MINUTES – MARCH 2, 2020

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the Caswell County Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 9:00 A.m. on Monday, March 2, 2020. Members present: Rick McVey, Chairman, David J. Owen, Vice Chairman, Sterling Carter, Nathaniel Hall, Jeremiah Jefferies and Steve Oestreicher. Absent: William E. Carter. Also present: Bryan Miller, County Manager, Brian Ferrell, County Attorney, and Debra Ferrell representing The Caswell Messenger. Paula P. Seamster, Clerk to the Board, recorded the minutes.

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

Chairman McVey opened the meeting with a moment of Silent Prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Commissioners and all the guests in the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Caroline Laur came before the Board and gave the following statement:

“My name is Carol Laur, Caroline, I live at 12671 NC Highway 62. For 2 months, the citizens of Caswell County have beseeched this Board, the planning board, and the county manager to enforce Ordinance 54, Environmental Impact Ordinance to Sunrock before it is too late and the citizens of Caswell County have their input be made moot as it says in the ordinance. We demand that you contact all governing agencies that grant permits and notify them that Sunrock LLC, Caswell LLC, and any other related representation has not complied with Ordinance 54 the Environmental Impact Ordinance and therefore they must not be allowed to apply for any permits. It is a breach of the ordinance and what it states. I, Carol Ann Laur, Caroline Laur, have notified you before about my health issues and I have also come before this group and notified you that there were 24 other citizens within in this Anderson facility that have imminent health risks so I am notifying you of this again. That list has grown and we have that list together but I, Carol Ann Laur, have notified you of my illness and if this comes to my…190 feet, 500 feet my doctors says within a half a mile of me that it will cause me imminent health danger. Dr. Yubin Kang, MD; Professor of Medicine, member of Duke Cancer Institute, Hematology, Oncology, Cellular Therapy, Duke University School of Medicine, expert in hematologic malignancies and cellular therapy. He is a leading scientist and doctor for my illness in the world. His words were ‘Yes, this level of chemical and toxin exposures have been shown to increase the risk of development of myeloma and leukemia.’ Therefore the proposed project of an asphalt/cement plant on 12971 Highway 62, Burlington goes beyond the requirement of the requirement of the Ordinance 54. I beseech you, Commissioners of Caswell County, county manager and planning board to enforce the full measure of Ordinance 54 on all the projects that Sunrock has especially the one on Highway 62. As I said there are 26 citizens who have the same imminent danger that we have documented into the State. I brought this before the Board two other times and I…we are demanding that this be done in the next 10 days from today, that you enforce this. Now I have said this to you guys before and I don’t really understand it and I am just going to address that I have asked for some information from the county, I think you have exceeded the time frame, I am asking for it in pdf format just so you know. Nobody asked me, nobody told me, I’m asking for it this way. It’s my second notice; that is up to you too. But there are children, there are under privileged people, these kids are young black children that live and have no money, don’t have enough money to fight this. They have asthma. We have seniors that are low income minorities who can’t breathe and have COPD. The studies have already shown, Bredal has already put a study out, they have already gone to court with this and they won it and now they are in the higher court. They are going to be less than half a mile and this is going to affect their lives. They are not going to be able to come out from under this so if this doesn’t meet Ordinance 54. You haven’t even got the EIS done yet. The planning board has not even requested for the asphalt plant on 62. What does it take to get you guys to take care of us and help us? Thank you.”

Rev. Bryon Shoffner came before the Board and made the following statement:

“My name is Bryon Shoffner and I live at 150 Shoffner’s Loop right off of Hughes Mills Road, Burlington. First of all, I would like to thank you all for allowing this opportunity to take place. Secondly, I understand many of you did not know that this was coming. At the last meeting I stated you was blindsided just like we were blindsided. First I would like to say thank you for not knowing but at the same time how can we correct this? How can you protect us, the citizens, of Anderson? I am a disabled veteran once again with PTSD that sleeps with a c-pap machine, that’s at noon if I take a nap or anytime of the day. As well my wife has severe asthma so what are you going to do with that? This plant is going to be literally 500 feet from my window, my bedroom window. I’m a country boy, I love opening my window, what am I going to do about it? Help me, help our community. I went through Saturday and spoke to a lot of the community myself and it’s a lot of hurting folks out there. Those that…I was not aware, I beat myself up as a man of the cloth, as a servant, I was like wow, I actually have neighbors that are stuck in their houses because they are afraid, the elderly, the sick, those that are on very limited income, those are going to be the ones that is going to be affected more than anything. I’m just asking, please look at this seriously and think of it as if it were in your backyard. If this was a nice summer or spring day and you were sitting out on your porch would you want to breathe this? Think about that guys. Thank you.”

