MINUTES – NOVEMBER 8, 2018

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in an emergency session at the Caswell County Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 8, 2018. Members present: Nathaniel Hall, Chairman, Rick McVey, Vice Chairman, Sterling Carter, Jeremiah Jefferies, David Owen and Kenneth D. Travis. Absent: William E. Carter. . Also present: Bryan Miller, County Manager, Joey Knight, Cooperative Extension Director and Barry Lynch, Emergency Services Director. 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.

DECLARING CASWELL COUNTY A DISASTER AREA FOR FARMERS

Mr. Miller stated that the purpose of this meeting is for declaring Caswell County a disaster area for agricultural purposes and he asked the Cooperative Extension Director Joey Knight to go into more detail.

Mr. Joey Knight stated that Mr. Miller had asked him to come before the Board to talk about 15 or 16 community growers because the Disaster Program from the state did not include Caswell County and Caswell experience the same types of losses. He added that he spoke with Bryan Singleton, Forestry Department and there were a lot of downed trees. Mr. Knight stated that livestock producers had trees down on fences and roads were washed away. He added that the tobacco loss was excessive, estimated at about $3 million. Mr. Knight stated that there estimates on small grain losses is at $500,000 and those number may increase because some of these are still in process such as soy beans. He added that farmers are afraid their contracts will be cut.

Mr. Miller asked the Board to declare Caswell County as a disaster area for agricultural purposes.

Chairman Hall asked what other programs the farmers could look to for help. Mr. Knight responded that Rodney Young with Farm Service can send a letter to the USDA and NCDA to see if there are any programs available.

Commissioner Jefferies stated that the vegetable farmers needed to be included in this declaration.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Just a quick question, if we, not if but when we do this will we actively seek out those who have not called in to inform them hey this is available and do what we can with that?” Mr. Knight responded right.

Mr. Barry Lynch asked Mr. Joey Knight if the USDA and NCDA programs are contingent upon federal or state declarations for the county. Mr. Knight responded that there is a website that anyone can go to see what federal level programs as well as state programs. He added that the state has amended to add additional counties and he hoped that Caswell County would be added as well with this declaration. Mr. Lynch added that there has not been a federal declaration yet from Hurricane Michael.

Mr. Miller stated that the county will pursue those declarations and will follow every avenue to be able to participate in those programs.

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner McVey to declare Caswell County as a disaster area for agricultural purposes. The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DECLARING CASWELL COUNTY A DISASTER AREA DUE TO THE AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS OF**

**HURRICANE FLORENCE AND HURRICANE MICHAEL**

**WHEREAS,** the County of Caswell has been experiencing and continues to experience effects of storm damage from Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael which has and continues to severely impact the agricultural economy of the county; and

**WHEREAS,** Agribusiness, Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting account for more than twenty million dollars of Caswell County’s economy; and

**WHEREAS,** sectors with the largest location quotients in the region are Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting which indicate employment in this sector is almost six times the national average; and

 **WHEREAS,** the need for immediate economic and technical assistance is present across our county’s agricultural community; and

 **WHEREAS,** the conditions are predicted to worsen and to continue for the next several months and the long term impacts of the storms damage cannot yet be fully determined;

 **NOW, THEREFORE,** be it resolved, that the Caswell County Board of Commissioners is requesting Caswell County be declared a disaster area due to the agricultural impacts of Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael;

 This the 8th day of November, 2018.

 S/Nathaniel Hall \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Nathaniel Hall, Chairman

 Caswell County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

S/Paula P. Seamster\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Paula P. Seamster

Clerk to the Board

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:20 a.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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