MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the Caswell County Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 17, 2018. Members present: Nathaniel Hall, Chairman, Rick McVey, Vice-Chairman, Sterling Carter, William E. Carter, Jeremiah Jefferies, David Owen and Kenneth D. Travis. 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 SILENCE

Chairman Hall 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 moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Travis 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 September 4, 2018 Regular Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Hall opened the floor to Public Comments.

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

Chairman Hall stated “Before we start down the agenda I just want to make a few comments. First of all and as you all are aware because of the hurricane we had to declare a state of emergency in Caswell County and this state of emergency is declared basically all over the state especially on the eastern side of North Carolina. We didn’t get the rains and storms that some parts of the state got but we do anticipate getting the flood waters. Based on our ordinance once a state of emergency is declared after 5 days we have to amend that state of emergency or declare another. We declared the state of emergency on September 12th so our five days is up. Tonight before I leave we will be doing another declaration of state of emergency. The format will be a little different but the results will be the same for at least another 5 days in Caswell County because of the perspective flood waters, we will still be in a state of emergency.”

RECOGNITIONS

Commissioner Owen thanked the local law enforcement, fire departments, EMS and those that were on standby for the storm. He thanked them ‘for being on the ready’.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Yes, I would just like to mirror Commissioner Owen’s remarks, I am very grateful for everyone that was involved in making sure that state of things were organized and taken care of and just to express gratefulness that we ended up in a better position than we had originally thought. I am very glad for those results.”

REQUEST TO PURCHASE PROPERTY AT LANDFILL

Mr. David Atwater stated that he owns the property adjacent to the landfill which is owned by the County and he is interested in purchasing a very small amount of land on the boundary between the two properties. Mr. Atwater supplied the Commissioners with a map of this property. Mr. Atwater stated that he wanted to purchase this property to expand his boundaries. He presented to options to the commissioners. The first option is approximately an acre and the second option is approximately 20 acres. Mr. Atwater stated that he moving back to the county full time and plans to retire here and wants more of a boundary there between the two properties.

Chairman Hall stated that he would ask staff and general counsel to take a look at this request to check on the possible impacts before the Board moves forward. He added that the Board would get back in touch with Mr. Atwater.

Mr. Atwater thanked the Board for allowing him to speak. He added that option 1 would be greatly appreciated and then option 2 would be option 1 and as much of option 2 as the Board will consider.

DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Chairman Hall stated that he hoped that all the commissioners had the opportunity to think about legislative goals. He added that the Board received some suggestions from Commissioner Owen about a month ago. Chairman Hall stated that the Board needs to have some discussion on this and to have Caswell County’s voice heard the goals need to be submitted to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Owen stated that the deadline for the legislative goals has been extended so the Board has a little bit longer on this. He added that one of the goals has been submitted in the past and did not receive very much leeway and this was regarding Wildlife lands. Commissioner Owen believes that something needs to be pursued from the NCACC when the Wildlife buys land when the county cannot afford to buy and comes off the tax records. He added that Caswell already has 20,000+ acres of Wildlife land and he thinks the game lands are important but in Caswell County it is crucial when land is removed from ad valorem taxes. The legislative goal read ‘Seek legislation to renew the study of compensation to the counties for property acquired by the state and removed from the ad valorem tax base.’

Chairman Hall stated that there are other counties in the state with wildlife land. Commissioner Owen responded that he meant to contact some of the commissioners in the other counties to give support for this.

Commissioner Owen stated the second goal is to ‘Seek legislation to authorize counties to levy privilege license tax on gaming operations’. He added that these businesses are springing up all over the county and the county needs some weapon for regulations on these types of businesses. Chairman Hall responded that the state approves the list of privilege licenses that can be charged so it will need to be amended by the state. He added that this goal will impact a lot of counties so this goal could have the possibility of moving forward.

Commissioner Owen stated the next goals would be under Education to ‘Seek legislation to provide flexibility to align K-12 and the community college calendars’. He added that some counties have already done this through legislation but Caswell County is not one of those counties. Commissioner Owen stated that if the calendars could be aligned better it would make it better on the students who attend classes at the community college. Chairman Hall responded that there is some legislation and that should be a way to make this happen without legislation because it is important to Caswell County.

