

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

June 13, 2022
OTHERS PRESENT

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

Bryan Miller, County Manager
Carla R. Smith, Clerk to the Board
Jennifer Hammock, Finance Director
Melissa Miller, Deputy Finance Officer
Melissa Williamson, Deputy County Manager

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Caswell, North Carolina, met in a Budget Work Session on Monday, June 13, 2022 at 6:00 pm at the Gunn Memorial Library.

WELCOME:

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

BUDGET WORK SESSION:

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, we will begin on tab 5 of your Budget books where we left off at your last meeting. So Economic Development, I can tell you there is a typo. There is a number we missed in salaries. That number should be \$97, 969. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have. The County Manager said I will tell you there has been a lot of discussion about recruitment and new businesses. If that's the route the Board intends to take with Economic Development, we will probably have to increase the travel line at some point in time. It may be more appropriate to do that after the economic development job description is updated and after the strategic plan is updated. Commissioner Dickerson asked if we would need an additional increase after the \$4,000 already increased? The travel is recommended at \$10,000. Commissioner Dickerson said it was \$6,000. The County Manager said that was a year ago. Depending on the type of recruitment you want to do, you may be talking about substantial increases. That will be done by the Board as you go through the strategic plan. There are some indications as to what businesses the Board wants to try to recruit. Commissioner Dickerson said the salaries increased, can you tell us what transpired for all these salaries to increase. The County Manager said in 2019-2020 the facility was still being built, and we were still in the development phase. There wasn't quite as much required from a funding standpoint. In 2021-2022, you saw the facility become in full play and a lot had to be outfitted. Then the County Manager apologized because he was referring to the facility, but the question was about Economic Development. There was an additional position added with Economic Development. You can see the salaries in 2019-2020 were \$65,00. There were additional positions added in

June 13, 2022

subsequent years. That affects your FICA, Retirement, health insurance, and professional services. In 2021-2022 we have used creative EDC grant support and project development, Chumura Economics and Data Analytics, and IT support. County Manager Miller asked what other lines would you like to know about? Mr. Dickerson said he was still trying to wrap his mind around the increase in Professional Services from \$849 to \$17,000. Then the department request moved to \$20,000. The County Manager said here again in 2019-2020, the focus was on building Co-Square and getting Economic Development up and running. Economic Development was not using many of the Economic Development Services that we currently use at that point in time. Since then we picked up Chumura Economics, Creative EDC, and the computer department for IT support and laptops.

Then Commissioner Owen asked about fiscal year 2020-2021. The header says 2019-2020 and 2021-2022. The County Manager said that may be a typo. We will have to check that.

Hearing no other questions, we will move on to Economic Development/Co-Square Operations. So you will see 2021-2022 \$82,800 and the department request this year is \$60,000. The Manager Recommendation is \$65,000. Commissioner Dickerson asked could you elaborate on the first column, professional services. The County Manager said you are looking at Raleigh founding, which is an affiliate agreement, the Coworks app, and several professional trainers that have yet to be determined who we are going to use. As you can see that budget decreased by \$16,200.

We will move on to the Planning Department. Commissioner Massengill asked if the County Planner had only been using \$300 worth of gas. The County Manager said that is probably about right for the Planning Department. Commissioner Oestreicher asked about the training cost for the department. County Manager Miller said the travel line item is often used for travel and training. I have a note that I need to increase that line to \$500 like it was in 2021-2022., but he has \$250. There are a lot of classes through the School of Government that he may be able to take.

Then we moved on to Extension Services. Commissioner Oestreicher asked what are the contracted services here. It is my understanding we are losing a person out of this department. The County Manager said we are. We are losing the livestock agent in August. He is pursuing his Master's Degree in California, but I fully expect that position to be rehired. The County Manager made the correction. We lost the livestock agent and we have rehired for that position. We are losing the horticulture position that is going back to California to work on his Master's degree. We will need to replace that position.

Now we will move on to the Caswell Soil and Water district. Commissioner Oestreicher said they assisted over 250 landowners in Caswell County, what were they doing. The County Manager said Soil and Water do a lot of different things. They help with retention ponds and farm life. That can cover a whole canvas of things to improve the soil and water. They do a great job.

