MINUTES – APRIL 1, 2019

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 1, 2019. Members present: Rick McVey, Chairman, Jeremiah Jefferies, Vice Chairman, Sterling Carter, William E. Carter, Nathaniel Hall, Steve Oestreicher and David Owen. Also present: Bryan Miller, County Manager, Brian Ferrell, County Attorney and Luke Burris representing The Caswell Messenger. Paula P. Seamster, Clerk to the Board, recorded the minutes.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

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

Chairman McVey stated that one item needed to be added to the agenda and he turned this over to the county manager. Mr. Miller stated that he would like to add a Resolution in support of the State Restoration of the Thomas Day House, Union Tavern to support tourism and economic development in Caswell County, NC.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman I would prefer for the sake of our visitors today if we could put that item after Recognitions or in lieu thereof if we don’t have recognitions.” Chairman McVey responded “After Recognitions?” Commissioner S. Carter continued “Yes.”

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

The following item was included on the Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes of March 18, 2019 Regular Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman McVey opened the floor to Public Comments.

Ms. Elin Claggett came before the Board and made the following statement:

“Good morning, I would like this recorded verbatim please. May name is Elin Claggett and I reside at 108 Jaye Lane, Providence, NC. You may have a management problem when: An entire department, who had plans to move this county forward, resigns within 30 days of each other. The problem is not everyone who quit. When a friend of a commissioner is offered a newly created, off-budget, job as Assistant Finance Director presumably to take over responsibilities of the Finance Director, who had not yet resigned. When a department head’s first choice of employee is ignored in favor of County Manager/HR assistant’s husband-to-be. The other leading applicant was internal and worked for the Department of Recreation. When a department head has a loan from this County for a private business. This may be a conflict of interest or used as leverage on the job. When a department has 30% of employees resign within 6 months, many whom have 10-20 years working in the County. Again, the problem is not everyone who quit. That same Health Department Director had been noted by employees to spend considerable time with the County Manager and reportedly paid a visit to one of the Commissioner’s home to see his farm. When a department head, the Board of Elections, asked this board for a raise and it was denied only to be replaced by a person who was hired for the same position at a significantly higher salary. When a person is hired for the Chamber of Commerce, and her brother just happens to be associated with the building contractor who has worked on many new county buildings, including problems that cost the taxpayers’ millions of dollars in change orders and reparations. Watch who gets the BYHS contract. When the County Manager receives the largest raise in the County, $11,988 or 15% increase, as a result of a Salary Study and the HR Director received the third largest employee raise, $8,964 or 22% increase in salary. This relationship makes it difficult for employees to bring their concerns to Human Resource Department for support. Each of these scenarios has been presented to you as Commissioners, sometimes publically and sometimes in Closed Sessions. I’m sure each of you can think of additional examples. Individually, these incidents appear to be business as usual and have already been justified. I also realize there are two sides to every story. However, collectively, these and many more examples indicate you may have a problem. Thank you for your time and consideration.”

Mr. John Claggett came before the Board and made the following statement:

“Good morning, my name is John Claggett and I reside at 108 Jaye Lane, Providence, NC. Mr. Chairman and your fellow board members in my November 1, 2018 article in The Caswell Connection I wrote about Caswell’s missteps before, during, and after the devastation of the remnant of Hurricane Michael. I wrote about the lack of communication and coordination between various agencies and Caswell County Emergency Management. I questioned the county’s leadership roles in providing property guidance to the various agencies that are supposed to support the citizens in times of crisis. I also questioned the effectiveness of our elected officials. At that time county staff admitted that things could have been handled differently and that a committee had been set up to review the Caswell County Emergency Plan. I’ve been told that committee has met 3 or 4 times. Recently the county has provided a service to receive emergency alerts on your cell phone and land line. I have registered both my cell and home phones. The service is called Code Red. As posted by the National Weather Service entitled ‘Severe Weather Preparedness Week in North Carolina is March 3 – 9, 2019 Statewide Tornado Drill scheduled for Wednesday, March 6 at 9:30 a.m.’ The National Weather Service continued, ‘March 3 – 9, 2019 is Severe Weather Preparedness Week in North Carolina. This week the National Weather Service and the North Carolina Department of Public Safety are teaming up to bring this severe weather safety campaign to all of North Carolina’s residents. With warmer weather quickly approaching, now is the time to prepare for the severe weather season. If each North Carolina resident would take a few moments this week to learn about severe weather safety and implement a safety plan, then we would all be better off when severe thunderstorms and tornados inevitably strike our state and the likelihood of injury and fatalities caused by severe weather could be minimized.’ The National Weather Service post goes on to say ‘Schools and government buildings statewide will hold tornado drills Wednesday, March 6, at 9:30 a.m. to practice their emergency plans. Test messages will be broadcast on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radios and the Emergency Alert System. All North Carolinians are encouraged to participate in the drill.’ March 5th the date before the drill Caswell County Emergency Management posted basically the same information with the omission of ‘Schools and government buildings statewide will hold tornado drills’. My Code Red on either of my phones failed to notify me during the drill. I’ve been told by county staff that others experienced the same outcome. According to Caswell Emergency Management ‘The Code Red system provides Caswell County officials the ability to quickly deliver messages to targeted areas or the entire county’. So, what happened to the ability to quickly deliver messages to targeted areas or the entire county? If you gentlemen read your email you would know that two weeks after the scheduled drills and having to read or heard anything I inquired as to the results, as there was nothing publicly stated to this board by way of County Manager Updates. But that’s not to say you didn’t know about it. I’ve since been informed that Caswell Emergency Management assisted the schools with their tornado drill but those within county government buildings did not participate. Caswell County Schools Safety and Security Overview states ‘The district works closely with the Caswell County Sheriff’s Department, Emergency Management Services, Health Department, and local fire and rescue departments to promote the safety and security of our school campuses. Coordinated efforts have been made to increase access and knowledge of each school’s crisis plan and participation in mock drills.’ The school system states exactly who the ‘Community Partners’ are. The county states ‘Caswell Emergency Management (CEM) Department along with the combined efforts of other local, state and federal government as well as volunteer agencies work together to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters both natural and manmade. Caswell Emergency Management works to identify and analyze the hazards that citizens of Caswell County may be faced with and develop contingency plans for each hazard.’ Really? Why wouldn’t the various ‘Community Partners’, Sheriff’s Department, Health Department, Local Volunteer Fire Departments, Emergency Operations Center, DSS be defined in Emergency Management’s mission statement but not participate in a statewide drill sanctioned by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety? The very reason for the statewide tornado drill was to fine tune contingency plans! Here were some of this board’s concerns when discussing the Emergency Operations Plan November 5, 2018 in the wake of Hurricane Michael. Commissioner Hall’s concerns: The plan was not available to everyone; There weren’t any identifiable triggers to start things and no plans to follow up; Identifying shelters and county wide communication was a major problem; The County was not able to adequately distribute emergency supplies due to communications as well as planning. The citizens should know what they need to do in advance. Commissioner Owen’s concerns: The execution of the Emergency Operations Plan needs improvement; Citizens didn’t know the centers were open. Commissioner Jefferies’ concerns: The board did not need to look at the cost, but to look at saving lives. Commissioner Travis’ concerns: Information about shelters should be knowledge available prior to a disaster. The county manager contended that there were a lot of things done right. How do you know that without an assessment? So, what should have been this unidentified emergency plan committee’s or task force’s role in this statewide drill? The long and the short of it is that again it seems that there was a missed opportunity by the county to assess itself as to their ability to properly respond to a weather crisis. Gentlemen, it’s obvious this opportunity was missed by design. There will be another severe weather event. So, what happens then, more staged bags of ice melting in a parking lot that hadn’t lost power? More unresolved conversations regarding what facility does or doesn’t get a generator? More unresolved conversations about who provides what, when, and where which leaves the citizens unattended to during a crisis? An emergency plan is more than just a document that couldn’t be accessed last October due to a formatting process that seemed to escape county staff at the time. This board aptly made that determination publicly November 5, 2018. Thank you.”

Mr. Craig Hoxie came before the Board and made the following statement:

“Good morning Board of Commissioners, I’m coming for the second time. I did meet some of you men the last time. Craig Hoxie, I live in the old Connally House on the corner of Solomon Lea Road and Highway 158, it’s full of Thomas Day woodwork and I appreciate the County recognizing his importance to our County and State and beyond and I invite any of you Commissioners have an open invitation to come into my house and see some of the spectacular work that he did. It’s really one of the key points of my house and I am blessed to have been there for 25 years. I wanted to bring up again my concern over the Dollar General is in the due diligence phase across the road from me diagonally and it’s a concern for us what the status of that is, if it’s still moving forward. I also have concerns on what the water supply is going to be for this commercial business. I’m a retired fire chief of Durham, I did 32 years of public service and I am going my own assessments of that there and what the lead fire department has on hand to respond to that and I know it is all going to be tanker support and such but the thought comes to mind that we could during the permitting process try to encourage an onsite dry hydrant as we develop this site and if Dollar General comes I think they should be required to have a pond with a dry hydrant hooked to it on site that would help the local fire departments when they respond to local emergencies there. That’s just food for thought and I am sure the managers have looked at that. The second thing on the fire department, last year there was a big assessment of the ISO ratings of the volunteer fire departments and I haven’t heard back as to how the Leasburg, I know Leasburg had a 9 which is the lowest rating you can have and I’d like to hear back if it improved to a 7. I think that was there goal and if it did I need to let my insurance company know so it can lower my premiums because as residents we would like that information back. If lowering it to a 9 or an 8 or a 7 on the ISO rating that helps us residents let our insurance companies know so it will lower our premiums so it is beneficial for us to hear back from that if somehow that could be communicated. I appreciate the comments of my fellow county residents it was very enlightening but I appreciate the work y’all are doing and for the attorney and the county manager and the work you are doing. I am just anxious to hear again where we stand with the Dollar General, it sounds like it is coming to Leasburg and how you are going to deal with future development in our county to give us some protection or buffer before rapid development takes over before we have an opportunity to raise concerns. Thank you for your time.”

Chairman McVey asked if there was anyone else that would like to speak during Public Comments. With no further comments Chairman McVey closed Public Comments.

RECOGNITIONS

Commissioner W. Carter recognized the Caswell County EMS, Emergency Management, the fire fighters and other personnel that helped with the plane crash. He added that everyone worked well together.

Commissioner Owen added to Commissioner W. Carter’s comments that there was a quick response which without a doubt saved the father’s life in this crash and he thanked God for how quickly everyone was able to respond and get them where they needed to be and neither one perished.