Commissioner Owen stated that his last goal relates to digital infrastructure and broadband capabilities. He added that Caswell County is not only underserved it is unserved because very few places have digital infrastructure. Commissioner Owen stated that for Caswell County to see growth in businesses it needs to be in place. Chairman Hall responded that this goal has been there for the last 2 or 3 years and the only way to get relief is through legislation. He added that the lobbyists have been very strong on this issue.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I completely agree with the list that Commissioner Owen put forth. I think the one that we have the most chance with at this point in garnering support with other rural counties is the first one regarding Wildlife lands, maybe a few counties but I feel like a lot of similar rural counties that may not have Wildlife land would be able to emphasize with our situation and help advocate for that one. And definitely #2 I feel like gaming businesses are popping up everywhere and they are doing whatever it takes to go around the system so to speak and you know local, state, federal, it seems like everybody needs a group effort to handle that situation a whole lot better than we currently are but again I would stress that for the first one and hope we would have support on that.”

Commissioner Owen asked Mr. Ferrell if the lawsuit concerning the software at the gaming establishments was still in the process. Mr. Ferrell responded that what happens is the legislation outlaws a set of activities and the gaming establishments will twist how they operate to be in compliance. He added that this process has been going on for several years now and it is a struggle for law enforcement across the state.

Chairman Hall stated that the Board will have one more meeting before the legislative goals have to be submitted online.

DISCUSSION ON FLEET MANAGEMENT

Chairman Hall stated that at the last meeting he had mentioned that there was a county vehicle that went out of the county and the staff person ran into some difficulty because the tires on the vehicle were bad. He added that the county still needs to do something and he thinks the county manager is going to propose something.

Mr. Miller stated that he wanted to address the Board’s comments and questions from the last meeting. He added that he has prepared an RFP which is about a 40 page document. Mr. Miller stated that this will be included in the next agenda packet. He added that this RFP is for the County’s general service vehicles and there will be another RFP to address the heavy duty service vehicles. Mr. Miller stated that the RFP that was prepared is for a 5 year contract to provide these services. He added that there is a long bid sheet that he vendors will list their prices included in the RFP.

Chairman Hall stated that the county manager is proposing to issue an RFP for someone to manage the maintenance of county vehicles. He added that the Board’s early thoughts were to not hire additional staff and to not add these responsibilities to existing staff. Chairman Hall stated that this item will be back on the agenda for a deeper discussion.

DISCUSSION ON NEW AGREEMENT FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Chairman Hall stated that he looked back through the files a couple of weeks ago and the County has agreements with all of the volunteer fire departments. He added that the county has substantially increased the financial contributions to the volunteer fire departments so he thinks the Board needs to take a look at those agreements to see what the County has agreed to and how the County needs to move forward. Chairman Hall stated that this item will be put on a future agenda for the Board to discuss what the County’s needs might be in the next 5 years because if the needs of the County change drastically the County may need to come up with more money. He added that he would have the clerk to send the agreements out and have general counsel to look at least one of the agreements. The clerk responded that the agreements are very similar but they have the different department names listed.

Mr. Ferrell stated that the date that he is seeing in the agenda packet is 1997 so the County is looking at a 21 year old agreement so it is time to review these agreements.

Mr. Vernon Massengill stated that he thought the fire service would have been involved in this and then he asked if the fire service would be involved in it or if the Board is going to make all of the discussions. He wanted to know what the fire service was not made aware of this discussion. Chairman Hall responded that he had just thought about it and put it on the agenda and added that the rest of the Board was not made aware of it until they received the agenda. He added that the fire service would be involved in the discussions but the Board needs to know what is in the current agreement from 1997. Mr. Massengill asked if the Board had a copy of the agreement. The clerk responded that the Board received a copy of the Yanceyville Fire Department’s agreement. Mr. Massengill stated that his agreement is the same as the rest of the departments. He added that the fire departments are not a Caswell County Firemen’s Association as one body but as 10 different fire departments individually.