Now let's take a look at Major Governmental Funds/ Human Services. We will begin with Senior Services. Commissioner Oestreicher said salaries went up by 21%. Is that a new person or position? The County Manager said no that is not a new person for the Senior Center. The Senior Center is one of the departments that the personnel were really affected. The County Manager asked the Finance Director to check that number. There are seven people included in that number. Commissioner Massengill asked what was the Senior Center development and Senior Services programming. The County Manager said it is whatever programs they choose to put on. What the Senior Center Advisory Board recommends for the Senior Center participants. Commissioner Massengill said he was asking what the difference between development and programming is. County Manager Miller said we don't have any supplemental information, but he will make a note to find that out. Commissioner Oestreicher said it could be implementing something new like yoga. The County Manager said it could be. Commissioner Massengill said development went from \$3,420 to \$9,500 and programming from \$4,681 to \$9,500. Both of those doubled or tripled. That kind of stuck out and Mr. Massengill wanted to know why they both increased so much. Commissioner Owen said COVID stopped a lot of the programming in 2019-2020. Commissioner Hall asked about the funding sources for the Senior Center. The County Manager said there is about \$240,000 that comes through the center ops. \$189,000 home delivered and shelf stable meals is a grant received from the Piedmont Regional Triad. So we have revenue in that goes out in that same line. Chairman McVey asked about the discarded meals. This year we anticipate that it's going to cost us \$2,820. The County Manager said the grant simply requires that discard those meals. Melissa Williamson, Deputy County Manager said I know we do drive some of the seniors in to get those meals. Sometimes the seniors will say the day before that they are coming in to get the meal. On that day they do not show up, but the meals have already been ordered. Chairman Mcvey said there is absolutely nothing we can do with this food, and the County Manager said no it is not. Our grant requires that it be thrown away. Commissioner Owen said it could help so many other people. The County Manager said it could. The meals have to be disposed of because of the grant. They must go to the clientele in that age group that the grant is there to support. Commissioner Hall said he will follow up on that to see if there is any other way to deal with this.

Moving on to JCPC-Juvenile Crime Prevention. Commissioner Massengill asked if the salary numbers were correct, and the County Manager said we did double check those numbers today. They are correct in the book. Commissioner Oestreicher asked where does the funding come from? There is grant funding for this. A large oration comes from State grants, and there is maybe a 10% match.

Now moving on to Mental Health and Cardinal Innovations. Commissioner Oestreicher asked once again about funding. County Manager Miller said we fund Mental Health. We are required by the State to participate in our mental health activities. It's been \$97,000 for quite some time. It used to be \$140,000, but the Board decided to give \$55,000 a year to the Board of Education to fund a Social Worker position. It doesn't matter what activity we fund as long as it is funded

toward mental health. It can go to Cardinal, but this year it will be VAYA. We can give it to VAYA or we can send it to other entities that do mental health work to meet our requirements. Commissioner Oestreicher said what are the terms of the amount. The County Manager said it is a fixed amount. Commissioner Massengill asked how much of the money ends up in Caswell County? The mental health services provided by VAYA and Cardinal in the past do exceed \$97,000 a year in this county. How much did Cardinal do in the county versus what VAYA is saying they will do? The County Manager said he thinks that is why we got VAYA this year. We don't get to make the determination on how many hours per week they work. Commissioner Jefferies serves on the VAYA Board. The County Manager said he does get the feeling that VAYA is going to be much more involved than Cardinal has been in the past. But I will tell you there are certain instances when Cardinal was called, Cardinal came. They did a really good job at what they did. Cardinal didn't have a great presence. They are an entity and they subcontracted with the providers that came to do the services. Commissioner Owen said Cardinal did a lot of teaching for staff on mental health, suicide and things like that. The County Manager said they worked with staff as well as the community. Commissioner Hall said at one time they had an office in Guilford Mills. The County Manager said that may have been before his time, but that would fit well in the office space that we provide in Guilford Mills. Commissioner Massengill said they were or are in the Medical Center. County Manager Miller said they did have some of their behavior health services there leased through a subcontractor.

