MINUTES – MARCH 19, 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, March 19, 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 and Brian Ferrell, County Attorney. Paula P. Seamster, Clerk to the Board recorded the minutes.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

Chairman Hall welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Chairman Hall made a change to the agenda to move Item 11 Discussion on New High School Financing Options to Item 7 and to add a Closed Session for attorney/client privilege.

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies 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 5, 2018 Regular Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Hall opened the floor to Public Comments.

Mr. William Walker came before the Board and made the following statement:

Mr. Walker stated that he lived at 114 Pelham, NC. He wanted to speak on the school bond. He stated that people cannot afford to keep paying taxes for no reason. He added that the high school is just as good a school as Dillard, South or North. Mr. Walker stated that he worked for the school system for 10 years. He stated that the only thing needed at the high school is the windows but he cannot understand building a new school. He added that what the School Board needs more than anything is someone to look after the schools because there is nobody looking after the schools. They only mow grass and weed eat and nothing else. He stated again that he worked for the school system for 10 years so he knows this. Mr. Walker stated that a lot of things are being taken away from the school. He said that he talked to several of the school board members and they are aware of this but there was nothing they could do about it. That did not look good to him. He added that they can see it but they are not interested in looking for it and it is still going on. Mr. Walker stated that Caswell County is a poor county and people cannot keep paying more taxes. He added that if the school board wants the school so bad instead of paying the school superintendent over $200,000 a year cut that back down to $40,000 and that will make a great payment and the school board can reduce their salary down too but he did not think they would do that. He stated that he cannot see building a new school. He asked that someone walk through the school and show him what is wrong with the school. He asked if a roof was leaking would they bulldoze down the house and build a new house or replace some shingles. He stated that a lot of people can’t afford to keep paying higher taxes because there are a lot of people are making less than $10,000 a year.

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

Mr. Oestreicher lives at 228 Cactus Drive, Prospect Hill. He stated that he received an email from Piedmont Electric Cooperative about the scholarships that they are offering and the applications are due March 31st. He asked if something could be done to get this information publicized so this information can be given to students that are graduating here in Caswell County.

Mr. Larry Hamlett came before the Board and made the following statement:

Mr. Hamlett lives at 137 Kims Drive, Milton. Mr. Hamlett had a couple of issues that he wanted to talk about. The first was the issue about trash on the side of the roads. He added that Yarboroughs Mill Road is full of trash. The commissioners have talked about this several times. He asked if the commissioners would check on that. The second issue is on the construction of the high school. Mr. Hamlett stated that he was not against building a new school but he would like for the citizens of Caswell to have a vote on this issue.

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

RECOGNITIONS

Chairman Hall asked if there were any recognitions. There were no recognitions.

DISCUSSION ON NEW HIGH SCHOOL FINANCING OPTIONS

Chairman Hall stated that he asked for this item to be moved up because the Board just met with the School Board and he wanted to have these discussed while it was clear on the Board’s minds. He added that when this discussion started there were discussions about a bond referendum and with the bond referendum it would require a ballot initiative. Chairman Hall stated that now there are discussions about financing through the USDA. USDA financing does not require a ballot initiative so Chairman Hall asked the Board their opinion on getting the public involved.

Commissioner McVey stated that he still believes it needs to be on a ballot for the citizens of Caswell County to decide. Commissioner Owen concurred with Commissioner McVey. Commissioner W. Carter agreed that it needed to go on a referendum for the voters to decide.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman this is a question for general counsel, we can do an item like this on a ballot or a bond or put a question to the voters on whether they want the Board to proceed on such a thing like this.” Mr. Ferrell responded that if the Board decides to go with the USDA financing route the Board could choose the taxing power of the county government which would require a referendum. He added that if the Board decides to use USDA financing and a referendum he believes there is a mechanism for that.

Commissioner W. Carter asked that someone or the School Board explain to the public what the tax increase will be for what the School Board is proposing. Chairman Hall responded that the Board would get back to that later in the meeting.

Commissioner Jefferies stated that he would like to see it put on a referendum and have the citizens decide.

