

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

April 17, 2023
OTHERS PRESENT

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

Bryan Miller, County Manager
Carla Smith, Clerk to the Board
Melissa Williamson, Deputy County Manager
Melissa Miller, Deputy 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 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Gunn Memorial Library.

WELCOME:

Chairman Dickerson 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.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW:

Thomas Bernard asked if the County Attorney was online. Then Mr. Bernard said I do not have any appeals tonight. We did not have any appeals at the last meeting and we don't have any tonight. County Manager Miller said Mr. Chairman, I will just ask if there's anybody here tonight that wants to appeal. Chairman Dickerson then asked if there was anyone here tonight that wishes to appeal? It doesn't seem to be, so we'll move on to Public Comments. Public Comments for tonight? Thomas Bernard said Mr. Chairman, we need to close the Board of E&R. Chairman Dickerson said all right. We need a motion to adjourn as the Board of Equalization and Review.

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

County Attorney, Brian Ferrell said Mr. Chairman, before you move on from the Board of Equalization and Review this evening, I'd just like to note that there is one appeal from the last year's Board of Equalization and Review to the Property Tax Commission filed by Mr. Thomas Wright. I just wanted to update the Board that that matter has been set for hearing in August of this year at the Property Tax Commission. So it was related to your prior work as the Board of E&R, and so I just wanted to bring that to your attention tonight. Nothing for you to do. I understand the vote you just took was to adjourn this year's Board of Equalization and Review, and we'll see you next year at the same time.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS:

John Claggett: I reside at 108. Jaye Lane Providence North Carolina. I would like this public comment recorded verbatim.

On April 3, 2023 Commissioners' meeting included budget amendment # 7. It shows a Maintenance Capital Outlay budget of \$38,800 which was decreased by \$32,000 to pay for renovations of the Central Permitting Office, which was relocated in November 2022 from next door to the Elections office to the lower floor of the Health Department. However, an alternative funding from "Central Permitting Revenues" will be utilized instead of Maintenance budget. When replacing the cost to maintenance, the amount was incorrect, increasing the budget to \$70,000 - not just replacing the \$32,000 bill.

Commissioner Yarbrough questioned this expenditure. County Manager Miller stated "The total bill for that was \$32,000. The bill was paid out of the maintenance budget." As a follow-up, Commissioner Holt said "so it sounds like you just took money out of maintenance and did a project without permission." County Manager Miller answered "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."

Due to errors/oversight, this amendment was not approved, and a revised budget amendment has been written.

Apparently, contrary to Mr. Miller's explanation, this is a "new thing". The revised budget now shows the bill originally being paid from Public Health/Environmental Capital Outlay funds. The direct fees within the Public Health/Environmental Health will be used to cover this expense. Now there is no mention of either reimbursing Maintenance for work that was allegedly paid for last November nor the Central Permitting Office's revenue being utilized. (Public Health is not Central Permitting, although Environmental Health did move into that space several years ago.) Additionally, the Health Department Budget Amendment # 9 to be presented this meeting includes revenues from their Direct Fees and expenditure expenditures from their Capital Outlay budgets to cover \$32,000.

So, were the funds from the Maintenance Department used to cover the expenses incurred last November? If so, where is the budget amendment for that? Thank you.

Cody Redding: 1168 Ridgeville Road Prospect Hill, North Carolina.

On May 25, 2022 my wife and I purchased parcel number 013092 from the parent parcel 0133-012. Ronnie Pruitt was the owner. On March 29, 2023 our names, Cody and Rebecca Redding, were placed in the delinquent tax ad for the Caswell Messenger with no prior written notice of any form for the entire parent parcel. Whitney from the tax office said whenever I called, they didn't know it would be sent out like that. Not to worry; they would take care of it before the list

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was published in the paper again. The following week, the list was published again and we were still listed as owing delinquent taxes on 159 acres of land. We purchased 17 point some odd Acres out of that 159. The attorney who closed was Russell Johnson. I called and spoke with him, and he said that we needed to pay the \$362 of the parent parcel because the 2022 tax bill does not have the parcel separated. Mr. Bernard returned my call and stated the same when I discussed the issue with him. I proceeded to pay \$370 online, not counting the \$9 and some change in fees for an online transaction with the tax department on the entire parcel filed and confirmation number 18733293. I forwarded a copy of the confirmation to Mr. Bernard, and he said everything was good to go and we were in the clear. These phone calls discussions and payments all took place on April 25, 2023. On April 15th, we received the very first document from the Tax Department, which was this past Saturday, saying we had delinquent taxes in the amount of \$1687. It is the final notice document, and it goes on to say they're going to seize our property, our bank account, yada do. I sent Mr. Bernard an email on Saturday, and he had Whitney emailed me back today. I don't really appreciate that. You should have emailed me yourself. She stated that off of statutes because I bought a parcel out of the parent parcel and the parent parcel hadn't been paid in full, we were tied to that. So does that mean that my wages will be garnished? My bank account's going to be garnished? Who knows? Nobody's explained that. I tell you something else, statute number 105.369 states the tax Collector must send a written notice 30 days prior to advertisement. This past Saturday was the first document I had received. I appreciate you all's time.