Moving on to cultural and recreational resources. Commissioner Massengill said one question I had was with the youth uniforms. Does Parks and Rec outfit all teams? The County Manager said yes, usually it's just t-shirts. A lot of that is paid through the registration fees. Commissioner Massengill said are we expecting fewer students because the numbers dropped? We had COVID, and nobody was participating. We came out of COVID, and we saw a very large decline in participation. This year they're actually seeing a huge increase in participation. We are thinking \$12,500 will be adequate. Here again you have revenue coming in and expenses going out. If we do have to make adjustments, they will be covered by revenues. Commissioner Dickerson asked what is M & R Facility? The County Manager said it was maintenance and repairs. There are a lot of M & R to be done from electrical to maintenance and plumbing. There is a lot of work to be done to make this the type of facility to attract young people and professionals. We want to make it more than baseball fields. It needs to appeal to not only kids, but adults also. There's some work that needs to be done to the swing sets and the batting cages. I have talked with the Parks and Rec Director about all these things. They did start working on some of these things last year. Commissioner Massengill asked is the increase in salaries due to a raise or are we expecting more games? Same thing with concessions. The County Manager said he thinks the umpires were set to receive an increase. Mr. Massengill said so it is not necessarily more games. Mr. Miller said no. There is one line that will need to be adjusted and that's FICA. We will adjust that to \$12,500.

If there are no other questions, we will move on to Farmer Lake. Commissioner Oestreicher asked about the supplemental documentation. On the goals and objectives, it states increased employee training, but there is no line item for training in the budget. The County Manager said he will take a look at what kind of training is needed. Commissioner Massengill asked how many full time employees are at Parks and rec? The County Manager said 3. Then Commissioner Massengill asked if they still had part time employees, and the County Manager said yes. Commissioner Hall asked how many full time and part time employees are at Farmer Lake? Finance Director, Jennifer Hammock said one full time and 2 part time. The County Manager said there is only one employee there at a time. Commissioner Hall said the full time employee is the Lake Warden. The County Manager said he is there Sunday and Wednesday through Saturday. The County Manager said his part time staff is retirees and he is usually able to get them as he needs to. The way the part time money works is that the money is available. The number of positions can vary. It depends on when they work rather than the number of positions. Occasionally when he loses one person it is difficult to find another person that is able to do that job. Commissioner Massengill asked what is included in capital outlay. Mr. Miller said it's a building to house the boat that was approved in last year's budget. This is so the boat doesn't get damaged by the weather.

Moving on to Public Education, if there are no more questions on Farmer Lake.

The County Manager said I should have probably explained this at the beginning of the meeting. Just because there are no objects, doesn't mean there won't be any objections later on to some parts of the budget. This is just an introduction to the budget. We are just going through the budget. The next thing I'm going to ask you to do is let me know which department heads you'd like to see in front of you. You can select just a few or request that all department heads come. I will do whichever you want. We will need to do that at a day meeting though so we won't rack up a lot of overtime, comp time and flex time doing that. Then there will be one last budget session where we go through the entire budget. At that point in time the Board will decide what the final budget will look like. You can certainly discuss these items now, and you should.

So public schools, you can see their request went up \$630,000. Piedmont Community College's request decreased almost \$100,000. Commissioner Dickerson asked why is that? PCC wants to decrease their request and the other that got so much COVID funding from the government is actually asking for more money. The County Manager said what I can tell you is that PCC has always been very good about asking specifically for what they needed. If they needed a parking lot paved this year, they are going to ask for that parking lot to be paved. You don't see that money come back in the next year's budget. Commissioner Dickerson asked for elaborate on the two things that increased. The County Manager said I can talk to you about my recommendations. They recommended a 17% increase, but my recommendation is less. I think we can all agree that inflation over the last 2 years has been around 8.3%. One of the Commissioners said 8.5%. I'm not sure the county needs to cover all that inflationary cost. So

