MINUTES – MARCH 5, 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, March 5, 2018. Members present: Rick McVey, Vice-Chairman, Sterling Carter, William E. Carter, David Owen and Kenneth D. Travis. Absent: Nathaniel Hall, Chairman and Jeremiah Jefferies. 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.

Vice-Chairman McVey stated “Before we get started with the business session I have something that I would like to read here and the reason I want to read it is I don’t want to leave anything or anybody out. I’d like to take this opportunity to apologize for the remarks I made to Commissioner Sterling Carter in our last session. I’m very passionate about our schools, our school system and the children they serve and I would not want any detail about the proposed bond referendum to fail. That being said I over reacted in my effort to make transparent both in the process and subsequent tax increase that would follow. For my remarks made in this effort I apologize. However, I stand by the principle that all information be presented before a motion is made and before a vote is taken on this matter. I believe the information will be provided soon and I believe this is what is best for our citizens and for our schools but most importantly for our children attending a dated and long overlooked facility. I apologize Mr. Carter.” Commissioner S. Carter responded “Thank you Mr. Chairman and I hope we can keep working together.” Vice-Chairman McVey continued “Well we have before and we’ll keep doing it.”

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman I have an amendment I need to make to the agenda. I would like to add and item to preserve attorney/client privilege (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)) and the attorney has the cases that he would like to name with that.” Mr. Ferrell responded “When we get ready to go into Closed Session I will site a few cases for which I will provide you legal advice for during the closed session.”

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Carter to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

The following items were included on the Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes of February 12, 2018 Special Meeting

B. Approval of Minutes of February 19, 2018 Regular Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vice-Chairman McVey opened the floor to Public Comments.

Ms. Paulette Carter-Tate came before the Board and stated that she lived at 3311 Highway 86N, Yanceyville, NC. She asked when it was okay for someone to do half of a job and expect to get paid. She added this concern started on January 18, 2018 and it is still going on. A truck hit her property and left a mess. She had pictures for the Board to see. Ms. Carter-Tate stated that the ground is unlevel and large pieces of crushed metal are still there. She had not heard how the accident happened or anything. The driveway is a mess. Gravel was put down after 3 days but it has not alleviated the property. She talked to EPS, Emergency Management, supervisors, she found out who owns the property, she found out who hit her. She had to go to the State Trooper’s station and they told her what to do and she pulled the information up on the internet. After 20+ calls she does not know if her waste is polluted because they have not come to test the water yet. The lady who is supposed to come should be coming tomorrow but if it rains she will not travel in the rain. Ms. Carter-Tate asked if it was her job to fix everything when the trucking company offered her $200 to clean up the mess. Her husband has COPD and both of them are over 70 years old and she added that she will not be crawling down a hill to clean up any metal. Ms. Carter-Tate stated that she was bringing this to the commissioners. Someone told her that the driver spilled diesel from her house all the way to where the BBQ place is and then the driver left his truck there. One of the DOT drivers saw the accident. She added that some work was done. Pipes were added and some of the diesel was cleaned up but the job should have never been signed off on until everything was cleaned up. She invited the commissioners the come and look at the mess.

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.

Vice-Chairman McVey thanked Ms. Seamster and Commissioner Bill Carter for the work on the sound system in the courthouse.

DAEMS HAVEN ANIMAL SANCTUARY PRESENTATION

Mr. Woody Alford came before the Board and thanked the clerk for making this presentation possible and he also thanked the commissioners for allowing him to speak this morning. The Daems have always had a passion to helping animals and with this vision they founded Daems Haven Animal Sanctuary. The Daems purchased the Newman estate located at 11721 Highway 119N in Semora. They brought with them wild mustangs, donkeys and other animals from Nevada. There was a total renovation of the homestead. Last year they started the process of forming a sanctuary. They have acquired their non-profit status with the state and a 501c3. They have set up a webpage and a social media network. This organization relies on sponsorship and networking. Daems Haven will be involving the entire county to bring in economic benefits with hiring contractors, day laborers and volunteers. They are a large animal sanctuary that provides a forever home to animals that have been abused, neglected or saved animals from being euthanized. They have been able to partner with several businesses in the surrounding area. This month they are holding two functions with Tractor Supply to get the name of Daems Haven Sanctuary out into the public. He asked for the support and involvement of Caswell County. They welcome volunteers. They presently have two volunteers. Their future plans are grant applications and fundraisers. They want to do a spring event at the Sanctuary and also to partner with NC State Veterinary. Mr. Alford shared a success story of a horse named Fantasia. Daems Haven works with Dr. Tillotson with Tillotson Equine who takes care of all of their horses. Dr. Tillotson provided transportation to bring Fantasia to the Daems Haven Sanctuary. They have received two sponsors for Fantasia to provide for food. He asked the Board if they had any questions.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Sir what was your last name, I am sorry I did not catch it?” Mr. Alford responded “Alford.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “When did you move to the county?’ Mr. Alford responded that the Daems moved to the county 3 years ago and he came to the county last year. He added that he is from the eastern part of North Carolina. Commissioner S. Carter stated “Definitely welcome to the county and I have one question, is your sanctuary limited to horses?” Mr. Alford responded that they have horses, goats, donkeys, and they have a website up [www.daemshaven.org](http://www.daemshaven.org) as well as a Facebook page.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “Thank you sir.”