Mr. Miller recognized the new Family Services Director, Ms. Khali Aisha Gwynn and added that her first day is today. He added that Ms. Gwynn has a long line of helping people. Mr. Miller asked every to welcome her to the team.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE STATE RESTORATION OF THE THOMAS DAY HOUSE, UNION TAVERN TO SUPPORT TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN CASWELL COUNTY, NC

Mr. Miller read the resolution to the Commissioners and public.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE STATE RESTORATION OF THE THOMAS DAY HOUSE, UNION TAVERN TO SUPPORT TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN CASWELL COUNTY, NC

WHEREAS, Thomas Day (1801-1861) was a free black furniture craftsman and cabinetmaker in Milton, Caswell County, North Carolina. Born a free black man in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, Day moved to Milton in 1817 and became a highly successful businessman, boasting the largest and most productive workshop in the state during the 1850s; and

WHEREAS, Day is heralded in modern society as an incredibly skilled craftsman and savvy businessman, specifically in regards to the challenges his race posed to his success in the Antebellum South;

WHEREAS, Thomas Day’s Union Tavern workshop was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, but unfortunately burned down in 1989. There have been successful efforts to restore the workshop and turn it into a functional and educational museum on Day and his craftsmanship: the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. bought the burned structure and created the Thomas Day House/Union Tavern Restoration organization. The group is dedicated to rebuilding Union Tavern and restoring the legacy of Thomas Day. Today, Union Tavern is restored and is a hands-on museum to Day’s life and work, featuring actual pieces of Day’s furniture that visitors can touch and examine; and

WHEREAS, Day’s legacy in North Carolina and in the historical community today is strong and lasting as the public grows more interested in Day’s life and work, and exhibits and events in his honor prosper. A successful life and a strong work ethic earned Day a reputation of skill and service that has lasted long past his life; he is permanently memorialized in statute form outside of the NC Museum of History, placing him irrevocably in mainstream history both in North Carolina, in the field of historical craftsmanship, and in the public memory.

WHEREAS, Governor Roy Cooper included in his 2019-2021 budget, $625,000 dollars intended for the restoration efforts of the Thomas Day Union Tavern;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THE FOLLOWING:

The County of Caswell supports the appropriation and the project because it will enhance the lives of Caswell’s Citizens, encourage economic development in Milton, NC, but most importantly, bring a renewed interest to an incredible businessman and craftsman that lived during one of the most difficult times for people of color and thrived as a result of his ingenuity, craftsmanship, and intelligence.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the County of Caswell, NC on April 1, 2019.

 S/Rick McVey\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Rick McVey, Chairman

 Caswell County Commissioners

Attest: S/Paula P. Seamster

 Paula Seamster

 Clerk to the Board

 S/Jeremiah Jefferies\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Jeremiah Jefferies, Vice Chairman

 Caswell County Commissioners

S/David Owen\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ S/Nathaniel Hall\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

David Owen Nathaniel Hall

Commissioner Commissioner

S/Steve Oestreicher\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ S/Sterling Carter\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Steve Oestreicher Sterling Carter

Commissioner Commissioner

S/William Carter\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

William Carter

Commissioner

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to approve the resolution in support of the State Restoration of the Thomas Day House, Union Tavern to support tourism and economic development in Caswell County, NC. The motion carried unanimously.

SENIOR TARHEEL LEGISLATURE

Ms. Sylvia Banks thanked the Commissioners for allowing Marilyn Corbett and herself for coming to share the information that has happened since October of 2018. She gave the Board a packet that included a press release, information about North Carolina is Aging from Health and Human Services, a golden rod color sheet that has the priorities that have been established for this year and next year, copy of Project CARE for this year, a copy of the staff to patient care in nursing homes, a copy of the increased funding for the Senior Tarheel Legislatures, and more information on the Home and Community Care Block Grant, Piedmont Triad Regional Council on Aging and AARP. Ms. Banks stated that she is Caswell County’s delegate for the Senior Tar and she has Marilyn Corbett with her who is the alternate. She added that the Senior Tar met on March 12 and 13th of this year at the Rural Center in Raleigh and the theme was All Embracing. Ms. Banks stated that seniors are an increasing part of the population and the services as well as support as caregivers is declining. She added that 54 rode the bus and other drove to this meeting in Raleigh. Ms. Banks stated that Joyce Smith the Director of Aging and Adult Services gave an update of the division and recognized Dorothy Crawford, which is a member of this group, for turning 101 this month and Ms. Smith stated that the Dorothy R. Crawford Award would be given out in honor of her which is the first award to be named after a woman. She added that Dr. Althea Taylor Jones was presented an award by Charmaine Fuller Cooper, who is the Associate State Director for the NCAARP, for her recognition throughout the years that she has been involved in the Senior Tar as well as a professor at Winston Salem State University. Ms. Banks stated that she continues to serve as the Sergeant at Arms for the Senior Tar as well as the Co-Chairperson for the Enrichment Group. She thanked the County Commissioners for their support and for their encouragement for Ms. Corbett’s and her concerns for being Senior Tarheel representatives.

Ms. Marilyn Corbett went over the information on the golden rod color sheet which contained the Senior Tarheel Legislative Priorities.

Ms. Banks thanked the Board and asked if there were any questions or concerns.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a general comment, as a caregiver I greatly appreciate you all advocating for this and thank you for presenting it to us.”

Commissioner Owen thanked them for advocating for him since he is now 63 years old but he was a little worried because they are now advocating for seasoned seniors and he is not sure he fits in that group anymore but he thanked them both for what they do.