the manager's recommendation is 3.5% in both places. I have heard the Board say give the Board of Education the money and let them do with it what they see fit to do with it. Inflation is the reason I increased it like I did. If the Board agrees to give the Board of Education more than the \$2.6 million that you put that in another line. Discretionary funds or something along those lines because to some degree you are required to fund the Board of Education at the same level as you did the year before in your current expense. That will give the Board of Commissioners some flexibility moving forward on how they decide. Commissioner Jefferies said you said you added 3.5%, and the County Manager said that is correct. The County Manager said I would recommend that you stay at \$2.6 million for current expense and add \$91 thousand in a discretionary fund. For Capital Outlay last year was \$465,000 and I would recommend \$481,000 this year. Commissioner Dickerson said I want to read something. You may or may not have seen it. With all the school shootings going on, Senator Thom Tillis has done the Safe Schools Act bill. If it passes it will allow school to protect themselves and push for better security options such as panic buttons, individual ring security system, video surveillance, which is something the high school is lacking. There are no cameras in either facilities or classrooms. Commissioner Dickerson said when he toured that school that was the first time he was made aware of that. The School Board member that took me on that tour pointed out that there were no cameras in the classrooms. Commissioner Dickerson said he had a real problem with that. I was on Zoom for the Board of Education Joint Meeting, and my signal dropped. I want to see this addressed. I was told that we don't have the authority to put the cameras in the classrooms because that is a School Board decision. We supplied \$3.1 million last year and you are recommending a 3.5% increase. We need to earmark the money in their budget to get those cameras put in. We need to find out what we need to do to be able to earmark the money. This bill is going to let them free up all the COVID money that is left over. According to a report from the U.S. Department of Education, North Carolina Department of Education has only spent \$1.7 billion of the \$5.6 billion of the funds awarded under the ESSER fund. That report also shares an extra line that 1.89 billion of the money under ESSER funds with the State education agencies has yet to be spent. They have money to pay for another SRO and when the ESSER money runs out, we can come up with some kind of way to help the school system pay for it. I want to seriously talk about SROs and cameras being put in schools. Whoever we have to get to come talk with us about this, that is what I would like to see happen.

The County Manager said I think the appropriate people to entertain those discussions is the Board of Education. I will say in some of the discussions that have been happening recently, it does look like it's going to be funding coming out of the Federal Government for School Resource Officers. I think they had a different terminology for it. They called it protection something, but basically it means school resource officers. So I do think there will be some funding available through the Federal Government. It will probably flow through the school systems and then to the entities that provides the SROs. We have one at the high school, one at the middle school, and one split between the elementary schools. I would like to see at least one

more added to be able to rotate. It is a whole lot harder to pattern two people than it is to know where any one officer is. Commissioner Hall said we don't have any power over the School Board except persuasion. The School Board has received over a million dollars in fine and forfeitures a year. They get that directly. They chose not to spend it on camera. They also told us last week how much they have in fund balance. The County Manager said it is over \$2 million. They choose not to spend that. All we can do as vote individually for School Board members that will be a little more proactive and a little more creative on how they spend their money. Commissioner Dickerson said I agree we can't tell them how to spend their money. Some of that \$3.1 million we are giving the schools should be for cameras in the schools. We can't force them to do anything, but we control that money coming from here. We can only appropriate "X" number of dollars to the School System. We cannot earmark the dollars. It can be current expense and capital outlay. The County Manager said I don't know that you can earmark the money, but what you can do is appropriate it in a line item budget. As you appropriate it in a line item budget, you can place fund in those lines. I believe that to be true. Commissioner Dickerson asked the County Manager to research that.

