

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

April 3, 2023
OTHERS PRESENT

John Dickerson, Chairman
Tim Yarbrough
Finch Holt
Jeremiah Jefferies
Rick McVey
Frank Rose

Bryan Miller, County Manager
Carla Smith, Clerk to the Board
Melissa Williamson, Deputy County Manager
Aisha Gwynn, Assistant County Manager
Jennifer Hammock, Finance Director
Brian Ferrell, County Attorney (Remote)

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Caswell, North Carolina, met in regular session on Monday, April 3, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Gunn Memorial Library.

WELCOME:

Vice Chairman Yarbrough called the meeting to order, and welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting of the Caswell County Board of Commissioners. 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.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

OATH OF OFFICE:

Vice Chairman Yarbrough called the Clerk of Court, John Satterfield, to administer the Oath of Office to the new Board member. Mr. Satterfield said thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. Then Mr. Satterfield asked Mrs. Gwynn to come up. This may be appropriate to do at the front of the room. Then the Clerk was asked for a Bible. The camera was adjusted to capture the oath. Mr. Satterfield asked Mrs. Gwynn to place your left hand on the Bible and raise your right hand.

NORTH CAROLINA

CASWELL COUNTY

OATH OF

COMMISSIONER OF CASWELL COUNTY

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

Then the Oath was signed by Mrs. Ethel Gwynn. Vice Chairman welcomed Mrs. Gwynn and asked that she sit by Commissioner Holt.

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RECESS:

The Board took a brief recess.

CALL TO ORDER BY VICE CHAIRMAN:

Vice Chairman Yarbrough called the meeting back to order and asked for a motion to go into the Public Hearing on the Tax Exempt Loan for the Leasburg Fire Department.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner McVey and seconded by Commissioner Jefferies and **carried unanimously** go into the Public Hearing. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Rose, McVey, Jefferies, Gwynn, and Yarbrough)

PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX-EXEMPT LOAN TO LEASBURG VFD:

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, what you have in front of you is a proposal from Leasburg Fire Department to enter into a tax exempt loan from Roxboro Savings Bank in the amount of \$100,000. Now our County Attorney may be able to speak better to this than I can, but there's no impact on the county. The county is not obligated to repay any of these funds if Leasburg Fire Department for some reason does not pay these back. This is a loan from Roxboro Savings Bank and not the county, but the county is obligated to sign off before they can move forward with the loan. So I'll ask our County Attorney if he's got anything to add.

Attorney Ferrell said thank you Mr. Manager for that summary, and hello Commissioners. Those are the basic facts of the situation. Most private entities do not enjoy tax exempt status when they enter into financing transactions. The Internal Revenue Service has a few exceptions in the Internal Revenue Code. When fire departments are essentially carrying out what amounts to a governmental function in this case providing fire services in Caswell County. The code requires that in order to enjoy the tax exempt status, the private entity, in this case the fire department, take certain steps including getting the consent of the local government for which they're providing these essential services. So just as the Manager indicated, the resolution before you tonight evidences the County's consent to the fire department for taking out the loan to do the improvements that are referenced in the plans to the fire station. It does not obligate the county to repay the loan. The county does not become a borrower. It just essentially acknowledges what the fire department's project plans are and approves those plans in the submittal of the tax exempt financing application. So that's the sum total of what's before you tonight. I'm happy to answer any questions on this item.

Vice Chairman Yarbrough said I have one Mr. Ferrell or Mr. Miller either one. I know what an interest-free loan is, but what is a tax-exempt loan? I've never heard that phrase before. Tax exempt loan. Attorney Ferrell said right. Well it enables essentially the deductibility of the interest. So that's what it is. It's really for the benefit of the lender. It enables the borrower to receive a lower interest rate on the loan because of the benefits to the lender. So essentially what it does is just like when the county borrows money it generally does that at a rate way below what's available to the private market. This enables the fire department to do the same thing. I

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don't know the terms of its loan particularly, but entering into the tax exempt financing will allow it to receive a lower rate than it would otherwise get.

Commissioner Holt asked who owns this land that it goes on? Attorney Ferrell said the County Manager will have to answer that question. I assume it's owned by the fire department. County Manager Miller said it's owned by the fire department.