Mr. Massengill asked where the discrepancy is between what the County has and what the County wants. Chairman Hall responded that he did not know. He continued by saying that he had asked the clerk to find the agreements and to put one in the agenda packet. Chairman Hall stated that he wanted the Board and general counsel to have a discussion about the volunteer fire department’s agreements and since the agreement is from 1997 it is time for the Board to take a look at it. He added that with the money that the County has given to the fire departments the Board needs to know what the County agreed to years ago. Chairman Hall stated that the fire departments are very thinly staff because it is ran by volunteers. Mr. Massengill responded that Cherry Grove just started paying a man 8:00 to 5:00 5 days a week. He added that Providence has instituted a 1 man 1 day a week and will probably increase that in the future. Mr. Massengill stated that maybe communications need to be better and added that he sees different commissioners all over the place and tries to keep the Board informed. Chairman Hall stated that if the whole Board is not informed then the Board is not informed. He added that it is okay to see one commissioner and tell that person but for Board action the full Board needs to know and Board still needs to project forward on where the county needs to go. Chairman Hall stated that a fire department may have started having one person there one time a week and that station may need 2 or 3 and if that is the case the Board needs to plan for that as the appropriators of County funds. Mr. Massengill responded that the fire departments need to be involved in the decision making. He added that this was put on the agenda and he knew nothing about it. Chairman Hall stated that everything on the agenda is not known until it is put on the agenda. He added that if it comes from one of the commissioners it will be news to somebody. Mr. Massengill responded that he is just speaking for the departments and himself as the fire marshal because he feels they should have some input in the agreements for the fire departments.

Commissioner Travis stated that he did talk to someone last week about Cherry Grove and found out that they have someone up there working but he does not think that each department will be run the same. Mr. Massengill responded that every fire department is an individual entity and they all have different needs.

Mr. Massengill stated that the agreement that was written in 1997 was written to make sure that each fire department had its own board of directors to manage that department. He added that the thought that the fire service should have been asked their opinion on whether or not the document is still in effect and working well today. Chairman Hall responded that the Board will do that and the Board will collectively make a decision and when it is discussed it will shared with the fire service.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I’m highly confused, I just read this document twice over, it looks to be very clean to me and I agree with the comments that have been made so far from the perspective of the fire marshal. I just briefly want to run over real quick just an individual instance with Yanceyville, it agrees that it’s a fire, volunteer fire service that will contract with the county for firefighting and first responding, coordinating with the fire marshal, in times of disaster they will coordinate in the areas of need, the only thing I see that may be different relative to now is to appropriate $20,000+ annually on a quarterly basis. I was going to ask real quick and then I will have a few more comments to Mr. Massengill; does this contradict the recent fire service tax? What this says in this contract, would that need to be amended?” Mr. Massengill responded he did not think so because it says the county will contribute $20,000+. Commissioner S. Carter continued “True. And then the second part of that would be the 7th clause here, it says the Board of Commissioners of the County agrees that increased funding for first responder purposes, not for firefighting but for first responder purposes be from and then it was amended, I don’t know when because there’s no date on that, it may be this ’97 copy versus general fund they amended it by saying undersigned general fund revenues, for whatever reason they changed that. And then the other thing I saw coordinate with fire marshal, reporting to the State Fire Marshal’s Office and then it says the fire department agrees that it will not assign this contract without obtaining prior permission, written permission of the County. So my understanding of that is that it would have to come from the fire department to us if they wanted to change up something. Does that sound right? Is that how it would normally work?” Mr. Massengill responded that is what the county attorney put in the agreement at that time. Commissioner S. Carter stated “So I’ll just straightforwardly ask you, you are familiar with your document I am assuming…” Mr. Massengill responded that each department has the same document. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Is there anything wrong with this document that affects the present?” Mr. Massengill stated that he did not see anything which surprised him as to why it was on the agenda today. Commissioner S. Carter asked “Despite the date ’97 I agree with that sentiment, no. That’s all I got to say.”

Commissioner Owen stated the he was not aware that Providence has one person one day a week until he saw it on Facebook and he did not know about Cherry Grove. He added that it is very important for the whole Board to know what the various departments are doing because the question may come from a citizen who does not have someone on staff is ‘why do they and we don’t’ so a commissioner can respond to the question in a reasonable way. Mr. Massengill responded that he would be happy to update the Board on a regular basis. Commissioner Owen stated the he did not think Mr. Massengill would have to come before the Board but recommended that the fire departments email or notify the Board on any changes. Mr. Massengill agreed with Commissioner Owen.

Chairman Hall stated that before this gets too far down to the road he would like to do what he suggested, that the Board look at the agreement, look at where the county came from and where the county is going. He added that it may seem okay for some but the county just raised taxes 4, 5 or 6 cents just for the fire departments and the Board has to look further down the road because something else could come up and the county will have to raise taxes again. Chairman Hall stated that all he was suggesting is that the Board takes a look at the agreement and he did not think that anybody should be upset with the Board looking at a 20 year old agreement. Mr. Massengill responded that he was not upset but he wanted clarification on what the Board is looking for and offered to sit down with the Board. Chairman Hall stated that the Board is only looking at the agreements but once the Board looks at them and discusses them and if the Board wants to know something the Board will ask. Mr. Massengill responded that the fire tax rate is 3.69 not 5 or 6. Chairman Hall stated okay but the county raised taxes by 6.69.

