vehicles driving behind and handing out candy. I've invited staff from departments to be presented to hand out candy. They will walk behind utility vehicles. If you as Commissioners would prefer to walk and hand out candy rather than ride, that's fine. Just let us know and we will make those arrangements.

We have with us today, our Bond Counsel, Paul Jacobson. After the meeting today, Mr. Chairman we will be asking you to come down with us and finalize the USDA Final Financing for the Bartlett Yancey Senior High School. That financing has already been approved with the resolutions, and everything by the Board has been taken care of. So all we need now is to final signatures, and that's what our Bond Counsel is here today to help us with. So I did want to let the Board know that that's going to take place today. And members of the Board if you have a minute after the meeting, please speak to Mr. Jacobson. He does a tremendous job for the county in handling a lot of our financial endeavors. I think that's it. I'm happy to answer any questions that you as Board members might have, but that's all the updates that I have.

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Chairman Hall said I'm going to start to my right in case the Commissioners to my left haven't gotten their comments together if they want to make any. We do this every meeting so be prepared if you like, and anytime you can make comments at the end of the meeting.

**Commissioner Jefferies:** I don't have any comments, but we want to recognize Mrs. Gwynn, representative for Vaya Health. She will give a report. We went down to Henderson, North Carolina for a meeting, and the rest of the meeting have been virtual. A few things that maybe the Board don't know that Vaya is actually doing in Caswell County. I'm going to let Mrs. Gwynn come up and explain to the Board. She did an outstanding job at the meeting we went to. So I just want her to fill the Board in on what's going on.

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, I just wanted to say while Aisha makes her way to the podium, Aisha serves as our Assistant County Manager and Family Services Coordinator. So a little bit of a dual role there.

Aisha Gwynn said good morning Commissioners. I'll be very brief. We were in the meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup>, and Diane Moorefield, the Social Services Director, assisted us with data collection. One thing we wanted to bring to your attention is that Vaya Health is a local LME, and they'll be presenting to the Board I think in January. January 3<sup>rd</sup>, the very first meeting, but I want to let you know that 265 individuals in Caswell County accessed Mental Health Services through Vaya Health from April to June. Those are the only numbers we had, and that's without a hospital. In comparison, Chatham County at 224 individuals, and they have a community

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hospital. So even though our numbers may appear low in comparison to the others in the region, that is actually greater than the next largest community, Chatham County, that has a hospital. If you have any questions about Vaya Health, like I said they'll be here January 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you have any questions about the meeting myself or Commissioner Jefferies can answer that for you. Thank you.

Commissioner Jefferies said I just want to add something to it. Social Services have these Medicaid clients and when they come in with their providers, some of their providers don't want to change to Vaya. So she need to know who to use if not Vaya.

**Commissioner Dickerson:** Since I been on this Board, each year at budget time, we seem to be rushed and in a hurry when the budget is presented. I would like to have that process start earlier so we will have plenty of time to go through each item, and be able to make a determination of the expenditures under a non-pressure schedule. County Manager Miller said yes sir. We had planned to start the budget this year in March. So meetings should start soon thereafter.

**Commissioner Yarbrough:** I'll address my comments to my fellow Board members. I appreciate the opportunity that the citizens that have given me to serve in this role. I look forward to serving with each one of you. There are a lot of things I'm sure we will agree on, and there are some things I'm sure we won't agree on. So with that we'll just have to agree to disagree. I look forward to this, and if I could be of any assistance to any of you, don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

**Commissioner Rose:** I want to kind of go off of Commissioner Yarbrough's comments. I want to thank the citizens of District One who supported me through two races. One in the Primary and one in the General Election. I will do everything I can to see that the citizens best interest is looked after. I know I'm not going to always make the right decision, and I'm not going to make everybody happy. I'm learning nobody does. Jesus Christ couldn't make everybody happy; so I don't think I'm going to do that either. I do look forward to working with the Board and seeing how we can move this County in a positive direction. Thank you.

**Commissioner Holt:** I'm happy to be here. I appreciate everything. It's been a lot of help and a lot of nice people helping me out. I'm actually leaving here in a few minutes to go to Winston. I'm having surgery, and that's one of the reasons I was kind of glad we decided to skip the next meeting. I'm hoping to be back by the next meeting. They are saying I will be down for two months, but I'm hoping I will be able to make it. You all pray for me, and I'll be back to get started. I appreciate everything. Thank you.

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

- **December 18, 2022 Christmas Parade at 3 pm**
- **Christmas Break December 23, 26, & 27**
- **New Year's Day – January 2, 2023**
- **January 3, 2023 Commissioners Meeting at 6:30 pm**

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

A **motion** was made at 10:45 am by Commissioner Hall and **carried unanimously** to adjourn the meeting. (Ayes: Commissioner Dickerson, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Holt, Rose, and Yarbrough)

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Carla R. Smith  
Clerk to the Board

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Nathaniel Hall  
Chairman

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APPROVAL OF BONDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

Register of Deeds	\$ 25,000
Tax/Delinquent Tax Collector	\$ 75,000
Sheriff	\$ 25,000
Finance Officer	\$1,000,000

### **Board of Commissioners 2023 Meeting Dates**

Tuesday, January 3, 2023 (Holiday)  
Tuesday, January 17, 2023 (Holiday)  
Monday, February 6, 2023  
Monday, February 20, 2023  
Monday, March 6, 2023  
Monday, March 20, 2023  
Monday, April 3, 2023  
Monday, April 17, 2023  
Monday, May 1, 2023  
Monday, May 15, 2023  
Monday, June 5, 2023  
Monday, June 19, 2023  
Monday, July 3, 2023  
Monday, July 17, 2023  
Monday, August 7, 2023  
Monday, August 21, 2023  
Tuesday, September 5, 2023 (Holiday)  
Monday, September 18, 2023  
Monday, October 2, 2023  
Monday, October 16, 2023  
Monday, November 6, 2023  
Monday, November 20, 2023  
Monday, December 4, 2023  
Monday, December 18, 2023

**All meetings will begin at 6:30 pm.**

It is the public policy of North Carolina and of Caswell County that the hearings, deliberations, and actions of this Board and its committees be conducted openly. Except as otherwise provided in these dates and in accordance with applicable law, each official meeting of the Caswell County Board of Commissioners shall be open to the public and any person entitled to attend such a meeting.

## **2023 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

New Year's Day	Monday, January 2
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday	Monday, January 16
Good Friday	Friday, April 7
Memorial Day	Monday, May 29
Independence Day	Tuesday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 4
Veterans' Day	Friday, November 10
Thanksgiving	Thursday & Friday, November 23, 24
Christmas	Mon, Tues, & Wed. December 25, 26, 27
New Year's Day (2024)	Monday, January 1