Thomas Wright: Mr. Chairman do you still have connection with Mr. Brian Ferrell? He stated that the meeting at the Property Tax Commission in Raleigh was in August. County Attorney Ferrell said are you questioning the August date, Mr. Wright? Mr. Wright said yes, because it wasn't an August date. The date I got was May 22-25. County Attorney Ferrell said yes, thank you for that. Your attorney contacted the Property Tax Commission on your behalf and asked for a continuation of the hearing originally scheduled in May for after July. The Property Tax Commission secretary sent an email last week confirming that your case has been continued until the August session. I'm not exactly sure the date because they schedule in blocks. They'll determine the actual date in August 20 days or so before the hearing. I'm happy to, if you'll bear with me, I'll find the potential dates in August if that's helpful for you. Mr. Wright said it doesn't matter if it's in August but the pre-hearing, you will set that? County Attorney Ferrell said correct. I will work with your lawyer Ms. Hollencamp to set a preliminary hearing, which by Statute has to be done I believe 10 days before the hearing. So we've got some time to schedule that pre-hearing conference with you this summer.

RECOGNITIONS:

There were no recognitions.

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AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. April 3, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. FY 2022-23 Budget Amendment #8
- c. FY 2022-23 Budget Amendment # 9

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

PRESENTATION:

CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION TEAM REVIEW:

Danielle Elmore and Emily Hodges came forward for the presentation. Good evening. My name is Danielle Elmore. I am a Nursing Supervisor at the Caswell County Health Department. I also do child health and child fatality and immunizations. I'm the Chairperson for the Caswell County Child Fatality Team. Then Emily Hodges said I'm a Program assistant at the Caswell County Health Department, and I also am a Review Coordinator for Child Fatality. Danielle Elmore said in front of you, you will see in your packet it is mandated by the state for us to have a Child Fatality Team for Caswell County. So each county has a team. The purpose of this team: In 1993 the North Carolina General Assembly established a network of local Child Fatality Prevention Teams across the state to confidentially review medical examiner records, death certificates, and other records of the deceased residents under the age of 18. Each local team consists of representatives from the public and non-public agencies in our community such as law enforcement, Guardian Ad Litem, the health department, among others that provide services to the children and their families. Also on this team we have a parent representative that has loss a child as well. The purpose of the report tonight is so that we can give the Commissioners a summary of the causes of deaths, the number of cases that Caswell County reviewed, the recommended preventions, if any, that have been made, and to share with the local team our accomplishments. The role of the Casual County Commissioners is to receive the annual report which contains the recommendations and advocate for system improvements and needed resources if requested. The Board of Commissioners also appoint members to the local team as identified by the membership.

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So last year we had two fatalities that the team was able to review. One fatality, the system problem identified, and because it's confidential, we do not give specific information. One of the consistent problems that was identified was an individual under the legal age to operate an all-terrain and off-road vehicle. That was the cause of death system problem. The team came up with the following guidelines that we submitted to the state. Guidelines should be visible, and it was suggested that the guidelines be in bold print to operate the all-terrain vehicle. It has to be a certain age, and I believe it is six. The school administrator that's on the Child Fatality Team recommended incorporating golf cart/ATV safety guidelines during the bike safety week presentation that they do annually. The proposed action was to communicate with the administrators at the local schools in a way to educate our students here in Caswell County and our parents about ATV and golf cart safety. The second fatality that the team reviewed was a drowning. It did not happen in Caswell. It happened out of state, but because it was a Caswell resident, we reviewed that particular death. Recommendations were to have the safety course that is already in the local middle school and the high school curriculum to educate our students and parents about safe swimming and safe outdoor activities. Also to inquire to see if they can incorporate something into the 4-H, the Boy Scouts, and the Girl Scouts curriculum safety lesson classes about swimming in public places especially when there's not a lifeguard on duty. All of these were submitted to the state. So what happens is we, as in Caswell County and the other counties, submit our reports after the meetings. We have four meetings a year. So each quarter we have a meeting, and it's a combined team for Caswell. So it's the Child Protection plus the Child Fatality. So a representative from DSS, they have the protection part, and we all sit together quarterly to come up with solutions and recommendations that we submit to the state. On a national level, most of our recommendations therefore all of the recommendations are compiled and because they're compiled sometimes it gets the General Assembly and other things happening. In the past there may have been an intersection where there were multiple accidents, and so therefore they ended up adding a stop sign to that particular intersection. So a lot of our work that we do sometimes it is kind of heavy for us to review the deaths of the children, but we know in the long run the outcome eventually can save the life of another child. So that's the purpose of Child Fatality Team to prevent deaths happening to other communities. Some of the accomplishments and activities that the Caswell County Child Protection Team did this past year was that we were able to go to Chapel Hill for the Regional Conference, which we had not been able to do since COVID. So that was very exciting. We got to network with other counties. The annual CFPT child fatality annual summary was completed, and we sent it in by the requested date. Also our team right now has 10 active members including a parent representative. I would like to thank each of you for allowing me and Emily to speak at the meeting tonight. You all have allowed us to share our successes and dedicated work of this Caswell County local team. We will continue to review child fatalities, make recommendations, and take actions to prevent future child deaths. Feel free to contact the Health Director, Jennifer Eastwood, or myself, Daniel Elmore, at the Caswell County Health Department should there be any questions about our report. Thank you.

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DISCUSSION ITEMS:

COUNTY PROPERTY TAX LIEN NEWSPAPER NOTIFICATION ERRORS:

Thomas Bernard said what do we, and I apologize for not returning his email this morning, but I was handling several other problems so I got Whitney to do it. What we do is when those bills become delinquent, we don't split those out during the current year. In other words, we have to bill them as of January 1. If those things are split, we don't know what goes on in the closing, but they usually handle those situations on the buyer and the seller. When it comes time for them to be advertised, we have to go by the statute 105.369. We send out delinquents, and I can't guarantee everybody gets anything because we have a lot of complaint from people who didn't get delinquents. We don't have anything to do with the post office, but we have to report in the paper the name of the owner of record, date the taxes became delinquent by each parcel and if they're unpaid. So I'm trying to work with a software company so if somebody has an issue, for example they have like 100 acres and they purchased 10 acres off of that tract, the name of the individual who purchase those 10 acres, if that individual that owns the hundred acres does not pay, then those names that buy portions of those parcels do not go. That's with the software.