Vice Chairman Yarbrough said I take it Mr. Miller we are open for comments from anyone since it's a public hearing. County Manager Miller said that's correct. Vice Chairman Yarbrough asked if there were any comments from anyone. Craig Hoxie said I'm here on behalf of the fire department. I'm President of the Leasburg Fire Department Board. If you have any questions about why we're doing what we're doing or the plans, I'm happy to help everybody understand that. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said I take it that this is a... Is this a second story addition that you're doing? Mr. Hoxie said we have built the second station on Ridgeville Road, and it's a five base station with equipment. But about a third of the building was an open space tall enough to have a second floor, and we're outfitting it with a community room so that we can have venues open to the community. So we were going to do it piecemeal along with fundraisers, but once we got a contractor in there and started working, we didn't want to delay finishing it in three years. We thought we'd pushed it through. So that's why we're here before you this evening. Vice Chairman Yarbrough asked if there were any other comments or questions? What's the pleasure of the Board?

A **motion** was made by Commissioner McVey and seconded by Commissioner Jefferies and **carried unanimously** to let them have the tax exempt loan. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Jefferies, McVey, Rose, Yarbrough, and Gwynn)

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Jefferies and seconded by Commissioner Rose and **carried unanimously** to go out of the Public Hearing. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Gwynn, Rose, McVey, Jefferies, and Yarbrough)

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW:

Vice Chairman Yarbrough said we need a motion to act as the Board of Equalization and Review.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Jefferies and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** act as the Board of Equalization and Review and open the hearing (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Yarbrough, Rose, McVey, Jefferies, and Gwynn)

Then Vice Chairman Yarbrough said Ms. Smith I believe we have an Oath of Office for the new members. The Clerk said yes, since this is the first time this Board will act as the Board of Equalization and Review, they will have to take an oath. Once the meeting is over, we can get everybody to sign so that we can send it to Jenny, the Register to have it put into the record. Then the Board took the Oath.

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NORTH CAROLINA

CASWELL COUNTY

OATH OF

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the Constitution and laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as a member of the Caswell County Board of Equalization and Review, and that I will not allow my actions as a member of the Board of Equalization and Review to be influenced by personal or political friendships or obligations, so help me God.

Then Vice Chairman Yarbrough turned the floor over to Thomas Bernard, Tax Director.

Mr. Bernard said Commissioners, I have no appeals for this Board of E & R. We're meeting tonight, and the next meeting will be I think it's the 19th of this month. Is that the next meeting? County Manager Miller said the 17th. Mr. Bernard said the 17th, and we'll have that meeting and adjourn.

Attorney Ferrell said Mr. Chairman, if I may. Just for the benefit of the new members who haven't yet had an opportunity to sit as a member of the Board of Equalization and Review, I'll just mention that the Board sits for two primary purposes each year as required by Chapter 105 of the North Carolina General Statutes which is commonly referred to as the Machinery Act. The main purposes of the Board of Equalization and Review are to review the tax listings for the current year and make sure information is correct. The bulk of the Board's work is generally devoted to hearing appeals. Those could be appeals over the valuation of property by taxpayer commonly. You also have an opportunity to do that after your date of adjournment in certain limited cases, but you sit tonight for primarily the purposes of reviewing those tax listings and hearing any appeals that are brought forward. You heard from the Tax Director that there are no appeals currently filed. A taxpayer would have up until your date of adjournment to either appear at a meeting in person and file an appeal or to deliver written notice of appeal to the Tax Director that would then be forwarded to the Board for disposition. If an appeal is filed before the adjournment date that was just stated, it would be the duty of this Board to hear those appeals in a quasi-judicial context, which could be done after the date of adjournment and decide those appeals. So that's the function of your role as Board of Equalization and Review, and I'm happy to answer any questions about that.

Vice Chairman Yarbrough said thank you Mr. Ferrell. Is there anything else. Mr. Bernard said I don't have anything else. Attorney Ferrell said I would just ask Mr. Chair, if there are any members of the public who have come forward to file an appeal tonight? Vice Chairman Yarbrough asked if there was anyone here to file an appeal tonight? Seeing none. Attorney Ferrell said and if not, it would be appropriate if you're so inclined to continue the Board of