Mr. Ferrell stated that he wanted to qualify what he said earlier, from what he understands from bond counsel is USDA financing does not trigger a LGC approval requirement except for interim or bridge financing that is necessary.

Mr. Miller stated that if the county were to seek Local Government Commission approval and pledge the taxing power of the county it would substantially shorted the time period of financing of the loan from 40 years to 20 or 25 years.

Chairman Hall asked the question if the county could have a referendum without pledging the taxing authority and not going to the Local Government Commission. Mr. Ferrell responded that this was a good question and added that a limited number of items are submitted to a referendum and he did not know the answer. He added that he would research if financing with the caveat of not pledging taxing authority. Chairman Hall asked the county manager to present the information that Commissioner W. Carter requested on the financing information on the high school received from the School Board today.

Mr. Miller gave the 3 options the School Board presented to the Board:

Option 1 - $30,775,440 with a total project cost of $33,775,440. Effective property tax rate increase rate of 4.94 cent per $100 valuation. The term of the loan would be 40 years financed through the USDA.

Option 2 - $39,500,000 financed for 40 years, 3.5% annual interest rate. The total project would be $42,500,000. Effective property tax rate increase rate of 7.5 cent per $100 valuation.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to remind the manager on Option 2 this is assuming that we have $3 million from lottery funds. Mr. Miller responded that this was correct using $3 million of lottery funds just like Option 1 was to pay off the Dillard payment. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Remember the third option used that as well.” Mr. Miller responded that is correct.

Mr. Miller stated that Option 3 - $27,500,000 financed for 40 years. This reflects a Dillard payoff and it also reflects the receipt of a $15 million capital needs grant. The effective property tax increase rate would be 3.99 cent.

Chairman Hall stated that in the interest of fair disclosure he opened up the floor to the public present for any questions.

One lady from the audience came forward and asked for the Option 3 numbers again.

Chairman Hall stated that this information is not secret information and suggested if anyone had a question on the numbers to contact Mr. Miller or Ms. Seamster and a copy will be given of what was received from the School Board.

Commissioner Owen stated that he wanted to share that currently in both the House and Senate there is a bill for school construction that the State wants to put on the November ballot, a school bond construction bill. If this bill passes Caswell County will receive right at $16 million. He asked everyone to call their representatives to encourage the passage of this vote. Commissioner Owen also asked the Board to consider a resolution to the county’s representatives and to the Senate and House the county’s support of this bill because $16 million for Caswell would be a God send towards school construction.

Mr. Vernon Massengill asked if the county manager would have what is considered in the three options on what the School Board is planning to do. Chairman Hall responded yes. Mr. Massengill continued that numbers is one thing what would be done with the money is his question. Chairman Hall responded that the county manager could provide that information.

Mr. Steve Oestreicher asked Commissioner Owen about the $16 million state referendum and how it would work in the presented scenario. He stated that it sounds complicated to him. Commissioner Owen responded that Caswell could be very fortunate and receive $30 million and then the county may not and this would determine if the Board decides to put this on the referendum or not. Mr. Oestreicher asked if the county would receive the $16 million if the county did not have a proposed school project. Commissioner Owen responded that as far as he knew Caswell County would get $16 million for school construction regardless. Mr. Oestreicher asked if this was specifically for school construction. Commissioner Owen responded yes and he offered to show anyone present a copy of the bill.

Commissioner W. Carter asked Dr. Sandra Carter if the School Board was favoring Option 2. Dr. Carter responded that the School Board would like Option 1.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to the Board to be aware that if we approach this from a referendum standpoint even through the USDA the fact would be that the term would be reduced to 20 or 25 years, is that correct?” Chairman Hall responded that this is correct. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Now I am just trying to think of how those calculations may change including the tax levy, that is an unknown at this point if that is the route that we choose to take.” Chairman Hall responded that this would change significantly. He added that general counsel will be working on this and he asked staff to work on tweaking those numbers for perspective changes.

Chairman Hall asked if there was anything else to be presented.