Chairman Dickerson asked is there a way to implement electronic notification of the delinquent taxes before it gets to that point. You were speaking of software and if email address were provided, could that be done? My mail service is terrible. I do what I can electronically. Mr. Bernard said I understand because mine's the same way. That's a possibility if we have email addresses, but the owners of record would have to send us those email addresses. I would have to get the software end of it on it, but I'm sure they could write a program to do that. There's a lot of counties that have looked at doing that. Commissioner Holt said when the lawyer did the deed search shouldn't it have popped up that there were delinquent taxes on it. Mr. Bernard said yes.

Then Cody Redding asked for permission to speak. There was \$9,400 in taxes that was took out of our closing costs and paid, which brought the taxes up to 2022. It's been a blame game from the Tax Department and from the lawyer. The lawyer said that the Tax Department is always behind on their stuff, and like you said the lawyers should have figured something out. Well I ain't got time for the blame game. I won't the mess straight. Mr. Bernard said like I said I wasn't and nobody from the tax department was in the closing. We don't know what happens. Well Whitney said that she had record of where there was stuff from closing. So how does it get put in the GIS system? Mr. Bernard said we just have where the parcels were split. We don't have any details of any closings.

Vice Chairman Yarbrough said Mr. Bernard and to be up front with everyone here, Mr. Redding is my son-in-law. But I'm not speaking on his behalf. I'm speaking as a commissioner and tax payer myself. I believe that there was approximately a \$2,000 or \$2,100 tax owed on the entire parcel that he's speaking of. According to Mr. Redding and I have the receipt where he paid his portion online. Well he received a bill from your tax department on Saturday for \$1,600 and

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some odd dollars. Why? Because that part of that parcel for 2022 has not been split. It won't be split. Mr. Bernard said so that the tax bill will go out to the original owner and subsequent owners. Commissioner Yarbrough asked why is he receiving a bill for something he don't own? Mr. Bernard said that's just the way the statute written and the way the software works. That's what I was just saying we trying to see it if they can do something where those new buyers that buy a portion of a larger track, and that owner of the large track does not pay the taxes and it doesn't get done in closing, that those names won't go. That's a software issue. Commissioner Holt said he didn't own the land in 22, did he? Mr. Bernard said no, but we had to go by January 1 ownership. He didn't own it January 1, but the portion he got had delinquent taxes on it. He paid them, but when we send the delinquent bill out, it still goes as the January 1 owner. Mr. Redding asked why couldn't I've got a delinquent bill prior to my name being put in the paper? Mr. Bernard said well I don't know. We send them out, the print vendor prints them, and I don't know what happens to them. Then Mr. Redding asked so where does this leave me having to pay for something that I don't even own? Mr. Bernard said no it does not. Mr. Redding said do I just wait until my wages get seized. Mr. Bernard said no nothing's going to happen to you. Chairman Dickerson said if he has paid his portion of the taxes, why would he... I mean I understand you're saying that it's a state law that is sent out, but that seems so wrong if someone has paid what they owed, that they're even tied in it? Mr. Bernard said because it's going off of the January 1 ownership. That's what I'm working on with the software vendor, and if they can work that out. When it gets put in our system, that proportion that someone buys from a larger track that doesn't happen. But this is the first year we've ever had these issues. Commissioner Yarbrough said so this has never happened before? Mr. Bernard said well I've never got any complaints. I won't say it hasn't happened, but I haven't had a complaint. Mr. Redding said that's just because they were old people and they just went and paid it and helped line the County's pockets. That's why I'm here today to be sure it doesn't happen to somebody else. Commissioner Yarbrough said so Mr. Redding is not liable for any more taxes on that parcel? Mr. Bernard said no. Commissioner Yarbrough said they will be billed correctly for 23. As far as his parcel, he will be billed correctly for 2023. Mr. Bernard said those bills will come out of the end of August. Chairman Dickerson said just so we're all on the same page, you feel like you can have this corrected where it doesn't happen to another taxpayer in the future. Mr. Bernard said I hope so. Like I said I'm working with the software vendor.

County Manager Miller said I think; do you mind? Chairman Dickerson said go ahead. County Manager Miller said I think when the software was built, the software was built off state statute. So it had the requirements of our state statute in the software. So the names that were produced by the software were the names that were by statute supposed to be produced. Now I think Thomas understands, Whitney understands, I understand, I think you all understand it's at no fault of Mr. Redding that his name was put in the paper. He had done exactly what he was supposed to. He had closed on the land exactly like he was supposed to. It was not his fault at all, but by statute those names that were produced were the names that were supposed to be

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produced. The statute reads “To collect delinquent taxes assessed on real property, the owner of record of property on which tax is due as of the date of delinquency and any subsequent owner of the property”. Unfortunately, when Mr. Redding closed on the property, he became a subsequent owner of the property, and that's the reason Mr. Redding's name ended up in the paper. Now I think what you're hearing the Tax Director say is he's trying to work with the software to let that not happen again, but that's going to be a one-off for Caswell County. It's not the way any other software will be built in North Carolina. Commissioner Yarbrough said right, and I don't know if it will be legal or not. County Manager Miller said well it doesn't sound like it would now follow statute to me. Unfortunately, the statutes are what they are. Commissioner Yarbrough said sounds to me like we need to talk to Senator Berger to see if we can get a new statute. The rest of this matter or similar to it because this is just, it can be in the statute I understand that, but this is just wrong. It might be legal, but it's wrong. County Manager Miller said and I think everybody in this room would agree. Mr. Bernard said we agree, but if you're going to do that and you're going to go to the Senator Berger, my suggestion is when a closing is done you get a check from the buyer, you get a check from the seller, and pay the taxes. Commissioner Yarbrough said I will not disagree with you at all. Mr. Bernard said I've been here going on 27 years, and I've been trying to tell the closing attorneys that for 27 years. That's the way so you wouldn't have any issues like this. Commissioner Yarbrough said I agree. Mr. Bernard said some of them but like I say you don't see anybody in the tax office in the closing. I do apologize for that but I can't.