(At 7:10 p.m. Commissioner W. Carter entered the meeting.)

SHERIFF’S OFFICE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL POSITIONS

School Resource Officer

Sheriff Durden stated that he was going to yield to Dr. Carter on the School Resource Officer to get this one out of the way and then the Detention Office can be discussed.

Dr. Carter stated that it has been about 20 years since the Columbine shooting and since that time there have been increased shootings across the United States. She added that in the first two months of 2018 there were 6 shootings in schools across the United States. Dr. Carter stated that the General Assembly along with Superintendent Mark Johnson created a SRO or a Safety Grant that school districts were allowed to apply for this school year. The grant was given to the school districts on June 29th and was due on July 13th. Dr. Carter stated that Caswell County is very fortunate to have a School Resource Office at the high school and middle school but there is a need in the elementary schools and this is where the grant was focused on. Caswell County’s grant was to pay for one SRO for the elementary schools and on August 3rd the School System received confirmation that Caswell County was one of the recipients of the grant. The State Department allowed the School System $33,333 for the SRO with the stipulation that there be a match of $16,641. Dr. Carter stated that she brought this before the School Board and the School Board unanimously approved that amount so now the School System has the funding to pay for the SRO for one year which pays for the salary plus benefits. She added that according to the grant from the General Assembly if the School System proves the accurate paperwork in April of 2019 this grant will be recurring for the next year. Dr. Carter asked the Board for approval for the SRO position for the elementary schools.

Chairman Hall stated that there were several questions that were brought up at the last meeting. The first question that was brought up was about the $16,641 matching grant and where this was coming from, he added that he assumed that it was coming from the School Resource part of the School’s budget. Dr. Carter responded yes and that it is non-state funds and it was already built into the budget. Chairman Hall stated that the next question is if the grant is not approved for the second year what will the School System do. Dr. Carter responded that the School System would certainly do the paperwork because that is a requirement of the grant. Chairman Hall asked where the money would come from to fund this position. Dr. Carter responded that the School System would look at its local budget, seek from the Commissioners or not have a School Resource Officer in the schools after 2 years. Chairman Hall asked if this was a 2 year grant. Dr. Carter responded that it is a 1 year with the opportunity of a second year if the paperwork is submitted on time in April. Chairman Hall started that for the discussion today it will be considered a 2 year grant and the School System will match the grant both years. Dr. Carter responded yes. Chairman Hall asked what will happen after the 2 years. Dr. Carter responded that after the 2 years the School System will have to see where the General Assembly is with their funding and if it is not available there will be two options: One is to work it into the local budget whether that is coming to the Commissioners or the local budget or the second option is to dismiss this position. Chairman Hall stated to assume that the Commissioners are not going to assume that as part of the local budget. Dr. Carter responded that it would be something that she would carry before the School Board and it would need to discuss it and make that decision.

Commissioner Owen asked about the vehicle for the School Resource Officer. Sheriff Durden responded that he was not going to be requesting a vehicle from the county. Commissioner Owen continued by saying the Sheriff’s Office will not be requesting a vehicle. Sheriff Durden responded not this year but during budget time he said he would go before the School Board as well as the Commissioners to request a vehicle for this SRO. Commissioner Owen asked how long the county has been without an SRO in the elementary schools. Sheriff Durden responded that there has never been an SRO at the elementary schools. Commissioner Owen stated that he thought the county had one at one time. Sheriff Durden responded that there is an SRO at the high school and middle school. Commissioner Owen stated that he thought there was one at North Elementary School and he retired not too long ago.

Chairman Hall asked for the two years of the grant and there is approximately $50,000 available for an SRO but this does not include an automobile. He added that the Sheriff will put it in next year’s budget and not two years down the road. Sheriff Durden responded that this is correct. Chairman Hall stated that that will be the expectation of the Sheriff for this Board to consider a vehicle for the SRO. Chairman Hall asked how the other required supplies would be paid for. Sheriff Durden responded that the salary would be $33,888 and with benefits it would be around $47,000 so this would leave a little more than $2,000 which would pay for the weapon and uniforms. Sheriff Durden added that he would hate for this grant to not be used.