Commissioner Massengill said to the County Manager that the fire department toured the school 3 different times so they would have the knowledge of what it looked like and how it was. I was under the impression until the other night that there was going to be cameras in the building. We discussed with the Sheriff and Assistant Superintendent, Andrew Tyrrell, how we would use those cameras. In case there was an intruder or a fire in say the chemistry lab. We went so far as to discuss the ability of the school to send a video from those cameras to 911. Then they would be able to tell the Sheriff office or Fire Department if there was a fire in the chemistry lab in the right back corner. I was under the impression until the other night that there was going to be cameras, and I was surprised to hear that there wasn't. Commissioners Owen talked about the importance of cameras outside the building. Those are crucial to capture the intruder before he enters the building. Commissioner Massengill said but cameras in the building will let the Sheriff's Office know what room the intruder is in so that others are clear to go. They won't have to clear the building by individual rooms. Commissioner Owen said the outside cameras may help us stop him before he gets to a classroom. Commissioner Massengill said the Sheriff's Office is having a hard time recruiting officers, let alone SROs. My question is when was the decision made not to have cameras. Mr. Tyrrell was the one who told us and led us on the tours. The County Manager said the Commissioners and the Board of Education entered into a MOA, Memorandum of Agreement. In the MOA the Commissioners was responsible for funding and the Board of Education was responsible for design and outfit. So the design discussions, we have not been a part of. Here again these are great questions for the Board of Education. They will be able to answer your questions.

Alright if there are no more questions, we will move on to Debt Services.

Commissioner Massengill said one other thing with PCC. They had a big project last year, and they didn't do a big project through capital outlay this year. So they are a good manager of their funds. Commissioner Dickerson said it shows. Commissioner Hall said I would like to see us move funding to per ADM, Average Daily Membership or attendance. In the meeting last week one of the Board members told us school population had dropped. Enrollment is down from 6,000 to 3,000. If we go by the ADM, there is no way we can fund them the same amount that we did the year before. Commissioner Massengill said don't they have to give some of that money to other counties. If a student goes to school in another district, you have to give "X" number of dollars. Commissioner Massengill said it was about \$225,000 last year. Commissioner Hall said yes, but we don't fund that. The school system gives that to them. They keep asking for the same amount or more, so where is that money going. Commissioner Massengill said if they have 1 or 100 students, they have the same number of administrators and services. If the population drops by half, we could possibly drop funding too. There is probably a way to figure it. Commissioner Hall said they could cut an assistant principal or something. Commissioner Massengill said we don't want to hold the kids' hostage. The kids are the ones who may suffer more so than they already are. Commissioner Hall said 77% of them can't read or do arithmetic. According to tests, they are not learning. The County Manager said Commissioners, we are happy to look at the funding scenarios for local school systems. I will look at line item budgeting, ADM, and how we can properly do that. There will be some findings and facts by the Board of Commissioners based on the numbers. I'm happy to do that before the budget discussion. Commissioner Dickerson said I think some of the comments are out of context. Better security and better results is what we all want. Everyone wants us to write one check, but want an increasing amount even though there is a decreasing student population and inadequate security.

Moving on to Debt Services. Commissioner Oestreicher said the up fitting is in the Sheriff's budget. The County Manager said that is correct. The Board asked about receiving the vehicles. The County Manager said it is no better than in years past. When you order these vehicles through the State contract it takes time. Commissioner Dickerson asked how many vehicles have been approved in prior years. How many vehicles have been added? The County Manager said the vehicles that have been added are always replacing vehicles that are going out of service. I don't know of any new vehicles that have been added. There are vehicles replacing vehicles. How many were replaced in the last two years? The County Manager said he will get that information for him. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the prices changed. County Manager Miller said it changes year by year according to the State contract pricing for Local Governments. The State pricing changes in this upcoming fiscal year, 2023. Whatever the State contracting price is, that's what we will see. From what Enterprise saw in the market for State pricing. Obviously there is no State contract so we don't know what that price is. Based on their experience, we build in additional money to help cover the increases.

Then The County Manager moved on to transfer to other funds. The other funds are Court Facility funds, DSS, Public Health, Family Services, Reval fund, Library fund, Fire Rescue Operations, LEO Special Separations, and transfers from School Article 40 and 42 sales tax. Are there any questions on these? Commissioner Oestreicher said for example DSS, is that the same concept of what's in the county profits? The County Manager said no. This is county money strictly going into the DSS budget. DSS has about a \$12 million dollar overall budget. This is the county portion of that DSS funding that's required. In some cases, it's required to draw down those State allotments. I'll just point out that this is the third year in a row that the Health Department has decreased their funding request.

