

MINUTES – OCTOBER 12, 2020

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in special session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 12, 2020. The meeting was held electronically using Zoom Webinar software. Members present: Rick McVey, Chairman, David J. Owen, Vice Chairman, William E. Carter, Nathaniel Hall, Jeremiah Jefferies, Steve Oestreicher, and N. Kent Williamson. Also present: Bryan Miller, County Manager, Gwen Vaughn, Finance Director, and Thomas Bernard, Tax Director. Ashley Kirby Powell, Administrative Assistant, recorded the minutes.

CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman McVey called to order the special meeting at 9:00 a.m.

SALARY ADJUSTMENTS AND RECLASSIFICATION OF TITLES

Mr. Miller stated that this meeting was called to discuss our current financial position and how revenue and expenditures look year to date. Mrs. Vaughn put in a lot of hard work time and effort putting together some information for us today.

Mrs. Vaughn stated that she was presenting to the Board today were the County currently stands with revenues and expenditures in this fiscal year. We are just finishing up on our first quarter July-September and the budget was budgeted a little conservative. Considering that we were unsure of what would happen with COVID-19. Actually we ended the year stronger than we expected with sales tax, we did not see a major effect as a reduction in regards to our sales tax from July-August; they are a little above what we budgeted. The tax collections Mr. Bernard will be giving the Board an update on that today as well. The NC Department of Revenue Collections for vehicle tax is currently at 26% and usually this time of year it is 16.6%; we have collected 280,723 in vehicle tax. Our sales tax is currently at 27% and collected 478,047. Sales tax restrictive that goes to the school is currently at 25% and collected 180,391. Sales tax expansion is currently at 19% and collected 230,807. We are 24% below on expenditures for the months of July-September. The general fund is currently at 21%. Court facilities fund is currently at 18%. DSS fund is currently at 16%. Health Department fund is currently at 20%. Library fund is currently at 21%. Family Services (mainly grant funded) is currently at 21%. Section 8 Housing is currently at 25%. Special separation is currently at 25%. We are trending low on expenditures.

Vice Chairman Owen questioned Mrs. Vaughn, at this time in our budget being a little low on expenditures, do you think they will catch up or stay below. Mrs. Vaughn replied normally we stay steady; typically it rises some in August due to things coming in of the beginning of the year. The major thing that could affect expenditures is if there is an issue with one of the county buildings that typically drives the budget higher and if we have a change in staffing at EMS that could cause their budget to increase.

Mr. Bernard stated that he ran the reports on Friday October 9, 2020 and he ran them the same time last year, currently the collection rate is at 18.29% and last year it was 17.82%. We have collected a little over 2,000,000.00. We did not see a big drop like we were anticipating in last

year's collections due to COVID-19. Commissioner Oestreicher questioned Mr. Bernard did he see any short falls or things that could come up that would impact the collection rate. Mr. Bernard replied he did not anticipate any short falls.

Vice Chairman Owen questioned Mrs. Vaughn where does the unassigned fund balance stand. Mrs. Vaughn replied looking at the unassigned fund balance we started the year with 9.63% and at June (unaudited) there was a 2% increase due to the funds we received from the Cares Act and that will carry over into the new year; she does not for see a decrease. There was an appropriation of 1,894,828.00 in the general fund and a short fall of 280,000.00; rather than the county having to use the 1,894,828.00 we actually only used 280,000.00.

Commissioner Carter commented that the budget is better than we predicted, the Board said they were going to look at somethings in October. He suggested on giving all county employees a 2% increase.

Commissioner Hall questioned Mrs. Vaughn if the funds balance appropriation was 1,000,000.00 was that for 2019-2020 or is that what we are appropriating for 2020-2021. Mrs. Vaughn replied 2019-2020, and 2020-2021 the appropriation of about the same amount. Commissioner Hall questioned somewhere in our expenditures we under spent by 1,600,000.00 in 2019-2020. Mrs. Vaughn replied correct. Commissioner Hall questioned any idea where at. Mrs. Vaughn replied we had some increases in revenue as well as reduction in spending. We did request that all departments hold back in spending in March due to the expectations of the economy and our sales tax came in higher than projected along with the vehicle sales tax. Commissioner Hall questioned Mrs. Vaughn how much; he was trying to get a feel of where we may end up this year. Mrs. Vaughn replied Vehicle tax 113,000.00, sales tax 200,000.00, Medicare 92,000.00, these all came in higher than we budgeted. There were some decreases in certain departments because of the shut down for example Parks and Rec, there are a lot of different variables that affected the expenditures. Commissioner Hall stated we seemed to be looking at 300,000.00 to 400,000.00; we had to forgo something major. Mr. Miller stated EMS collections were 123,000.00; Medicaid revenues were higher, along with sheriff inmate housing of 389,000.00 more than the revised budget. Commissioner Hall stated we are getting closer to 1,000,000.00 that would make may be 600,000.00 in expenditures. Mr. Miller replied lapped salaries are a major source of under expenditures.