LOCAL CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Danielle Elmore thanked the Board for the opportunity to give this presentation. Ms. Elmore stated that she is one of the Public Health Nurses at the Health Department as well as the Coordinator for the Local Child Fatality Team in Caswell County and with here is Ms. Emily Hodges who is a Processing Assistant for the Health Department. She added that the Local Child Fatality Team meets quarterly where they discuss ways to prevent deaths for children 178 and under. Ms. Elmore stated that in 1993 the North Carolina General Assembly established a network of local child fatality prevention teams across the state to confidentially review the medical examiner’s report, the death certificate and other records of deceased residents under the age of 18. She continued by saying that each team consists of public and non-public agencies in the community such as law enforcement, guardian ad litem, health departments, as well as other that provide services to children and their families. Ms. Elmore stated that this team reviews deaths that are not suspected of abuse or neglect. She added that the purpose of this presentation is to give the Commissioners a summary of the causes of death, the cases that were reviewed, recommended preventions if any, local activities and accomplishments. Ms. Elmore stated that in 2018 the Child Fatality Team reviewed 7 child deaths and identified 5 system problems in those deaths and recommended future prevention efforts. She added that she has a confidential report that Ms. Seamster will give the Board; this information could not be released because the information is confidential. Ms. Elmore stated that this report was also shared with the Board of Health.

Ms. Emily Hodges stated that she is a Review Coordinator and she schedules meetings, mail out confidential memos to the team members, helps to clarify system recommendations and actions, records any Child Fatality Prevention Team input, mails completed report forms to the Child Fatality Coordinator, follows up on additional information, maintains and reviews records, and collects and disposes the confidential information.

Ms. Elmore stated that the Caswell County Health Department has a Car Seat Technician and it is the only car seat technician in the County of Caswell. She added that in 2018 twelve car seats were issued to non-Medicaid clients and because of funding they are unable to give these car seats to clients that have Medicaid. Ms. Elmore stated that before a car seat can be issue the parent is required to take a one hour class that teaches car seat safety and how to install the car seat. She added that the Child Fatality Team would like to find ways to issue car seats to Medicaid clients. Ms. Elmore thanked the Board of Commissioners for the opportunity to share the successes and dedicated work of the local team. She added that this team continued to make recommendations. Ms. Elmore stated to please contact Jennifer Eastwood, Health Director or herself at the Health Department if there are any concerns or questions about the record that they will receive at the end of the meeting.

Commissioner Hall asked Ms. Elmore if he heard her correctly to say that car seats could not be issued to Medicaid clients. Ms. Elmore responded that this was correct. Commissioner Hall asked for the rationale. Ms. Elmore responded that in the agreement addendum with the State it can only be given out to non-Medicaid clients. She added that it is a funding issue but she did not know why. Ms. Elmore stated that this has been discussed with the Board of Health and there is a possibility of getting donated car seats from the community and turn those in for funds.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Mr. Miller stated that this presentation that is about to be presented is a recommendation on how to move forward with the County’s health insurance program. He introduced Wes to the Commissioners.

Mr. Wes Grigston stated that he is with Arthur J. Gallagher and the firm is headquartered outside of Illinois however his team is located in Charlotte, NC. He continued by saying that he is happy to bring the solution to North Carolina and that solution is called the North Carolina Health Insurance Pool or NCHIP. Mr. Grigston stated that he has given the staff at Caswell County a proposal to join NCHIP. He stated that NCHIP is an intergovernmental agreement in which counties, cities and towns across the state of North Carolina have decided to come together to share in unpredictable high cost health insurance claims. Mr. Grigston stated that this is allowed by the State of North Carolina and is regulated by the Department of Insurance and is driven by its members. He added that every member will appoint a delegate to sit on the Board of Trustees. Mr. Grigston stated that this is a financial vehicle so it is a way for the members to share in its financial claims and not about the specific plan design and the county will retain its own plan design autonomy. He added that the team at Gallagher and underwriters develops the insurance rates. Mr. Grigston stated that this is managed by the State’s preeminent public sector vendors and he considers Gallagher as one of the top brokers in health insurance in the State of North Carolina. He added that they look at a county’s, city’s or town’s health insurance claims and claims over $40,000 are the most unpredictable health insurance claims, these claims are the ones that cause the premiums to go up. Mr. Grigston stated that if Caswell County has no claims over $40,000 claim then there will be a single digit percentage increase to the health insurance and if there are many claims over $40,000 the county can look for 20%, 30% or possible 40% increase to the health insurance and NCHIP allows its members to share in that risk stabilizing the volatility that a county would see on a standalone basis. He stated that Brunswick County, Catawba County, Orange County and Alleghany County as well as several towns and cities. Mr. Grigston stated that Gallagher looked at Caswell County’s most recent claims history for the past 24 months and they project an 11.1% increase in total funding, the current rate is $1.78 million and it will go up to $2.078 million for the 2019-2020 plan year which would be $173,000 a month to the NCHIP accountant. Mr. Grigston stated that this program will acts just like a fully insured program but it is self-funded. He stated that the Gallagher team would represent Caswell County if the Board decides to move in this direction and Gallagher would work with the companies in the market to secure the best prices for coverage which would be Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina with no impact to the employees. Mr. Grigston opened the meeting up for questions.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the 7½% increase is over 5 years or per year. Mr. Grigston responded that the 7½% is a national trend increase in what is seen in health insurance premiums so it would be 7½% each year.

Commissioner Hall asked why the County needed a broker and why the County couldn’t negotiate directly with Blue Cross Blue Shield. Mr. Grigston responded that this program is only available through Arthur J. Gallagher because they form the program, manage the pool, underwrite the risks and Blue Cross is only in place for two reasons: 1) allow access to their network and 2) administer the claims but everything else is done by Gallagher and its team. Mr. Miller added that the other reason it would be beneficial to be a part of a pool is we would not be in this alone and would increase the number of employees covered by the plan which spreads out the risk associated with providing medical coverage. Mr. Grigston stated that the larger the pool becomes the more predictable it becomes and Caswell will be sharing its risk with the partners so no one claim will disproportion or affect the pool.