Chairman Dickerson said ending up with my comments on it. With this I really would like to see some headway made in the tax office getting into more electronic communication because it's just the era we're in now, and the mail service can't be trusted. I do everything I can electronically. I've had checks taken out of my mailbox. That's old school. Everybody does things with direct deposit and they pay with credit cards. You all are the only place left that I have to write a paper check to. Mr. Bernard said you can pay with a credit card online. Mr. Bernard said I agree with you, but all the tax payers, they'll have to send an email to us to put in the file. Then the software would have to be able to do that. It would send a notice per email. Some people in Caswell County do not have emails, but a majority do. But I agree with you, and it'd be just another way to get in touch with the tax payers. Chairman Dickerson said absolutely. County Manager Miller said and to address the issue of fees, credit card fees, and paying online here again unfortunately state statute says that taxes have to be paid at par meaning everybody has to pay the same rate. If the fees were not the same or if the fees weren't charged to the individual that at par would change. Am I correct Thomas? Mr. Bernard said you are correct. County Manager Miller said and we would be breaking state statute by absorbing those credit card fees even though the credit card bills would be on a pro rata basis, in most cases the same. A hundred dollar tax bill is not going to be the same fees as a two thousand dollar tax bill, and it throws the at par situation off for the taxes. Unfortunately, that's the reason that we have to charge the fees to the individual especially in the tax office. Mr. Bernard said if the tax bill is a hundred dollars, \$100 has to be paid. It's cost three dollars for the credit card to be used; so it

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was a hundred dollars hundred and three dollars. But the at par means they have to be paid in full. Chairman Dickerson said what about with a debit card, and Mr. Bernard said either way. A debit card is a Visa. A debit card is a Visa personal consumer card, and I think it's a little bit cheaper. Chairman Dickerson said are there any more questions or comments on this topic? Hearing none; we'll move on.

ACTION ITEMS:

APPROPRIATION OF CASWELL COUNTY TDA FUNDS:

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, we spoke about this at the last meeting. The Tourism Development Authority or TDA has requested \$70,000 of the \$110,732.87 in their fund. As information for the upcoming budget sessions, they've also requested \$26,000 be paid in quarterly installments, which conforms to the statute for the upcoming budget year. So we would ask that the Board approve the \$70,000 appropriation from the TDA fund now, and we'll speak in more length about the \$26,000 during our budget meetings. But I'm happy to answer any questions about the \$70,000 appropriation or the TDA that that you may have.

Commissioner Yarbrough asked who sits on the TDA? County Manager Miller said it's by statute. It has to conform to statute, and so many members, I think, a third of the members have to be from an authority that collects the fees. So it has to be an Airbnb or a hotel, and then a third of the members have to be from a tourism and development related entity. So the Historical Association, the Chamber of Commerce, or maybe The Visitor Center. I think the other members can be at large or voted in. Is that correct Brian? County Attorney Ferrell said yes. I believe when originally constituted, there were three members Bryan. And under the legislation, one-third of the members must be from someone who is an operator that's subject to the occupancy tax, and one half of the members are individuals who are currently active in the promotion of travel and tourism. So that's the membership. I don't know who the individuals are, but those are the slots, if you will, that have to be filled.

Chairman Dickerson said Mr. Miller the way that it's set up, these fees are collected and we're obligated to turn them over on or as an accumulated basis. You're just breaking it up into the way you want to disperse now or the way it needs to be dispersed. County Manager Miller said that's correct. Then Chairman Dickerson asked if there were any other discussion or questions from the Board?

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

VAYA HEALTH LETTER OF SUPPORT:

County Manager Miller said so there's several different interesting aspects of this letter of support, and I'll just hit some of the highlights. The NCACC, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, has not taken a position on whether families should send these letters or

