MINUTES – APRIL 2, 2018

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the Caswell County Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 2, 2018. Members present: Rick McVey, Vice-Chairman, Sterling Carter, William E. Carter, Jeremiah Jefferies, David Owen and Kenneth D. Travis. Absent: Nathaniel Hall, Chairman. Also present: Bryan Miller, County Manager and Brian Ferrell, County Attorney. Paula P. Seamster, Clerk to the Board recorded the minutes.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

Vice-Chairman McVey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Vice-Chairman McVey opened the meeting with a moment of Silent Prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Commissioners and all the guests in the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Travis asked to amend the agenda to remove Item #9 due to not have a full board present for the meeting.

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried by a vote of four to two with Commissioner S. Carter and Jefferies voting no.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner S. Carter to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

The following items were included on the Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes of March 15, 2018 Special Meeting

B. Approval of Minutes of March 19, 2018 Special Meeting

C. Approval of Minutes of March 19, 2018 Regular Meeting

D. Approval of FY 2017-2018 Budget Ordinance Amendment

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Mr. Chairman were we going to discuss the approval of Item D?” The clerk responded that this was already approved. Commissioner S. Carter continued “All in that together, thank you.”

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vice-Chairman McVey opened the floor to Public Comments.

Mr. Steve Oestreicher came before the Board and made the following statement:

“Steve Oestreicher, 228 Cactus Drive, Prospect Hill. And you are postponing Item 9, is that correct?” Vice-Chairman McVey responded “Yes sir.” Mr. Oestreicher continued “I had handed each of the commissioners as well as other people my write up on basically what I was going to present concerning the financing of the high school and at this point I would like to personally deliver that to the full board so I will postpone my comments until such time that there is a full board here. Thank you.”

Vice-Chairman McVey asked if anyone else would like to speak during Public Comments. With no further comments Vice-Chairman McVey closed Public Comments.

RECOGNITIONS

Vice-Chairman McVey asked if there were any recognitions. There were no recognitions.

APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING TO PROCEED WITH BAAT CAMPAIGN AND BROADBAND MARKET STUDY

Mr. Miller informed the Board that the Library Director, Rhonda Griffin sent her regrets that she could not attend the meeting and she asked Mr. Miller to give the Board a brief summary of the BAAT campaign that would like the county to realize the gaps in the broadband infrastructure as well as help recruit companies to come into the county to provide those services to the citizens. This campaign would also give the residents some input in the process. The study will research exiting broadband providers and look at broadband needs in underutilized resources and infrastructure within the county. This group will contact other providers to discuss expansion plans. The BAAT campaign would consist of cloud hosting of the campaign website for an initial 6 month period from the activation date. Data will be collected from the residents both through the internet and through hard copies. ECC would plan to attend on-site meetings with Caswell County for the site development on content phase. Caswell County will be responsible for the local level marketing efforts. The initial thoughts were to go out and compete for grant funding for the cost of the project which is about $41,000 but after rethinking this it was decided to not approach it this way. More discussion will be done during the budget sessions. Mr. Miller asked if the Board had any questions.

Commissioner Owen stated that there have been numerous studies on the broadband issue and the Board knows that broadband is an issue and there has to be something done to address this issue for economic development and for the citizens. He added that he is more concerned about the back end of the study because he is afraid that providers will not come here because there are not enough residents in certain areas. Mr. Miller responded that this may be the case but right now the county does not know all the information on where it is located and where it is not or if the residents would be able to pay for the service.

MEDICAID REFORMATION

Ms. Sharon Hendricks stated that Ms. Jennifer Eastwood could not be at the meeting today but she had spoken with the Board before about the Medicaid Reformation that is coming through the early part of 2019. She added that Ms. Eastwood sent a letter to the Board and it should be included in the Board packet. Ms. Hendricks asked for a vote from the Board to move forward with the Association of Local Health Directors being the county’s representative to negotiate rates and deal with the insurance companies that will be involved with this reformation.

Mr. Miller added that with the entire Association of Local Health Directors the county will probably come out better having the entire group advocate for the county instead of the county advocating for itself. Mr. Miller stated that he supports this request.

Ms. Hendricks added that any contracts that will be entered into will come before the Board first.

Mr. Ferrell stated that a letter of intent allowing the Association to handle this on behalf of the county as well as a definitive agreement will come back before the Board for approval.

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner S. Carter to allow the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors to handle negotiations of the Medicaid Reformation for the Caswell County Health Department. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A STATEWIDE REFEREDUM ON A BOND ISSUE FOR SCHOOL FACILITY NEEDS

Mr. Miller stated that HB866 was introduced to provide additional capital resources for the new construction of schools. The resolution is in support of that going on the referendum in the form of a bond.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Maybe for the sake of the public read it out loud at this time.”