Then the Board moved on to Tab 11, Special Appropriations. This includes the Arts Council, Caswell Parrish, Caswell Partnership for Children, Cooperative Forestry Services, Animal Shelter Services, Thomas Day House and Union Tavern, Local Foods Council, Horticulture Club, and Caswell Historical Association. Commissioner Dickerson asked the County Manager to give the high points. The Caswell Parrish request increased 50% and the Historical Association's request increased 100%. The County Manager said you can see my recommendation for those are different. My recommendation for the Historical Association from county appropriations is exactly what they received last year. APS or the Animal Shelter requested \$10,000 more, but my recommendation is \$5,000 more. The Caswell Parrish requested \$5,000 more, and my recommended \$2,500. A lot of these organizations like the Caswell Parrish and the Animal Shelter, they are not immune to the same inflationary pressures that we've been talking about. They do good work for the county, and in many cases contractual work. If the Animal Shelter did not provide those types of services to the county, we would have to leave that as a county department. I'm very grateful that APS handles that. Melissa Williamson said during the Pandemic, the Parrish saw an increase. CATS saw an increase on their end picking up people to go to the Parrish. The County Manager said there was a lot of food insecurity, and I know the Caswell Parrish helped a lot of folks stay in their homes and apartments through these times. Maybe they didn't have the money to make the payments that they needed to make. They also helped a lot of people with basic electric needs.

Commissioner Hall asked if the Towns of Yanceyville and Milton contributed to APS. The County Manager said he was not sure, but he will find out.

The County Manager said Commissioners that concludes the General fund budget. Moving forward I think you have had a chance to come up with some questions or additional things you need explained. I know that you needed a little more time to get through the departments. If you could give me those names so we can get the directors from those departments to come in or you can have them all come in.

Commissioner Massengill said he had a question. The Health Department requested two positions. The County Manager said we will go over the positions and capital outlay a little bit at another meeting. I'm happy to answer questions. Commissioner Massengill said I thought during

the presentation on the salary increase, part of the monies that we got from Home Health would be contributed to that. The County Manager said this is the third year in a row that they have decreased their appropriations. So if you look at the decrease in their request, it is about \$150,000. Commissioner Massengill said we will look later.

Commissioner Hall said if we reserve some way special for the money we received from the sale of Home Health. The County Manager said much of that money went into the Health Department's fund balance. The County kept the funding that was needed to pay the lawyers and transaction fees. We kept the money for that and the rest went into their fund balance. Jennifer could tell you more.

The County Manager said are there departments that you know that you want to see or do you want all departments? If you could email myself or Carla, we can make sure that those folks are present. I would recommend that that meeting be in the morning so department heads can be there and Commissioner Dickerson will be able to attend.

Commissioner Massengill said did I see that you set the Public Hearing for June 20th? That is an evening meeting. Commissioner Massengill said if the Public Hearing is on the 20th we only have 4 days. The County Manager said you will have the Public Hearing on the 20th, but it doesn't mean the work is resolved. Commissioner Owen said the budget has to be passed by the 30th. June 20th is the next scheduled Commissioner Meeting at 6:30 pm. Commissioner Massengill said we can take into consideration the comments from the Public Hearing and decide on the meeting with the Department Heads. County Manager Miller said you can do this however you want to. We do need to have a public hearing. You can pass the budget immediately after the public hearing, you can have another budget meeting later on, or you can have a special meeting to pass the budget. I would recommend that the Board meet with Department heads at your next meeting. After your next meeting where you get clarification from the Department heads, you have another meeting after that to decide on positions, capital outlay, and any other line items that you want to change. You can bring those lines up rather than going through the entire budget again. The Board can come to a consensus on the budget. Commissioner Massengill said so how many meetings you talking about? The County Manager said we are talking about two additional meetings and possibly before you make some determination. The County Manager recommended a Special meeting be on the 27th to adopt the budget. After some discussion the Board agreed on the following dates and times:

June 22, 2022 at 8 am-At this meeting the Department Heads could be present.

