

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

**November 7, 2022**  
**OTHERS PRESENT**

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Rick McVey, Chairman  
David Owen, Vice Chairman  
John Dickerson  
Nathaniel Hall  
Jeremiah Jefferies  
H. Vernon Massengill  
Steve Oestreicher  
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Bryan Miller, County Manager  
Melissa Williamson, Deputy County Manager  
Carla Smith, Clerk to the Board  
Brian Ferrell, County Attorney (Joined Remote)

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Caswell, North Carolina, met in regular session on Monday, November 7, 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 COMMENTS:**

Chairman McVey stated that there was one public comment received by email from Elin Claggett and I trust that the Board has had time to review it. The emailed public comment follows:

**John Claggett** of 108 Jaye Lane, Providence, NC.  
**I would like this statement recorded verbatim.**

October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, I came before this Board and publicly asked what happened to the county-wide Code Red emergency alerts. That public question is part of your contents of your public agenda today. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 having not received any response from the county, I emailed the clerk to the board and copied you board members. I once again inquired about my public question concerning the status of the county-wide Code Red emergency alerts, and to date have received nothing. A year ago I was assured by the county manager that the practice of sending these alerts had not been abandoned. So today, November 7, 2022, I have two public questions for this board. One: why are the questions from the public opinion being ignored by this board? And two: what happened to the well-working county-wide Code Red emergency alerts that were once provided by Caswell County Emergency Management.

**Ed Dougherty:** I live at 2685 Ridgeville Road in Prospect Hill.  
Just the fact that I'm here this morning speaks to the very important right of the citizens to be recognized and heard by their elected and appointed officials. The reason that I'm here is to shed

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light on what can be seen as an effort to silence the citizens of this County and to deprive us of our free speech rights to be heard.

I'm one of 59 citizens that filed an appeal to the storm water and watershed permits that the county issued on January 5<sup>th</sup> of 2021. We followed all procedures, submitted our appeals in a timely and proper manner, and in good faith. The hearing of those appeals, which should have technically occurred within 90 days, has now been delayed for nearly a year and a half. The primary excuse for that delay was a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation, also known as a SLAPP suit, against the very citizens that you gentlemen represent.

That lawsuit was dismissed this past August. This should allow our appeals to proceed at last, but instead and for some unforeseen reason, the county through the Watershed Review Board has decided to entertain a motion to dismiss our hearings before they can be heard. All parties were given until 10/28 to respond to that motion, and through our attorney, we have filed a very thorough response citing plenty of law case to why we should be heard. It's important.

The most distressing issue, what brings me here this morning, is the fact that Caswell County through your representative attorney, filed the motion in support to dismiss our appeals unheard and without first even seeing our response to the county. The only thing they cited, the County's attorney has cited was the motion submitted by Carolina Sunrock. Now the county had three options at this point. They could file in support of that motion, they could file against that motion, or the proper thing to have done would have been abstained from that. That would have been the proper and impartial thing to do.

Regardless of whether he acted independently or at your direction, he speaks for you. He speaks for this County. To rob the county or to have the county support the motion to proceed us, it's not only highly prejudicial, but it comes off as an effort to silence the citizens. It's prejudicial to the process. It robs us of our right to be heard, and again it comes across as an attempt to silence the citizens. That's flat out wrong! It's undemocratic. It's unfair, and it's un-American! After what we've endured this past year and a half, we deserve at the very minimum to be heard, to have our rights upheld, and have our appeals finally heard at last.

### **RECOGNITIONS:**

There were no recognitions.

### **AGENDA:**

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

Commissioner Owen said I need to add close session to the agenda. Item number 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged.

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

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## **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. October 3, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. October 10, 2022 Joint Meeting Minutes
- c. FY 2022-2023 Budget Amendment # 4

Commissioner Massengill asked could I ask the County Manager to explain the budget amendment. The County Manager said the \$20,000 you see in your budget amendment is the money this Board appropriated at your last meeting to Paul Robinson and Alice Robinson to their 501-3C to help with the feeding programs. The \$14,000 you see for Solid Waste are roll over funds that were appropriated in the last fiscal year. Because of non-delivery of the vehicle that was ordered during that fiscal year, the money to outfit the vehicle needed to be rolled over to this fiscal year to outfit the new vehicle.

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

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **MUNIS UPDATE:**

Jennifer Hammock, Finance Director said good morning, Commissioners. Thank you all for this opportunity to speak to you this morning. I wanted to give you some updates concerning Munis. Of course, Munis is the financial accounting software that we converted to in November of 2020 and five months prior to me becoming Finance Director. As many of you are aware, there were numerous errors that occurred during the conversion process, such as our AP vendors not being set up for EFT payments, beginning balances loaded into Munis for July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 were not correct, all the transactions from July, August, September, and October of 2020 were not entered into Munis, our fixed assets were not loaded into Munis as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, and probably the biggest issue we had was that our chart of accounts from our old ACS software program was not converted correctly into Munis in July of 2020. Because of some issues with that, there were some consolidations that were made and some things that were rerouted incorrectly. These are just a few of the difficulties that we've encountered along the way. We are still in the process of fixing some of these problems, but I am very happy to report that many of these issues that occurred during the conversion have been corrected. And we are very close to having all of these issues resolved. We believe that we are very close to being able to provide accurate information to our auditing firm in order to complete our 2021 audit. However aside from the conversion problems that we've encountered, we are now experiencing multiple issues that seem to relate more to the software itself rather than the conversion. These include support tickets going unresolved for 50 plus days. What I mean by that is, I'm not saying that we are being ignored by Tyler support, they have just not been able to find a resolution to the problem that we're having