Commissioner Travis asked the Board to look at some pictures of a water problem at Stoney Creek School. He asked if the Board should be taking about building a new school when there is a problem like this at a school. Commissioner Travis asked Dr. Carter what was going to be done about the water problem at Stoney Creek School. Chairman Hall asked if there were any other issues from the Board on Stoney Creek School. Commissioner Travis stated that Commissioner McVey went to Stoney Creek School to look at this issue, the other commissioners may not know about this issue. Chairman Hall asked Dr. Carter to come forward.

Dr. Sandra Carter stated that she was not sure if this was the first time she had heard this from Commissioner Travis but she asked respectfully if he would have told the school system this information ahead of time she would have been prepared. She added that from what she has heard is the water that is behind the cafeteria food service area was there for a day from the rain and the food truck when making the delivery got stuck. Dr. Carter added that the food truck that made this delivery was larger than the normal food truck and it had to back up into the field area so it got stuck. She added that gravel was delivered to the site within 24 hours. Dr. Carter stated that there is no water problem at Stoney Creek. Commissioner Travis responded that if she were to go over there now there is probably water standing now. Dr. Carter stated that she would be glad to meet Commissioner Travis at Stoney Creek. Commissioner Travis responded that he should not have to tell Dr. Carter about the problem because it is her job to go around to the schools and look at issues. Dr. Carter stated that she does do this. Commissioner Travis responded that if Dr. Carter goes to Stoney Creek and there is no water standing to let him know. He added that there was water all under the trailer out there. Commissioner Travis stated that there is no drain over there and there is nowhere for the water to run.

DISCUSSION ABOUT VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Ms. Janie Flippen stated that she is new in the county but she is from the county. She added that she would like to present to the County Commissioners a veterans service officer. Ms. Flippen stated that there is a need for a veteran service officer in the county and there has never been one in the county and she found this out by trying to obtain a headstone for her uncle. She added that she had to go to Person County do get this done. Ms. Flippen started her presentation by tell what a veterans is. A veteran is a person who has long service or experience in a particular occupation or field. A military veteran is a person who has served or is serving in the armed forces. A veteran service is a service provided for veterans of the United States armed forces. A veteran may be eligible for a broad range of programs and services provided by the VA. Eligibility for most VA benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other dishonorable conditions and certain benefits required service during wartime. Ms. Flippen then gave an overview of what a veteran service officer does. A veteran service officer assists veterans and their families in way including answering questions regarding veteran benefits, advise as well as educate individuals and groups on what benefits are available from the federal, state, county and local resources. A veteran service officer also assists eligible persons in filing the necessary claims. A veteran service officer also assists veterans and their dependents in applying for disability and death benefits and government pension. He or she evaluates the medical conditions of veterans and obtain medical records from their physicians. Most veteran service officers work for local state government agencies. Ms. Flippen added that the pay scale of a veteran service officer can vary depending on the area in which they work. The average annual salary of a veteran service officer was $56,000 as of 2014 according to the job site Simply Hire. The minimum requirements for this job are typically a bachelor’s degree in public or business administration and one or more years of experience in veteran services. Some employers may hire those with associate degrees if candidates have two or more years of additional experience in this field. Veteran service officers must be certified through their local counties or states. Other important qualifications are math, analytical, communication, interpersonal and computer skills. Ms. Flippen stated that she is a life member of the DAV Auxiliary, Post 20 in Greensboro, NC. She added that she needed to present a budget. She stated that she understands that there are no veterans on the Board but the county manager is a veteran. She asked if she could come back within the next 30 days and present to the Board a temporary budget for securing a veteran officer, an administrative assistant and another full time person.