Mr. Tim Hudson came before the Board and made the following statement:

“Good morning Gentlemen. Thank you for the opportunity to come before you. I have a question and I know you don’t have to answer it however I think the people in Caswell County deserve to know the answer to this question. Are you for this plant coming in or are you against it? I know you don’t have to answer it but it would be nice if you did. Thank you.”

Chairman McVey asked if anyone else would like to speak during Public Comments.

RECOGNITIONS

Commissioner S. Carter stated “One quick recognition, more so just bringing something to your attention. I don’t know if any of y’all have seen this newsletter that the school system is putting out and the members of the public may not know this either, it’s a free publication you can get and I think it’s in public areas throughout the county. I think it’s on their website as well. It talk about, you know, what is going on in the school system. These positive things that we don’t normally talk about nowadays in our current climate but it’s great to see what’s going on in our school system and I would recommend that all governing boards and the citizens of this county check this out and keep up to date with what’s going on and I appreciate the school system for putting that out. Thank you sir.”

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Oestreicher requested to add an item to the Agenda on the Piedmont Triad Regional Council Transportation Committee. Chairman McVey responded that this will be Item 9 Boards and Committees. Commissioner Oestreicher also asked to add to the closed session to prevent disclosure of privileged information.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

The following items were included on the Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes of February 13, 2020 Special Meeting

B. Approval of Minutes of February 17, 2020 Regular Meeting

C. Approval of FY 2019-2020 Budget Amendment #5

HVAC FOR SENIOR CENTER

Mr. Miller stated that at the last Board meeting the replacement of several HVAC units at the Senior Center was discussed and the Board asked to have the maintenance director and senior center director here to answer questions.

Commissioner Owen asked if this could be done without amending the current budget. Mr. Miller responded that he spoke with the finance director about this and the finance director does believe it can be incorporated into the current allocated budget. Commissioner S. Carter stated “Thank y’all for looking into that.” Mr. Miller added that it may require some budget amendments and transferring funds from one department to another.

Ms. Jeannine Everidge stated that she and Colon Cassady, Maintenance Director, has gone through the minutes from the last meeting and tried to address the questions that was posed to the county manager at that meeting.

Mr. Colon Cassady stated that the Senior Center has been having trouble with the HVAC units at the Senior Center since last May. He added that one 5 ton unit is complete dead, 2 that have issues, and the others are working but they are 11 years old. Mr. Cassady stated that he has talked to people at Bagby and James Heating and Air and both said that 11 years is about all that these units will last. He added that the main thing that they are having issues with is the computer system that controls everything is about dead and is not communicating with the units that are good.

Mr. Miller added that he wanted to clarify that none of the units are good and is in various states of disrepair. He added that close to $14,000 has been spent to repair these units. Ms. Everidge confirmed that about $14,000 has been spent to repair these units and added that as Mr. Cassady noted the HVAC units are run by a computer system. She added that Bagby came in on a Saturday around Christmas and informed her that the actual panel or computer was not talking to those units anymore and that is part of the problem. Ms. Everidge asked Bagby to give her a quote to replace the units and the computer system and it was extremely high so she asked Bagby to give another quote with individual thermostats that she and Mr. Cassady would get alerts on their telephones. She then asked James Heating and Air to quote the units as well.

Chairman McVey asked about the time scheduled on getting the units in. Mr. Cassady responded he did not know when the units could be here but the installation would only take a couple of weeks.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the quote included replacing all seven units and the same control system. Mr. Cassady responded that the seven units would be on individual thermostats that are programmable from a cell phone or a computer and going this route will save the county about $20,000.

