MINUTES – AUGUST 20, 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, August 20, 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

Chairman Hall stated that he wanted to propose 2 amendments to the agenda, one to amend the agenda for a Closed Session to discuss personnel items and another to the County Manager’s Updates a Request from the Sheriff’s Department.

Commissioner Owen stated that he would like to make an addition to the agenda in light of transparency of this Board to the citizens a summary of the issues of the funds owed to Caswell County by Commissioner Sterling Carter.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner W. Carter stated that he wanted to make one correction on the Consent Agenda for the Minutes of August 6, 2018 where the Board was discussing EMS policies the section was left out where the Board was talking about EMS and the Sheriff’s Department and the length of time they stay at a resident when somebody is deceased and he requested that this be added to the minutes.

The Clerk added that she had a correction to the August 6, 2018 minutes as well, under the Consent Agenda the dates should be July 16th and July 19th instead of June 16th and June 19th.

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner McVey to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

The following items were included on the Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes of August 6, 2018 Regular Meeting

B. Approval of Minutes of August 13, 2018 Special Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Hall opened the floor to Public Comments.

Chairman Hall stated that 4 people had signed up for Public Comments and he asked if there was anyone else that would like to speak during public comments. He added that in fairness to all that signed up he asked that each speaker try to hold their comments to 3 minutes.

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

“Good evening, my name is John Claggett and I reside at 108 Jaye Lane, Providence, NC. I thank you for this speaking opportunity and I would like this public statement recorded verbatim. Past planning efforts for Caswell County have included The Strategic Plan of 1992, the Rural Design Assistance Team in 2000, the Caswell County Land Use Plan of 2003, the 21st Century Communities Plan (2005), the Agricultural Inventory of Caswell County, North Carolina (2010), the Caswell County Farmland Protection Plan (20153), the Caswell County Comprehensive Plan (2014) and now the Economic Development Strategic Plan presented this past July 19th. Having attended the open session of the July 19th meeting and having been a part of the 2014 Caswell County Comprehensive Plan, I can tell you that the Economic Development Strategic Plan presented in July was nothing more than a cherry picked, watered down version of the 2014 Caswell County Comprehensive Plan. Everything presented in July was previously addressed to even more detail in 2014. So, what do we have here? We have study after study after study explaining the how’s and why’s of Caswell being a poor county without any positive action. Obviously, no one on this board had the desire to do any research and if they did it wasn’t voiced. So now we’re about to be $300,000 poorer. Here are a few questions for the public as well as this Board to ponder. Why wasn’t this Board’s vote count reported in the Messenger as was the Town Council’s? What is the plan for the already existing businesses who’s never got return calls from our Economic Developer, or been abandoned by county staff? Why isn’t the Economic Developer working to economically develop our already developed Pelham Industrial Park? Why is the contact information for the Caswell County Industrial Park in Yanceyville, the Pelham Industrial Park in Pelham, and the Caswell Chamber of Commerce have the County Manager’s address the telephone number and not Ms. Lindsey’s? Is this the reason the Assistant County Manager position was discussed a few meetings ago or does he just answer the phone for her? Maybe it’s because the link to Ms. Lindsey on the County Website doesn’t work. Why couldn’t our library, which is currently being renovated, provide services of this nature? Their Facebook page advertises for the services provided by Piedmont Community College. Piedmont Community College provides ‘Small Business Counseling’ at their ‘Small Business Center’ free. The director for the ‘Small Business Center’ is none other than our very own Economic Director. This Board denied increasing the base pay for the lowest paid county employees and those with 20 years longevity citing inadequate funding available. This Board’s priorities are questionable as well as shameful. Thank you.”