Chairman Hall asked how the positions were normally financed. Ms. Flippen responded they are funded through the county. Two individuals from the state senator’s office told her to go through the county commander but them she was told to go through the commissioners because it is paid for locally. Ms. Flippen stated that Caswell County is the only county in District 6 that doesn’t and has never had a veteran service officer.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Ms. Pippin is that correct?” Ms. Flippen responded no, it is Flippen. Commissioner S. Carter continued “You said you had to go through the veteran service officer through Person County to help acquire a tombstone for a relative?” Ms. Flippen responded yes. Commissioner S. Carter continued “What was their role in that process, I am just curious?” Ms. Flippen responded that the person told her to come on Monday and they would complete an application. She was asked to bring her uncle’s DV-214 and death certificate. She added that her uncle passed away in 1958 so she had to go back to the funeral home and they had to sign part of the application and the person over the cemetery had to sign. When the headstone is delivered the family will be contacted. Commissioner S. Carter stated “That makes me think of how many other individuals that may be in the county that don’t have that honor. Thank you for what you are doing.” Ms. Flippen stated that the veteran service officer asked her not to say anything because the county should get their own veteran service officer.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that he had heard from several citizens in the county that have had relatives to go to an assisted living facility the paperwork is tremendous through the Veterans Administration it is almost impossible to get unless they hire an outside agency. He asked if this person could assist with this as well. Ms. Flippen responded that this is a good question. She stated that she asked the VSO in Person County where the DAV was located and there is none so she recommended getting a DAV chapter in Caswell. Ms. Flippen stated that it was her ministry to go around and find veterans especially those that are in the homes and should not be there. She gathers the information and takes it to a bonded commander and the furthest that she can go now is Norfolk because no DAV officer here has a bonded officer.

Chairman Hall thanked Ms. Flippen for here presentation. He asked Ms. Flippen to get her information to the county manager and he asked the county manager to do some more research for the Board.

2013 MEDICAID PAY BACK

Ms. Jennifer Eastwood, Health Director, gave a quick summary of how the Health Department gets paid through Medicaid. There are 3 ways: 1) Per member, per month and this is based on care management services that the Health Department provides to the Medicaid population of Caswell County; 2) Fees for the Health Department’s services and 3) Cost settlement, Ms. Eastwood stated that most of the time the fees that the Health Department is reimbursed does not cover the actual costs of them providing the service so annually the Health Department gets a cost settlement. She stated that in 2011 the cost settlement got a little dicey Medicaid change the way they calculated the Medicaid population which was highly contested and there was a legal battle between the Division of Medical Assistance which is the entity that is over Medicaid and Cabarrus County. The court found in favor of Medicaid and so they have been settling on the counties retroactively the new methodology on how to calculate the cost settlements. Caswell has been told that the fiscal year 2013 is the only year that the county has been overpaid in the amount of around $87,000. The Health Department appealed this amount. Sharon Hendricks the Finance Officer spent hours going through the data and reduced that amount down to $64,401. Ms. Eastwood and Ms. Hendricks have spoken with the county manager and the finance officer and they believe that based on the audit the Health Department has a $38,325 in fund balance. Ms. Eastwood gave the Board three options to pay this $64,401 back to Medicaid. One option is to pay in full with no penalty and no interest. The second option is for Medicaid to withhold the Health Department’s Medicaid earnings until it is paid back over the next 12 months at 5% interest. The third option is to make a payment option of paying monthly payment over 12 months at 5% interest. Ms. Eastwood stated that the Board of Health is recommending that the payment be paid in full but this would require $26,000 to come out of the county’s fund balance.

Commissioner McVey asked Ms. Eastwood why she stated that she believes the Health Department has $35,325 in fund balance. Ms. Eastwood responded that this was based on the county audit. Commissioner McVey asked if the county knew the amount in that fund balance. Ms. Eastwood responded that she has not seen the audit results but that is what the county finance officer has told the Health Department.

Chairman Hall responded to Commissioner McVey that over the years the Health Department usually lags 5 to 6 months in getting audit adjustments because the auditors require that the county follow an accrual basis and this can be different.

Commissioner Owen stated that he had heard this information before but he wanted to know if the Health Department was aware that this was going to occur. Ms. Eastwood responded that the Health Department received notification in the fall but it took a while to sort through the data and then it took a while to get through the State Controller’s office to get the actual payback amount. She added that in 2015 the state legislature did push money to the health departments in North Carolina so Caswell County did receive $79,000 and some of this went into construction costs and IT cost which was under the previous administration but she believes that the $38,325 is what is left of the $79,000. Commissioner Owen continued by saying that he did remember hearing about it. Ms. Eastwood responded that the Board heard about this when the Board had a special meeting with Senator Woodard and Representative Jones.