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specifically. That issue is entering our miscellaneous receipts from our deposits that are made. They're not being able to enter those into Munis. What happens with that is our departments make daily deposits, according to the statute that we must follow which states that cash and checks must be deposited daily. So we are making those deposits. Each department makes their own deposits, and those are happening. What is not happening is being able to enter those transactions into the software. So we're not able right now to upload any documentation or attachments. We're getting error messages, and this has been going on for almost 50 days now. We have escalated the ticket many times. I have probably had, between myself and Munis software support, over 100 emails at this point. Since it's been going on they've tried several fixes, but as of right now, we're still not able to enter these receipts. So what we are having to do in order to try to make sure that everything is entered, we are doing journal entries into the system in order to get these transactions to show up in our balances. When we do these journal entries, we are using the receipts that the departments provide us as documentation, and we upload those attachments. It's not an ideal situation, but it does balance the books. It helps us to know where we are until we can get this resolved. So that's one of the biggest issues that we're having right now.

During the months of September and October of this year, there were more than 20 tickets opened with Tyler support just by the finance department alone not including any other departments out there. Some other issues that we have, that seem to be recurring issues either on a weekly or monthly basis, are invoice entry being down and not being able to access that screen, requisitions down, purchase orders down, account central, and vendor central down. Most of the time these particular issues are system-wide, but periodically we have found that sometimes they're just county-wide or throughout our departments. These are just some of the problems that we've encountered recently with their finance software. We've also encountered multiple problems with the payroll software as well, but currently I am happy to report there are no outstanding tickets on the payroll side. Just to make you aware we are holding an invoice from Tyler Technologies in the amount of ninety-four thousand dollars until we can get some type of resolution to this 50-day ticket. So we have been in contact with Munis Software Support to discuss how we need to proceed from there. We're happy to answer any questions that you have. We wanted to make you aware of what was going on and some of the issues that we were having that are affecting the finance department, but not just us. It's affecting all departments.

Commissioner Hall said Mr. Chairman I have several questions. So you said the conversion issues that we had back a year or so ago, we've gotten them corrected? Jennifer Hammock said for the most part, yes sir. Commissioner Hall asked what is outstanding? Mrs. Hammock said we are still trying to finalize the 2021 numbers, the converted amounts and the ending balances in July of 2020, to get those proper amounts over into Munis. So we're in the final stages of that now. That's the main thing that we're working on. The chart of accounts, we are still working out a few kinks with those. We're making sure that everything is routed where it's supposed to go, but we are on the tail end of that as well. Commissioner Hall said okay. I'll have to hop around

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some, but those comments means to me that we are likely to have some 2022-2023 importing issues, if we haven't gotten 2021 finalized. Jennifer Hammock said it's a possibility. Then Commissioner Hall said you say we've got software issues. These tickets, I guess those are requests for help from the vendor? Jennifer Hammock said yes. Commissioner Hall said we've got some that's plus 50 days outstanding? Jennifer Hammock said we have one. We have several that are open, but they've only been open for a few days. Most of the time, the issues are resolved in a timely manner, but for some reason this one item has not. Tyler Support apparently, according to the emails that I've been receiving and contacts that I've made, don't know exactly what has happened and why our deposit receipts are not being able to be uploaded. They are trying to do several fixes. They have done, I think, three or four updates to try to fix it, and as of right now it's still not working. So they've got all hands on deck on that one. Commissioner Hall said so when you say things are being handled in a timely manner, what's timely? Jennifer Hammock said it depends on the situation. Commissioner Hall said on average. Mrs. Hammock said within 24 hours. Commissioner Hall said okay. Now, I'm going to try to get to all of my questions. The journal entries for deposits, departments make the deposits daily? Mrs. Hammock said yes. Commissioner Hall said they pass the information to Finance, and because we can't put it in the system, we have to do these manual journal entries to get them in our system. How do we know that we have them all? Jennifer Hammock said we have to make sure that when we receive our bank statements that we're checking everything off of the bank statement that's showing deposited, and make sure that that's inputted into Munis. So one, we double check with the Departments, and two, we double check with the bank statement. Commissioner Hall said okay. So we're only get the bank statement once a month. Mrs. Hammock said we can access the online banking system daily and pull transactions. Commissioner Hall then asked about the \$94,000 invoice being held. How much was the total cost of the software? The County Manager looked that information up. Commissioner Hall said somebody probably has a good idea of what we're paying for this.