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not. They're kind of undecided on which way things should go. The LME MCO which stands for Local Management Entity or Managed Care Organization wants to retain care of the Foster Care Program. DHHS says and this is a quote from a letter that they sent "the status quo is no longer acceptable. They appreciate the efforts of the LME, that the LMEs have taken, but they are not in line with what the children need." Our local DSS Department says there have been positive changes during the transition between Cardinal Health and Vaya Health, but Vaya is still not perfect. There's still struggles at times. So what I will tell you is DSS is probably the entity within the county that deals with Vaya Health the most. I'll also say that we've seen a push for consolidation of DSS services and the LME MCO in recent years from the state. I don't believe these consolidations are constructed for Caswell. I believe our DSS staff is amazing and does a terrific job. They are tired. They're burned out. Many times they go under appreciated and overlooked. They do a tremendous job that many of us would not and could not do. However, I believe the needs of Caswell County's children are best met by Caswell County workers and residents. Our workers pay out of their pockets for items that clients can't afford, and they aren't in their budget. They'll take up donations, and these are the kind of workers we have working at our DSS Department. What I'll tell you is Commissioner Jefferies sits on the Vaya Health Board and the Assistant County Manager also sits on the Vaya Health Board along with Commissioner Jefferies. Our DSS Director is in favor of sending the letter. Correct? Mr. Jefferies said right. County Manager Miller said our DSS Director, although she admits things are not perfect with Vaya, says they're better than they were with Cardinal. So she is in favor of sending the letter. They are the people closest to this issue. So my recommendation is to take their recommendation, approve the letter, let the letter be sent. So I'm happy to answer any questions I can for you, and if I can't answer them, Mr. Jeffries may be able to or Mrs. Gwynn sits on the DSS Board so she may be able to. Commissioner Gwynn said she's probably more able to talk about why they are recommended Vaya. Ashley Powell said I think you're getting me mixed up with someone else. County Manager Miller said so Vaya is the LME MCO that took over after Cardinal left. Cardinal was merged, let's just say merged with Vaya because of a lot of seemingly irregularities that were occurring within Cardinal. There was a lot of outcry from the counties being served by Cardinal at that time, and there were a lot of issues. Because of that, Cardinal ended up merging with Vaya. So Vaya came in, and we had our choice to go with a couple of different other agencies. This is just not against Vaya. What the state is trying to do; it's against all of the LME MCOs not just Vaya. We chose Vaya and Vaya is doing a better job than Cardinal was doing beforehand. But these kind of situations are just difficult because they are dealing with families, dealing with children, and dealing with the emotional and mental needs of the children. It's just difficult. So what I would say is Diane Moorefield, our DSS Director, deals with this on a daily basis. Mr. Jefferies and Mrs. Gwynn, they both sit on the DSS Board. I think they'll tell you that Diane recommends sending the letter. Mr. Jefferies and Mrs. Aisha Gwynn, they sat on the Vaya Health Board, and they both recommend sending the letter. So based on their recommendations I would recommend sending the letter.

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

BUDGET SESSION SCHEDULE:

County Manager Miller said Commissioners, in your agenda packet there was a schedule laid out for your budget sessions. I believe they begin this Friday at 9:00 a.m. We're happy to entertain any questions, talk to you about the schedule, or amend the schedule in whatever way you need us to amend it. Commissioner Jefferies said I'll be out of town on May 12th, and I will not be here. Commissioner Holt said I will be gone May 19th. Commissioner Yarbrough said question since I'm new to this, as two other board members are...three other board members are. The four of us are new to this process. Just hypothetically if we missed one of these meetings and we had a concern over something that our fellow board members talked about, it could still be discussed at the following meeting. County Manager Miller said absolutely. There's nothing that's going to be locked down and other members locked out if we couldn't make one of the meetings. County Manager Miller said you're exactly right. That's exactly the case. Chairman Dickerson asked could you touch on the voting process on the budget for the new members? When the items will actually be voted on? County Manager Miller said the budget, you're going to be given a book. A set of data that is our budget. As the process goes through, you will take votes or consensus on different items that you bring up that we talk about. Now that's not to say if Commissioner Holt misses a meeting and at the next meeting he's there and says wait I know something about this that I think everybody else needs to know. It doesn't mean it can't be brought back up and changed. Beyond those votes, that set of data that you receive is never voted on again. There's not a complete vote on that book. What you vote on is the budget ordinance. After you've been through that whole process and we know the wishes of the Board, we take that information and put it into the budget ordinance. The budget ordinance is what we operate from. Now we have that line item detail, but the budget ordinance in your final vote on the budget, that budget ordinance is what you'll vote on. Chairman Dickerson said with that being said the members that are going to be missing meetings would you like to try to have them rescheduled or you want to go with the schedule as it's posed. Commissioner Holt said Fridays work out better for you? Commissioner Gwynn said I'd like to go with the schedule we have, and if it doesn't work out then we can go back to it. Maybe say after the 21st but be here on the 28th, and if there's some kind of about diversity about it could we not bring that back up at that time? Chairman Dickerson said yes, and asked if there were any more comments.

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

COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATES:

The County Manager said Commissioners, I have two updates for you, and as always I'll be happy to answer any questions you have. I wanted to just let you know that we have not received the paperwork back from the NCDIT GREAT grant. The state is supposed to send us that paperwork for voting purposes for the Board. As soon as we get that paperwork, we'll have it on your next agenda, but as to this date, we've not received that paperwork. Number two: I wanted to let everybody know that May 19th our Solid Waste Department in conjunction with the Town of Yanceyville will have a Shred-It Day. That means you can bring your documents in that you no longer want and have them shredded for free by a professional shredding company that'll have a truck out there. They will be shredded on site. It's not one of these we're going to take your documents away and shred them somewhere else. They'll be shredded there on site. That's going to occur from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. here in Yanceyville. There will be a food truck. So if somebody needed to come at lunch, there would be food available if they wanted to do something like that. We are going to have a flyer to come out soon. We'll be posting those flyers in various locations so everybody will be aware of the Shred-It Day. Commissioner Gwynn asked where will that shredding site be? County Manager Miller said it will probably be located either at the Pavilion or in the Town of Yanceyville parking lot where there's ample parking and ample space for people to be able to attend and drive around to drop their boxes off.