Ms. Alice Woodson came before the Board and made the following statement:

“Good evening and thank you for letting me speak. I will get through this as best I can I’ve had a sinus thing going on. My name is Alice Woodson and I reside at 963 Lovelace Road, Pelham, NC. I’d like to start off this by reading you what I have found while looking into different websites for Caswell County and businesses, how to get involved with a business there, where to look and so forth. I ran across this this morning by the way. Caswell County’s new Pelham Industrial Park is a North Carolina Department of Commerce certified industrial site and one of the most attractive sites for industrial development in the area. Got my attention with the first line. The 171 acre industrial park is ideally situated near two 4 lane highways; US-29/I-785 is a major interstate grade highway for north/southbound traffic while US-58 is a four lane highway, west/eastbound to Virginia Beach or connector to Richmond, Virginia via four lane highway US-360. The park is located on NC 700 and US-29/I-785 at the N.C. Visitors Center exit, approximately 1 mile south of the US-58 interchange and approximately 35 miles northeast of Greensboro. Saying that I’m sure you all are all aware of the traffic studies that have been done, DOT, over a million people go in and out of the Welcome Center a year. Over 6 million people drive back and forth down Highway 29 north and south corridor a year, that’s a lot of people plus we have people that reside in that end of the county. Through my business I have met a lady that’s a customer, she’s become a friend and she didn’t mind if I shared her name tonight and tell you what she’s enlightened me to. Her name is Sarah Arrington, she resides on 700. She works at the ABC store in Pelham. Sarah on numerous occasions has had truck drivers come in that have shut their rigs down for the night and I know how this operates because my son was a trucker at one time. When you shut that truck down you’ve got the system that relays to the dispatcher if you crank that truck up whether you move it or not. So they on many occasions have come to Sarah and said ma’am is there anywhere within walking distance we can get something to eat, this being around quarter to nine. She would go in the back and get water, sprite, whatever she had and nabs and give to these truckers so that lets you know there is a need. Then we go into, okay we got the only new businesses other than myself that I’ve seen come to Caswell County on that end of the county are seven gambling establishments. Some right next door to each other. I mean all of them are within a10 mile radius of each other so I don’t know the whole specifics of what they do to get if they have a business license. I was told they didn’t have to have one here. I was told by somebody in authority of the county that Sanford has one that they are operating under a non-profit organization, isn’t that lovely. These 7 businesses, like I said, are 10 miles apart at the most, I’d like to know if possible what kind of jobs they provide for the people in Caswell County and what kind of taxes they are paying because I myself pay both Virginia and North Carolina and federal taxes on my business. Thank you.”

Mr. Wally Ewalt came before the Board and made the following statement:

“My name is Wally Ewalt and I live in Yanceyville, NC and I have lived here for the last 25 years, I feel very fortunate. Thank you for the opportunity to listen to something that I feel is very important that you all should address. The subject is the courthouse clock. I know it’s way up there and lots of people problem have not even been up to see it but it is something that is very important in my opinion and in a lot of people’s opinion who are citizens of this county that we keep the clock and keep it operational and that’s the reason I am here is because it is not operational on a regular basis. Just a little bit of brief history, when I moved here the courthouse was in total disrepair. The clock was not working and the clock was electric. Somebody had, many years ago torn out the old mechanical clock and made it an electric so with the plans to restore the courthouse a group of people of which my wife and I were members decided that this was a good time to restore the clock and to keep it in accordance to what it had been over the many years that the courthouse has been here. On one occasion I remember Neal Watlington saying to me how important the clock was because lots of the people in the county went to work based on hearing the clock and went to lunch based on hearing the clock and went home based on hearing the clock so we really felt that if the courthouse was going to be restored the clock should be restored also. I might comment this is the first time I’ve been in here since you all have done this and this is magnificent compared to what it was a few years ago. So what happened here about 20 years ago, a group of us got together and decided that we were going to put the money together and the effort together to tear out the electric clock and to restore the clock that was here originally when the courthouse was built. So we proceeded to tear the clock out to replace all of the electrical clock to either buy, manufacture, steal, borrow or whatever the parts we needed to get the clock back to where it was previously. My wife and I paid the bills for all the restoration of the clock. A lot of people in this community participated in restoring the clock but for many years after that restoration the clock worked so reliably, it was wound on a weekly basis, actually Rob here from down here on 62 came by and wound the clock every week but you could go to work or you could set your own wrist watch based on the clock. Now what we have is a very unreliable clock. The clock is really not rocket science, I mean the weights move the pendulum, the pendulum moves the hands, the hands tell you what time it is and so we are not dealing with something that is going to need to reinvent a wheel but right now and I must comment somebody must have known that I was coming because the clock is telling the exact correct time right now but we are really faced with something where we have a courthouse that is the center of our universe really in this little county. It’s the most prominent thing we have and the clock is at this point in time not an attractive feature because too often you drive by and you see its noon and the clock is telling you its quarter of four or the clock is telling you its quarter of four and its noon or the other day it stopped all together, didn’t work at all. There is an association of tower clocks and when we did this work we were involved with that association. I’m willing to participate any way you all want me to but we need to come to grips with we are not talking about an insignificant thing. That clock is worth a ton of money and that clock is part and parcel of this courthouse and we’re delinquent if we don’t take action to make it as nice as this is or as reliable as the electricity or the toilets or anything else. Can I answer any questions or anything?” Chairman Hall responded “Your time is up.” Mr. Ewalt continued “My time is up, thank you for my time.” Chairman Hall responded “Thank you.”