Commissioner Massengill said while the County Manager is looking for that, can I ask a question? You said some of this was system wide? Jennifer Hammock said yes. Commissioner Massengill said system wide meaning everyone with Munis is having this problem? Mrs. Hammock said yes sir. Commissioner Massengill said how many places use Munis? Jennifer Hammock said there are right many counties, but I don't know an exact figure. I would say probably 25% of counties and municipalities. Commissioner Massengill said have you or anybody else asked any of the other counties, has this ever happened to you? Mrs. Hammock said yes sir. Commissioner Massengill said and the answer was? Jennifer Hammock said not with the deposit receipt situation, but with these other issues such as the certain screens being down, account central not being able to pull information, requisitions being down, and those things happen pretty regularly. Commissioner Massengill said pretty regularly for everybody? Mrs. Hammock said yes sir. Then Commissioner Massengill asked we're paying how much in maintenance and upkeep every month? Commissioner Massengill said you don't know that either? That's okay. Jennifer Hammock said I'm not sure, but that \$94,000 is an annual figure.

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Commissioner Massengill said well, I would suggest that we also renegotiate the maintenance with them. If they're not going to continue to support us in a timely manner, fix issues, and we're always having problems, that's not much of a maintenance agreement.

County Manager Bryan Miller said the total contract price was \$455,796, but that was for Finance, Payroll, and HR.

Commissioner Massengill asked are any of the others you said Finance, Payroll, and HR, is Payroll and HR having any issues? Jennifer Hammock said we have had some issues in Payroll with both the payroll side and Executime, the timekeeping systems, but those issues have been resolved. Currently we don't have anything ongoing with that. Commissioner Massengill said I'm assuming you've gone to the biggest dog you can find in the fight to save, and Mrs. Hammock said yes sir. County Manager Miller said we've escalated this up way past the sales team. So the error that they're receiving that's more than 50 days old is a run time error. Then The County Manager asked the Finance Director if that is correct. Jennifer Hammock said that is one of the errors that we received, but that's not the actual error that we're getting from miscellaneous receipts. It's a different error. I don't know that it has an actual name for this error. The County Manager said so these runtime errors that you are receiving periodically, the runtime is basically appropriate error. So somewhere within the programming of the system, there's an error, and that's what's concerning to me. When the programming isn't right, then the system is not going to work right. It's just runtime errors, but we shouldn't have runtime errors at this point. Jennifer Hammock said I feel like some of the other issues that we have encountered recently have probably been a direct result from the updates that have happened trying to fix the miscellaneous receipt entry. But of course those have been resolved quickly.

Commissioner Oestreicher said Mrs. Hammock you may have just answered my question. I guess the question is, was this thing ever working, and then has somehow degraded. Have these problems popped up, or has this just been something going on that you couldn't see because the elephant was much larger than the zebra? Mrs. Hammock said I think that's probably an accurate statement. I think at one time, I mean the miscellaneous receipt, we were not having any problems with that side of it up until 50 days ago. Then it just stopped just like that. But periodically they will do updates to Munis, to the software, Tyler Technologies, and I think but I'm not I.T by no means, but I feel like whatever the last update they did, it was shortly thereafter that we stopped being able to enter our receipts. So I'm wondering if that could have caused a bigger issue. Commissioner Oestreicher asked did they backed that update out? Jennifer Hammock said they say that they are trying everything to figure out what's going on. Commissioner Oestreicher said I assume this Board is probably making a future problem, but thank you for trying.

Commissioner Massengill said Jennifer, you said you're close to completion to get the 2021 audit done. Could you define close? Jennifer Hammock said I can't actually give a time frame, but we had a joint meeting with the CPA firm Friday. It was extremely progressive. We have a goal. We have some work that we need to do. Melissa and I are doing some work now. Once we get that

taken care of and get that to the CPA firm, they will be able to finish with our beginning balances that should have come from ACS over to Munis that didn't come over correctly. Once we get that information into ACS and then get it imported over into Munis, we should be good to go with the audit. Commissioner Massengill asked are any of these issues you're having today influencing that particular audit? Mrs. Hammock said as far as? Commissioner Massengill said as far as you being able to come up with the numbers you want. Jennifer Hammock said no, totally separate.

Commissioner Dickerson said I'm not an accountant, but I keep hearing it brought back up in all the questions going back and forth. In simple layman terms, what needs to be done to rectify this situation? What do you see as a light at the end of the tunnel? How that from the audit that's overdue to all the other issues, what is the significance? Jennifer Hammock said that is an excellent question, and I do not have all the answers at this time. But I feel like we are moving in the right direction. I think the biggest issue that we have had has been the conversion. The software conversion. I think that that has been the root of all of our problems as far as not being able to get the audit done. Once we get the 2021 audit behind us, everything that we're doing now we should be good. It should all flow. Up to this point, it hasn't flowed very well.