Ms. Mindy Satterfield asked a question directly to Mr. Grigston. Mr. Grigston responded that the claims $0 to $40,000 is the most predictable layer and this will be specific to Caswell County and all the members inside the pool and once it goes over $40,000 that is when the sharing begins.

Mr. Ferrell stated that most folks have an annual assessment feature on outlier claims that will be assessed at the end of the year and he asked if there is an actual true up. Mr. Grigston responded that there are no outlier claims and the way the model is designed is claims that range between $40,000 to $200,000 will be shared on a per member per month basis and he gave the example of Brunswick County which is larger than Caswell County so Brunswick County would be paying more per member per month and anything excess or the outliers will be on a stop loss basis so anything $200,000 or above will be reimbursed through a stop loss process.

Ms. Satterfield asked a question to Mr. Grigston. Mr. Grigston responded that on a fully insured basis if the county paid Blue Cross $2 million and Blue Cross only paid $1.5 million in claims there is a gap of $500,000 so Blue Cross retains that profit but on a really bad year and the county paid $2 million and Blue Cross paid out $2.5 million in claims there will be a huge renewal, a 40 or 50% renewal. He added that with a self-funded basis the County’s claims are their claims because the county is contracting with a third party to pay the claims and NCHIP allows smaller groups to be self-funded so the county will be protected from that risk versus being on a standalone basis. Ms. Satterfield asked another question. Mr. Grigston responded that it would be seamless to the employee since the County is already with Blue Cross and Caswell County has the right to make any plan design changes as well as any contribution changes for employees. Ms. Satterfield asked another question. Mr. Grigston responded that under this arrangement the county has full flexibility to change premiums, plan design if the county decides to do so but it is Gallagher’s responsibility to make those recommendations as well as price the changes. Ms. Satterfield asked another question. Commissioner Hall stated that staff is not a part of this Board and should not be a part of this discussion.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if there was a change in the preexisting conditions. Mr. Grigston responded no.

Mr. Miller stated that the other options were major plan design changes which reduced the level of coverage for the employees and the savings of this change would be marginal at best. He added that apples to apples in changing the plan with Gallagher the other option would be a 24% increase rather than an 11.1% increase.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if this would be to stay with the current plan. Mr. Miller yes through the current program the county would experience a 24% increase. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the 24% increase was before or after negotiations. Mr. Miller responded after negotiations.

Commissioner Owen stated that he would like to get a physical copy of the presentation that has been presented to the Board. Mr. Grigston responded that he would send it to him.

RECESS

The Board took a brief recess.

DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLITY OF CASWELL COUNTY GETTING AN AIRPORT

Commissioner W. Carter stated that some time ago he talked to the economic developer about looking into federal grants to build an airport and that there is a need to build an airport near the VIR race track because some of the larger jets can’t land in Danville due to the weight of them and due to Danville shortening the runway. He added that the larger planes can only land at the Raleigh/Durham or Greensboro airports. Commissioner W. Carter stated that Cori Lindsey, Economic Developer, found where she could apply for a federal grant for 90 to 95% to build an airport for Caswell County. He added that Richard Bailey is here today and he has been in the aviation business for a lot of years, served as the chairman for the Airport Commission in Danville, VA, he is the chief flight instructor in Danville and Richmond and he can answer any questions the Board may have.

Mr. Richard Bailey stated that he has been in aviation for about 47 years. He added that he met with Mr. Carter and Mr. Miller last week. Mr. Bailey stated that due to some ill advice the Danville Airport was shortened and the load carrying capability was greatly reduced and as a result the larger jets as well as the private jets cannot land in Danville anymore. He added that corporate America uses jet to get to places and one company in Danville is based out of Poland and they can no longer land in Danville. Mr. Bailey stated that he is not going tell the Commissioners that if they build this airport they will land here but he did say that if there is no airport they will land somewhere else because they can’t come here. He stated that his suggestion to the Board is to contact the North Carolina Department of Aviation to get some guidance on a feasibility study that would answer the questions on where, if it will work, cost of the project, and how to get it paid for. Mr. Bailey stated that he thinks this would be an attraction for economic development.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Mr. Bailey is it possible that the Danville Airport would expand at its present site, if we develop something here are they going to up us?” Mr. Bailey responded that anything is possible and he added that Mr. Carter stated that there is funding available and certain criteria has to be met to get the funds and the likelihood of the Danville Airport getting funding would be very slim. Commissioner S. Carter continued “I did not know how much land they had available to lengthen those.” Mr. Bailey responded that with imminent domain land can be obtained and the Danville Airport has room to expand but he did not see that happening. Commissioner S. Carter stated “I then have a small question, you are talking about corporate jets, how many passengers are we talking about once are at that stage, I mean engine size or how big of a plane is it?” Mr. Bailey responded that corporate jets seat up to 6 people and jets that seat 8 to 10 people and a lot of corporations are purchasing 737s and refurbishing them particular the ones coming from Europe and Asia.” Commissioner S. Carter asked “As far as weight was is your threshold currently that they can land?” Mr. Bailey responded 66,000 pounds. He added that the smallest 737 with minimal crew on board could weigh 120,000 pounds. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Thank you sir.”