Commissioner McVey stated that the county will not be asked for any money for this position this year. Chairman Hall responded that that is what he is hearing. Commissioner McVey asked Sheriff Durden and Dr. Carter if the county would be responsible for providing any money for this position this year. Dr. Carter responded that the grant would provide the full employment of the SRO, salary and benefits. Chairman Hall stated that the Sheriff said he would come back after one year and ask for more money.

Commissioner Owen stated that the Board has placed the ¼ cent sales tax on the ballot for November and one thing that he feels very strong about using this money to push for SROs in the elementary schools as part of the safety package. He added that if the Board vote yes to this SRO position even though it will not cost the county anything this year it will be very hard to stop having a SRO in the elementary schools once they are put in and if the Board votes yes the county will have to continue to fund this position.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “My first question to the Sheriff, I know we have these older vehicles is there a way that we could accommodate one of those and outfit it, prepare it for a position like this? I know and SRO does minimal traveling when it comes to being in the schools and I feel like we may be able to help with this situation by outfitting an older vehicle that is not in service.” Sheriff Durden responded that this is the solution for this year. Commissioner S. Carter continued “I have continuing comments. You know I think this definitely speaks to the need for vehicles in the Sheriff’s Department and like Commissioner Owen said with having a position like this and having the vehicle it is something that we are going to have to accept if that is what the Board is willing to do. My comments are I don’t think it should be a question whatsoever that we have an SRO in the elementary schools. It’s 2018, we’ve seen travesties and disasters and horrors of humanity in my entire lifetime. I mean I have lived through it, seen it, been within the schools here locally, been scared at times not knowing what was going to happen because it can happen anywhere and with the grant we are grateful to have this money and I don’t want to pass it up. I don’t think our children deserve to have this money passed up. I’m appreciative that the board is matching the funds, the Board of Education, is matching the funds so I would offer the motion that we would accept this.” Chairman Hall responded that the Board is not at the point of asking for a motion until the Board hears from the Sheriff because there are two things that will impact his office. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Would these not be two separate motions?” Chairman Hall responded that they might be in the end. Commissioner S Carter continued “My understanding is they are unrelated to each other.” Chairman Hall responded okay and then added if there is a motion and a second then action will be taken.

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to fund the SRO position contingent upon receiving the grant funding from the state and the matching funds from the Board of Education with the understanding that no money will come from the County directly for 1 year.

Commissioner Owen asked Commissioner S. Carter to reword his motion because he said a ‘motion to fund’. Commissioner S. Carter responded “Sorry. I would like to make a motion to approve the funding for the grant from the state and funding from the Board of Education to fund the SRO position with the understanding that it is for one year and they will be reassessing their situation in the coming year.”

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the SRO position contingent upon receiving the grant funding from the state and the matching funds from the Board of Education with the understanding that no money will come from the County directly for 1 year.

Commissioner Owen agreed that this is a good thing but he does not like the fact that this item is brought up after the budget was approved. He stated that it will be adding to the budget. Commissioner Owen stated that he understands the important but he is torn between yes and no.

Chairman Hall stated that when the county hires grant funded position it is a temporary position and that is understood. He added that when a position is temporary there is no commitment when it is grant funded. Chairman Hall stated that he would not be hard to him to not approve this position when the grant runs out. He added that there is a big picture for the county when the Board has to start appropriating funds. Chairman Hall stated it would be hard to pass on another 2, 3 or 4 cent tax increase to fund this position. He added that he understands the important of school security but there are a lot of important things in Caswell that have to be funded. Chairman Hall stated that from his point of view this position is approved as a grant and it is a temporary position and funded for one year.

Commissioner McVey asked if this needed to be added to the motion that it is a temporary position. Chairman Hall responded that it should be in the motion.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman, that was my understanding with the wordsmithing that we were trying to do that its contingent upon this grant funding for this year only. So my assuming is people would assume that is a temporary position.” Chairman Hall asked Commissioner S. Carter to amend the motion. Commissioner S. Carter continued “With the understanding this is a temporary position for the next, would it be the next fiscal year or would it start immediately or how would we word that?” Chairman Hall responded that the county does its positions on a fiscal year basis.

Mr. Miller stated that a temporary employee position suggests that there is a definite start date and a definite end date but this position does not include benefits. Chairman Hall responded that he thinks there is a difference between a temporary employee and a temporary position. He added that a temporary position paid for by a grant can pay benefits. Mr. Miller stated that the County does ask that every grant funded position signs a paper acknowledging that it is a grant funded position and that if the grant funds are no longer available then the position is no longer available as well.