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Equalization and Review until your next meeting at the time and date mentioned by the Tax Director. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said we will continue at such said time and dates. Thank you Mr. Ferrell and Mr. Bernard. I believe we can continue on with that information, and we will stay and act as the Board of Commissioners now.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Thomas Hall: 179 Oakus Page Road in Reidsville, North Carolina. That's in the Cherry Grove Community. My concern is that the Planning Board had a meeting on February 28th this year at 5:30 pm. for the public and about it was about a solar farm that would be located behind my farm. I have never been to a public hearing, so this was all new to me. I did have questions, and I did ask questions. But after the meeting I had a lot more questions. Some of the questions were answered but not all. So the Planning Board tabled the meeting and decided that they would have another meeting on March 28th, but they didn't give a time at the meeting so I assumed that it would be at 5:30. There were seven people at the library at 5:30 on March of 28 for the Planning Board meeting until we found out that they had already had that meeting at 1:00. So I'm asking if there is a public hearing or meeting with the Planning Board or Commissioners that they set a date and time at the end of the public meeting so the public will be aware of that date and time. Also I would like for the county to think about something that the solar panels experience about 25 to 35 years, and that the solar panels are going to end up in a landfill in our County, state, or in another county or state. So in 25 to 35 years or 30 years, is our landfill is going to be overfilled? So I'm thinking about our future for our kids and grandkids. Solar farms do have a decommissioned plan. So if the owner of the solar farm passes away, file bankruptcy, or quits paying taxes can the County afford to decommission the solar farm to the lands original state. I do have the decommission plan with me today. Thank you.

RECOGNITIONS:

There were no recognitions.

AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

❖ Chairman Dickerson joined the meeting at 6:56 pm.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

a. March 20, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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b. FY 2022-23 Budget Amendment # 7

Vice Chairman Yarbrough said before I ask for a motion, I got a question. Under section one, this is a two-part budget amendment. The second one, I get that one was some money for upfitting an ambulance that were supposed to take place last year. The company that was doing it couldn't get to it, but they've got to it now. This money was already appropriated, but we just need to be moved into active budget. How do you want to word it? County Manager Miller said yes, that's correct. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said okay. Second on the environmental health expenditure to pay for renovating the permit office. Give me some explanation on that. County Manager Miller said so last year or earlier this year, there was a renovation done to the lower portion of the Health Department, which is now the Central Permitting Office. The total bill for that was this \$32,000. The bill was paid out of the maintenance budget, but because they're dedicated funds produced by Environmental Health, it would be a better use of those dedicated funds to pay for the renovation of the Environmental Health/Central Permitting offices rather than using general fund monies to outfit that upfit. So it's a better use of the money. The bill has already been paid using general fund monies through the maintenance department. This would just transfer the money back into the maintenance department and use dedicated monies that can only be used for Environmental Health and Central Permitting for that purpose. Commissioner Holt said so it sounds like you just took money out of maintenance and did a project without permission. County Manager Miller said no, the money was in maintenance to do general renovation or to do whatever needed to be done within maintenance of the county buildings. So that's the way they went about doing it. This has been discussed with the Board for quite some time. So this is not a new thing. This is just a better use of county funds because they're dedicated revenues that can only be used for that purpose than using general fund money that can be used for any purpose. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said let me see if I got this right. Under where it says expenditures under maintenance capital outlay, the budget has \$38,800. They spent \$32,000 of that on the renovation for Central Permitting. County Manager Miller said that's correct. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said so that actually left them with a balance of sixty-eight hundred dollars. County Manager Miller said in that line, that's correct. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said so if you're just shifting the money from one pot to another, why does it show the budget as being seventy thousand eight hundred now for the capital outlay? County Manager Miller asked Mr. Yarbrough to repeat that. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said if the budget originally for maintenance on capital outlay was \$38,800 and you spent \$32,000 of it. I get that. I understand that part. That leaves you \$6,800. County Manager Miller said okay. Unless I'm missing something, that's wrong. It should go back to \$38,800. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said when you get the \$32,000 added back to it, it does. County Manager Miller said right. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said why does it show the amended budget as being seventy thousand eight hundred when you're just switching the money from one pot to another? It looks like the budget amount would still be the same. County Manager Miller said and from my way of thinking, I think you're right. I think that's a typo in the budget amendment. I think it should be returned to