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if there was a timeline on when this grant is available. Mr. Dailey responded yes and no because it is budget dependent. He added that it is a sharing type grant with the federal government and states. Mr. Dailey stated that it refurbishes itself each year but it is a first come first serve type grant and as the funds are drawn down it dries up or it is obligated. He recommended a feasibility study to begin with. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if there is grant money for the feasibility study. Mr. Miller responded that many times there are funds available with grant partners in the region.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “One more Mr. Chairman, what is the annual budget at the Danville Airport as far as general yearly maintenance goes?” Mr. Bailey responded that it has been a while since he has seen the budget but he believes it is about $480,000.

Commissioner W. Carter asked Mr. Bailey to talk about the economic impact that the airport brings. Mr. Bailey responded that the figures that was shared with him last week that the economic development coordinator came up with was between $1.5 to $2 million and when he received these figures he thought they were very, very low. He added that Virginia did an economic impact study and on the Danville Airport prior to the shortening of the runway it contributed $68 million annually to the economy. Mr. Bailey stated that the $1.5 to $2 million could be multiplied 10 times. He offered his assistance with this project.

Commissioner Hall stated that about 10 to 15 years ago the Board looked at the possibility of getting an airport in the county and the Board was aware then and there was and still is funding available and nothing was pursued but he wished to move forward and made a motion to that.

Commissioner Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to have the County Manager to get the Board information for a feasibility study so this can move forward.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the motion includes having the county manager to look at getting a feasibility study. Commissioner Hall responded that it would only imply that because the Board would need additional information because the county manager may come back and say it may cost $50,000 and then the Board will have to see where the money will come from but the motion is just to start the process. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that this is just the beginning of looking at getting a feasibility study and not a feasibility study itself. Commissioner Hall responded that this could be done in a short period of time; he just wanted to start the process. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that he wanted it to be abundantly clear.

Mr. Miller stated that a lot of the data is there due to the recent feasibility study and other studies so hopefully this can be made available fairly quickly once the general information is found.

Commissioner Hall stated that there are other options or benefits other than corporate travel that might be important for the county to have an airport and that would be important to know as well.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion carried by a vote of six to one with Commissioner Owen voting no.

DISCUSSION ON LITTER CONTROL

Commissioner Hall stated that at the last meeting he stated that he wanted to put something on the agenda concerning litter in Caswell County and specifically about the litter in his neighborhood. He added that in his neighborhood within 10 to 15 miles he has seen more litter this past winter than he has seen in years. Commissioner Hall stated that there are citizens that clean up the litter but he does not think it is his responsibility to pick up other people’s trash. He recommended that the Board look at some type of task force to look at ways to hold people accountable and specifically hold the neighbors accountable.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that the county still has issues with people from Virginia still coming into Caswell to dump their trash at the convenience sites.

Commissioner Owen stated that he agrees with Commissioner Hall to a certain extent but he disagrees and believes that it is the citizens’ responsibility to pick up trash and he does pick up trash. He noticed last week that the State is contracting with a private enterprise to pick up trash because they pick up trash on Highway 86 and two primary secondary roads and there were about 4 people walking and a truck with flashing lights but he did not see the company name on the truck. Commissioner Owen stated that this may be a good thing to ask the State to expand on. He stated that the last time this was talked about he was asked to do some research and he talked with several agencies or non-profits that were doing road cleanup but the problem was they did not have time to do meetings. Commissioner Owen stated that he does see a need but he thinks the citizens need to take pride in their communities and they can do a better job in their communities than county government can and he thinks that is the citizens’ responsibility to a certain degree and if there is a community that wants to get together a task force in their community that would be great.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the inmates were still picking up trash off the road and if Commissioner Hall was talking about establishing a task force to assign responsibility for people that put out trash on the roads and if so he would like to see this task force formed to try to cure this problem. Commissioner Hall responded that if people are held accountable there will be less trash. He added that something needs to be done to hold people accountable for their actions.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that the Town has someone who picks up trash and pays them 20 hours a week.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I have a couple points. I agree with the concerns obviously, most of this trash is in the right of way, I am curious what DOT is contracting out but that is only for major highways but you said secondary roads, that’s confusing to me. And then for the sake of you know discussion here I would again mention as I did last year, I think we mentioned it, we have the Adopt A Highway program that citizens, civic organizations, religious organizations, anyone, a single person can apply for a single mile stretch of the highway and I would just encourage you know the citizens publically in our meeting that that’s a very accessible program, I’m involved in it, it is very easy to acquire the sign, they send you the bags, your safety vest they send to you and I would love to see more of that. I still don’t think many citizens know about that program and maybe some public awareness would help with that. And then when it comes to trash in private property areas beyond that right of way I’m pretty sure our Solid Waste Ordinance has provisions for you know holding those individuals accountable and that should be not only our prerogative but the citizens responsibility to report those and I know there is not a lot of that going on because you drive by these properties all day long and sometimes I feel like make a note of each address but you know that’s everyone’s responsibility and I don’t think there’s one solution for this but a mixture of those points I mentioned previously. A lot of this trash is recyclable materials; I would love to see this county participate in some kind of program. I know that in Rockingham and Person, First Piedmont out of Chatham, VA issues out recyclable containers for that but not in this county, I am just wondering why and if maybe that is just something we need to do and reach out to them and say hey we probably have many citizens in this county that would love to participate in a program but then with that trash pickup component with the Adopt A Highway and just private individuals doing it because of their compassion for that, that would give them a way to do something productive to those. So now that the county manager is back in here I would suggest to pursue DOT and see what kind of program they have going on and who they contract with and then I would just encourage us Board members and the citizens to encourage the Highway program and maybe contact First Piedmont or some other organization and see if some kind of recycling program exist that we might be able to participate in. While you were gone I shared that Rockingham and Person participates in First Piedmont’s recyclable program but I don’t know why it is not here. Mr. Miller responded that as part of his updates today he was going to inform the Board that the new Solid Waste Director has worked with Person County and has formulated a plan with Person County for them to accept anything that we don’t sell and the cost of this program will be $25 per load and anticipate one load a week and the money is already in the budget and the program is starting this week so as of this week the county is recycling plastics and newspapers with Person County. He commended the new Solid Waste Director for putting that program together and for working with Person County. Commissioner S. Carter continued “I would just follow up that the containers the citizens would have to pay for those and I am just wondering if First Piedmont became aware that there were a x number of citizens willing to participate in that that they would do the pickups for us.” Mr. Miller responded that pick up service is available to anybody in Caswell County that pays for it and it may be a little different because it would require additional routes for specifically recyclable units but if that is something the Board would like to look into it could be looked into. Commissioner S. Carter stated “I think it would be worth doing that for x number of citizens ask them to formulate for an additional route for them to pick up if the citizens are willing to participate because it would be a person to person basis because we are not going to force them to do it.” Mr. Miller stated that he would check on this. He added that the recyclable bins are at the convenience centers that the residents can dump their recyclables in but it can be checked on for curbside recyclables.