Then the County Manager asked Jennifer Hammock, can you talk a little bit about the test environment and then the environment that you are running now. And who's doing the test environment. Explain that to the Board. Jennifer Hammock said there are three different environments within Munis. There is a test environment, a train environment, and then a production. Currently we are working in production. That's where everybody in all departments with everything for 2022-2023 is being entered. It is in production. The train environment is designated for when people are new to the system and learning how to operate the system. The test environment is designed if you want to go in and test something that you're doing. Say you're going to do a budget amendment and to be sure it's going to post everything correctly to the right spot, you can go into the test environment and do a trial one first. It doesn't affect anything in production. The same thing for training. It's totally separate, but they can update test and train so that it does match what's in production. So currently our CPA firm is working in our test environment with 2021 because you cannot have more than two years open at one time in Munis. So right now we have the 2021-22 year open, and we have the 2022-23 year open in production. So in order to open 2022-23, 2021 had to be closed in production. We moved it to test, and that's where the CPAs are working from right now is from the test environment. So once they get all of their numbers in and make sure that everything is balanced, then we can update test environment, and the production environment will match the test environment. The numbers should be correct. County Manager Miller said so just to answer your question, Commissioner Dickerson. That's kind of how we're approaching it, and we're letting CPAs work in the test environment until their work is done. Then that's rolled over into the live production environment, and it becomes part of our actual system and our numbers. That's the way we're approaching it, and to try to get everything taken care of as far as the audit is concerned.

Commissioner Dickerson said in all of the work that's been taking place, is there any evidence of wrong doing that you know of? Jennifer Hammock said no sir.

Commissioner Hall asked have our I.T Department been involved in this process. Mrs. Hammock said yes sir, they have been. We've been working very closely with Jason and Zoe. Whenever we open tickets to Tyler Support, we send them copies so that they are aware that there's something going on in the system. Commissioner Hall said I mean the actual implementation and conversion. Were they involved? Mrs. Hammock said now that was before they were here. Commissioner Hall said we had an I.T. person then. County Manager Miller said Jennifer Hammock was not a part of that process. What I can tell you is David Norris, our I.T Director at that time, was very involved in that process. He actually went in and configured a lot of the chart of accounts and so on and so forth as he was directed to do so. Mr. Norris actually was very involved in the conversion. Commissioner Hall said so the chart of accounts problem that we had, I.T wasn't in on it or dealt with setting it up? County Manager Miller said yes I.T. was working with that.

Chairman McVey asked if there were any more questions, then thanked the Finance Director.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **FEEDING PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS AND CASWELL RESIDENTS:**

The County Manager said Commissioners, this item should have probably been under discussion items too. It probably shouldn't have been listed under action items, but it is so if you feel like it's necessary to take some action you can. It should have probably been under discussion.

Then Jeannine Everidge said good morning, Commissioners. For those of you who do not know me, I'm Jeannine Everidge, the Director of Caswell Senior Services. So I understand that there was a question asked during a recent Board of Commissioners meeting regarding monies that the Caswell Outreach Ministry had requested, and they also mentioned feeding seniors in their presentation. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson asked for additional funds to feed children, families, and senior adults in Caswell County. I believe the concern was how this affects or how this coincides with Meals on Wheels program. Caswell Meals on Wheels is providing a hot meal five days a week. We provide that to about 130 clients right now. We provide approximately 30 hot meals for our congregate clients at the Senior Center, and we also provide about 40 clients with frozen meals. Most of those clients receive the frozen meals because we cannot add them to a route or they just prefer to do it that way because they have a lot of doctor's appointments and it's easier for them to get the frozen meals. Outreach Ministries provides meals to some of the same individuals that we provide a Meals on Wheels meal for every day. Their meals are normally provided a couple of times a month dependent on the funds that they have available to them. Keep in mind that they are providing meals to children and families as well as senior adults, and we only provide for senior adults. Our grant stipulates that we can only do this for those who are 60 plus, and the special circumstances that are available such as a spouse that is living in the same household or an adult child who is on disability may receive those meals as well. Of course

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we have to have certain paperwork to provide that meal to them. I wanted to just mention Second Harvest as well. Second Harvest Food Bank of Providence has recently received funding from PTRC, Piedmont Triad Regional Council, for the western side of the county specifically in the area of Casville. We have 10 routes currently throughout Caswell County. One of those areas that we have been unable to set up a route is Casville. We have tried for I don't know 20 years now to get volunteers. Kaye Cobb, who lives and was born and raised in that area, has tried to help us. We need at least 15 volunteers that are devoted to that, and that's kind of the minimum number in order to be able to run a route in that area. Second Harvest provides a frozen meal once a week to residents in the Casville area, and Second Harvest has noted that the funding that they have received will probably be gone in a year and a half. At that time Caswell Senior Services plans to take over the Casville area and provide a route. I am currently working on a grant to hire a Meals on Wheels driver to help us with that route, as well as help us in times that we are short on volunteers to deliver. In recent months, we have had a shortage of volunteers, and four out of five full-time employees at the Senior Center have had to run routes. In August, we had 19 routes that we did not have anybody to cover. So Desiree, myself, along with Dana and Rita ran those routes, and at times we've had to run two routes at one time. That's just to give you an idea of how much of a struggle it has been, especially since COVID, for us to have new volunteers. We will be able to use that part-time driver as well in other capacities such as being able to provide frozen meals to folks in areas. For example, recently we had a young man call us about his mother. He lives almost on the Virginia line out 119. So it was difficult for him to get to us to pick up those meals, and of course it's difficult for us to try to get those meals to them. So that would be an additional piece that we could add in using that driver to help us out. I will entertain any questions or concerns anybody has at this time.