Then you need a meeting to hash through the budget. If you want to do all of that on the 22nd making it a whole day event, then we can do that too. Commissioner Dickerson said he would rather do morning or evening. He has to be able to do his job as well.

June 27, 2022 at 8 am-At this meeting they will come to a consensus on the budget.

The meeting on the 27th will be the most intensive budget meeting. The Special meeting you can have on the 28th, 29th, or 30th. Or you could finish up on the 27th and say this is the way it is and pass the budget on the 27th.

June 29, 2022 at 8 am –Tentative meeting to pass the budget if not done on the 27th.

That concluded the Budget Work session, but Bryan Miller had one other item to discuss with the Commissioners. Melissa Williamson has been working hard on looking at charging stations. She has done a lot of research on charging stations for electric vehicles. There are grants available that will help with the costs, but they won't cover the entire costs. We'd like for the Board to have a quick discussion on whether or not you want us to include these charging stations in the budget. A packet of information was shared with the Commissioners about the charging stations.

Melissa Williamson said this is through the Volkswagen settlement and its being done by the Department of Environmental Quality. Caswell County is eligible to submit an application under Level 2 Public Access Program. \$1 million in Volkswagen funds are allocated to the Level 2 Public Access Program to install publicly accessible Level 2 electric vehicle infrastructure. The funds will be available on a first-come first-served basis, and they are there until they're exhausted. The funds have been out there since April or May. There were still funds available when I checked last week. If you look on the next page where it shows the funding levels, Level 2 Public Access is on government-owned property, and it will pay 100% or up to \$5,000 per charging port. We will be doing a single charging station with 2 ports. So we will get up to \$10,000 since there are 2 ports on the station. The breakdown of costs is on the next page. The "Make Ready Work" is one of the largest expenses because this includes running the wires to the electrical box. That determines how far you can go from the electrical box. That's kind of the cost that you can get into if you're going through pavement versus going through the ground. The cost will include a 5-year warranty, which is required, that will cover maintenance and repairs. 5 years is the life expectancy of these chargers. The project could cost between 20,000 - \$27,000. Keep in mind there is \$10,000 that we can recoup to pay for this. Then it includes some examples of charging stations. The next page says What does this mean for Caswell County? The DEQ grant will only cover up \$5,000 per port, and we anticipate putting two ports into that single charging station. That will cover up to \$10,000 of the cost. It could lead to the county incurring additional cost anywhere from \$15,000 to \$17,247. This depends on where we put them and how much the cost is for the make ready work that we need to be done. This could attract consumers in our county to go into our local businesses while charging their vehicles. Caswell would be added to an app that users use to find charging stations on their routes. It could bring them through our county and they could spend dollars here while charging their vehicles. Then I've attached some pictures of three different possible sites for the charging station. One is on the square because the electrical box is there. We may not want to put something like that on our square, so adjacent to the square or right across from it you see the second picture. That

June 13, 2022

could be right across from the Courthouse on the far end. You also have CoSquare, and you could put it in that area. Just keep in mind wherever we put it, it needs to be close to the electrical box. The further from the electrical source or the more work needed will affect how much it cost. I just needed to know if this is something the Board wants to pursue. This is a grant, and when the funds are gone, they're gone. If this is something the Board agrees that this is something they want to pursue I will go ahead with the application work.