Mr. Miller read the resolution”

**CASWELL COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF CASWELL

**SUPPORTING A STATEWIDE REFERENDUM**

**ON A BOND ISSUE FOR SCHOOL FACILITY NEEDS**

**WHEREAS,** based on information from the school districts and counties, the Department of Public Instruction reported in 2016 that North Carolina's public schools need about $8.1 billion to pay for new school facilities, maintenance and renovations; and

**WHEREAS,** the 2016 report, also known as the Statewide Facility Needs Survey, found that 118 new schools are needed across North Carolina. Fifty are needed immediately, and sixty-eight are needed in three to five years; and

**WHEREAS,** besides new construction, 1, 560 schools need renovations to comply with safety and building code requirements and to address deferred maintenance, 459 schools need additions for new classrooms; and

**WHEREAS,** a priority goal of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners is to support legislation to provide state assistance to meet school construction needs caused by increased enrollment and mandated reduction in class size, through a statewide referendum on a bond issue; and

**WHEREAS,** the Statewide Facility Needs Survey also showed that construction costs are increasing, from a base of $136 per square foot in 2005 to $194 per square foot in 2015 and interest rates and construction costs are still rising; and

**WHEREAS,** deteriorating facilities, which distract from learning, impacts achievement and we need to ensure public school facilities are conducive to study; and

**WHEREAS,** counties in both urban and rural areas are faced with high costs for renovations land repairs to update and make the older buildings safe; and

**WHEREAS,** counties have limited options to raise revenue to pay for school construction; and

**WHEREAS,** because counties lack sufficient sources of funding for school facilities, the state has responded in the past by approving statewide school construction bonds to address needs nearly once per decade; and

**WHEREAS,** a statewide bond is urgently needed to help address the staggering shortfall in funding for construction, repairs, and renovations at public school facilities throughout North Carolina because outstanding needs are estimated to exceed $8.1 billion; and

**WHEREAS,** Caswell County has school capital needs in excess of $42 million; and

**WHEREAS,** it is estimated that Caswell County could receive $15,959,188 toward the shortfall of school capital needs; and

**WHEREAS,** the NC School Bond - HB 866/ SB542- would invest $1.9 billion to begin addressing these critical needs all across the state.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** the Caswell County Board of Commissioners urges the North Carolina General Assembly to call for a statewide referendum on the November 2018 ballot which is referred to as the Public School Building Bond Act (HB866/ SB542) so that school districts across North Carolina are better able to meet urgent facility needs.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED,** that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the members of the General Assembly representing Caswell County and to all 100 counties in North Carolina.

Adopted this the 2nd day of April 2018.

Commissioner Owen stated it would go to Caswell County’s legislatures and then to the 100 counties but he would like to see this resolution go to the committee that the bill is currently in at the Senate. Commissioner S. Carter responded “Finance Committee.” Commissioner Owen continued that this committee definitely needed to get the resolution even if it did not go out to all 100 counties. He added that Caswell needed to make its voice known in the committee.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Do we need to amend it at this point to include that in the wording or?” Mr. Ferrell responded that the Board can amend the actual language in the resolution or direct the county manager to make sure that it is delivered to the committee chairs or however the Board would like to proceed. Commissioner S. Carter continued “That is fine.” Commissioner Owen stated that as long as it is delivered to that committee especially he would be fine.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chair I had one other thing I was going to bring up, at our last meeting we had a similar resolution for the state and I made the suggestion that all members present when it was voted upon sign the resolution and was curious if this Board was willing to do that in this instance as well.”

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

MY WELLNESS, MY WAY WORKSITE WELLNESS OPPORTUNITY

Mr. Miller informed the Board that this was not a new policy but there is some new language in it. After meeting with the My Wellness, My Way Committee there have been some changes to the document. Previously the policy stated that county employees could participate in worksite wellness activities 3 times a week for up to 30 minutes each, this has been reduced to 2 times per week and there was also a provision in the past policy that would allow employees to participate before reporting to work or just prior to leaving work but with the current policy it would have to take place after reporting to work. Most employees would be able to use this for the current My Wellness, My Way activities such as the informational seminars that the committee approves and any other worksite wellness activities they choose to engage in. He stated that there have been some substantial changes in the policy. This policy is still dependent on supervisor approval. Mr. Miller added that Commissioner Owen met with the committee and Commissioner S. Carter sent an email in outlining his thoughts on the policy and he felt the committee did a good job coming up with the policy that is being presented to the Board.