Commissioner Hall asked who installed the original units. Mr. Miller responded that Bagby installed the units. Commissioner Hall then asked who did the maintenance on the units. Mr. Miller responded that the county’s maintenance department did the maintenance. Commissioner Hall asked if the county’s maintenance department was certified to maintain the HVAC units. Mr. Cassady responded that there is no maintenance contract to perform the HVAC maintenance. Commissioner Hall stated that really the answer is that nobody was really doing maintenance on these units. Mr. Cassady responded that maintenance did what it could but there are some things that are over the staff’s heads. Commissioner Hall stated that this is what he is referring to. Mr. Miller responded that he has asked the maintenance director to get bids on maintenance contracts for all the HVAC units in the county. Mr. Cassady stated that he already has two proposals coming. Commissioner Hall stated that he is a little hesitant to believe that only 10 tens could be gotten out of these units. He added that he heard that someone is recommending a different setup and go away from technology because it is cheaper. Commissioner Hall stated that the Board was convinced to have that high tech system installed and now the Board is being told that the units have not been talking to each other for at least a year and no outside maintenance was called. Mr. Cassady responded by saying he did not believe the county is going backwards but it is going to be done a different way because there is one computer that controls everything and now it will be done by the telephone with these thermostats. Commissioner Hall asked why a new computer was not being installed. Ms. Everidge responded that there is nothing wrong with the computer but the quote was very high so she asked for a cheaper way to go. She added that she understood that there is a board in the computer that is not communicating with the units and this board is currently not working and it would be very costly to repair if it could be repaired. Commissioner Hall asked why a new computer was not ordered. Mr. Cassady responded that a new computer would cost around $19,000 and that is why the individual thermostats were recommended and they can be controlled by telephone. Ms. Everidge added that the additional cost was the computer system.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the individual controls would be like Nest thermostats. Mr. Cassady responded that it is a T-8 and the thermostats can be put all in one room or near the units. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if larger units could be used so there are fewer units. Mr. Cassady responded that going with larger units would require larger duct work, the ceiling will have to come down, lights will have to come down, etc. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the new units would last longer than 10 years. Ms. Cassady responded that the live expectancy on commercial outside units is 11 years. Commissioner Oestreicher asked how big the units were. Mr. Cassady responded they are 7 ton, 5 ton and 4 ton. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that this is twice the size of a large home unit. Mr. Cassady responded yes and added that there is a 7 ton outside of the dining room and there is a 5 ton beside of the 7 ton.

Chairman McVey stated that one of the things that he has found that has increase the longevity of the HVAC units is having a roof over the unit to keep the moisture, rain, etc. from running into the unit. He asked Mr. Cassady if there is a possible to put a shelter or a roof on top of these units at the Senior Center. Mr. Cassady responded yes this could be done.

Commissioner Jefferies stated that the Senior Center building was built sometime in the 2000s and the county received a grant to build that building. He added that the county did not invest any money in that building and the county did not look at what was best in that building. Commissioner Jefferies stated that now that the units are broke and the county needs to fix the units.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman, first of all I want to thank y’all for exhausting all the options up to this point. I think in the best interest of the county moving forward we may want to try to avoid these situations to where we knew about this in May and in December and it was never presented to us that I can recall. I don’t know if anyone else has a different opinion on that but I don’t want this to happen with another large building in the county so come budget time if we could have some type of an update on where we are with other buildings to prevent this circumstance from happening again, I think that would be good, but we need to fix it and I appreciate the county manager and his staff for looking into not taking this directly out of fund balance. I think that was my number one concern at the last meeting. It was not a question of fixing it; it was we don’t want to grab easy money so quickly if we can find it somewhere else so that is what I wanted to say in regard to other buildings. Let’s try to work towards progressive steps of preventing this circumstance again.”

Mr. Cassady stated that in the last 3 years the county has replaced about 5 HVAC units that were about 15 or 20 years old.

Commissioner Owen stated that to Mr. Cassady’s credit it was presented in the budget to the Board. Commissioner S. Carter asked “For the Senior Center?” Commissioner Owen responded that it was not for the Senior Center. Mr. Cassady stated it was one for the health department and one for DSS. Commissioner S. Carter responded “I recall that.”