Chairman Hall stated that this has been discussed before with the Board and with the Health Board. He added that because Cabarrus County lost the suit all counties lost the suit and so Medicaid went back and recalculated every county. Chairman Hall recommended holding this information until the next Board meeting to make a decision. Ms. Eastwood responded that this is time sensitive and Medicaid needs a decision on how this will be handled. Chairman Hall asked how sensitive this issue is. Ms. Eastwood responded that it is sensitive. Chairman Hall asked if they needed to know something in March. Ms. Eastwood responded yes. Ms. Eastwood added that the consensus from the Board of Health was it did not want to pay interest.

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner S. Carter to pay this Medicaid payback in full.

Chairman Hall asked for a clarification on paying in back in full. He asked if the motion was for as presented or all from the county’s fund balance. Commissioner Owen responded as presented by Ms. Eastwood.

Commissioner Jefferies asked if the fund balance from the Health Department in the amount of $38,325 would be used and then the balance would be paid from the county’s fund balance. Commissioner Owen responded yes. Commissioner Jefferies stated that it was not in the motion. Chairman Hall responded that Commissioner Owen did not put it in his motion but when I asked for clarification he made it clear.

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

Ms. Eastwood informed the Board that North Carolina is in the process of Medicaid reform which will affect the county in fiscal year 2019-2020. The Health Department is not aware yet which private companies they will be dealing with but the Association of Local Health Directors is trying to collaboratively negotiate with some of these companies so she will probably be coming back before the Board to ask permission to enter into non-binding negotiations.

Chairman Hall asked what this meant. Ms. Eastwood responded basically private companies will now be in charge of Medicaid but no one knows who these companies are. This will increase the Health Department’s administrative burden because instead of just billing Medicaid they may have to bill five different entities to get money back. There is a huge concern from the standpoint of being a rural county because some of these companies may not want to provide services here.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Gunn Memorial Library Advisory Board

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner McVey to appoint Lucindy Willis to the Gunn Memorial Library Advisory Board. The motion carried unanimously.

RECESS

The Board took a brief recess.

DISCUSSION ABOUT EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION IN HEALTH PREMIUMS

Chairman Hall stated that this item is something that the Board needs to be prepared to discuss during budget time or before budget time. Several members of the Board have suggested this and wanted to hear comments from the county manager about this. Chairman Hall stated that health insurance is very, very costly for the county and the Board has to figure out a way to deal with those costs. He added that he wanted to start the conversation about asking employees to contribute to their health premiums. He asked the county manager to give the Board a brief discussion about health insurance costs.

Mr. Miller stated that this will be a budget item, initial estimates show about an 18% increase on top of what the county is already paying which equates to about $1.9 million for employee health insurance. The county’s insurance plan is not a rich plan; it is a bare bones plan. The HR director has been working on getting the same insurance plan with little to no increase as well as a richer plan that employees can contribute to help bridge the gap between the two plans. The HR director expects to hear back from the insurance broker around the middle of April.

Commissioner Owen stated that this is about a $300,000 increase this year for insurance. He did like the idea of offering a second plan where the employee can contribute to. Commissioner Owen asked how much the insurance increase last year. Mr. Miller responded 18%. Commissioner Owen stated that the current policy is not a very good policy as he was glad the county was looking at other options.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman, my only concern or point to add is and it is sort of like what Commissioner Owen just stated, the specifics of our health insurance plan bare bones is definitely the one point that I would like to put in there is the cap on specialist visits for our employees which are mostly middle aged to older I doubt if any county employees have been able to get the service they desperately need because of that cap so the idea of having an enhanced plan I think is a necessary option at this point so that our employees can be healthy and happy at the same time but it’s something we’ve got to face and I think those individuals definitely will be willing to pay for those enhanced plans for that one reason.”

Commissioner Owen stated that he talked to the HR director today and she is aware of those two items especially the cap on specialist visits.

Commissioner W. Carter asked the county manger if the county was looking at other insurance companies. Mr. Miller responded yes including the League of Municipalities. Commissioner W. Carter stated that he cannot see the employees paying for the current policy but he would agree to the employees paying something for a better policy.