Commissioner Hall said he has one. You mentioned that we have around 30 people getting congregate meals at the center. Mrs. Everidge said yes sir. Commissioner Hall said has that number gone down over the years? Mrs. Everidge said it has gone down since COVID. We still have seniors that in all honesty are concerned about coming out and being around other people. They are still scared of COVID. We use to average on just about every day about 50 to 60 people on congregate before COVID. Now we have produced postcards that are for both Meals on Wheels and for the congregate that we have been sending out trying to kind of draw those numbers and pick those numbers back up. We opened back up fully last May 2021, and it's been a gradual process. We are starting to see those numbers start to pick up a little bit. Meals on Wheels has definitely picked up. We will be looking at that at the end of the year. We currently are under spent on congregate by about \$2,000, and we are overspent on Meals on Wheels between \$6,000 and \$7,000. We will readdress that at the end of the year, and if whatever funds are sitting unspent under congregate, we will move to adjust some of that with Meals on Wheels in January of 2023.

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, I'll just add really quickly that these numbers that Jeannine's talking about are in your agenda packet on a monthly basis in a report that is provided

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to both the Board in your agenda packet and to Piedmont Triad Regional Council. So the first meeting of every month, you'll see these numbers in your agenda packet.

Commissioner Jefferies said I heard her say they don't have people to deliver these meals. Is it any way that we can come up with something such as fuel to carry these meals out? That might be something to look into. County Manager Miller said there's a couple of things the Board could do to address this. The Board if it so chose could support the grant that Mrs. Everidge has mentioned. The Board could also approve county employees providing the Meals on Wheels and using some of the transportation that's available to us now from the county. That would cut out the gas cost or having to pay for employee or resident gas. So there's some things that the Board could do. The board could also approve a stipend for residents that wanted to participate in Meals on Wheels and allow them to receive the reimbursement for their gas or for their mileage during that delivery period. Commissioner Jefferies then asked if they had put an ad in the paper? County Manager Miller said I think the Senior Center has advertised quite a bit that there is a need for drivers. We have even gone so far as to, when it's really needed on a certain day that she's really low, taking county employees and allowing them to run a route. So I think that everybody knows drivers are needed, but we're happy to ramp up the advertising for this if that's what the Board would like. We're happy to do that. Mrs. Everidge said Mr. Jefferies, some of that also has been seen across the state. Volunteers has been an issue in everything that we do. Meals on Wheels requires all of us across the state in order to be able to deliver those meals to have those volunteers. A lot of our volunteers are aging out because they're folks who are older. They are either sick themselves now, or they now have to care for a spouse, or they have to care for a parent. So this has been an issue across the state with that and also with any kind of committees that we have as well. We have struggled with those volunteers.

Commissioner Owen asked how many do you have now? Mrs. Everidge said right now I have 120. And of course now is the time that a lot of businesses, for example Piedmont Electric, is going to allow some of their employees to run meals, but it's only like once or twice that they will do that. We have the Credit Union that helps us. We have in the past had the prison who has helped us with that as well. What we do is, if they request, they provide us a sheet that we sign off on with what time the person got there and what time they brought the bags back. We sign off on that and send it back to whoever the employer is.

Chairman McVey asked if there were any more questions?

Commissioner Hall said yes. Mr. Manager, you're mentioned some options and possibilities. Could you all get your heads together and present some options and possibilities back to this Board on how we can address this issue. County Manager Miller said we absolutely can. I think it's very interesting the grant options that are available right now through the Senior Center. Grant funding that may be available to cover those drivers and produce the expense that the county would undergo providing for the same type of service, but we'll give you an update at your first meeting in December or maybe your next meeting about available options, about how the grant process is going, and how we see that playing out. Commissioner Hall said see when

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we have these types of challenges, we have to become more creative and not be concerned about what the rest of the state is doing or using that as a crutch or excuse. We've got to think beyond where we've been past thinking. We know that the county is aging; so maybe we need to look for some younger drivers. We got a community college over here. Get some drivers from there that we could support with some money until some grants come through. We need to do that. I don't want to go to the Council of Government's meeting and the first thing I hear is that we had to return back money because we didn't know how to spend it. That's what I've been hearing for the last two or three years. I just don't want to hear that anymore so we've got face the challenge and do whatever is necessary to make this work. Mrs. Everidge said Mr. Hall, I just want to say I have been to PCC. I've been to PCC for years. Commissioner Hall said send one of the Board members or send the Chair and let him talk to the President over there. You know these folks got connections. You don't have to do all the contacting, but you can do a lot of the thinking.

Chairman McVey asked if there were any more questions. Then he asked Mr. Miller if you all can see what you can come up with and bring it back to us. County Manager Miller said yes sir.

#### **VOTING DELEGATE FOR LEGISLATIVE GOALS:**

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, you have an upcoming meeting where the legislative goals will be decided upon by the NCACC, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. You need to choose a voting Delegate for that. You can also choose an alternative as well. The meeting will be held November 16th through 18th in Wake County at the Marriott Raleigh Crabtree Valley.