Ms. Everidge stated that the Center was not having major issues in May. Commissioner S. Carter responded “Okay.” Ms. Everidge stated that it was not until later in the year that there was an issue with the HVAC. Commissioner S. Carter responded “Sure.” Ms. Everidge stated that she was trying to take care of the issue.” Commissioner S. Carter responded “It is nothing against y’all, it is that we don’t want to keep being in these types of situations is all I am saying.”

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to replace the HVAC units at the Senior Center and to take this out of the current budget.

Commissioner Hall stated that that his is a little concerned because for the last couple of years someone hollers that something needs to be fixed and the county fixes it and the Board has never looked back to try to stop these things from happening. He added that the county needs to be proactive. Commissioner Hall stated that he has a concern about 7 units being at the Senior Center and recommended get an engineer or an architect to look into whether this building needs 7 units. He added that he has concerns about having seven units with seven thermostats because he felt these units would be working against each other.

Commissioner Owen asked if the units overlap what areas they heat and cool. Ms. Everidge responded that these units are in zones. Ms. Cassady stated that the biggest units are the 7 ton and the 5 ton and they have a piggy back air handler on top because these two handle the largest area in the building.

Commissioner Hall asked if the zones are isolated by walls to keep the air from moving around. Ms. Everidge responded that she was not sure. Mr. Cassady responded that he would have to get the prints to show what units handle what area.

Chairman McVey asked how often the filters are changed in the units. Mr. Cassady responded that the filters are changed every 3 months and he has the schedule of what was changed in 2019 and this year. Chairman McVey asked if the units are approved if the county is looking into some type of a maintenance agreement. Mr. Cassady responded that he and the county manager have talked about this but it is on the filters only. Mr. Miller stated that this will come back to the Board as part of the budget process.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if this would be a maintenance agreement or a warranty agreement. Mr. Miller responded that it would be a maintenance agreement. He added that the units come with a 5 year warranty and a 1 year warranty on labor. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the 7 ton and the 5 ton units could be replaced with a 12 ton unit. Mr. Cassady responded that he would have to ask the heating and air people about this but he did not see why it couldn’t happen. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that it would make sense to have fewer larger units. Mr. Cassady responded that the ductwork may have to be changed if this is done because the 7 ton unit feeds one section and the 5 ton unit feeds another section. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that typically the bigger the unit the more efficient it is. Mr. Cassady responded that he would ask the heating and air people but he did not know it if would save any money. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that he is looking at saving years and not money which ultimately saves the county money. Mr. Cassady responded that both companies have told him that the units only last for a certain amount of years. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that he just did not understand that at all because with lubrication and high tech grease, better refrigerant the units should last longer.

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

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Hall stated that he did not have any additional information to report but he knew there were some things that were being followed up on but he had not received those yet.

Mr. Ferrell stated that he was asked to take look at general statutes on several items and he was prepared to share with the Board what he found in his research and he added that the clerk has an item as well. He stated that one request was to add the list of permissible closed sessions from NCGS 143-318.11 and he would work with the clerk to add these. Mr. Ferrell stated that there will be 10 items to add to Rule 3b. He moved on to Rule 22 where there was a question about whether or not there was a statute that deals with the situation where a member fails to vote and has not been excused from the vote. Mr. Ferrell stated that in Rule 22 of the rules it says ‘A member who fails to vote, not having been excused, shall be recorded as voting in the affirmative.’ and there was a questions as to whether this was a statutory requirement and what he found in his research is that for cities yes there is a statute that addresses this but there is not a corresponding provision for counties for when a commissioner fails to vote but in general statutes it does say there is a duty to vote. He stated that at the School of Government states that the penalty for not voting is that it will be counted in the affirmative and that is where this sentence in the Board’s rules comes from. Mr. Ferrell stated this is not a statutory requirement but an attempt to provide a remedy if a commissioner does not fulfill its duty to vote and then added this is backed up by Rule 28 Quorum vote and the statute says that if a commissioner walks out of a meeting it does not constitute a quorum and rule 28 states this which is in NCGS 153A-43. He stated that the next item was Rule 29 Public Hearings and the question was what the statute says about calling and setting public hearings and the statute says that the Board of Commissioners can hold public hearings and it can set its own rules for conduct of debate during a public hearing. Mr. Ferrell stated that the Board’s Rule 29 is a little bit specific which says the Board shall set a special order by majority vote to call a public hearing and stated that it could be done this way but the Board can call upon the county manager or the clerk but this is different from what the Board has been doing. He moved on to Rule 32 Appointments which speaks to appointments to fill vacancies in the Board itself or in other boards and public offices over which the Board has power of appointment and the Board can make appointments to subordinate boards however there is a statute about what to do if there is a vacancy on the board of commissioners and it is not the process in Rule 32. Mr. Ferrell stated that this can be found in NCGS 153A-27 which requires notice of the vacancy and recommended deleting the portion in Rule 32 that refers to filling vacancies on the Board or add a rule about filling vacancies on the Board that pairs with NCGS 153A-27. He stated there was a conversation about the selection of the chairman and vice chairman and there was a process for odd years and even years but the statutes states it as the same. Mr. Ferrell stated that this covered the issues that the Board asked him to look into.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Are we going to make these changes today or are we just discussing it and putting it on the agenda for the next meeting?”