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\$38,800. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said okay. So would that mean that the Central Permitting revenues would still be \$96,800 instead of \$128,800. County Manager Miller said no. The revenues for Central Permitting, we've identified that they're already at 128. Is that right? They're already at 128. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said okay, so the revenues are more than projected. County Manager Miller said that's correct. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said all right. If you and I are thinking along the same lines and we're correct, that needs to be fixed. County Manager Miller said right. So if it pleases the Board and you want to pass the budget amendment, pass it with those corrections made to it. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said what's the pleasure of the Board? Vice Chairman Yarbrough said if you approved it at the next meeting, could we split this and approve the ambulance. County Manager Miller said I think so. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said if no one has an objection to that. County Manager Miller said and there's no reason why we can't put the second part off.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Holt and seconded by Commissioner Rose and **carried unanimously** approve the budget amendment on the upfitting of the ambulance for \$144,000. (Ayes: Commissioners Gwynn, Holt, Jefferies, McVey, Rose, Dickerson, and Yarbrough)

Vice Chairman Yarbrough said the one for Central Permitting, if you all can get that one corrected and get it back to us at our next meeting we will discuss it. County Manager Miller said yes sir.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

APPROPRIATION OF CASWELL COUNTY TDA FUNDS:

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, in 2007 Caswell County was giving authorization to form a Tourism Development Authority, and several years after they were given the authority, they actually went through and levied the additional occupancy tax associated with the Tourism Development Authority. The Tourism Development Authority is now in a position where they can receive funds and receive funding. So they have about \$111,000 currently in our general fund, and they're requesting that \$70,000 of that money be transferred to the TDA for the activities the TDA was formed for. There's a statute associated with that, and that statute is General Assembly of North Carolina Session Law 2007-224 Senate bill 442. If you're interested in looking it up. But basically the TDA has to use two-thirds of the funds remitted to promote travel and tourism in Caswell County, and the remainder shall be used for tourism related expenses. The TDA has to comply with the same Governmental and Fiscal Control Act that the county does. Our Finance Officer is also the finance officer for the TDA. So they will have that guidance from our Finance Officers to follow those things. We are required to remit the net proceeds as defined in the legislation to the Tourism Development Authority on a quarterly basis. So in my discussions with the TDA, what we've spoken about is remitting the \$70,000 now, and then having the budget a three year rolling average of what the TDA should get and remit that three-year rolling average. I think right now it's at about \$26,000, and that \$26,000 to

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the TDA on a quarterly basis which is what the legislation requires that we remitted on a quarterly basis and go from there. So that's basically what we're being asked to do. The reason this is in this discussion item line is simply because your rules of procedures say you can't appropriate more than \$10,000 in a meeting without having discussed it previously. So it's in a discussion item, you can see it, and you can expect to see it come back as an action item later on. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have about the TDA or about the funding. The funding is remitted by hotel owners and bed and breakfast owners that charge the occupancy tax, and if they're charging people to stay there, unless there's some extenuated circumstance, they're required to remit that occupancy tax to the to the county.

Vice Chairman Yarbrough said so the TDA is the only one that can use these funds, correct? County Manager Miller said that's correct. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said okay, and they've never been appropriated funds before? Am I right? County Manager Miller said if I'm correct about it, and this is just what I'm thinking. I think we appropriated about \$8,000 to them every year. Don't we? But they've never requested the funding up to this point. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said okay. County Manager Miller said in a review of the funding streams, we went through a real big push a couple years ago to identify all the bed and breakfasts, all the air B and B's, and all the things like that in the county that were being used, and we sent them letters. So that's increased the amount that we're seeing from the occupancy tax, and the hotel has started paying. So we've seen an increase, and if you go back to the three-year average, you're looking at about \$26,000 a year. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said how long has this tax been in place? Since 2008? County Manager Miller said well no. So we gained authority to do it in 2007, and I would guess that in 2017 or 18 the Commissioners actually voted to do the occupancy tax. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said so it's five years running, and County Manager Miller said that's correct. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said no action tonight, but we will see this again. County Manager Miller said that's correctly. Vice Chairman Yarbrough asked if there were any more questions? Then the County Manager asked if the County Attorney had anything to add to that? Attorney Ferrell said the only other thing I wanted to add is per the legislation the TDA, the Tourism Development Authority, is required to report its receipt and expenditures to the Board so you know how they're using the funds. They're to do that as a quarterly basis as they expend the funds and then at the end of each fiscal year. So you should be getting a report out from the authority about exactly what they're using the occupancy tax dollars for.