Mr. Ken Schneider came before the Board and made the following statement:

“Good evening gentlemen, my name is Ken Schneider and I live on Ralph Daniel Road in Pelham. As this Board may or may not be aware records are to be kept by the APS shelter per state order, the Agriculture Department Veterinarian Division. Those are per month and submitted yearly to the state. They are also required by the county ordinance. The Animal Control Department is also by ordinance page 10, number 10 A through D to keep them. I believe you have been sent the reports for January through July. The APS reports that I will refer to only go through June so all numbers I give tonight are only for those months. Looking at both reports APS and AC there would seem to be some differences. If you would look at the January report for AC the animal intake numbers for AC show a total of 80 but the shelter shows only 29 brought in by AC. The difference in this number is the animals brought in by private citizens. That being said if you were to add up the animals brought in by AC over January to June with the APS numbers a total of 216 were taken to the shelter by Animal Control. There are 25 weeks in that time or 125 days allowing for 4 days in that time period for holidays that would be 121 work days. That then would have to an average of 1.8 animals per day for the Animal Control department. Then again if you would look at the service call numbers you would come to a total of 698 January through June per the Animal Control numbers themselves or an average of 4.6 service calls per day. If you would now look at the bite cases and quarantine case numbers they appear not to equal each other, how can that be, as all bite cases must be quarantined for 10 days, State Statute 130A-196 and Caswell Animal Control Ordinance page 9A number 3. Interesting. The revisions to the ordinance for wildlife appears to have been made even though it took 6 months from the original vote on the ordinance. However the section on exotic animals which was removed from the vote on the February 5th meeting has not yet been brought to the Board for a vote. Mr. William Carter at that same night said he wanted Animal Control to be moved to the Sheriff’s Department. It is stated “That it would be put on an agenda later on” and it’s been 6 months. Gentlemen it is not up to each of you to do all the research that is needed on animal care and laws, which I believe your attorney stated it is widespread in the state laws. That is what I suggest again tonight that this Board set up a committee for domestic and exotic animals. This committee would report to you and bring you all of the updates on law and care for animals in this modern day. We would also lobby for new laws in the state. I would also think an agenda item is in order for a group of people who have spoken to this public comments section to allow them to be put on the agenda so a dialogue could be done with the Board about this very important matter. Thank you for your time and consideration.”

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

RECOGNITIONS

Chairman Hall stated “The next order of business gentlemen is recognitions, we will start with Mr. Young Carter.” Commissioner S. Carter responded “I do have a first name; I do not have any recognitions though.”

Commissioner Owen recognized the Farmer Lake Board which held its Annual Kids Fish and Fun Day this past Saturday. He added that he was overwhelmed by the numbers of people present especially children and he thought it was a great day. The kids were catching everything from little minnows to big fish and they all seemed happy. Commissioner Owen commended the Farmer Lake Board for having this event and he made the comment that the Board may have to start helping more with this event because it is getting larger and larger each year.

EMS Fee Schedule

Mr. Miller stated that the proposed EMS Fee Schedules is included in the Board’s agenda packet. He added that the Board that this be brought back to this meeting. Mr. Miller stated that a different approach was taken on the feed schedule and focused more on the level of care provided on Basic Life Support (BLS) or Advanced Life Support(ALS) as well as whether or not the person is transported. He added that the hourly cost of EMS services calculates to $50.95 per hour which includes hourly wages and the average maintenance cost, fuel cost as related to the response and the transport calculates to 30 cent per mile. This cost does not include the cost of the equipment that is being used.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that he still has a problem with EMS charging $150 for an elderly person falling. Mr. Miller responded that this cost for this kind of call would be about $75 now after the adjustments but the ALS cost would still be $150.