Sheriff Durden stated that he understood was Chairman Hall is saying about the position being temporary because it is grant funded but when the grant ends he will come before the Board and ask for the position. Chairman Hall responded that he understands that and the Board will have to make a decision.

Dr. Carter asked if she would have to come back after the first year to get approval again since the motion is for only one year. Chairman Hall responded that Dr. Carter would have to come back to get approval again. Sheriff Durden stated that he would come back and ask for the position.

Commissioner Owen asked how the SRO position would work at the elementary schools. Dr. Carter responded that the principals have discussed this and the SRO will be at each school one day a week and if there is a school has more needs the SRO will be at that school 2 days. Commissioner Owen stated that everyone needs to realize that even with an SRO in the schools there still could be a shooting in the schools.

Chairman Hall asked the clerk to read back the motion and the amendments to the motion. The clerk read back the motion ‘to approve the SRO position contingent upon receiving the grant funding from the state and the matching funds from the Board of Education with the understanding that no money will come from the County directly for 1 year.’

Commissioner S. Carter stated “And I added the words ‘contingent upon them assessing their paperwork to apply again, that that would be separate request that we concluded.’” The clerk responded that this motion was not seconded.

Chairman Hall stated that the essence of the motion was it was for one year and that the position that the Board approves will be a temporary position.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Does that sound okay for you all?” Dr. Carter responded that it will have benefits because it is included in the funding.

Chairman Hall asked Commissioner Jefferies if he was comfortable with seconding that amendment to the motion. Commissioner Jefferies responded that he is comfortable. He added that the Board is putting up a battle for the schools when the County is going to spend $300,000 to buy the drug store. Chairman Hall stated that this is not the same thing. Commissioner Jefferies responded that he can speak and that he is going to speak. He added that the county can spend all kinds of money but the County can’t hire someone to protect the kids and he can’t understand it. Commissioner Jefferies stated that the County is going to spend $300,000 to being in 5 jobs but can’t support the schools. Chairman Hall stated that he understand what Commissioner Jefferies has said but the Board has to approve all of the budget items and all commissioners should express their concerns during budget time but the budget is approved by a majority vote. Commissioner Jefferies responded that he understands that but this item was not discussed during budget time. Chairman Hall stated that this is correct but it received a majority vote. Commissioner Jefferies responded that he knew that but he was not present during that meeting. Chairman Hall stated that the item received a majority vote. Commissioner Jefferies responded that he is sure that it received a majority vote but he wanted to say what he wanted to say. Chairman Hall stated that he understands and respects that.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I was just going to reply to Mr. Jefferies comments there, I completely understand your frustration with the situation but where we are now is I have a motion that was amended and if you would like to second it we can do something good for this moving forward. Commissioner Jefferies responded that he had no problem with the amendment. Commissioner S. Carter continued “But we have an amendment.” Commissioner Jefferies responded that he did not have a problem with it.

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the SRO position contingent upon receiving the grant funding from the state and the matching funds from the Board of Education with the understanding that no money will come from the County directly for 1 year and contingent upon the School Board assessing its paperwork to apply again, then that would be separate request. The motion carried by a vote of six to one with Commissioner Travis voting no.

Detention Officer

Sheriff Durden stated that this opportunity came to the Detention Center from the US Marshall’s Service after the budget was approved. He added that the US Marshall’s offered Caswell County 30 inmates with the understanding that if Caswell takes the federal inmates that the County would have to transport them back and forth to federal court. Sheriff Durden stated that the County has 18 detention officers and 92 inmates. He added that it takes two officers to transport federal inmates and he cannot afford to take 2 detention officers away from the jail at one time. Sheriff Durden requested that the Board approve one additional detention center officer.

Commissioner Travis asked if the Detention Center is fully staffed right now. Sheriff Durden responded no that he lost an officer last week. Commissioner Travis asked if the deputies are fully staffed in the Sheriff’s office. Sheriff Durden responded that it is fully staffed. He added that he has one in BLET training and he was 7 down after the primary.

Commissioner Owen asked if this involved any type of written contract. Sheriff Durden responded that US Marshall Service does not give contracts. Commissioner Owen stated that this is pretty much a verbal contract and then he asked if they pretty much keep their agreement. Sheriff Durden responded that what they said they would do they did.