ACTION ITEMS:

CASWELL COUNTY 911 TELECOMMUNICATORS RECLASSIFICATION RESOLUTION:

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, this resolution is a resolution conveying our support for a reclassification for 9-1-1 telecommunicators to be treated as emergency service personnel as is the EMS Department, the Sheriff's Department, firefighters, and so on and so forth. Really what the intent is for them to be able to receive the same mental health benefits that are entitled to EMS, Sheriff's officers, and so on so forth. This would help them receive the same

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mental health benefits that other Emergency Services agencies receive. I'm sure I'm woefully inadequate in explaining that to you. We do have our director here, and if he would like to say a few words about it, I would encourage him to. Kenneth Everett, Director of E-911 said Josh Benfield, Operations Manager, would explain it.

Josh Benfield said so basically in the state of North Carolina, 9-1-1 dispatchers really aren't clarified as anything. They're not even clerical or anything like that. Which in other states, they are clerical providers under their definitions. In 2001 Representative Torres with bipartisan support with the U.S Senate introduced the 9-1-1 Saves Act, which would ultimately on the federal level recognized 9-1-1 telecommunicators as First Responders. We're starting it local in North Carolina. If you guys vote on this tonight will be the 21st county or municipality in the state of North Carolina to support this. There's been two letters of support read on the House and Senate floor in North Carolina. Hopefully once all 100 counties are showing support, we can get movement in North Carolina. I do know from my time in Washington a couple months ago that this is gaining traction again as far as the 911 Saves Act. It's being reintroduced in the Senate. I believe Senator Richard Hudson is going to be one of the ones that's going to be introduced, and he's already introduced Next Generation 9-1-1 funding. But like I said starting on the local level, starting here in Caswell County, and being the 21st to show support here in the state, that'll give us a whole lot of ground footing to work forth for the future to be clarified as First Responders instead of just there for us. Does anybody else have any questions?

Commissioner Holt said I understand you said it was a benefit if there's mental... Then Josh Benfield said that's one of the things that the telecommunicators will greatly benefit from. Without support of our Fire Marshal's Office here and without support of Emergency Management now, when we had a critical call the telecommunicators are normally the last ones to go into those critical and distress briefings. Sadly, it's usually a last thought. Commissioner Holt said if considered a 9-1-1 dispatcher, does that throw you into it at a different pay category? Mr. Benfield said it'll move the 9-1-1 telecommunicators into the First Responder category like Police, Fire, and EMS. Commissioner Holt said what about the pay scale? Mr. Benfield said it does nothing to the pay scale. It's just recognizing that telecommunicators are our First Responders.

Vice Chairman Yarbrough asked if there were any other questions.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner McVey and seconded by Commissioner Jefferies and **carried unanimous** to support this resolution. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Gwynn, Yarbrough, Jefferies, McVey, Rose, and Dickerson)

COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATES:

The County Manager said Commissioners, I'm happy to answer any questions you may have about anything that we've discussed tonight or any issues that you may have just in general. But as many of you know I've been out the last week. I don't have any updates at this time, but I'm happy to answer any questions you have about anything.

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Commissioner Holt said I've got one. Do you not need to have someone by April 4th on the Broadband to be able to sign? County Manager Miller said for the resolution? Commissioner Holt said I think that's what it referred to. We discussed it last time. I reread it, and I think it's April 4th is the deadline. The Clerk said we had to send the option to NCDIT and we did that. County Manager Miller said okay. We do, and if it pleases the Board, we're happy to have that that DocuSign sent to the Chair or whomever you'd like. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said that was on the options Madam Clerk? Commissioner Holt said well we need to decide which option too. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said I thought we voted on option 2. Commissioner Holt said that was the one where it's paid when it's complete. County Manager Miller said when everything's complete. Yes. Commissioner Holt said so the only other discussion would be if Bryan will be the sole signee for those documents. County Manager Miller said so first you may be correct about that What I remember was that we had to have the exhibit back to NCDIT, which exhibit we were going to use, and we sent that back today. NCDIT is going to send the completed paperwork with all of the information on the paperwork back to us, and that'll come back to the Board for approval after it's filled out by NCDIT. I think that's when you need to have it signed and that's by May 4th. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said but the paperwork has already been submitted to them, and County Manager Miller said yes. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said to be filled out, and County Manager Miller said for option number two for Exhibit J where everything's paid at the end. Vice Chairman Yarbrough asked if there were any more question for the County Manager. County Manager Miller said Commissioner Holt, I'm happy to check on that and make sure.