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Ms. Cori Lindsay, Economic Developer, came before the Board and updated it on some of the projects and programs that she is working on for the last year. Ms. Lindsay gave an update on the Economic Development Asset Report. She has collected nearly 100 online and in person surveys that the community has responded to. A consultant with Creative Economic Development Consulting has been hired to formulate these surveys. This report will help to put together priorities and a plan to move forward with the economic development projects that come out of the community input received. Ms. Lindsay is also working on a Sites and Building Inventory. There is no current list of building sites for the county. This will need to be done in order to respond to state inquiries when they send out projects to the economic developers. Ms. Lindsay is hoping to have the list of sites and building inventory by June 30th. She added that she is in the process of contracting with a marketing group that will be developing a new economic development website for the county and this will include a new branding concept and logo economic development in Caswell County. Ms. Lindsay stated that she is in the process of planning a Summit. During the morning program of the Summit Jonathan Morgan from the UNC School of Government will be speaking and in the afternoon the consultant, Crystal Morphis, will speak about the preliminary results of the survey. There have been several Small Business Seminars that have been taken place and there will be more to come. A one day Entrepreneurship & Small Business seminar will take place held on May 2nd at the Civic Center. Ms. Lindsay has responded to over 15 business and industry inquiries over the last year and is currently working on 2 projects that are confidential but could have a large impact on the county. The Economic Development Commission is working on an incentive policy. This is in a draft right now but eventually will come before the Board. She is pursuing a Rural Ready Sites Program which was under Governor Cooper’s Home Town Strong Initiative. This initiative is meant to improve infrastructure for industrial sites. She is looking at the Pelham Industrial Park to see what improvements can be made to make it a more marketable site for industrial growth.

Commissioner Owen asked Ms. Lindsay if she was able to attend the meeting with the Piedmont Triad Development Council with the loan program. Mr. Miller responded she was not able to attend the meeting. Commissioner Owen asked Ms. Lindsay if she was aware of the loan program. Ms. Lindsay responded that she was aware of the loan program and she did attend these meetings on a fairly regular basis but could not attend that particular meeting.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman I have a couple of questions. The first, the economic asset report is that completed, you had mentioned.” Ms. Lindsay responded “It is not. I am thinking it will be completed by this summer. We will have some preliminary results that will be shared at the March 28th date.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “March the 28th?” Ms. Lindsay responded “Yes.” Commissioner S. Carter asked “Is that the Summit or is that?” Ms. Lindsay responded “Yes.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “Okay. Alright so we’ve got March 28th and May the 2nd, that’s the entrepreneurial day?” Ms. Lindsay responded “That is correct.” Commissioner S. Carter asked “March the 28th where is that at?” Ms. Lindsay responded “We are still working on all the details of the agenda, I did however reserve a room at Piedmont Community College for that and as soon as I get the agenda finalized I will send it out to Paula.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “With the Sites and Buildings Inventory we had a meeting ago or two meetings ago where we talked about occupancy taxes, we mentioned some properties that should be assessed in the county for that purpose but also for just having an inventory of them like AirBNBs and places of that nature, I just wanted to input there that should be you know part of that because we brought that up about occupancy tax.” Ms. Lindsay responded “Sure, okay.” Commissioner S. Carter asked “The other question I had, the two consultants Jonathan Morgan and the second one was Crystal?” Ms. Lindsay responded “Morphis.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “Morphis, how do you spell that?” Ms. Lindsay responded “M o r p h i s.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “Okay. The May 2nd entrepreneurship summit do you have like a time and a place?” Ms. Lindsay responded “It is going to be pretty much an all day, 8 to 4:00.” Commissioner S. Carter asked “And do people need to register for that in any way?” Ms. Lindsay responded “It will be a free conference but we do need a count in order to prepare for lunch.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “And if somebody was to ask me about that how would they register for it? Call you directly or?” Ms. Lindsay responded “That is fine. I will again, I usually send everything out to Paula and it gets dispersed out that way.” Commissioner S. Carter stated “That is all I had, thank you.” Ms. Lindsay responded “You’re welcome.”