Chairman Hall stated that he wanted the Board to be aware that the health insurance premiums are costing almost $2 million for 200+ employees. He asked that the Board keep this in mind.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO EXPAND THE SCOPE AND FUNDING FOR THE ROADSIDE CLEAN UP PROGAM

Mr. Miller stated that the Board has had many discussions about litter within the county and the cleanliness of the roads as well as the cleanliness of the roads around the convenience sites and this seems to be an ongoing problem. The prison work farm used to do some of this type of work but they no longer service the roads in Caswell. He added that several counties are entering into this same type of resolution and he read the resolution.

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO EXPAND THE SCOPE AND FUNDING FOR THE ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, Caswell County is a one of the most pristine and environmentally sensitive Counties in the State; and

**WHEREAS**, roadside litter takes away from the natural beauty of the County and is a detriment to our sensitive human and natural environment; and

**WHEREAS**, this past winter, the roadways in the County have become more littered with trash and debris than any time in recent memory; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Transportation is tasked with roadside cleanup, and operated this program successfully for a number of years through a contract with the Department of Corrections; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Transportation now uses a private contractor to remove roadside debris along some primary routes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners and the citizens of Caswell County are deeply concerned that roadside litter will continue to grow worse if decisive action is not taken;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Caswell County Commissioners hereby requests that the General Assembly expand both the funding and scope to include all primary routes and larger secondary routes to clean up roadside litter with all haste.

**ADOPTED** this the 19th day of March 2018.

Chairman Hall asked if the Board had any questions or comments about the resolution.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I have more of a suggestion than a question, I think this Board should consider the option of when we have resolutions pertaining to a request or what have you to the state I believe every member of this Board should sign this resolution opposed to just one signature to show the solidarity of the sentiment. That’s just a suggestion.”

Commissioner S. Carter moved to adopt the resolution.

Chairman Hall stated that Commissioner S. Carter made a suggestion. Commissioner S. Carter responded “I sure did.” Chairman Hall suggested that Commissioner S. Carter include the suggestion in the motion.

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Carter to adopt the resolution as written with the caveat that all members of the Board sign the resolution before sending it to Raleigh.

Commissioner Owen asked if there was a commissioner that voted against the resolution how would that be handled. Commissioner W. Carter responded that the commissioner would not sign it.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I am sensitive to that Mr. Owen and I think we would just exclude the name I guess that is how other boards do it, I am not sure.” Commissioner Owen responded that he was not sure of how other boards handle it as well and he made the point that a resolution may not be unanimous.

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

DISCUSSION ON SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE

Mr. Miller stated that this item is on the agenda today because at the Retreat the Board identified things that they wanted to revisit about the ordinance. One of those items was the number of bags a person would be allowed to take to the convenience site; this limit stands at 10 bags.

Commissioner Jefferies stated that in his neighborhood two guys pick up the garbage for the elderly and he did not think this should be a restriction.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that he did not know why this was coming back up because it was just approved in October. Mr. Miller responded that he is not aware of refusing anyone of service for just having 10 bags.

Commissioner Travis stated that he did not know how the county can monitor this. He does not see the point of having a limit.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman the way that it is worded it’s basically just it would be easier for us to take out 10 bags and the sentence would still make sense and it would be more so of a strong encouragement because it says ‘in an effort to discourage that large quantities be brought to convenience sites and those be taken to the landfill. We could just take out the 10 bags at this point I think.”

Mr. Ferrell stated that the language of the ordinance says ‘the convenience sites may require that large quantities be taken to the convenience center’ so it is a ‘may’. He added that this is not a strong prohibition of more than 10 it may discourage large quantities. Chairman Hall responded that it may become a problem when one convenience site makes that decision.

Chairman Hall asked if this could be amended, altered or deleted in the ordinance without major problems if the Board desires to do so. Mr. Ferrell responded that it could.