Commissioner McVey stated that the county lost money because the County did not get the amount of inmates it was told the County would get. He added that when the jail was built it was his understanding that the federal inmates would help pay for the jail and it is his understanding that the County did not get the amount of federal inmates that was originally agreed to so the County has had to help with the payments. Sheriff Durden responded that the jail was never supposed to pay for itself. He added that the County houses inmates which help to supplement the cost of the jail. Sheriff Durden stated that the County made $628,000 in housing revenues last year and the budget was $640,000 so the budget was $12,000 short. Commissioner McVey asked how many more inmates the County is supposed to get. Sheriff Durden responded that there are 31 federal inmates sitting in the Caswell County jail right now. Commissioner McVey asked if this number of inmates would increase or decrease. Sheriff Durden responded that two months ago there were only 11 federal inmates so the County has already accepted the inmates but the problem the detention center has is it needs a transportation officer to get the federal inmates from point A to point B. Sheriff Durden stated that he cannot guarantee the money.

Commissioner Owen asked Sheriff Durden how the federal inmates have been transported in the past, through over time or what. Sheriff Durden responded that he used over time or off duty officers. Commissioner Owen asked if this additional number of inmates was going to cause an addition in officers in the detention center. Sheriff Durden responded that when the jail was built it was requested to hire 26 detention officers and was granted 18 detention officers and 1 evidence tech. which are paid out of the detention center. He added that all he is requesting is a transportation officer. Commissioner Owen asked the question again if additional staffing is needed in the detention center. Sheriff Durden responded that if he can stay fully staff everything is good.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman, I think I can summarize the sentiment of the group here in the original concept of the jail and I can speak for many members of the public and it was their understanding that this jail was going to completely fund itself. You are saying that was not the original intention, I don’t know the details of back then, I was not sitting on the Board and wasn’t following it that closely at the time but I feel like a lot of people believed that and that may express some of the confusion and minor frustration with having additional requests like this but from what I see this funds itself although the promise of additional inmates is not there, that can fluctuate and change over time. Is that correct?” Sheriff Durden responded yes. Commissioner S. Carter continued “You know and there is no promises of the future in this but what I am seeing is over $100,000 in revenue coming out of it. Is that correct?” Sheriff Durden responded that he would give some numbers but he asked that he not be held to these numbers. He added in ’15–16 federal inmates brought in $271,000, ’16-17 $222,000, ’17-18 $229,000, the projection for ’18-19 with the inmates in jail and hold them until June 30th the county will make $571,000 in US Marshall revenues and he added that could fluctuate. Sheriff Durden stated that if the jail makes this amount in ’17-18 and jail is projected to make $900,000 this year if the number is met.

Chairman Hall asked where the other revenues would be coming from. Sheriff Durden responded from state misdemeanants the county made $277,000 this year and then from Stokes County the county made $85,000 last year.

Commissioner Owen asked if the county gets any reimbursement for transportation. Sheriff Durden responded the county gets paid for transportation. He added that if an inmate is taken to the hospital the county gets $30 an hour for each officer and mileage.

Commissioner Jefferies stated that the county had to build the jail any way because the jail was condemned so the county didn’t have a choice and that is why we got the jail. He added that if the county had not built the jail the county would have to pay to have the inmates sent to another county.

Commissioner Travis stated that he wanted to say one thing before moving on. He stated that at budget time no new employees were hired and now 3 months have passed after budget time and the Board is talking about hiring somebody. Commissioner Travis stated that the county had departments that needed help and the Board said no because the county did not have the money but now we are going to spend money. He added that the Board needs to stick to what it agrees to at budget time.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Just another question for the Sheriff, if we don’t fund this position how do you see things panning out? Just as honest and straightforward as you can be as far as revenue and what your situation would be.” Sheriff Durden responded “Well I am not petty and I am not going to hold the county hostage but we will do our best but I promise you our best probably won’t be good enough because I am not going to put my people at risk.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “Of course.” Sheriff Durden responded “Regardless I am not going to put my people at risk.”

Commissioner Jefferies moved to fund a detention officer to the Sheriff.

Chairman Hall asked if this would be a temporary or permanent position. Commissioner Jefferies responded that it would be temporary until the next budget.

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Carter to fund a temporary detention officer.

Commissioner McVey asked if the Board was making this a temporary position. Chairman Hall responded yes. Commissioner McVey continued by saying just for this fiscal year. Chairman Hall responded yes for the balance of this fiscal year. He added that at that time there will be an analysis of the revenue to see how to move forward.