Commissioner Owen added that he wanted to clarify that with the two 30 minute periods and the employee attends a diabetes workshop that is for 30 minutes, that 30 minutes comes out of that hour for the week. Mr. Miller added that an employee cannot do both, it is not an and or situation.

Commissioner W. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to approve the My Wellness, My Way Worksite Wellness Opportunity. The motion failed by a vote of three to three with Commissioners S. Carter, McVey and Travis voting no.

SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE

Mr. Miller stated that the items that the Board asked staff to address in the Solid Waste Ordinance in the last meeting, the 10 bag limit have been changed. There was also a provision of covering the waste while being transported to the convenience site is in the current version as well. He asked for the Board to consider approving the revised version of the ordinance.

Commissioner Jefferies stated that he did not see the covering of waste while being transported in the ordinance. He added that he read it in the minutes but he did not see it in the ordinance. Commissioner S. Carter responded “We amended the ordinance.” Mr. Miller responded that the ordinance was amended to include covering the solid waste but he added that covering solid waste is state law currently. He added that it is not needed in the ordinance but it would be a good thing to include it in the ordinance.

Commissioner Travis asked who will enforce this issue of covering the solid waste while transporting to the convenience center. He added that nobody will enforce it because no one has time to do this. Mr. Miller responded that this is state law. Commissioner Travis stated that it can’t be enforced because no one has time to enforce this.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chair this is just a response to Mr. Travis, this is not me disagreeing with you Mr. Travis I understand the concerns, I share those same concerns but as with a lot of our ordinances you know a lot of it is complaint based and that is how we have to, you know, handle some of these things so if someone was to call and complain, you know, Mr. so and so is riding down the road then the county has to respond to that.” Commissioner Travis responded that someone can ride behind one of First Piedmont’s trucks and see trash fly out. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Absolutely.”

Vice-Chairman McVey asked if there were any more questions.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that he had a comment that he wanted to make. He stated that the Board went through and updated the Solid Waste Ordinance last fall and the Board approved it and to him it looked like every month since then something is being brought up about the Solid Waste Ordinance.

Commissioner S. Carter moved to adopt the revised Solid Waste Ordinance. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

Mr. Ferrell informed that the Board voted unanimously at the last meeting to change the restriction of the 10 bag limit that will be amended in the Solid Waste Ordinance. The tarping issue that was brought back tonight did not pass unanimously at the last meeting so this piece will not be in the Solid Waste Ordinance.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that he considers the tarping the same as a speed limit sign; it is state law and should be followed. Commissioner Travis responded the county just does not have anyone to enforce it.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Either way that provision is covered, whether through us or the state at this point.”

COUNTY MANAGER’S UPDATES

FY 2018-2019 Budget Update

Mr. Miller stated that the county is still waiting on the budget requests from a couple outside agencies as well as a few county departments but he hoped to have the Board someone on the budget this week.

Commissioner Travis asked when the deadline was to have this information in. Mr. Miller responded the initial deadline was last Friday. Commissioner Travis stated that if the deadline is passed staff should move forward with the budget. Mr. Miller responded that the problem with several agencies is they are having trouble gathering information from the state and without this information they can’t put together a solid budget.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Mr. Chairman I just have a question, is there no reason why we couldn’t mention which departments and which agencies we are waiting on at this point? Is that sensitive or is that…” Mr. Miller responded no. Commissioner S. Carter continued “I would like to have it in the minutes.” Commissioner Jefferies responded that Social Services has not turned its in because they are waiting on the state. Commissioner S. Carter stated “So DSS is one.” Mr. Miller responded that DSS is one. The Senior Center is another department. The county is still waiting on the Animal Protection Society. The county is still waiting on the budget information from Piedmont Community College. The School System’s budget was just received late last week. There are several that came in really late and there are several that are still outstanding. He added that this is not the complete list but the ones that he could remember off hand. Commissioner S. Carter continued “But on a positive note, we are ahead of the process than where we were last year, correct?” Mr. Miller responded that he believed the county is slightly ahead.

Commissioner McVey asked the county manager to remind these agencies and departments that the Board is waiting on the budget.

Personnel Policy Work Session Dates

Mr. Miller stated that at the last Board meeting the commissioners said they would provide the clerk to the Board with information on dates that you are available for the Personnel Policy work session. He added that he would like to schedule a work session on the personnel policy so if the commissioners would get with the clerk it would be much appreciated.

Commissioner Owen suggested that the clerk send out a Doodle Poll. Mr. Miller responded that this was a great idea.

Department Head Retreat

Mr. Miller informed the Board that there will be a Department Head Retreat at the Caswell Pines Golf Club on Wednesday from 9:00 to 4:00 and he invited the commissioners to attend. He asked the commissioners to let him know as soon as possible if they planned to attend.