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to amend the Solid Waste Ordinance in Section 16: Large Quantities of Household Garbage remove ‘more than 10 bags’ and Section 22, Item 20 remove ‘in excess of 10 bags and add in Section 20, Item 22 ‘Large quantities of household waste ‘may be’ delivered to the Yanceyville Convenience Center instead of ‘shall be’. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jefferies stated that he would like to amend the ordinance to require a cover when taking trash to the convenience sites. Commissioner S. Carter stated “Strongly encourage.”

Mr. Miller stated that in Section 22, Item 19 it says “Waste not properly covered or secured can be refused when delivered.’ He added that paid haulers are required to do this. Chairman Hall responded that this does not address Commissioner Jefferies issue and ‘may be refused’ does not address it because there is nobody there to refuse it.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman it may be in Section 15 it says Solid Waste Storage and Removal, it gets into the containers and what not and that you are supposed to keep your stored waste but you could say something to the effect and this is not a motion but a suggestion that when transporting waste, household waste to a convenience site that it be properly covered in the vehicle or trailer that is carried on and that would be right before the quantity so it is kind of step by step basically. Does that make sense?”

Chairman Hall asked if there were any other suggestions.

Commissioner Owen stated that if the county wants any bite to this the Board may want to consider under the civil penalties something in there. Chairman Hall responded that it should be left as is because when moving to civil penalties the county will have to determine who will issue the penalties and who will collect them.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Well that is already in the ordinance. And on that note I just have one quick question and maybe general counsel can help me, for civil penalties to the effect of a vehicle that is not properly covered and disposing waste would that be under illegal dumping or illegal disposal or what?” Mr. Ferrell responded that it would be a violation of the existing rule about covering but the Board can be stronger on that issue.

Mr. Miller stated that the county does have a section in the ordinance labeled Other Violations and the first offense is $100, the second offense is $200, the third offense $300. Commissioner S. Carter responded “So we are covered.”

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to amend Section 15 which states Solid Waste Storage and Removal by adding the sentence ‘when transporting household waste to a convenience site there should be a covering. The motion carried by a vote of five to two with Commissioners W. Carter and Travis voted no.

Mr. Ferrell stated that the ordinance approval will come back before the Board since it was not unanimous because it is amending an ordinance.

DISCUSSION ABOUT OPENING UP THE WELLNESS PROGRAM TO OUTSIDE AGENCIES AND COMPANIES

The clerk stated that when the Wellness Program began it was the goal to reach out into the community. The Committee has had several agencies to request to be included in the Wellness Program. The clerk stated that some of the agencies that are interested are the Town of Yanceyville, Fidelity Bank, the State Employee Credit Union, the Caswell Family Medical Center, the Court System and the seniors at the Senior Center. The clerk asked if the Board would grant permission to open the Wellness Program up to outside agencies and companies.

Commissioner W. Carter stated this was a wonderful thing to get other agencies involved.

Commissioner W. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner McVey to give approval to the Wellness Committee to reach out to other agencies to participate in the wellness program.

Commissioner Travis asked if this would be a liability to the county if someone were to get hurt. The clerk responded that she and the county manager had talked about having a waiver form for these agencies to sign.

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

COUNTY MANAGER’S UPDATES

Personnel Policy Update

Mr. Miller reminded the Board that they were given a copy of the Draft Personnel Policy. He would like to set up a meeting to go through the Personnel Policy with the Board within the next 2 to 4 weeks.

Chairman Hall stated the commissioners would work on getting a date.

ANNOUNCMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A. Economic Development Summit – Wednesday, March 28, 2018 – 911 Center

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

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

 Development Center, Reidsville, NC

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Mr. Chairman would you like for me to add the item I discussed with you about Ms. Stinner before or after closed session?” Chairman Hall responded before closed session. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Chairman Hall, fellow commissioners, we received an email from the Conservators Center, they are applying to a Womack Foundation grant that will provide educational opportunities to people in Caswell County. This would be a grant that could provide a scholarship for 500 of our county students to visit their site and learn about that facility. They also are trying to get our Library what is called a Jungle in a Box and don’t ask the details of that because I don’t know quite what it is but it is an educational tool that is used for younger children that they would like to share with our public library and apparently this kit is in Alamance County Public Library system. It is quite expensive so part 2 of the Womack Foundation grant would be to acquire funding to get these kits for the library. They are asking for a joint letter of support from the Board of Commissioners to the Womack Foundation as they apply for this grant and I am hoping the Board will be willing to sign a letter of support to the Conservators Center and Ms. Stinner to apply for that grant.”