Commissioner Owen said I've done that in the past gentlemen, but I will be out of town that weekend so I cannot do it. Chairman McVey asked Mr. Hall how about you? Commissioner Hall said I like Mr. Owen have done it in the past. I don't think I'm planning on going anywhere, so I think I could probably do that. Chairman McVey asked if Hall thought he could do it and Mr. Hall said yes. Then Chairman McVey asked if they needed to pick an alternate? County Manager Miller said I think it is up to the Board. Commissioner Owen said we usually do in case something happens. Commissioner Massengill asked about the date and County Manager Miller said November 16th through the 18th. Commissioner Massengill said he couldn't. Then Chairman McVey asked for suggestions on an alternate. County Manager Miller said Commissioners, if you need an alternate, I'm happy to serve as the alternate if that helps.

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

## COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATES:

The County Manager said Commissioners, I do have a couple updates for you. I wanted you to know that NCDOT has approached us about a swap of projects. The two projects are of North Carolina 14 Kings Highway intersection improvements in Eden. So the money from that project because the priority for that project has fallen, the priority for the NC 86 from 158 to the Virginia state line has increased. So because of the falling in priority on the one project and the increased priority in the other project, they're going to be proposing to swap the funding for those two projects and give the money or funding for the Eden project to Caswell County to help address that right away situation. That will have to be voted on by the RPO, Rural Planning Organization. They will have to formally agree to the swap. It'll be as an agenda item for the December TAC, Transportation Advisory Council, meeting, and they will be asking for a vote. So I just wanted to make the Board more aware of that.

Commissioner Owen said Mr. Miller, while you're on that. I am currently on that board. So gentlemen, it will be imperative that whoever takes that board attends that December 3rd meeting to get our vote to get that swap done and move that as a priority. So just want to make everyone aware of that. I can't remember who the alternate is for that. County Manager Miller said you won't be able to make the meeting? Commissioner Owen said I thought it was later in December. That's all. I just want to make sure the Board realized the priority of whomever is appointed to that committee that he needs to make sure they attend that meeting.

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, I do have one more thing to let the Board know about and kind of get some direction from the Board on how the Board would like to proceed. One of the things that we're encountered quite a bit now is questions about heating bills and oil, and whether there's help to address those situations where residents are unable to pay their heating bills. I think this is the last warm day we're going to have scheduled for a while. I know DSS gets those requests, and the Senior Center gets those requests. There is no money allocated in the budget for these kind of requests. I know last year what happened was, last year or the year before I can't remember, the Board allocated a certain dollar amount to the Caswell Fund. The Caswell Fund distributed those monies through the Senior Center and the Clerk to the Board. They both served rolls in that, and they did an excellent job in doing that. County Manager Miller asked Jeannine Everidge, do you remember how many people we helped? Mrs. Everidge replied the last time I looked I think we were at 200 to 250. County Manager Miller said we helped 200 to 250 people with their heating bills. So anyway I don't know how the Board wants to proceed or if the Board wants to even entertained it. But we are getting a lot of questions about it.

Commissioner Massengill asked how much did you give them or how much was in that fund last time? County Manager Miller said I think we did 2 different amounts at two different times. Mrs. Everidge said yes. We also worked with Milton on their water bills as well. We also helped a few with rent. I don't remember off the top of my head the amount. County Manager Miller said I

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think there were two different tranches of funding, and I think each one was about ten thousand dollars.

Commissioner Dickerson asked Mr. Miller, how much money is left in the grant funding that was approved for \$100,000. County Manager Miller said there's been a lot of questions about that. I appreciate you bringing that up Commissioner Dickerson. There's been a lot of questions that I have personally received about that funding. So let me be clear about this. That money rolled back over into the general fund. There was a total of about \$200,000 initially, and that \$200,000 was greatly underspent after it was appropriated. It was I think \$130,000 out of the \$200,000 that went unspent. Since that time you've probably made appropriations of \$60,000. So there's probably, I don't know, seventy or eighty thousand dollars that would still be left, but let me be clear that that's no longer appropriate. Those are general fund monies, If the Board remembers the way we were doing revenue replacement, those revenue replacement dollars become general fund dollars. So it's no longer appropriated, and it's no longer allocated for that purpose. It is general fund dollars. So the question that I'm receiving is hey do you have any left over COVID money? And to be honest with you, no we do not have any left over COVID money because we're entering into the revenue replacement and that all becomes general funding. So to answer your questions specifically, in theory it would be \$70,000.

Commissioner Massengill said you said that you helped approximately 200 to 250 people. You remember what the average monies per person spent was? Jeannine Everidge said we limited it to \$500. Commissioner Massengill asked did most of that go to home heating? I heard you say that some went to rent. We did excuse that one rent. We had a couple that had both had COVID and were not working. We helped them with their daycare and their electric bill. The majority of those, I would say 80% to 85% were electric. Commissioner Massengill said so you said you limited it to \$500 and you said there was about 250 people. That's \$125,000. I'm just trying to get it right. Mrs. Everidge said it wasn't quite that much money. If they did 2 for \$10,000, that still don't add up. Mrs. Everidge said the original amount was more and we also received money from Duke Energy. They also gave some money as well. Commissioner Massengill asked are they going to be able to do that again? Mrs. Everidge said they sent me a check for \$2,500 to put into Caswell Fund, and we have already done 2 electric bills. Commissioner Massengill said we can't let our people go cold. We can't let them go without food. That's what this body is here for. Mr. Miller, you said to Mr. Dickerson you have approximately \$70,000 in that money. Fuel Oil has gone through the roof this year. County Manager Miller said we're happy to bring this back to you. There's not going to be any substantial need within the next two weeks. The bill will come at a separate time. Commissioner Massengill said come back and give us some figures on maybe how many you've had to ask. I would only be willing to support it this particular point in time for no rent but just heating type thing. I would be willing to support that. I think we do that as a necessity not as helping people. County Manager Miller said well we're happy to bring that back to you along with the funding streams. We're happy to do that at your next meeting.