Sheriff Durden stated that this is fine but he did not like the word temporary, he would prefer it be contingent on him coming back before the Board if the revenues will cover this position. He stated that he would come back during budget time to get this position contingent on revenues and funding.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Benefits? We have had that discussion with the SRO officer, if it is a temporary position and this is not a grant funded position so I am curious how this will be handled?” Chairman Hall stated that the Board can approve this position with benefits.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion carried by a vote of four to three with Commissioners McVey, Owen and Travis voting no.

RECESS

The Board took a brief recess.

COUNTY MANAGER’S UPDATES

Free Over the Counter Medicine Give Away

Mr. Miller updated the Board on the Med Assist Program. He added that this program is capable due to a grant that was awarded from Cardinal Innovations. Med Assist gives free over the counter medicines to the community. The date for this event is October 12th from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Caswell County Parks and Recreation. Mr. Miller stated that this program will need about 75 volunteers. He added that an individual will be able to choose up to 2 different medications out of the four different columns. Mr. Miller asked the Board to allow county employees to assist with this program if they choose to.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Just a quick question, in this discussion I assume you have talked with them already about this program?” Mr. Miller responded that he has. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Has hospice individuals been considered as needing some of these things perhaps? I know there is a need for certain supplies or medications or ointments, you mentioned that some of these citizens are underserviced.” Mr. Miller responded that there are services set up for those individuals that cannot physically make it to the event.

Mr. Miller stated that he had been asked several questions by the Chairman and he had the answers. He added that North Carolina Med Assist accepts all general liability for the event and each volunteer signs a waiver. Volunteers only fill the bags. Mr. Miller stated that Cardinal Innovations is 100% funding this event through a grant. He added that medicine consultants will be on hand to answer any questions and these people are pharmacists, etc. Mr. Miller stated that there will not be any controlled medications that will be given out during this event.

Chairman Hall asked the county manager to get a list of the prospective list of medications that will be offered. Mr. Miller responded that he would request this list.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “I just want to ask real quick who is the contact person for this event or program?” Mr. Miller responded that his contact person has been Misty Moore, Senior Development Director with Med Assist. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Is there a website with this contact information?” Mr. Miller responded [www.medassist.org](http://www.medassist.org).

Chairman Hall asked if there is an age limit. Mr. Miller responded yes the age limit is 18 years old.

Proposed Meeting Date with Social Services Board

Mr. Miller stated that at the last meeting the Board had expressed meeting with the Board of Social Services and that the Board would like to meet before a regularly scheduled meeting and asked when would be a good time.

Chairman Hall recommended that general counsel be there to discuss the MOU that was recently signed as well as the role of the Board of County Commissioners as well as the role of the Board of Social Services. Mr. Ferrell responded that he would be prepared for that meeting.

Chairman Hall asked the Board on a preference on the meeting date and time.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “For the Social Services Board is it better for them to meet during the evening versus during the day? They are citizens, Mr. Travis and Mr. Jefferies are on that board what are your thoughts?” Commissioner Jefferies responded that the Social Services Board meets in the morning. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Okay.” Commissioner Travis recommended having this meeting at the next evening meeting for the Board and this will give a month for everyone to prepare. Commissioner S. Carter stated “We had previously stated at our last meeting that we wanted to do it before our next meeting.” Commissioner Travis responded that it would be hard to do it before a day meeting. Commissioner S. Carter continued “I understand.”

The consensus of the Board is to meet with the Social Services Board the second meeting in October before the Board of Commissioners meeting.

ANNOUNCMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A. Caswell County Hoedown – Saturday, September 22, 2018

B. Caswell County Blood Drive – Thursday, September 27, 201 - 10:00 a.m. to 1:30

p.m. – Senior Center

C. Piedmont Clerks Regional Workshop – Friday, September 28, 2018 – 8:30 a.m.

To 4:00 p.m. – 911 Center.

Commissioner W. Carter asked if someone else could take care of the Opening Remarks at the Hoedown this year. Chairman Hall responded that he would take care of this for Commissioner W. Carter.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to go into Closed Session to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential (NCGS143-318.11(a)(1)). The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION

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

Mr. Miller reminded the Board that Dr. Christine Darden will be speaking this Saturday, September 22nd 2018 at 11:00 a.m. in the Historic Courthouse. Dr. Darden is a real life character in the book Hidden Figures.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Mr. Chairman quick question in relation to that event and it will probably have a great attendance in this room, Ms. Seamster what’s the capacity limit for this room? It made me think about that.” The clerk responded between 200 and 250. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Okay.”

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:18 p.m. Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Paula P. Seamster Nathaniel Hall

Clerk to the Board Chairman

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