Mr. Ferrell stated that the clerk had a suggestion on a change as well.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “But before that I was saying do we want to talk about these suggestions…” Chairman McVey responded to allow the clerk to make her suggestions and then the Board can talk about it.

The clerk stated that her recommended change was under Agenda, Rule 9. She stated that it states that the agenda items are to be received 72 hours before the meeting and the agenda will go out 72 hours before the meeting. The clerk recommended that the agenda items be received by 12:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before the meeting and that the agenda would go out 96 hours before the meeting. She stated that the difference in the two times would give the county manager, herself and the chairman enough time to review the items, send them back if necessary, and then to send it out to the Board.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “And that would place that on which day, the 96 hours?” The clerk responded that the 96 hours would be on the Thursday before the meeting.

Chairman McVey asked “What is your pleasure?”

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Say again. Mr. Chairman, I guess back to the point I made earlier, do we want to just go through these one at a time and make these small adjustments so that we have a finished rules of procedure.” Commissioner Oestreicher responded that he would be in favor of adopting them as presented in total as reviewed by the attorney and the clerk. Commissioner S. Carter continued “But we have some leeway in deciding which way we want to go with some of these. Some of these were left sort of open ended and they are very simple to decide is my point. For the commissioner that fails to vote but hasn’t been excused with municipalities that rule is in there but in ours it’s not but the School of Government has that recommendation that the attorney read to us which is in our rules or procedure. My only two cents on that would just be to leave it as it is, I think that is a good thing to maintain in our rules and that would handle that one and then…”

Commissioner Owen asked if the Board could come to a consensus on each one as we go through it. Commissioner S. Carter responded “That is kind of what I am suggesting.”

Commissioner S. Carter stated “The other one was regarding that special order for public hearings, we currently don’t do it but it’s in our language to adopt as a majority vote.” Mr. Ferrell responded that yes it is in the Board’s current rule. Commissioner S. Carter continued “If we have not been following it I don’t see there’s a need to really do it and we are functioning very well with our public hearing process already so I am for striking that language. Commissioner Owen agreed. Commissioner S. Carter stated “That would leave…the public hearing shall be organized by the clerk on the agenda, setting forth the subject, date, place, and time of the hearing we don’t need that on there do we, if that’s regarding the special order?” The clerk responded that what the Board has in its agenda is the changes that were made at the last meeting on the rules of procedure. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Sure. Isn’t that language related to the special order?” Mr. Ferrell responded that some of it is and what he is hearing is that this rule tracks the statute and get rid of the specifics that the Board is not doing. Commissioner S. Carter stated “Yes.” Mr. Ferrell responded that one way to proceed is to give him direction to proceed and to let the clerk and him work on a revised set of rules for the Board that will then be presented as a package for adoption at the next meeting. He added that he understands Commissioner Carter’s point and the clerk and he can work together to make this work. Commissioner S. Carter stated “It was that and then the clerk’s recommendation that I think is a very practical suggestion and I am in favor of it. That is all I have.”