Commissioner Hall stated that the Adopt A Highway program is treating the symptom but not the problem and the issue of a recycling center is not the issue he wants addressed. He wants to address the issue of people throwing their trash out on the roads. Commissioner Hall stated that most of the people in his neighborhood know about the Adopt A Highway program and he has known about it for years but the issue is that when it comes to December, January and February they are not going out to pick up the trash because it is too cold but people are still throwing the trash out and that is why he wants to address the accountability issue.

Commissioner Owen stated that he agrees 100% and he added that the reason it is more visible in the winter time is because the grass is not growing but he does think the pickup program is a good program and this Board needs to start with this. He added that if the Board projects a positive arena to the citizens on how to keep Caswell County clean and take pride in Caswell County and one way to do that is cleaning and picking up trash when we can. Commissioner Owen stated that this is also affecting economic development and the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Caswell County.

Chairman McVey asked the Board how to direct the county manager.

Commissioner Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies that the Board establishes a task force to look at a Keeping Caswell County Beautiful Project to include establishing accountability for the people who are littering and education for others to help keep the county clean.

Commissioner Hall stated that he was willing to chair this task force and that he would find 4 or 5 people in the community who would be willing to serve and come up with some ideas and put together a summary and report back to this Board within 2 months.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I just have one question for Mr. Hall, when it comes to right of way trash; you are talking about beer bottles being in the ditch at your house or in your yard?” Commissioner Hall responded yes. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Both?” Commissioner Hall responded yes because his yard slopes and runs right up to the right of way. Commissioner S. Carter asked “With the Solid Waste Ordinance when it comes to that being a parcel on private property, does that trash intermingle with that property owner being responsible to a violation in some sort?” Mr. Miller responded yes if you follow the letter of the law but in many cases having someone litter on someone’s property a beer bottle or trash does not trigger a Solid Waste violation at least he did not think so but there are places in the county that are used a dumping grounds and there is an abundance of trash those areas would be viewed differently in that it would be the property owner’s responsibility.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ON CODE OF CASWELL COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. Miller stated that the Board had this information in its Agenda packet at the last meeting for review and it is back again because there were some questions on it or there may be questions on it now. He added that it was suggested to have a public hearing on this item but he is happy any questions the Board may have.

Commissioner Owen stated that he was one of those that wanted it back because he thought he would have questions but after he had time to do a thorough study the questions were answered within the document.

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that the last time the Board talked about this it was discussed to have a public meeting and he voiced his concern about adding to or changing the Animal Control Ordinance subsequent or after this and he was wondering if the Board was misleading the public by not including this information. He asked if there was a way to address this and he asked if the Animal Control Ordinance revisions would be available as an addendum to the Code or just some way to address this concern about bait and switch. Mr. Miller responded that the revisions to the Animal Control Ordinance can take a lot of time and he added that he has included as of today the amendment to the Kennel Ordinance in the Animal Control Ordinance but the Board has also stated that it wanted to take a look at the Exotic section so incorporating these items will entail a lot of discussion and it has been his experience that working through these discussions takes a lot of time. He added that the ordinances that are included in the codification now are current and what the County has on the books as of today and any new amendments or revisions they are not in effect as of today’s date and that is why he said the codification needs to be what is in effect and not something that is proposed. Mr. Miller stated that after proposed changes or ordinances are enacted then the amendments can be made to the codification through the process with Municode that they have to make those amendments and it is done in a very methodical way and it will ensure the legality of the changes and the enforceability of the changes as well. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that this would satisfy his request.

Chairman McVey asked if the Board needed to move forward with public hearings on the codification. Mr. Miller responded that his recommendation would be to allow himself and the county attorney to look at what the requirements are. Mr. Ferrell added that the requirements are fairly straightforward and his recommendation that the Board set a date to hold a public hearing on the adoption of the codification and really what the Board has is just a repackaging of the existing ordinances and nothing new has been added but if members of the public have questions the Board will be prepared to do that. He added that after the public hearing the Board can vote on this at the same meeting and if it is a unanimous approval the Code would go into effect that day but if it does not get a unanimous approval it would need to be brought back within 100 days for a second vote and when ordinance amendments are made they will be amendments to the Code.