Vice Chairman Yarbrough said the budget sessions, when are we looking at getting those off the ground and running? County Manager Miller said so first of all, we haven't received all of our departmental, have we? We haven't received all of our departmental budgets yet. In our functions, there are a number of our departments that have presented budgets. Most of our departments have presented budgets, and we're happy to go ahead and start those budget meetings whenever the Board would like. We'll just simply need to concentrate on those functions. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said I thought they were all due March 1st. County Manager Miller said they were. So the DSS Board and the Health Department, they require their boards to approve their budgets first. Have we gotten either one of those? We haven't gotten either one of those. So I'm guessing their boards haven't approved their budget yet. Vice Chairman Yarbrough asked how often to their boards meet? County Manager Miller said once a month. Commissioner Jefferies said DSS meets once a month, and Commissioner McVey said on a Tuesday morning. County Manager Miller said I'm sure the Health Department is the same way. Commissioner Jefferies said we have set some dates. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said as far as DSS goes, and Commissioner Jefferies said yes. County Manager Miller said there's plenty of information there for us to go ahead and get started, if that's what the Board wants to do. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said when have you been starting since four of us are new to this process? County Manager Miller said usually May. Usually in May. I know Chairman Dickerson had said

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he wanted to start it early, and we tried to push it to that point. We can start those meetings this month if the Board wants to do that. Commissioner Jefferies said Social Services Board can estimate what will come from the Government and what we're going to get from other funds. But truthfully we can actually estimate the budget and move forward. Commissioner Rose said I know I spoke with somebody in Rockingham's Board earlier in the week and DSS has submitted their budget there. I have some questions about it as to how they can do that. The stuffs online, most of it. Some of it's not, but from what I was told they basically projected from one year to the next to kind of get a roundabout figure of what they're looking at. The quicker we can get this thing in; the longer we've got to work on it. That's my credence. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said personally I'd rather not wait to the second week of May, and you got five or six weeks to get it all done. If we could start by the first of May, personally that's me, it would be great. County Manager Miller said we can certainly put together a budget schedule and email that out to the Board, if it pleases the Board. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said I think that'd be a good idea.

Vice Chairman Yarbrough said I have a couple of questions, Mr. Miller. I'm catching a lot of heat from some citizens and taxpayers in my party of the county about EMS not transporting to Duke Hospital. A lot of folks, their doctors are at Duke. I know since the pandemic that shut us out I think, but since that has kind of come and gone, folks want to know why they're not being transported to Duke. County Manager Miller said well with the limited resources... So we transport to five different hospitals within our region, and those are the closest five hospitals to us. Those are Annie Penn, Person, Danville, UNC Hillsboro, and Alamance. So those are the five hospitals that we currently transport to, and it's usually based on patient need, like what the patient needs now. There's a lot of times as many of you know that we run out of ambulances in the county. If we're transporting a lot of patients an extra 15-20 minutes one way to say Duke, then we're leaving the county open and having to rely on Mutual Aid. So I have been made aware that there have been a couple of instances recently where there has been issues or requests to travel to Duke, and several of those times those requests have been met. They've taken those people to Duke, but as a standard practice those five hospitals are the ones we take them to simply because of response time and being able to get our people back in the county to respond to other residents that may have a need. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said I get that. I just want you to be aware of the calls and heated discussion that I've gotten in the past few weeks. Some taxpayers are not real happy about the situation. County Manager Miller said sure. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said and there's just not that much difference in travel time from the southeast part of the county to UNC Hillsboro versus southern part of the county to Duke. There's just not. County Manager Miller said I think our EMS service has realized that a couple of times, and I know for a fact that they've taken people from Prospect Hill to Duke here recently because of that fact.

Vice Chairman Yarbrough said backing up on budget sessions. Does the county require any kind of financial statement from non-profits if the county give money to them? County Manager Miller said we do. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said all non-profits? County Manager Miller said

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yes, unless you know of one that I'm not aware of. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said no, no, I'm not calling anyone out. When an organization approaches and wants taxpayer funds, I think that they need to be held accountable as to how they spend those funds and what they have in the bank. Don't come hold your hand out when you got \$500,000 in the bank that you don't spend. The county will give you some. That's just an example. I don't know that that would be true of any of them. County Manager Miller said well based on the requests, there are certain levels of documentation, and the higher the request, the more informative the documentation becomes. So I'm happy to provide the Board with the documents that were sent out to all 501C3s that normally request funding from the county. I'm happy to share that with you.