Commissioner Holt said I have a question. Last week we talked about this 911 Center. Obviously I must have missed something because well if it got changed over to the Amendment 8 or what but I was looking for Amendment 7. The way you were describing it last week you led me to believe that it was being run through Maintenance. County Manager Miller said so the budget amendment, I'm sorry. Commissioner Holt said obviously I took it that maintenance was doing it, which is not true. So can you help me out with that because I went over there, and I've talked to Quality. I actually have a contract from them for right at a hundred thousand dollars. Actually it's not even a contract, it's a purchase order for that job. I need for you to explain some of these things to me. One is I don't know anything about this job being approved. I know it must have happened before I got on the Board here, but a hundred thousand dollars is not maintenance to me on a building. That's a complete job. Can you explain what's going on over there? County Manager Miller said so you're talking about the EMS Center I think. Commissioner Holt said yes. County Manager Miller said the EMS group. So that was a grant that was received from NCDHHS. No from State Emergency Management for \$236,000 or something like that with no County match to upfit this building. Commissioner Holt said that was not just for that though. That was from anything the County wanted with buildings or stuff like that. County Manager Miller said no that was specifically for that job. And that was to retrofit the building, outfit it with furniture, heating and air, and those kind of things to outfit and do what needed to be done to the building to make it an Emergency Management Headquarters Center and to provide office space for some EMS folks. Commissioner Holt said okay. Wouldn't you think though on something this sizeable that you would talk to someone else, or is this the way it's been usually

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run? That you just headed all up because I don't understand. Like he showed me this contract and it doesn't show what they're supposed to be doing. Is there a set of plans such as I'm supplying these cabinets or I'm supplying this kind of electrical? The County Manager said my understanding is there is a set of plans. Commissioner Holt said this is just a vague purchase order. \$98,000, is that a complete job? Is it done? County Manager Miller said that's to build out the interior space? Commissioner Holt said carpet, doors, cabinets? County Manager Miller said yes, everything. Commissioner Holt said electrical, heating system? County Manager Miller said yes, everything that needs to be done inside the building will be done for that, and the rest is for building inspections. They have to pay for a permit, for upfitting the building with furniture, and whatever else needs to be done within the building. Commissioner Holt said I'd like to see where that was listed out if you could. What do you think is complete right now? County Manager Miller said what do I think is complete? Commissioner Holt said the completion of it. County Manager Miller said I don't know what percentage they're at as far as it being complete. I don't know what the percentage is. Commissioner Holt said because last week you were talking about you needed that money for work in place. County Manager Miller asked for what? Commissioner Holt said for the work in place is how you put it. Exact words. Just from going over and my experience, you're lucky if you're 40%. County Manager Miller said I think we're talking about two different buildings. Commissioner Holt said we're talking about right beside where you... County Manager Miller said so last week, we were talking about the \$32,000 and that was the outfit of Environmental Health. Deputy County Manager, Melissa Williamson, said yes, Environmental Health. County Manager Miller said that's below the Health Department. Deputy County Manager said right, they moved out of that building. Commissioner Holt said that was a different building. You talked about that a different time. Then we started talking about the other. That was the budget amendment that went back to zero, and we turned that down. County Manager Miller said that was the budget amendment for Environmental Health that we talked about at the last meeting. Commissioner Holt asked that the clerk go back and look today because I know it said or we talked about \$98,000. County Manager Miller said we're happy to go back and look. Actually it should be in the set of minutes in your agenda. So last week's... Commissioner Holt said we did talk about the thing downstairs. County Manager Miller said yes. Commissioner Holt said that was the Building Inspections. County Manager Miller said so there was an EMS capital outlay on the budget amendment last week for \$144,000. That was for an ambulance. Commissioner Holt said yes. County Manager Miller said okay, under the \$32,000 it says Central Permitting revenues, which is Environmental Health, Building Inspections, and Planning. That's the \$32,000, and the Maintenance Capital outlay was the \$32,000 that was increased. That budget amendment is technically the same. You're increasing revenues by \$32,000 and expenditures by \$32,000. But after discussing it with the Board, we decided to make it more straightforward and put that \$32,000 as the expense rather than having it in maintenance, we would just have it in Environmental Health as capital outlay to cover those expenditures.

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Chairman Dickerson said I have a question. This just caught my attention. You said the overall figure for the grant was two hundred and some thousand dollars. County Manager Miller said yes, that is correct. Chairman Dickerson said and the value of the contract that Commissioner Holt was looking at is \$90,000. What about the balance in that money? Is that going to be...? County Manager Miller said so that used to upfit the rest of the building. I honestly, I'm not sure if the mechanical is included in that \$98,000. Commissioner Holt said he's already set the units in the ceiling. He said he hadn't cut the hole through the roof. I would take it that it was. County Manager Miller said okay. So if that's included, the rest of that money will either have to be used for the upfit of that building, and if any money is not used for the upfit of that building, it'll have to be remitted back to the State Emergency Management.

Commissioner Yarbrough said one question Mr. Miller. We will change gears completely. County Manager Miller said okay. Commissioner Yarbrough said broadband and Spectrum. How many subcontractor? Do you know? County Manager Miller said I'm going to tell you what buddy, there's a lot of them. Commissioner Yarbrough said that is, and this is my personal opinion, the poorest designed way to do work I've ever seen. It'll be a group who works here for two days, and then the next two days that'll be 10 miles away. Then it'll be a different group come in and pick up where they left off. If they would put a group or one subcontractor and say you do this section and when you finish, you're done. But they hop around. I can see why it costs so much. County Manager Miller said I cannot explain to you their rhyme or reason for how they work and why they work. What I can tell you is they've turned on an additional 532 residents since our last in-person meeting, which was less than a month ago. So they are making headway. I'm sure there is a rhyme or reason to their madness, but I've seen the same thing Commissioner Yarbrough. I've seen the exact same thing you're talking about.

Commissioner Holt said I've got a story for you. They pulled up in my driveway last Thursday and blow the horn. This is one of those trucks with the crane. I come up from the barn, and he said I need to get out in your field. Then he said if I get stuck you, do you have a tractor to pull me out. I said yes. He said well how about your neighbor, and he just happened to be up on that farm. He lives in Raleigh. He was turkey hunting. So I call him, and he comes up there and meets him. He says I'll be back in the morning. He never shows up. That guy stays another day waiting on him because his gate's locked. He doesn't show up again. Then the next night he comes up in my driveway at five o'clock and says I got to do this. I was out there till midnight, and he still wasn't through to lock that man's gate. I mean I don't get it. Then he's telling me I need to run PVC all the way to my house so he can pull that line.