Commissioner Travis stated that the county can’t afford to run the ambulances up and down the road free of charge.

Commissioner McVey stated that he was amazed at what the first responders and EMS does on this calls and there is a lot of money spent on this to get to the calls.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that maybe the first responders need to respond to these calls. Commissioner Travis responded that no one knows what is going on at the house and that is why the ambulance and first responders are both sent and that is the reason there needs to be a charge.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman I don’t have a question but I do have a thought or maybe a suggestion on this. When I think of these no transports I also think about situations where mental health may be involved where they use no equipment, they don’t have to lift anybody or do any kind of dangerous activity per se but they may be there just for support in that moment of crisis perhaps. I would like to see a third tier fee for this with those situations where they don’t have to use a blood pressure cuff or any kind of equipment, minor or major, but this would definitely be considered below BLS because they are not really doing much with them. I would almost like to see this apply to the fall victims as well because we know it occurs frequently. We know there are instances of abuse in this but we still have to remain compassionate towards individuals that call and yes sometimes first responders get there and are able to help but sometimes they make that determination otherwise but I think I would like to see a $25 fee as a third tier with this for those more simple cases where you know it’s not free but it’s also not you know affecting someone with a fixed income dramatically as I know a $75 fee would still even if we dropped it $150 like we have. I feel like $25 maybe you know will be more reasonable in those situations.” Mr. Lynch responded that when they respond to a mental patient they still have to do an evaluation because they have to make sure it is not a medical condition that is causing what is going on.

Chairman Hall asked if EMS billed if they are dispatched but they are just on standby. Mr. Lynch responded that there would not be a bill because they are just on standby. Commissioner Travis asked if Chairman Hall was referring to an accident because if a person refused to ride the ambulance they are still billed. Mr. Lynch responded that if an evaluation is done the person will get a bill.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “I do have a question, of the past history we have with the $150 fee, percentagewise how much of that do we actually collect?” Mr. Lynch responded 25.2%. Commissioner S. Carter continued “My follow up to that is with the reduced BLS fee of $75 do you have confidence that that number will dramatically change?” Mr. Lynch responded that he did not know but EMS averages collecting $37.87 per call right now for the no transport.

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to approve the EMS Fee Schedule. The motion carried by a vote of five to two with Commissioners S. Carter and W. Carter voting no.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that he had one more question for the EMS director that does not pertain to the fee schedule. He stated that he bothered him at the last meeting when the director said that someone may have to stay at the house of deceased individual for maybe three hours. Commissioner W. Carter stated that when he was coroner when he got on scene the sheriff’s department and EMS could leave and it bothers him about the time spent on the scene. Chairman Hall asked Commissioner W. Carter what his question is. Commissioner W. Carter asked if it took both county units 3 hours on this situation. Mr. Lynch responded that it takes between 1 hour to 3 hours but if one of the units gets a call the other unit will cover the scene.

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mr. Miller stated that based upon a recommendation from the Board staffed looked into a route for PCC students from the Yanceyville campus to the Roxboro campus and vice versa. Staff worked with PCC staff to determine which classes would need this type of service. He added that PCC identified 6 classes: Digital Effects Animation Technology, Film Video Production Technology, Human Services, Office Systems Technology, Nursing and Medical Office Technology. These classes are not offered online or through the distance learning rooms. Based upon the information provide the actual yearly cost for the program would be $20,358 and the mileage charge usually associated with this program is $13,924. Mr. Miller stated that the large disparity in these numbers which is the wait time for the driver at both campuses. He suggested that on Mondays and Wednesday the county would provide 2 trips to Roxboro and on Tuesdays and Thursday the county would provide 1 trip to Roxboro. Mr. Miller stated that the CATS program requires at least an 8% fund balance amount which equates to $54,921, currently CATS has a fund balance of $630,368. He added that he has spoken with the Dean at the Caswell County and they have identified about 200 students that could benefit from this type of an arrangement.

Chairman Hall asked if the classes that are associated with getting an Associate’s degree are included in these classes. Mr. Miller responded that there are some classes such as math and English that are offered several times during the day as well as distance learning and distance learning rooms. Chairman Hall added that a student cannot get a degree at the Caswell campus.