Commissioner Oestreicher stated the other one was to delete the reference to the Board of Commissioners vacancy. Commissioner S. Carter responded “Yes.” Commissioner Hall suggested added the statute for the board of commissioners because over the years this has had to be done. Commissioner S. Carter asked “So we are adding rule so that would be rule 33 and then that brings up what we discussed at the last meeting about Robert’s Rules of Order. The attorney had an interesting comment.” Mr. Ferrell responded that the Board decided to leave that in and he did not think it would hurt anything to leave it in. Commissioner S. Carter continued “So that would become Rule 34.”

Mr. Ferrell stated that there is a consensus about the changes that are to be made and he added that the clerk and he will make up a redline revised draft so the Board can see the changes and if it meets the Board’s approval it can be voted to revised the Rules of Procedure at the next meeting.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Commissioner Oestreicher asked to switch roles with Commissioner Owen on the Transportation Advisory Committee. Commissioner Oestreicher would become the alternate and Commissioner Owen would become the primary.

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Oestreicher to approve this change. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY & LOCAL STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS QUARTERLY MEETINGS

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman and fellow Commissioners I just had a reflection at our last joint meeting, you know, we had the two towns and the county they meet together quarterly and then starting in October of 2016 related to the Bartlett Yancey project we were meeting with the school board and having open discussion with them and I felt like that was a very good exchange for the two governing bodies to have and I’m making a recommendation with this that when we have our quarterly meetings with the two towns and the county that we add the school board and possibly even the sheriff or the register of deeds, any other elected officials that want to be a part of an open discussion or whatever items. It might be…I think it would give all elected officials in Caswell County the opportunity to one get to know each other better and two ask questions if there’s things they don’t understand and it would build positive working relationships and I think, you know, with sometimes limited attendance at some of those meetings if we had more, the more the merrier in my opinion, and that way we can all know what’s going on at the same time and not have any variances in information and we can opening share what we are working on together as we do with the towns and the county. So I’m sort of making that in the form of a recommendation or a motion if the Board is in agreeance with those sentiments, I feel like it would be productive to have everyone in the same room moving forward.”

Commissioner Oestreicher asked Commissioner S. Carter how many people he envisioned with this. Commissioner S. Carter responded “Well you are talking about 7 more with the Board of Education, the Sheriff, Clerk of Court, and the Register of Deeds would be the other 3 local elected officials that, you know, work with county government directly, you know, obviously any other higher up elected officials, I know we’ve had difficulty with our state senator and state representative depending on their schedules and what is going on in Raleigh when we can meet with them but this is more so just a form of an open invitation to anyone that wants to attend but, you know, practically speaking upwards of at most 10 other people, you know, when it comes to having the superintendent and another staff member with them there’s 9 there but, you know, if we met in the library as we did last time we got plenty of room there I think so I just feel like it would be a good thing for all of us to see each other more often.”

Commissioner Hall stated that he thinks it is a great idea especially to add the school board and the others too. He added that everybody knows that these are open meetings but if they are put on the list there may be more attendance.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “You know, just opening that up…” Chairman McVey responded that it would be fine if there were no meetings already scheduled. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Well these would take place in the current schedule that we have already committed to with the two towns.”

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that there would be no new meetings. Commissioner S. Carter responded “No new meetings. Just include more people in those meetings and I was just going to say open that up, you know, to any of the department heads or any county staff, they should feel welcome to attend these meetings. I think we should…”

Chairman McVey stated “That is misleading to me because I felt like you were wanting to have more meetings.” Commissioner S. Carter responded “No. I don’t think none of us want more meetings than absolutely necessary. The people have enough to keep up with already as well.”

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the Board needed to get an agreement with the Town of Yanceyville and the Town of Milton to do this. Commissioner S. Carter responded “Well they are already on that commitment, I don’t know if it is best to ask them if it is okay if the school board joins us.” Mr. Miller stated that he thought it was fine if the Board wanted to ask. Commissioner S. Carter responded “It is kind of up to us.”

Commissioner Owen stated that he thinks this Board would take offense if two other boards decided to do something and did not at least run it by the Board. Commissioner S. Carter responded “Sure.” Commissioner Owen stated that he did not want to cause any friction and added that he would like to at least discuss it with the two other boards. Commissioner S. Carter responded “I completely agree and that’s why we are discussing it but yeah I think it would be a good thing. I can make that in a motion or do we need to direct the county manager to get in touch with them? What would y’all like to do?”