Vice Chairman Yarbrough said and one last item from me and I'll keep my mouth closed. Probably everybody knows last week's Caswell Messenger had the first listing of the tax liens of unpaid county property taxes and I know there were some mistakes. I've been told it's blamed on software. That is not an excuse I want to hear. County Manager Miller said it's not under my control. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said I know. I know, and I didn't ask the Tax Director while he was here because that wasn't what he was discussing. County Manager Miller said yes, and this is the first I've heard about it. I haven't heard that before; so I'm happy to work with them. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said I know of listings of different individuals who were being shown delinquent in taxes on that same identical property, like each individual owned it, and they did not. County Manager Miller said okay. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said I don't know how everybody else feels, but when your name shows up in that paper that doesn't give you a warm fuzzy feeling. It would really irritate me, if I had paid my taxes, and my name was put in there for unpaid property taxes. I'm hoping that the tax department will put something in the paper saying we realize there were some mistakes and we're working to correct it. They don't have to call out individuals, but something like that would be good. County Manager Miller said yes, we'll certainly work towards that.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Holt: I'd like to welcome Mrs. Gwynn to the Board. Mrs. Gwynn said thank you.

Commissioner Rose: Yes, I have one thing to bring before the Board. I'll bring this to the attention to the Board. As most of us, when we were elected, we took over the role of the Commissioner that we proceeded or succeeded. I'm having one issue with a committee that I'm sitting on and that is the PTRC Committee. That committee holds quarterly meetings, and they're held on Wednesday at 1:30 pm. I work on Wednesday, but I've tried. You can either go to the meeting in person or Zoom it. I've tried to join by Zoom, but what happens is the meeting starts at 1:30, I get into meeting, and I'm there about 15 minutes before I have to get out because I have obligations that start at quarter to 2. If there's a Commissioner on the Board that would be willing to do this, I'll be more than glad to take one of their committees. However, we can work it out. This is the one that deals with the Highway 86, and we have a voting interest on this

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committee. It has to be a Commissioner. It cannot be County Manager or an assistant. It has to be a voting member of the Board. So I'm just bringing this to the Board's attention.

Vice Chairman Yarbrough said is anyone interested in taking Mr. Rose's slot on PTRC, Piedmont Regional Triad Council? Commissioner Holt said I'll think about it. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said Mr. Holt is putting it under consideration. Commissioner Holt said what am I going to trade you. Commissioner Rose said it's not fair to the citizens of County if I cannot be at that meeting because there are some things that are coming up that we are going to have a voting proxy on. We do need representation on it.

Chairman Dickerson: I would like to welcome Mrs. Gwynn to the Board. Mrs. Gwynn said thank you so much. I was unwontedly detained today. I wasn't here for your swearing in. I apologize. Mrs. Gwynn said I finally realized that you were sitting where no name was. I said it must be him. I slipped in late and tried to be easy over here.

Vice Chairman Yarbrough: I too, Mrs. Gwynn, welcome you. I hope we can work together. I know that we won't agree on everything, but the majority I hope we do agree on. Mrs. Gwynn said I think we will agree on a lot of things. Vice Chairman Yarbrough said good to have you. Mrs. Gwynn said thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 7, 2023 County offices Closed for Good Friday
- April 17, 2023 Commissioners Meeting at 6:30 pm at the Library.
- April 18, 2023 Farm Bureau Board of Directors has invited the County Commissioners to meet and eat. Dinner will be at 7:30 pm at Farm Bureau located at 1508 Main Street in Yanceyville, NC. It will be nothing formal, but I do understand it will be a public meeting because I know of at least four that will be in attendance. So take note of that.

Commissioner Jefferies: I do have something I want to kind of throw out to the Board. On Thursday, March 30th, we had a meeting here at the library with about eight other counties. This meeting was with Vaya Health, and it was very interesting. Foster Care was one of the biggest things they talk about and unemployment. People staying here, but not working. Naturally we are short of help at Social services also. I just want to throw some of this out there. We also invited the DSS Director to come and take part in the meeting. I want the Assistant County Manager, Mrs. Gwynn, who took a lot of notes to go over a few things we talked about.