Commissioner Owen said how much does it cost to charge? Mrs. Williamson said it will cost \$0.60-\$0.70 per hour, and it can cost a little over \$7 to charge overnight according to the vendors. Then Commissioner Owen asked who pays that? Melissa Williamson said that is one of the things we have not talked about. The first year since we don't know how much they will be used, do we offer the service free of charge. After that maybe look at a policy fee, and they are able to help us with that if we decided to do something like that. You are replacing gas with electricity so they are expecting to pay to use this for their vehicle. It could be a slow start so do we offer it free or have a fee policy in place to get the costs. Then Commissioner Massengill asked how long does these chargers take to fully charge a vehicle. Mrs. Williamson said I do not know, but this will not be a super charger. The County Manager said the idea is to have people here for 35-40 minutes so they have time to walk to the Mercantile, a local food store, around the square, or maybe visit CoSquare. Whatever to keep them here for a while. Melissa Williamson said she didn't know how much we could get out of this. It will help to offset some of the cost by grants. We will have to put a policy in place to charge fees for charging the vehicles. Mrs. Williamson is not sure how much revenue the county would see from it. The County Manager said I don't think it will create a new revenue stream for the county. If we make any money, it will be minimal at best. It will be recouping what we are charged for electricity. I think the value that we'll see is drawing new people into our downtown area and having them participate in what we have available. Commissioner Oestreicher said what happens if we say it's free and someone parks their car there all day? Melissa Williamson said they said charging all night would equal about \$7, but per hour it ranges from \$0.60 to \$0.70. We will have two ports so two cars could charge at the same time. Commissioner Massengill said we need to do something like this, but maybe not like the pictures. We don't want to take up more spaces in the square because we have to have handicapped spaces. At the corner, there is a fire hydrant. Commissioner Hall said it may be a while before we get a substantial number of electric vehicles. It will also encourage our citizens to get electric vehicles. The way gas is going up now, Commissioner Hall said if he has to buy something it won't be a gas vehicle. The County Manager said it also allows us in the county to invest in electric vehicles and do away with a lot of the expenses we have with gas. The gentleman I spoke with rode 300 miles and it cost him \$10. I filled up my little whit focus and it cost me \$55 for close to 300 miles. There is a \$40 difference. Melissa Williamson said I have 2 vendors ready to come out and look at the area where we want to place the charger. Then we can get a better price. They are coming out a great distance so we need to know the exact location. They gave us estimates from the pictures I sent them. The County Manager said if you

have additional locations you think we should consider, if you decide to do this, please let Melissa or myself know. Mrs. Williamson said really at this point I just need to know if this is something the Board wants to pursue this. Consensus from the Board received so they will move forward with the grant application. (6-1 with Hall, Jefferies, Massengill, Oestreicher, Owen and McVey voting yes and Dickerson voting No)

The Public Hearing will be June 20, 2022 at 6:30 pm. We have a Budget meeting on June 22 at 8 am, June 27, 2022 at 8 am, and June 29 unless we pass the budget on June 27.

RECESS / ADJOURNMENT:

The Chairman recessed the budget meeting until June 22, 2022 at 8 am at CoSquare.

Carla R. Smith
Clerk to the Board

Rick McVey
Chairman

Electric Charging Station



DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality)

- **Caswell County is eligible to submit an application under Level 2 Public Access Program. \$1 million in Volkswagen funds are allocated to the Level 2 Public Access Program to install publicly accessible Level 2 electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The funds will be available on a first come first serve bases until funds are exhausted.**

Funding Levels – Level 2 Public Access

Funding Levels - Level 2 Public Access				
Project Type	Accessible to General Public	Maximum Rebate per Charging Port	Or (whichever is less)	Maximum % of Total Project Costs*
Government-Owned Property	Yes	\$5,000	or	100%
Non-Government-Owned Property	Yes	\$4,000	or	80%

Breakdown of Cost

- The “Make Ready Work” is one of the largest expenses. (this includes running the wires to the electrical box & the area the charging station will be located for example if you have to go through pavement this can cost more than going through the ground).
- The Cost will include a 5 year warranty, which is required, that will cover maintenance and repair cost.
- The project could cost between \$20,000.00 - \$27,000.00.

Example of Charging Station



What Does This Mean for Caswell County

- The DEQ grant will only cover up to \$5,000.00 per port and we plan to have two ports in the single charging station. The maximum amount the grant will cover is up to \$10,000.00 for two charging ports. The county would have to incur the additional cost which could be anywhere from \$15,000.00 to \$17,247.00 (depending on how much the cost will be for the “make ready work”).
- This could attract new consumers in our county to go into our local businesses while charging their vehicle.
- Caswell will be added to an app that users use to find charging stations on their routes.

Possible Sites for the Charging Station