Commissioner Hall stated that he thought the other municipalities should be asked first but he did not think there would be a problem. He added that there would be budget considerations since meals are provided at these meetings.

Mr. Miller stated that he would be happy to reach out to the other boards and find out if they are will to discussed this with their boards and come back with their decisions.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “One other thing, Ms. Seamster when is our next scheduled quarterly meeting? Is it May?” The clerk responded that the next quarterly meeting is in May. Commissioner S. Carter continued “May, so that gives us plenty of time to make contact with them.”

Chairman McVey recognized Mr. Tim Hudson.

Mr. Tim Hudson stated “Thank you very much, I understand that I am out of order but the acoustics in this room suck to being with and when y’all don’t speak directly into the microphones we cannot understand what you are saying so please, I am asking you to speak into the microphones so we can understand you, please. Thank you.”

COUNTY MANAGER’S UPDATES

Zoning Community Meetings Updates

Mr. Miller updated the Board that 2 community meetings have been held and both meeting went very well. He added that he thinks the county is providing a lot of good information and in return the county is receiving a lot of good information. Mr. Miller stated that he would like to thank the community members that have shown up at those meetings and for their comments. He stated that the next meeting will be held Thursday, March 5, 2020 at Stoney Creek Elementary School at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Miller stated that he had a flyer on the community meetings schedule if anyone would like a copy.

RFP for Bartlett Yancey High School

Mr. Miller updated the Board about a RFP for the Bartlett Yancey High School construction and renovation project. He stated that the construction drawings are about complete and a RFP will be ready to send out for bids early to mid-March. Mr. Miller stated that he would get with the clerk and the RFP will be listed on the county website, the historically underutilized businesses website, as well as any website that the architect and engineer is affiliated with to get the word out. He added that he feels like there will be a pretty decent response to this project.

Planning Board

Commissioner S. Carter asked “I just wanted to ask the county manager, could you give us an update on what occurred at the last Planning Board meeting, I know that Mr. Bill Carter is not here but if you could just update us on where all of that went as far as the direction that you give them from the last meeting of the Board?”

Mr. Miller stated that the Planning Board looked at and discussed a Heavy Industrial Ordinance and he thinks they have a lot of research to do and more discussions. He added that he thinks there is a meeting set up between the county planner and the chair of the Planning Board to discuss some items that are pertinent to the proposed ordinance and this will be taken back up at the Planning Board’s next meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I just wanted to make the Anderson community aware and for the public and for the Board of Commissioners to be aware that there will be a public hearing for the Air Quality Permit Application for the asphalt plant project. This will be held in this building on Tuesday, March 31st at 6:30 p.m. and I think it would be good for this Board to be there and to hear the concerns that we have heard a lot already.”

Commissioner Hall stated “My comment relates to COVID-19, Coronavirus, at this point I hope that our county manager, health director, and school superintendent and probably the chairman would just have a little get together to start formulating a Plan B if necessary. It probably won’t be necessary, hopefully it wouldn’t be necessary but if there is a case close to us we need to be prepared.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

 A. Zoning Community Meeting – Thursday, March 5, 2020 – Stoney Creek

 Elementary School

 B. Zoning Community Meeting – Thursday, March 19, 2020 – Pelham Community

 Center

C. NCACC Spring District Meeting – Tuesday, March 24, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m. –

 Alamance County Annex Building.

D. 113th NCACC Annual Conference – August 13 – 15, 2020 – Cabarrus County

 Concord Convention Center

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman, just one, I just want to clarify that all Zoning Meetings will occur at 6:00 p.m.”

Commissioner Owen stated “Also Mr. Chairman, just to alert the Board and public this is North Carolina Severe Weather Preparedness Week.”

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Oestreicher moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to go into closed session to preserve attorney/client privilege (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)) and to prevent disclosure of privileged information (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1)). The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner Hall to go back into regular session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:35 a.m. Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner Oestreicher to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Paula P. Seamster Rick McVey

Clerk to the Board Chairman

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