Mrs. Aisha Gwynn said I'll be very brief. Yes, we're both representatives, Mr. Jefferies and I, on the Vaya Health Board. We met with the Board, which represents eight counties, Caswell, Alamance, Chatham, Franklin, Granville, Person, Stokes, and Vance, and unanimously the board agreed that we would support the local the LME MCO which is the Vaya Health in voicing their opposition to the Children and Families Specialty Plan, which is being proposed and working his way through the General Assembly right now. It's a statewide plan that would affect those children that are in custody of DSS, foster care children. The plan by North Carolina Department

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of Health and Human Services said they'll be a Statewide plan for these children and families to receive health benefits. It'll be managed by the state insurer and not necessarily Blue Cross Blue Shield. They'll be bidding it out. But they feel like the LME MCOs have unified across the state, all six of them, and that it will be best if each jurisdiction maintains their own control over how they administer foster care services to the children and families that are affected by that. With that being said, Vaya Health has a tailored plan which will help with physical and mental health benefits for those families. That was supposed to started on Saturday, but it's now scheduled to start October first of this year. So what Vaya Health is requesting is a letter from this Board, and they requested it from all boards that are in the region to voice your opposition to this plan. If you have any questions, I'm willing to answer any questions you may have about that. I will tell you that most of the Commissioners that were at the meeting representing those eight counties, their agendas had already been set. So it wasn't able to be put on the agenda as an action item or discussion item for that matter. But it was something we're very interested in because unanimously they've supported the opposition to this plan. Vice Chairman Yarbrough asked if there were any questions for Mrs. Gwynn or Mr. Jefferies. All right Mr. Miller I guess that we'll discuss this at a future meeting. It can be under discussion items or action items either one. County Manager Miller said yes we can certainly put it under one or both.

ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made at 7:35 pm by Commissioner Holt and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** to adjourn the meeting. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Gwynn, Yarbrough, Jefferies, McVey, Rose, and Dickerson)

Carla R. Smith
Clerk to the Board

Tim Yarbrough
Vice Chairman

April 3, 2023

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 7
CASWELL COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
Amending the 2022 - 2023 General Fund Budget

BE IT ORDAINED by the Caswell County Board of Commissioners:

Section I: Emergency Management Services 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 | | | |
| EMS Capital Outlay | \$ 50,890.00 | \$ 144,000.00 | \$ 194,890.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$ 50,890.00 | \$ 144,000.00 | \$ 194,890.00 |
| REVENUES | | | |
| Appropriated Fund Balance | \$ 2,045,929.00 | \$ 144,000.00 | \$ 2,189,929.00 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | \$ 2,045,929.00 | \$ 144,000.00 | \$ 2,189,929.00 |

Justification: On 5/16/2022 the CCBOC approved the appropriation of \$144,000.00 to up-fit an ambulance. Due to a backup of work at the Northwestern Emergency Vehicles, the up-fit was delayed until March 2023. A Purchase Order was not done and the appropriated funds were not spent in FY 2022. Those funds rolled to the Appropriated Fund Balance. The ambulance is being up-fitted currently and payment needs to be made.

ATTEST:

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

S/Carla Smith

Clerk to the Board

S/ John Dickerson

Chairman of the Board

04/03/2023

Date



**CASWELL COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RECLASSIFICATION ON CASWELL COUNTY
911 EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATORS**

WHEREAS, in September of 2021, U.S. Representatives Norma J. Torres and Brian Fitzpatrick announced that their 9-1-1 SAVES Act passed the House as part of the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act. The 9-1-1 SAVES Act is a bipartisan legislation to reclassify 911 telecommunicators from "Office and Administrative Support" to "Protective Service Occupations" in the Office of Management and Budget's Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) catalog, and

WHEREAS, 911 telecommunicators are the first line of response during an emergency, and they deserve to be classified in a way that recognizes their work is on par with the work of public servants classified as first responders, and

WHEREAS, Senator Richard Burr introduced the reclassification bill in the Senate, where it remained, and

WHEREAS, 911 telecommunicators are working with elected officials to re-introduce this legislation with the next Congress, and local support will assist in this effort, and

WHEREAS, the Caswell County Board of Commissioners are in support of such legislative change.

NOW, THEREOFRE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caswell County Board of Commissioners that the Caswell County Board of Commissioners are in support of the bipartisan legislation to reclassify 911 telecommunicators from "Office and Administrative Support" to "Protective Service Occupations" in the Office of Management and Budget's Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) catalog.

Signed this 3rd day of April, 2023.

John Dickerson, Chair

Caswell County Board of Commissioners

Carla Smith, Clerk to the Board
Caswell County Board of Commissioners