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Caswell County Adult Advisory Council

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to appoint Susan T. Knight to the Caswell County Adult Advisory Council. The motion carried unanimously.

Caswell County Hunting and Wildlife Advisory Committee

Commissioner Owen stated “Mr. Chairman I do need to make a correction to that, actually we have 5 vacancies because when we revamped the committee a little bit we took the Wildlife officer off as a voting position so we actually have five vacancies there. I know this Board had talked about holding or wanting large land owners on this committee, these three are primarily as far as I know of more as hunters. I invited two of them personally, I appreciate them putting in applications so I would make a motion to accept these three so that we can go ahead and begin our meetings.”

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner S. Carter to appoint Danny Brandon, Leon Wiley and Sam Seamster to the Caswell County Hunting and Wildlife Advisory Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Gunn Memorial Library Advisory Board

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner S. Carter to appoint Sherry Stanfield-Oakley, James Stanley Brown and Susanne Hawkins to the Gunn Memorial Library Advisory Board. The motion carried unanimously.

MWMW WORKSITE WELLNESS OPPORTUNITY

Mr. Miller stated that at the last Board meeting the commissioners requested that this policy go back before the My Wellness, My Way Wellness Committee. This policy was presented to that committee and there was a very good discussion surrounding the policy and events that could be attended while using the policy. The committee voted unanimously to approve the policy. Mr. Miller stated that the policy was back before the Board for approval. He added that the policy will provide employees with three 30 minute period during the work week to participate in wellness activities. Mr. Miller stated that the My Wellness, My Way Committee is in the process of starting clubs such as a Walking Club, Yoga Club, Line Dancing Club, Cooking Club, etc. This policy is dependent upon department head approval. The documents that are required to participant in this policy will be collected and kept by the human resources department.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman I have a couple of questions for the county manager. The program allows them to use 30 minutes before work, added to their lunch hour or at the end of the work day, are these paid periods?” Mr. Miller responded “Those are paid periods.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “Okay. And how much do our employees get for lunch generally speaking?” Mr. Miller responded “It ranges between 30 and 60 minutes.” Commissioner S. Carter stated “Okay. I know this is a very important effort for our employees but I again do not see how this policy is fair contingent upon each department head and being familiar with a couple of other situations in different businesses and organizations that had a similar program the abuses of this system I think outweigh my support for it but this is again acknowledging that it’s intended to be used in the correct way but I just wanted to add that and express that I will not be voting for it today.

Commissioner Owen stated that when this was first presented to the Board it came through the Health Department on the Health and Wellness Clinic and from what the Board voted on and the motion that was made the Board only actually approved the clinic. He added that he did have some issues with the policy and he has spoken to the county manager about his issues as well as some of the commissioners. One of those issues is coming in late or leaving work early. He knows that healthier employees are better employees but if the county is going to have a program like this he would like to see assured accountability. Commissioner Owen stated that he knows that the majority of the employees will abide by the rules and do what they are supposed to do but there is the opportunity for some employees to possibly abuse it which could hurt other employees. He suggested sending the policy back to the Wellness Committee and a couple of the commissioners meet with the committee where the policy is only allowed during the day while at work and not off campus. He added that he realizes that some of the employees don’t like that but everyone is responsible for their own health. There can be opportunities provided through the wellness committee and there have already been some to improve the employees’ health. Commissioner Owen stated that he has talked to some of his constituents and they do not agree with the 3 days and the time that adds up and the time the employees are away from their desks. He suggested working with the wellness committee on the programs that they have. This is a voluntary thing, nobody has to do this. Commissioner Owen stated that his recommendation for the Board is to take this policy back to the wellness committee and discuss things that are good for the employees but bring accountability to the Board’s constituents and citizens of the county so that there is a balance. This program started because the county could not pay what other counties paid and that pay has been raised at least to the minimum where the county is a little competitive with the pay package. The county has the wellness clinic that will save the employees money of the deductible. He added that this policy could be tied into the employees contributing to the health plan and this could reduce what they contribute through this wellness program.