Commissioner Owen asked if the students would be paying for any of this service. Mr. Miller responded that this would be up to the Board to make a decision. He added that if the Board chooses to charge the student the county could use a semester pass, a daily rate or trip rate.

Chairman Hall stated that the first step would be for the Board to determine if there is an interest to proceed with this and then work with the cost. He added that surveys would be needed from the students.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I think it’s a great option to offer and I’m expressing my support for it but as far as the details for what the county manager just explained I feel like we could address that future once we have time to think about it.”

Chairman Hall stated that this item will be back on the next agenda.

COUNTY MANAGER’S UPDATES

Resident Complaint

Mr. Miller stated that the Board received and email on a resident’s complaint about an ongoing issue that has been going on since 2015. This person complained about numerous junk cars on the property, piles of trash located on the property, windblown trash, burning trash, illegal activities, failing septic system, over occupancy complaints of 13 people living in a 3 bedroom house, profanity and septic smells. He added that Planning, Environmental Health and the Sheriff’s Office have all participated in investigating and conversation about this residence. Mr. Miller stated that in the past the junk cars were removed which brought the property back into compliance but returned again later on. Several attempts have been made to rectify the trash and civil penalties were imposed against the property owners. He added that drainage lines of gray water were noticed draining into a wooded are behind the house and a violation was issued and the lines were re-routed into the septic lines. The most recent complaint had to do with septic odor. Mr. Miller stated that Donnie Powell from Environmental Health evaluated the system last week without a definitive ruling that the system was failing so at this point there is nothing there to enforce.

APS Complaint

Mr. Miller stated that the next item is an APS complaint was received to the Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline in which the clerk emailed this to the Board. Mr. Miller stated that he had spoken to Animal Control and the Shelter about the complaint. He continued by saying the Mr. Wilson went to the APS animal shelter on August 10, 2018 looking for his missing dog, while there he saw a dog he liked and asked about adopting it. The shelter manager explained that the dog was not available for adoption because a rescue group, Bonnie’s Animal Rescue Kingdom, had already reserved it. He added that the shelter relies on other shelters and rescue groups to help euthanasia rates down. The shelter has worked with Bonnie’s Animal Rescue Kingdom for over 10 years and is the best animal rescue groups that the shelter works with and travels the furthest to help the animals.

Ms. Susan Pendergraph, APS shelter manager, stated that Bonnie’s Animal Rescue Kingdom is the biggest rescue group the shelter works with. She added that there are other rescue groups but they are breed specific but Bonnie’s takes mutt dogs. Bonnie’s also takes dogs with heartworms, old, broken legs, etc. and she has the dogs fixed.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I guess I understand both sides of this. A citizen came up to me and said and I will use the beagle as an example because I didn’t know that, that they all got taken like that. You know, if a young child is looking for a specific breed of animal and does find it at the local shelter I can understand the frustration of them finding that out but I know what the larger picture is for you guys and I would just agree with the comments that have been made and just thank you for what you do.”

Caswell Enterprise Center On The Square

Mr. Miller went through the process that led the county to this point. The county began developing an economic development strategic plan in the summer of 2017 and used a community asset approach which included input from national experts in community assets approach studies which is taught by the UNC School of Government. He added that from September through November of 2017 15 community leaders were interviewed which consisted of elected members of local boards and economic development commission members. In January of 2018 Creative EDC was hired to compile interviews and surveys. Mr. Miller stated that 2 community meeting were held in March and April of 2018 to receive feedback on the results of the interviews and surveys and 45 people attended these two sessions. In May 2018 the county received the finalized strategic planning report to include input from the survey and interview results and community meetings help in March and April. Mr. Miller stated “In support of the economic development strategic plan, the Caswell County Board of Commissioners and Yanceyville Town Council has approved the purchase of the former Drug Store building on the Square in Yanceyville. The intended use for the space will be a business incubator with traditional office space, a co-working area, meeting rooms, and support services for businesses. The new Caswell Enterprise Center - On the Square (CEC) will serve as a catalyst for business development in Caswell County. Supporting small businesses through development of an incubator was identified in the new economic development strategic plan as a priority to help promote growth in the region. The CEC will advance the economic development efforts by supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses through state of the art infrastructure and technical support. We have been working with multiple partners within or region and our state that may be interested in providing different levels of funding for this project. I have 20 copies of the executive summary and goals from the strategic plan and is available online on the County’s website.”

