MINUTES-JULY 19, 2018

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in special session at the 911 center in Yanceyville, NC at 6:00 p.m. on July 19, 2018.

Members present: Nathaniel Hall, Chairman, Rick McVey, Vice-Chairman, and David Owen

Other members present: Yanceyville Town Council, Milton Commissioners, Bryan Miller, County Manager, Brian Collie, Town Manager, and Ashley Kirby Administrative Assistant recorded the minutes.

PRAYER AND MEAL

Boards took a brief recess to enjoy the meal.

 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Hall called The Caswell County Board of Commissioners to order at 6:36 p.m.

 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Miller opened the floor to Cori Lindsay from PCC Small Business Center and Penny Whiteheart from Crystals Creative EDC.

Ms. Lindsay stated that they had received the results of the economic development survey. She then introduced Ms. Whiteheart and proceeded with the presentation.

Ms. Whiteheart stated the four main concerns for the county and they are listed as follows:

1). Weakness

* Lack of resources
* Small population
* Transportation access
* Lack of communication
* Low income/ low educational attainment

2). Strengths

* Piedmont Community College
* Entrepreneurial people
* Agriculture
* Proximity to metro areas
* Business friendly government

3). Opportunities

* Small business and entrepreneur development
* High speed internet
* Agri-business, Agri-tourism
* Amenity development
* Housing development

4). Threats

* Aging population
* Economic stagnation declining population
* High percentage government employment
* Opioid problem

Main Goals

* Increase marketing and communications to leverage existing resources and raise awareness of Caswell County as a location for business, tourist and new residents
* Increase support to entrepreneurs and small businesses
* Recruit more people to Caswell County
* Engage and coordinate connectivity

Mr. Miller asked Ms. Whiteheart to explain why it is so important to stay with the process. Ms. Whiteheart replied, to share goals and communication. Ms. Lindsay stated that the county needs to be more proactive. The county would be able to obtain more resources through community input.

Town Council questioned how much citizen input was received on completing the survey. Ms. Lindsay replied, 100 responses and 25 interviews.

Commissioner Owen stated that one thing the county has failed at is action and now the boards must work together on bringing this incubator to the county. We need to help the public understand, to get more citizen engagement.

Ms. Whiteheart stated this will mean job opportunities and we need to use methods to make the community aware.

 GENERAL UPDATES FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT

 MILTON

Commissioner Patricia William stated that the Town of Milton budget was accomplished. There also is a beauty shop coming to the Town of Milton. The Department of Transportation has approved money for a sidewalk-crosswalk project; they are still awaiting approval for the side walk to be put in across from the Thomas Day House. The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources visited Milton and they would like to designate the Thomas Day Museum as a historical site.

 YANCEYVILLE

Mayor Alvin Foster stated that the Wi-Fi is up and working at the Yanceyville Pavilion and the town square and planning on expanding up Main St. First Friday for August 3rd at 7:00p.m. the Retro Band will be performing; starting in September first Fridays will be moved to first Saturdays of the month starting at 4:00 p.m. Also the first Saturdays will include a cruise in.

 CASWELL COUNTY

County Manager Bryan Miller stated that the county has received an occupancy tax of $10,432.87 and the money collected will go to tourism. The library project has recently been approved for grants exceeding $60K to help pay for furniture, etc. On September 28th Dr. Christine Darden is scheduled to speak at the Historic Court House at 11:00a.m.

 CLOSED SESSION

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss economic development (NCGS 143-318.11 (A) (4).

Commissioner Owen made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Commissioner McVey. The motion carried unanimously.

 ADJOURNMENT

At 7:38p.m. Commissioner Owen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McVey. The motion carried unanimously.

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Administrative Assistant, Chairman, Nathaniel Hall

Ashley Kirby