Commissioner Jefferies asked if this was a matching grant. Commissioner S. Carter responded “No sir, Womack would be covering what they are requesting.”

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Carter to provide a letter of support to the Conservators Center to apply for a grant from the Womack Foundation.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Who would you like to work on the letter for that, us as a group or a committee of a couple of people or I would be glad to work on it and hope for some oversight from some other people.” Chairman Hall responded that Commissioner S. Carter could handle the letter of support for the Board. He added to confer with Ms. Seamster and to get it written.

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

Commissioner Jefferies informed the Board of several things that he heard about in Washington while he was there. He stated that the DSS Director for Caswell County had already reported this information but it was also stated in Washington that every supervisor at Social Services has to report what their department does every month to the state. He added that he talked to several people there and said that other counties got with the county manager and HR director and how they filled vacancies was with retired individuals from DSS. These individuals would work until the people came back from leave or the position was filled permanently. The second item he mentioned was about a town with 30,000 people had an economic developer. He added that the economic developer that worked for the big town did not help this small town so they hired their own economic developer who could write grants and there are billions of dollars in grants. Commissioner Jefferies stated that Caswell County is paying about $75,000 a year on the economic developer and at budget time he will not vote for it again. He added that it is now time for Caswell County to look for someone full time as economic developer. The third item Commissioner Jefferies mentioned was having a disaster plan. The questions were asked how many people were elderly, impaired, etc. and if there was a plan for these individuals in case of a disaster. Commissioner Jefferies asked the county manager how many people we have that fit these categories. Mr. Miller responded that the county knows about certain individuals that have made the county aware of that but he did not think there was a comprehensive list. Commissioner Jefferies stated that these other counties had HR and the Chamber of Commerce to call these groups and organized this information. Commissioner Jefferies also mentioned a grant that Social Services gets in the amount of $3.3 million will be cut 24% and NACo is trying to keep this grant from being cut. Commissioner Jefferies’ fourth item was he went to Greensboro on Wednesday and Thursday to a Cooperative Extension workshop and Senator Thom Tillis passed a bill that if there is any money left for the federal government that it does not have to be sent back. There was also a class on how to go and sell agricultural products. There was also discussion about getting a grant for the farmers that lost the tobacco program could come up with something else that they could raise on their farms. He added that he was going to get with Joey Knight to hold a meeting with the small tobacco farmers so they can come up with a product that they can sell. Commissioner Jefferies stated that hemp may come into the county.

Commissioner Owen informed Commissioner Jefferies that although the county does not know how many people are on oxygen, the Caswell Family Medical Center is an open facility during disasters for people who have medical issues. There are a certain amount of beds available in case of a disaster in the county.

Chairman Hall stated that certain sessions in Washington talked about that issue. He added that the county does have an Emergency Management Department so he asked the county manager to have the Emergency Management Director to come before the Board and inform the Board of what he knows and what he does not know about this issue.

Commissioner Owen stated that he continues to hear people praise the Code Red system in Caswell County so he applauded the Board for setting this up.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that Ms. Flippen presentation touched him tonight because he knows from experience how hard it is to apply for benefits for veterans. He added that several families are having problems with family members for nursing homes. Commissioner W. Carter stated that he agreed with Commissioner Jefferies that there is money out there through grants and the county has to have someone to apply for these grants.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “On the copies of minutes from the Senior Center Adult Advisory Committee or just Advisory Committee I just had one slight suggestion, when they submit their minutes or they type them that they mention that it is the Senior Center Advisory Committee meeting versus Advisory Committee as it says on the paper.” Chairman Hall asked the county manager to handle this.

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

REGULAR SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:33 p.m. Commissioner McVey moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Paula P. Seamster Nathaniel Hall

Clerk to the Board Chairman

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