Commissioner Yarbrough said I know you probably told this Board, but what date do you have for a completion date as far as Spectrum goes. County Manager Miller said so what I've told you before is I don't like to give you dates. Because if I give you dates, then somehow or another it's on my shoulders. I don't know. I would say July or August. Commissioner Yarbrough said I was thinking you were saying late summer. County Manager Miller said yes, I would say July or August. Deputy County Manager said and the rain doesn't help. County Manager Miller said no

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the rain doesn't. Commissioner Rose said but as soon as Spectrum finishes, this next company is able to come in to work on that north side of the county. County Manager Miller said well they can come in just as soon as the contracts are done. They don't have to wait for Spectrum to finish. So, here again, not my deal. I don't have any control over it, but what Zitel has told me is they have the cable, they have everything they need, they're ready to get started, and they want to get started as soon as they can. So I will tell you I have another commission meeting with the state on broadband the end of this month. I expect a lot of the issues, maybe not all of the issues that you've spoken about, but some of the issues will be discussed at that meeting, and hopefully I can bring back some additional information to present to the Board on the first. Commissioner Yarbrough asked for your best guess when all of this is done, Spectrum, Zitel, everything's done that we can receive federal or state money on. What percentage of the County residents will be able to get online? County Manager Miller said any county resident that wants an internet connection will have it. That's when you go through, I understand there's skepticism about that. So when you look at Zitel, who's north, you look at Spectrum, who's kind of all over the place central, eastern, and southern, but they don't cover all of it because it was done by census block. Then you look at the upcoming program that we have after the GREAT grant, which is called CAB, which we set aside \$350,000 for CAB out of the ARPA funding to match a grant for CAB. So that'll put out our CAB award at about four million dollars, which if we apply for it, we're pretty much guaranteed to get it. There's over a hundred million, no. I don't remember how much there is for CAB, but there's at least enough for every county in North Carolina who wants it to get four million dollars. So if we apply for it and we have that much need, we can get probably four million dollars. That will build out, and you as a Board will have more control over that. That's because we get to pick the places for that internet is deployed. It still has to be to unserved or here's the key, underserved areas of the county. So somebody that came in and said well I've got internet, but it's 20 down and five up. So it's still slow. It's still not good. That knocked the amount of some of these other programs because they still met the national definition for having broadband. This will allow us to go into those areas where the internet still isn't good and target the unserved and underserved areas, put those out for an RFP, and let providers bid on those areas. I would imagine at that time since Spectrum is kind of all over the place that they will have a large interest in some of those areas. I would also assume that Zitel will have some interest in some of those areas. So we can build out for those areas. Then there's this one program and I can never remember the name of this program, but I refer to it as Last Mile. Last Mile will allow us to connect any resident off the beaten path that wants internet service. So that's why I say any resident that wants internet service. There may be some homes that don't have it, but it's because they haven't requested it.

Chairman Dickerson asked if there were any questions before moving on.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

There were no Commissioner Comments.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 18, 2023 Farm Bureau Dinner at 7:30 pm at Farm Bureau located at 1508 Main Street in Yanceyville, NC
- May 1, 2023 Commissioners Meeting 6:30 pm at the Gunn Memorial Library

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made at 7:48 pm by Commissioner Rose and seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough to consult 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 privilege is hereby acknowledged NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3).

Attorney Ferrell said Mr. Chairman before you vote on that motion, I'd like to name some parties to an existing but as of yet unfiled lawsuit for which you will receive advice this evening. The parties to that existing but unfiled lawsuit are Ernestine Hamlett, Charles Blackwell, and Trudy Blackwell, plaintiffs versus Caswell County and the Caswell County Board of Commissioners in their official capacity.

A **motion** was made at 7:48 pm by Commissioner Rose and seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough and **carried unanimously** to consult 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 privilege is hereby acknowledged NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3). (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Gwynn, Yarbrough, Jefferies, McVey, Rose, and Dickerson)

ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made at 8:29 pm by Commissioner Yarbrough 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

John Dickerson
Chairman

April 17, 2023

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 8
CASWELL COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
Amending the 2022 - 2023 General Fund Budget

BE IT ORDAINED by the Caswell County Board of Commissioners:

Section I: Health Department/Environmental Health Revenues and Expenditures: The General Fund is hereby increasing/decreasing the following lines in the amounts indicated:

	2022 - 2023 Original Budget	Increase (Decrease)	2022 - 2023 Amended Budget
REVENUES			
Direct Fees - Public Hlth/Env Hlth	\$ 96,800.00	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 128,800.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 96,800.00	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 128,800.00
EXPENDITURES			
Public Hlth/Env Hlth Capital Outlay	\$ 119,346.53	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 151,346.53
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 119,346.53	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 151,346.53

Justification: Environmental Health Revenue/Expenditure overage to pay for renovating Central Permitting office spaces.