Commissioner Travis asked what this retreat is going to cost the county. Mr. Miller responded that there are several different costs associated with the retreat. There will be cost for the trainers coming in, facility rental as well as food. He added that he would be glad to give the Board a complete listing of the cost at the next meeting. Commissioner Travis asked if this money was coming out of fund balance. Mr. Miller responded no. This money would come out of the training and travel budgets were appropriated for this year. Commissioner Travis asked if there was enough in the budget to cover this. Mr. Miller responded yes.

ANNOUNCMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A. District Meeting – April 25, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. – Chatham County.

B. Commissioners’ Joint Meeting with the Rockingham County and Stokes County

Board of Commissioners - Thursday, April 26, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m. – Economic

Development Center, Reidsville, NC

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Before we go into closed session, Commissioners I have one and I don’t know if you will call it an announcement but more of an informational item, Melissa Jones with North Village told me about to the best of my knowledge a grant that is available by application for cancer patients within only Caswell County. I don’t know how much it is. I haven’t seen the application yet but I was told that those applications could be picked up at North Village and the Caswell Family Medical Center and that it is fairly easy to apply and it covers any kind of costs to deal with treatment or cost of living or for travel, etc., anything for those individuals. I don’t know the name of the grant but I will definitely be sending out an email once I get that information and hopefully get some applications maybe here at this building as well if that is okay with the rest of the Board.”

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner W. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to go into Closed Session to discuss economic development and to consider the compensation, terms of appointment and performance of an individual public officer (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)). The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to resume the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Owen stated that he had one item that he wanted to clarify for the Wellness Committee and what the Board voted on because the clerk needs direction. He added that since the Board voted against the policy the employees cannot attend the wellness events that are held during the day and this has been going on for quite some time. Commissioner Owen asked if this was correct.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “I have an opinion on that Mr. Chairman and that is you could potentially set up those types of meetings during lunch hour could you not?” The clerk responded no. Commissioner S. Carter continued “No, you cannot, okay.”

Mr. Miller stated that he was not asking the commissioners to revisit this issue. He added that the My Wellness, My Way committee has made significant strides in providing educational and important information to the employees. Mr. Miller reminded the Board that at the last meeting it approved outside agencies to participate in these activities. He encouraged the Board to find a way to authorize these programs to take place. This information does not stop at the employees it also goes to the residents as well. He added that these programs are important for our employees and eventually these programs will be important for the county’s bottom line when it comes to health care. Commissioner Jefferies responded that it should be important to the insurance company as well. Mr. Miller stated that it is important to the insurance company. He also reminded the Board that the insurance company helped the county initiate this wellness program. Mr. Miller suggested that the Board create an avenue that authorizes the employees to participate in these wellness activities.

Commissioner Owen stated that he was not bringing this issue back up for a vote but he did want the Board to know that the employees could not participate as it stands now. Mr. Miller responded that he thought this is the worst thing that could possibly happen.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that he thought the diabetic program is very important.

Vice-Chairman McVey asked if this needed to be handled now or be brought back at the next meeting. Mr. Miller responded that this is the fourth time it has been on the agenda but he would be happy to put it back on the agenda.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman I just wanted to make my opinion clear on the program, I am not against the programs themselves my only issue with this was that they were doing it on the clock during the day. That is all my concern or issue is. If there is a way that we can work these programs in outside of their regular work schedule that is where I stand with it. I don’t think they should be taking 30 minutes off to go to a class when they can be doing x, y and z at their job. That is just my opinion.” Vice-Chairman McVey responded that this was part of his problem with the program. Commissioner S. Carter continued “If there is a way around that I would pursue it right now but I don’t know the details.” The clerk responded that professional put on these workshops and the county works around their schedules. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Okay.”

Commissioner Owen stated that he understands what Commissioner Carter is saying but the Board needs to understand the other side of this. The county for the last 2 years has seen the insurance rates go up and it is because of claims. He added that the healthier the employees are the less claims are turned in. Commissioner Owen stated that he sees both sides of the issue. He was concerned when the original plan called for 3 days.

Commissioner Jefferies stated that the Board needs to realize that it is motivating the employees as well to be healthy.

Commissioner Owen suggested that the Board think about what has been said about this program and put it on the next agenda. Vice-Chairman McVey agreed to put it on the next agenda.

Mr. Millers stated that he wanted to be clear that the Board wants to see a policy that only allows participation in the organized wellness activities, not the twice a week for 30 minutes. Vice-Chairman McVey responded that this was correct.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:36 a.m. Commissioner W. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner S. Carter to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Paula P. Seamster Rick McVey

Clerk to the Board Vice-Chairman

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