Vice-Chairman McVey asked if the Board would like to put it in a motion to send this back to the wellness committee. Commissioner Owen responded that he would not vote for the policy as it is.

Commissioner S. Carter started “Mr. Chairman I will offer up that motion, I definitely agree with Commissioner Owen on that and if the Board is okay if he and I want to work with the Wellness Committee as he mentioned or whoever else would like to volunteer with that. I think that is a productive way to move forward.”

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen that the policy be sent back to the Wellness Committee and that Commissioner S. Carter and Commissioner Owen would meet with the committee. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY MANAGER’S UPDATES

Piedmont Custom Meats Bid Upset Bid Process

Mr. Miller stated that the county when through the Bid Upset Bid process for the sale of the meat packing equipment. Piedmont Custom Meats was the only entity to make an offer on the equipment so the equipment has been sold to them. The full payment has been submitted and the county will move forward with the process. There will be discussions with the Golden Leaf Foundation on the proceeds from the equipment.

Personnel Policy Update

Mr. Miller stated that Board had requested a draft copy of the rewrite of the Personnel Policy. Mr. Miller provided each commissioner a binder with the draft personnel policy in it. He recommended scheduling a meeting over the next 2 or 4 weeks outside of a regular meeting to discuss the personnel policy and the changes made in the policy.

White Space Update

Mr. Miller stated that most of the equipment has been received for the White Space project but some of the protective equipment has not been received yet. The equipment has been tested somewhat but with no real results. The county looks forward to receiving the protective equipment. He added that all three of the technical people, the County’s IT Director, Glenn Knoxx from the State and the individual working with Mr. Knoxx, have advised the County not to hooked this equipment up outside in the elements until the protective covering has been received.

School Bond

Mr. Miller stated that there are meetings scheduled this week that will provide the county with further information as far as the school bond is concerned. He hopes to have something presented to the Board at its next meeting on how to proceed.

Surgery

Mr. Miller informed the Board that he would be having minor surgery on Wednesday and he would be out of the office on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

ANNOUNCMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A. Caswell County Blood Drive – Wednesday, March 14, 2018 @ 10:00 – 1:30 p.m. –

 Senior Center

B. Commissioners’ Joint Meeting with the Town of Yanceyville and the Town of Milton

 Thursday, March 15, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m. – Thomas Day Tavern, Milton, NC

Commissioner Owen stated there will be a Health and Benefits Fair for Veterans on Wednesday, April 18 at the Senior Center. This event is hosted by the Senior Center and VFW Post 7316. Following this event there will be an Agent Orange Seminar at 1:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner W. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to go into Closed Session to preserve attorney/client privilege (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)) on the following litigation matters: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Terrell vs. Caswell County Animal Control Appellant Board and Dustin Smith, Animal Control Officer; Caswell County vs. Lodging Investments, Inc.; Caswell County vs. Amerisourcebergen Drug Corporation; Cardinal Health, Inc.; McKesson Corporation; Purdue Pharma L.P.; Purdue Pharma, Inc.; The Purdue Frederick Company, Inc.; Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd.; Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.; Cephalon, Inc.; Johnson & Johnson; Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. n/k/a Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc. n/k/a Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Noramco, Inc.; Endo health Solutions Inc.; Endo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Allergan PLC f/k/a Actavis PLC; Watson Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; n/k/a Actavis, Inc.; Watson Laboratories, Inc.; Actavis LLC; Actavis Pharma, Inc. f/k/a Watson Pharma, Inc.; Mallinckrodt PLC and Mallinckrodt LLC.

Mr. Ferrell stated “Finally I want to report to you a resolution of the matter filed on 17 Property Tax Commission 0308, that was an appeal by Mr. Wright which is 2017 tax values that have been resolved at a prehearing conference and the basic terms of that settlement are that Mr. Wright’s 2017 tax value has been reduced to $132,568 and a mobile home that was located on Mr. Wright’s property that was never affixed was removed from his real property listing as it was personal property, that being a mobile home and not being a fixture to the real property. That’s the essential terms of the resolution of that appeal. I don’t have anything further pending our conversation in closed session.”

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

REGULAR SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:15 a.m. Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis 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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