Section II: Family Services Revenues and Expenditures: The General Fund is hereby increasing/decreasing the following lines in the amounts indicated:

	2022 - 2023 Original Budget	Increase (Decrease)	2022 - 2023 Amended Budget
REVENUES			
Family Services-NCHTC/NCAOC Grant	\$ -	\$ 86,540.00	\$ 86,540.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ -	\$ 86,540.00	\$ 86,540.00
EXPENDITURES			
Family Services-NCHTC/NCAOC Grant	\$ -	\$ 86,540.00	\$ 86,540.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ -	\$ 86,540.00	\$ 86,540.00

Justification: Family Services received a grant from the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission and the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts for the purpose of providing economic assistance funds for qualified organizations providing services to victims of domestic violence. No County Match

ATTEST:

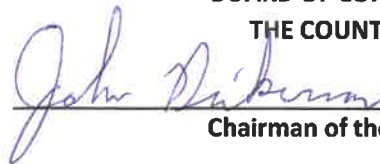
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR
THE COUNTY OF CASWELL:**



Clerk to the Board

04/17/2023

Date



Chairman of the Board

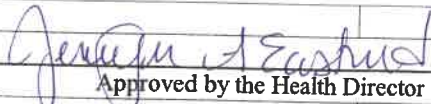
CASWELL COUNTY BUDGET AMENDMENT #9
HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT #2

Be it ordained, the FY 2022-2023 Budget Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:

PUBLIC HEALTH 5110		Amended 1	Amended 2	
Expenditure Line	Account Code	Increases/Decreases		Revised Budget
Salaries & Fringe	140.5110.121-183	\$100,000.00	\$20,000	\$ 2,358,943.00
Contracted Services	140.5110.199	\$43,786.00	\$20,000	\$ 532,412.00
Food & Provisions	140.5110.220			\$ 7,200.00
Program Supplies	140.5110.230			\$ 58,765.00
Medical Supplies	140.5110.238	\$10,000.00		\$ 59,224.00
Office Supplies	140.5110.260			\$ 18,400.00
Small Tools & Equipment	140.5110.295	\$50,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$ 114,239.00
Mileage/Fuel/Travel subsistence	140.5110.311			\$ 32,173.00
Training	140.5110.395		\$25,000.00	\$ 36,050.00
Maintenance & Repair	140.5110.352	\$30,000.00		\$ 41,200.00
Laundry/Advertising	140.5110.392			\$ 14,061.00
Dues Subscriptions & Pub.	140.5110.491			\$ 18,900.00
Capital Outlay	140.5110.500	\$100,000.00	\$32,000.00	\$ 217,753.00
Vehicle Repair	140.5110.353	\$4,735.00		\$ 8,535.00
HH/CAP medical Supplies	140.5110.239			\$
Telephone/Postage/meter rental	140.5110.321/325			\$ 22,900.00
Insurance/Bonding	140.5110.450			\$ 4,500.00
Fuel		\$5,000.00		\$ 5,500.00
Printing/Copier Rental	140.5110.431/340			\$ 18,475.00
Quarterly Medicaid Fees		\$21,600.00		\$ 21,600.00
TOTAL EXPENSE BUDGET				\$ 3,590,830.00
Revenue Lines	Account Code	Increases/ Decreases		Amended Budget
State - Public Health		\$ 109,734.00	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 714,557.00
Cost Settlement		\$ 233,786.00		\$ 238,677.00
AUBP Payments				\$ 64,020.00
Covid AA's				\$ 442,815.00
County Appropriation				\$ 790,874.00
Medicaid	1405110333103			\$ 563,500.00
Medicare	1405110333101			\$ 5,000.00
Direct Fees	1405110333107		\$ 32,000.00	\$ 148,300.00
Private Insurance	1405110333100			\$ 14,500.00
Fund Balance				\$ 523,587.00
TOTAL REVENUE BUDGET				\$ 3,505,830.00
Justification				

Accepts funding from ARPA Regional Workforce Development from Region 5 (Guildford County). \$20,000 for sign-on/retention bonuses; \$20,000 for equipment; \$20,000 for contracted services for strategic plan and CHA development; and \$25,000 for employee education and staff development.

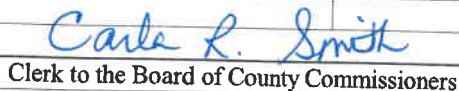
That all Ordinances or portions of Ordinances in conflict, are hereby repealed.


 Approved by the Health Director

4/11/2023
 Date


 Approved by Board of Health, Chair

4/11/2023
 Date


 Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

4/17/2023
 Date

APPROVED BY THE CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Bryan Miller, County Manager

Date: April 17, 2023

Subject: FY2024 Budget Work Sessions with County Departments

It is my understanding that the Board would like to begin the FY2024 budget process as soon as possible through weekly meetings on Fridays. These meetings will give our departments an opportunity to share their budget requests and needs for the upcoming year. As departments are finalizing their budget requests, we are in the process of preparing the following information as context for the budget discussions:

- FY2023 Actual revenue and expenditures compared to budget
- FY2024 Projected revenue – Ad Valorem, Motor Vehicles and Sales Taxes
- FY2024 New funding commitments or mandates
- FY2024 Preliminary Fund Surplus or Gap

We anticipate having the above information ready by Friday, April 28th. We are prepared to begin work on some budgets on April 21st and offer the below schedule, along with topics to be covered, for your review and consideration:

Day, Date	Time	Topics to be Covered
Friday, April 21 st	9:00am	Area Transportation and ROAP, Court Facilities, Housing Authority, Family Services, Special Appropriations, Library
Friday, April 28 th	5:30pm	FY24 Budget Overview , General Government, Debt Service, Special Separation, Cultural & Recreation Resources
Friday, May 5 th	9:00am	Public Safety: Sheriff, 911, Building Inspections, Coroner, Emergency Management, EMS, Animal Control
Friday, May 12 th	9:00am	Solid Waste; Economic & Physical Development; Environmental Protection; Health Department
Friday, May 19 th	5:30pm	Social Services, JCPC, Education

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these work session dates.