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Commissioner Hall asked if they would give us an analysis of what was done last time. You told us the numbers, 200 to 250. How much rent? How much water? How much this, that, and the other. So at least I have a basis for this. County Manager Miller said we'll definitely do that. Chairman McVey said we'll move on to Commissioner Comments. Does anyone have any comments?

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner Massengill:** Mr. Chairman or Mr. Manager, are we allowed to ask questions to Mr. Dougherty about his comment. Are we allowed to do that? County Manager Miller said so as a point of procedure, the Board does not usually respond to public comments. If you want to have that on the next agenda, we can. Commissioner Massengill said I will talk with him afterwards.

**Commissioner Hall:** Mr. Chairman, based on where Commissioner Massengill started, I'm quite aware of our procedures. This past summer at the State Conference I went to a communications class. We had all of these experts talking about this, that, and the other. At one session, I was in with Commissioner Owen and the issue came up about public comments and that we wouldn't respond. The way this gentleman explained it to me made sense to me. We ought to respond. In this particular instance, I think we need to know more because every time we just kick the can down the road another two weeks, and I've got questions myself. I don't necessarily want to wait two weeks, and I think that Mr. Massengill in this situation should be able to ask his question so we'll know what it is because I got a question I'm going to ask general counsel about this same thing.

County Manager Miller said if I can jump in for just one quick second. What I think I need to say at this point in time is this is current litigation that's occurring and can lead to future litigation and current appeals that can lead to future litigation. So if the Board were seeking advice from me, my advice would be to not discuss this unless you are in executive session with the county attorney. That's just my two cents, but the Board can do anything they want to.

Commissioner Hall said I understand that. I do, but part of what I heard was that our general counsel has already given some advice on this. If he's already given some advice, he didn't consult with this Board. If he consulted with this Board, I wasn't included, and I haven't missed any meetings. So however we want to go forward, I just want to make it clear that somewhere or another we missed the ball.

Chairman McVey said is it okay to say that we will be talking to council shortly? County Manager Miller said yes I think you can say that you intended to talk to council about this. Commissioner Oestreicher said I don't think council is available. County Manager Miller said I think it's okay for you to say that you can talk to council about it. Commissioner Oestreicher said I'd like to talk to Mr. Dougherty today while he is here. Commissioner Massengill apologized for bringing up the question. Chairman McVey said I think we should talk to council and then he can make recommendations as to what we need to do. Does that make sense? County Manager

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Miller said it does. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if Mr. Farrell was available right now, and County Manager Miller said yes, he's available for the closed session we have scheduled. He's going to make himself available. Then Chairman McVey asked if there were any more comments?

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if Mr. Dougherty could be included in closed session, and County Manager Miller said then it's no longer closed session.

Mr. Dougherty said all the responses to the motion to dismiss are on the county website.

Commissioner Dickerson said his recommendation is from the common sense standpoint, we need to talk to the attorney in closed session before it goes any further. The Chairman said that is his recommendation also that we talk to the county attorney before we proceed any further.

County Manager Miller said Mr. Chairman, I have one more quick thing just to inform the Board. In lieu of the County Appreciation Luncheon that we've had many times before. Not unlike what we've done in the last two or three years, we're going to do the half day that equates to the same dollar amount that the county luncheon would cost. So we're going to do the half day if the Board's okay with that. The Commissioners were okay with that.

**Commissioner Hall:** Looks like you skipped Commissioner Comments or I didn't hear you. Chairman McVey said I asked for commissioner comments. Do you have one? Commissioner Hall said yes, and Chairman McVey said okay go ahead. I think it was Thursday, Wednesday or Thursday of this week, I was over in the parking lot at the Post Office. I learned at that time that the Planning Department and Inspections had moved. There were people coming and looking for them. I was just surprised because I wasn't informed. As a District Representative and a County Representative, at minimum I should have known. That's just the way I feel. I just want to know why I wasn't told? Chairman McVey said I'll have to go back to the County Manager on that.