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner S. Carter to hold a public hearing on the Codification at the next meeting on Monday, April 15, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY MANAGER’S UPDATES

Solid Waste

Mr. Miller stated that this past Friday and Saturday were the County Beautification Days that the Board had approved where citizens could take things to the landfill that would usually have a charge to leave and he reported to the Board that there was a lot of activity. He added some very unusual objects came in such as two or three camping trailers, four or five old motor boats, and two jet skis so there was a lot of activity that went through the scales and he thinks this was a plus for the county to have these items removed.

MOU from the School Board.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked for a status on the MOU with the School Board. Mr. Miller responded that he has not received the MOU back. He added that he has been contacted by the superintendent by voice mail but he has not communicated back with the superintendent but in the voice mail the superintendent did indicate that the Board of Education did agree to sign the MOU as presented by the Board of Commissioners so he hopes to move forward with the process this week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Joint Meeting – Stokes County, Rockingham County and Caswell County – Pine Hall, NC – April 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
2. District Meeting – April 25, 2019 @ 5:00 p.m. – Chatham County

Commissioner W. Carter mentioned the Cattleman’s Association Meeting that will take place on Tuesday, April 2nd. He added that he was looking at the email about HB520 that would benefit the firemen and this will be voted on within the next couple of weeks.

Commissioner Owen asked if the Board was going to ride together to the Joint Meeting in Stokes County. Mr. Miller responded that he would arrange the transportation. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if riding together would be considered as a meeting since there will be more than 4 commissioners in the same vehicle. Mr. Miller responded no as long as the ride involves friendly conversation and no county business is discussed and he encourage the Board to do that. Mr. Ferrell stated that the Board may want to invite a citizen to ride along with the Board but asked the Board to be mindful of the perception. Commissioner Oestreicher asked the county attorney if he was recommending that this be published that we are going to Stokes and if people want to ride along they can. Mr. Ferrell responded that anytime the Board has a public meeting it has to be noticed but the act of transporting the Board to a meeting does not constitute a meeting but the risk is there is a group of you together and the public will have to rely on your honor that there is no public business discussed there so what he was suggesting is that as a matter of transparency is to invite someone to ride along with the Board. He added that these are the kinds of issues that the Clerk studies at her Clerk Conferences and she may have some good guidance on this issue. Commissioner Hall stated that if the commissioners take a classes at the School of Government or the online Ethics class these issues are also addressed.

Commissioner Hall stated that as the County’s District Representative he encouraged everyone to try to attend the District Meeting on April 25th in Chatham County and he suggested getting transportation for this meeting as well. He added that this past weekend he visited with some scouts at the Cherokee Scout Reservation and during some of his discussions with the Scout Leadership they asked Commissioner Hall to invite the Board out to the Cherokee Scout Reservation for a meeting, dinner or lunch so the Board can see the Reservation and what is available out there.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I was just going to suggest before we excuse the public for Closed Session that we get that resolution signed because Mr. Graves is here and we can just hand that to him for sake of the time restraint that they have.”

The Clerk informed the Board that Daphne Quinn which is Representative Graig Meyer’s assistant called and stated that Representative Meyer could meet with the Board on Monday, April 15th at 10:00 or 10:45 a.m. if the Board agrees. Chairman McVey left this up to the Board. Commissioner S. Carter asked “Have we heard anything from Senator Berger on that?” The Clerk responded no. Commissioner S. Carter continued “But that was the original intention that we would have both at the same time. I know it is hard to schedule.” Chairman McVey responded that this was the intent but it is hard to schedule both of them to be here at the same time. Commissioner S. Carter asked “So I mean moving forward would we just make attempts to meet with them separately versus it being announced as a joint meeting with our House and Senate for this one?” The Clerk asked if there were items that the Board wanted to add to the Agenda for the meeting with Rockingham County and Stokes County. Commissioner Owen responded that he would like to have Fraud Prevention on that agenda, the one that Rockingham County presented before and to get an update on how it is working.

It was the consensus of the Board to meet with Representative Graig Meyer on Monday, April 15, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

RECESS

The Board took a brief recess.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner W. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to go into Closed Session to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1)) and to consider the compensation, terms of appointment and performance of an individual public officer (NGS 143-318.11(a)(6)) and. The motion carried unanimously.

RECESS

The Board took a recess for lunch.

REGULAR SESSION

At 3:29 p.m. Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Carter to resume the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously. (Minutes taken by Commissioner S. Carter.)

Commissioner Hall mentioned that staff training should be done for all county employees and instead of an independent program, he recommended going through the UNC School of Government. Suggested topics could be working with difficult employees and coworkers and working with citizens.

Commissioner Owen agreed that this would work better in smaller groups of employees.

Commissioner Hall clarified that those were this thoughts as well and the Board would schedule it.

Commissioner Oestreicher questioned what topics were available. Commissioner Owen responded that the School of Government would have that recourse available.

Commissioner Jefferies suggested that the Board start with management and department heads first and mentioned that there was a leadership program available through North Carolina A & T University and he heard that it was very successful.

Commissioner Oestreicher suggested there be one session for management and another for employees.

Commissioner Hall reiterated that the Board could look at the catalogue of courses in the UNC School of Government system and bring the back to the Board for suggestions.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3:36 p.m. Commissioner W. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Paula P. Seamster Rick McVey

Clerk to the Board Chairman

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