DHHS Management Letter Update

Mr. Miller stated that after the last audit the Board received a copy of the findings. One of the findings was a finding in material weakness with internal controls. The condition was a deficit fund balance and several accounts were not reconciled and adjusted and several adjustments had to be proposed to correct the financial statements. He added that the auditors recommendation was that the Finance Office makes all adjustments in a timely manner and year end entries should be made prior to the yearend closing. DHHS concurred with the audit findings and they have requested a status update of the corrective action plan implemented by the county. He added that DHHS has asked for proof of policies and procedures implemented to prevent reoccurrence and they have requested communication provided to the appropriate parties regarding the policies and procedures. Mr. Miller stated that the entire Board was made aware of the audit findings by the auditor. Most findings had to do with accounts not being posted in a timely manner. He added that with the amount of turnover the Finance Department has had over the last 2 years as well as a new audit firm in the Finance Office chose to follow the previous close out plan it had had with the previous auditors so there was no clear close out plan with the current auditor. The new auditors do not allow some of the practices from the old auditors. Mr. Miller stated that in February 2018 the Board received a corrective action plan for management issues and auditor recommendations. This plan outlines each of the deficiencies with goals, objectives, plans, strategies and a timeline. He added that the Finance Office has crafted a response to the DHHS complaint and he requested additional time to review this response and he requested that he could bring this response back to the first Board meeting in September so the Board can review the response before it is sent in. Chairman Hall responded that the Board would like for this to be done.

NC DOT

Mr. Miller stated that he received an email from Jason Julian with DOT today just to make the Board aware that NC62 North near Crumpton Road is currently closed due to a collapsed cross pipe. Crews were there replacing the cross pipe and hope to have the road opened by Wednesday, August 22, 2018.

Commissioner Owen asked the county manager to follow up with Mike Mills with DOT on a date for a meeting on Shadow Ridge Road. Mr. Miller responded that he would.

Sheriff’s Request

Mr. Miller stated that the Sheriff’s Office has requested an off budget expenditure for two new positions. One position is to help with the transport of federal inmates housed at the jail. Federal officials would like to triple the number of inmates held which is an extra $100,000 in revenues. He added that the second position would be for a School Resource Officer. The School System has received a grant that will allow for this position.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Just for clarification, the 10 federal inmates mentioned is that the U.S. Marshal’s service?” Mr. Miller responded that he believed that number is right.

Chairman Hall asked if the county manager would have a new revenue cost analysis on these two positions. Mr. Miller responded yes.

PTRC Representative

Mr. Miller stated that several Board members have asked very good questions about Opportunity Zones so a representative from the Piedmont Triad Regional Council will be at the next Board meeting to discuss the opportunity zones throughout the state but more specifically within Caswell County.

RECESS

The Board took a brief recess.