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, I do believe that the Board was told that there would be a move from the old location to the new location to do the Central Permitting Facility located in the bottom of the Health Department. I'm pretty sure I told the Board about that. Chairman McVey said I know you told me, and I thought he told everybody else. Commissioner Owen said it was in a meeting. County Manager Miller said I think I brought it up in a meeting. Commissioner Hall said well maybe you did. I'm a Senior Citizen, and sometimes you have to tell me things two or three times. I didn't know. Commissioner Owen said I don't think there was any date given as to when it would happen, but we were told that they would be moving to do that Central Permitting. Commissioner Hall said at minimum we should have been told a date. I'm going to bring this up as kind of a personal issue. I don't understand why all of this stuff going on and we didn't have a meeting two weeks ago. I could have been told then. The Board could have been told then the date, and that they are going to move tomorrow or next week or whatever, if we would have had a meeting. But for some reason a lot of the stuff that we talked about today wasn't important enough for us to talk about two weeks ago. My final comment has to do with that parking lot layout at the Post Office. I've only been over there twice in the last month. I was going to make a joking comment, but I better not make it. Who engineered or who laid out the paint in that lot. I got a handicap stick on my car, so I can't go in one side where it says I should go in and circle around to get to the handicap parking. This week while we had voting going on that side was blocked. I ended up in a traffic jam with three cars

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not knowing which way to go because of the way to lot is laid out. County Manager Miller said it's the exact same layout that was here prior to 2018. We took aerial photographs. Commissioner Hall said somebody should have looked at it, and said maybe this doesn't work. Those arrows, I'm telling you, if you try to follow them and you're going to have a problem. I have a problem. They need to look at that so that I can keep doing that in my senior years. I had a problem getting in and out of post office twice, and one time I had to go to the back because the lot was full. They had the back lot blocked. I thought that lot belonged to the county. Does it not? County Manager Miller said the Postal Service retains a certain of the parking lot because of their lease on the Post Office building itself. Commissioner Hall said so what reason did they give for blocking it? The County Manager said to continue their daily operations. Commissioner Hall said what operations? Nobody parks back there but the employees. Nobody else could get in there. County Manager Miller said it's their parking lot. They pay for that. Commissioner Hall said I just wanted to make my point, and it didn't make sense to me. I wanted to bring that out.

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

- November 11, 2022 Veterans' Day-County Offices will be closed
- November 11, 2022 Veterans' Day Program at the Pavilion at 11 am (If Raining it will be held in the Historic Courthouse)
- November 17, 2022 at 6:00 pm Joint Meeting with the Town of Milton and Yanceyville at the Thomas Day Museum in Milton, NC
- November 21, 2022 at 6:30 pm Commissioners Meeting
- November 24-25, 2022 Thanksgiving-County Offices will be closed
- December 2, 2022 at 6 pm Christmas Tree Lighting
- December 3, 2022 10 am Christmas Parade
- December 5, 2022 at 9:00 am Commissioners Meeting

### **CLOSED SESSION:**

A **motion** was made at 10:14 am by Commissioner Owen and seconded by Commissioner Oestreicher and **carried unanimously** to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee, which is hereby acknowledged NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) and to consult an attorney with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which is hereby acknowledged NCGS 143.318.11 (a)(3). (Ayes: Commissioner Dickerson, Hall, Jefferies, Owen, Oestreicher, Massengill, and McVey)

Commissioner Jefferies said I thought the attorney was supposed to come once a month in person to a meeting? The County Manager said the attorney would come when requested, and Commissioner Owen agreed that the attorney should be at meetings when legal matters are being discussed. Commissioner Dickerson asked would we know in advance of issues that the attorney

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would need to be in attendance for? County Manager Miller said that regarding this issue, he was not aware of it until Friday, but the attorney had another obligation to attend today. Then they discussed mileage reimbursement for the attorney to attend meetings.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Oestreicher and seconded by Commissioner Owen and **carried unanimously** to approve County Manager's training and educational incentives with a five-year service requirement. (Ayes: Commissioner Dickerson, Hall, Jefferies, Owen, Oestreicher, Massengill, and McVey)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A **motion** was made at 11:17 am by Commissioner Massengill and seconded by Commissioner Owen and **carried unanimously** to adjourn the meeting. (Ayes: Commissioner Dickerson, Hall, Jefferies, Owen, Oestreicher, Massengill, and McVey)

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Carla R. Smith  
Clerk to the Board

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Rick McVey  
Chairman

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**BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 4**  
**CASWELL COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**  
**Amending the 2022 - 2023 General Fund Budget**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Caswell County Board of Commissioners:

**Section I:** Caswell County General Fund Expenditures and Revenues: The General Fund is hereby Increasing/Decreasing the following lines in the amounts indicated:

	2022 - 2023 Original Budget	Increase (Decrease)	2022 - 2023 Amended Budget
EXPENDITURES			
AID TO CGMBA County Outreach Ministry	\$	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
REVENUES			
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 2,025,929.00	\$ (20,000.00)	\$ 2,005,929.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 2,025,929.00	\$ (20,000.00)	\$ 2,005,929.00

**Section II:** Solid Waste Revenue/Expenditure Increase: The Enterprise Fund is hereby increasing the following lines in the amounts indicated:

	2022 - 2023 Original Budget	Increase (Decrease)	2022 - 2023 Amended Budget
REVENUES			
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$	\$ (14,000.00)	\$ (14,000.00)
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	\$ (14,000.00)	\$ (14,000.00)
EXPENDITURES			
Professional Services - Other	\$	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00

**ATTEST:**

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

**S/Carla Smith**

Clerk to the Board

11/07/2022

Date

**S/Rick McVey**

Chairman of the Board