SUMMARY OF FUNDS OWED TO THE COUNTY BY

COMMISSIONER STERLING CARTER

Commissioner Owen stated “And again this is this Board being transparent. I do want to make a couple of statements before I actually get into the summary; I just want to summarize what has taken place. First of all, at no time did Commissioner Sterling Carter ever receive any funds on this issue that I’m talking about, I want to make that very clear and I waited as well as other commissioners to bring this publically because we wanted to give him sufficient time to make the payment, to refund the monies that he owed which I believe now has been sufficient time and I don’t know what the status of that amount is now and whether Commissioner Sterling Carter wants to make any statements on this issue is entirely up to him tonight. I just wanted to give a summary and public record of what has transpired and that’s what I will do. In March there was a Thrive Conference, a two day conference, that was held in Greensboro of which both Commissioner Carter and I registered to attend, there was no registration fee for that conference. I attended both days but I did not see Commissioner Carter either day and I knew from conversations that we had had that he had reserved the county vehicle to use for the conference so when I went by the county office the following Monday after that workshop I inquired with our county manager if he had returned the car on Wednesday. At which time the county manager said no and I also learned that he was also registered for a course at the School of Government on that Friday in which he did not attend but he had the car for 3 days and in which my concern was that car was no longer available for any of our employees to use and was not in use for the purpose that it was reserved. Then in early April I was made aware by Commissioner Travis of several issues of money being paid by Caswell County for classes that Commissioner Carter had registered for but did not attend. The issue was then discussed with our Chairman who instructed our county manager to speak with Commissioner Carter about these issues of which he did and Commissioner Carter made the commitment to reimburse the county for those said funds. This is what I was told. After some time had passed another inquiry was made of whether any funds had been reimbursed, there had not been and again I think this issue was mentioned to our Chairman who I believe at some time spoke to Commissioner Carter about those issues. Again after time had passed and no payments made that I was aware of I felt it was time to be brought up in open session, I believe he has had enough time to make those restitutions. So last Thursday morning I asked our county manager for a copy of all documents involved in those 3 days plus the classes, the other classes in which I am glad I did because on the way home I got a voice mail concerning this very issue and I am glad I already decided to do that. The only thing that has really disturbed me because I don’t believe there was any intent or wrongdoing by Commissioner Sterling Carter but the one thing that did disturb me that I did not know until I saw the documents was that on a mileage log of Commissioner Carter specifically wrote down on March 21st which was the first day of our conference it had listed the Sheraton at Greensboro. I am not saying he did not come to the Sheraton, I will just say that I did not see him in that conference that day and I looked for him all day and I don’t know about that. So my main concern in this now is after seeing the documents is that there is 120+ miles for 3 days that for me are unaccounted for that weren’t used for county business and that kind of gets us where we are today. Thank you Mr. Chairman, that is all I have.”

Chairman Hall asked “Commissioner Carter would you like to make a statement?”

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I know that we brought this up in Closed Session at the last meeting and I have the same response then as I do know although I said I believe that that meeting hopefully within the next 2 weeks I would like to get all this handled and do it professionally and that has not happened obviously at this point in time but it is still my intention to get that handled as soon as possible and it’s an expense that I’m willing to cover.”

Chairman Hall stated “Thank you.” Commissioner S. Carter responded “Thank you.”

ANNOUNCMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A. Farmer Lake Kids’ Fish and Fun Day – Saturday, August 18, 2018 – 8:00 a.m. –

 12:00 p.m.

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

C. Caswell County Blood Drive – Thursday, September 27, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. to 1:30

 p.m. – Senior Center

Chairman Hall added an Upcoming Event to the list, Dr. Christine Darden who was four of the ladies in the book Hidden Figures will be speaking on September 22, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. in the Historic Courthouse during the Hoedown. He added that on September 6, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. the Library will show the movie at the Civic Center.

Commissioner Owen stated that he watched the movie and was very impressed and he cannot wait to meet Dr. Darden on September 22nd.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Just a clarification, where was the September 22nd?” Chairman Hall responded in the Historic Courthouse. Commissioner S. Carter continued “And do citizens need to register or do they just show up?” Chairman Hall responded that citizens just need to show up as far as he knew.

Commissioner W. Carter stated the Fire Marshall asked him to see how many Commissioners will be attending the State Inspection on August 25th at the Prospect Hill Fire Department at 8:15 a.m. Commissioner Owen responded that he would not be able to attend because he is involved with the Back to School Blast at the Parks and Recreation facility. Commissioner McVey responded that he would be there. Chairman Hall responded that he would be at the NCACC Conference in Hickory. Commissioner S. Carter responded that he would be there. Commissioner W. Carter stated that Commissioners Sterling Carter, Rick McVey and himself would be present.

Commissioner Owen stated that Legislative Goals are coming up and he had made some suggestions to the Board in which he has looked at that the Board has had in the past. He added that he feels it is important that this Board formulates goals and sends them in so that the County’s voice is heard. These goals need to be submitted before September 19th. Chairman Hall responded that he had planned to have this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Owen stated that he also included a packet regarding bringing art to the public utility boxes and he would like to engage the local Arts Council to get a grant to do something with these utility boxes. He added that he would like to bring this back up for discussion at the next meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner W. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to go into Closed Session to consider the compensation, terms of appointment and performance of an individual public officer (NCGS143-318.11(a)(6)). The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:10 p.m. Commissioner Travis 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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