MINUTES – NOVEMBER 4, 2019

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, November 4, 2019. Members present: Rick McVey, Chairman, Jeremiah Jefferies, Vice Chairman, Sterling Carter, William E. Carter, Steve Oestreicher and David Owen. Absent: Nathaniel Hall. 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 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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman, discussion on that, I would like to amend the agenda to add a resolution honoring Senator Kay Hagan that passed away last week. I think it’s appropriate that this Board recognize her for her life and service to this county, this state and to the country and I would like to add that to the agenda wherever the Board would see fit, if I could get a second to amend the agenda.”

Chairman McVey stated the motion fails due to no second.

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to approve the agenda.

The motion carried by a vote of five to one with Commissioner S. Carter voting no.

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 October 21, 2019 Regular Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman McVey opened the floor to Public Comments.

The following individuals came before the Board in public comments.

Ms. Leslie Zimmerman, 732 Solomon Road, Leasburg, stated “You know I couldn’t pass up an opportunity to speak with you about the quarry, so here I am, it’s Monday morning. Thank you for listening over the past few weeks. The scores of Caswell residents who are concerned about how this quarry will affect our lives hope you will attend the NC DEQ hearing tonight at 7:00 p.m. right in this room. This meeting is not just for those against the quarry. At this meeting you will learn of the mining operation, how it will affect Caswell, Orange and Person Counties, what it will do to the water quality and the water quantity belonging to the citizens of these counties, and how it will affect your life. We hope you will urge other departments like fire departments, sheriff department, emergency services, planning board, environmental health, soil & water departments to attend this meeting. A lot of scientific research based information will be presented this is an opportunity to learn about our proposed future, not just mine but all of ours. We also hope you will echo the concerns by taking a minute to speak to the NC DEQ tonight about how this quarry will negatively impact the quality of life in Caswell County. We need you to stand behind us. Caswell Local Foods is providing a free dinner served in the Ag extension building from 5:00 – 6:30. Please stop by to join your constituents for dinner and conversation. Thank you in advance for your support.”

Ms. Sandra Pugh, 165 McGee Road, Ruffin, stated “I have been a resident of Caswell County most of my life and I vote in the Pelham precinct. I am here this morning to ask the Board to hang the portrait of Judge Robert R. “Bob” Blackwell in this historic courtroom on one of these walls. In the early 50s Judge Blackwell after having completed service to his country in World War II, completing law school, and serving a short term as a prosecutor in his native Rockingham County settled with his wife, Virginia, here in Caswell County. He spent the rest of his days here in this county. He began his long and distinguished legal service to this county right here in this very courtroom when it was a courtroom and he spent countless hours here serving the needs of this county’s citizens and the citizens of the state of North Carolina. Judge Blackwell’s service to this county span nearly 50 years, he began his career here as a young lawyer and his career culminated in his election to the bench as district court judge where he finished his many years of service. Judge Blackwell became one of our most distinguished and recognized citizens. Although many of you probably knew Judge Blackwell personally you may not have known a lot about his career so I prepared a little sketch of his career for you to review. It seems only fitting that Judge Blackwell’s portrait be hung here in this majestic and enduring courtroom since this is where he began his outstanding service and where his portrait can hang in perpetuity. Thank you for your attention this morning and thank you for any consideration you might give to my request.”

Mr. Thomas Wright, 559 George Russell Road, Yanceyville, stated “Mr. Chairman I come here to inform you about the Tax Office down there. I went to the Tax Office this past week and I asked the lady down there, she works in there, and she told me she did my taxes and she looked at my tax bill and I’ve been overcharged by $22,000 since 2005. Now I want you to instruct Mr. Bernard that I want my money because he lied to you and he lied to the board down there in Raleigh. I want my money and I will do what I can do to get it, whatever it takes so you can get it for me or we will go to court but I want my money. He knows he lied and you know he lied because you followed the paperwork through. He lied to you and I done made two trips down to Raleigh to get this resolved. What I want you to do if you can is instruct him to give me my money back on what he took from me, what he lied about. Thank you.”

Ms. Pat Warren, 36 Main Street, Prospect Hill, stated “Good morning, I am here to talk about the quarry. I’ve done a lot of calling and research and particularly environmental groups. One thing that just really stuck out more than anything else I think in all the things that I have learned about is that when I talked to other groups who are fighting similar battles that we are their battle is trying to keep from being more polluted, not to stop from being polluted but they are already at a place that they are already polluted. Caswell County is in a different place, we’re in a different place than they are. I don’t think there was one that I talked to that was not the case, I am sure there are others, many others, that fight this kind of battle. We’re in a place where we need to protect our water, our air, and our natural resources, our rivers, our streams, our groundwater; it’s not too late for us. We need your support. We’re not going to quit after tonight, you know, and we want to support you. We know your hands are tied in many ways and ours are not in many ways that yours are but we want your support on keeping Caswell County from becoming and I don’t really want to be dramatic about this but a gravel pit of northern piedmont, that could happen. A lot of the folks that I talked to they were expanding, they were asking to expand their gravel pit or they were asking to put an asphalt place over here and over there, we’re right for the picking but it’s not too late for us and we’re going to continue this. We are going to continue helping you all help Caswell County so I am just asking for your support on that and I look forward to hopefully see all of you tonight at tonight’s meeting. There’s going to be so much good information given out and so thank you very much.”

Chairman McVey asked if anyone else would like to speak during public comments. With no further comments public comments was closed.

RECOGNITIONS

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Yes I have one. I am going to again just voice my concern that we could not pass this resolution that I will carry forth and say that last week we lost our former United States Senator Kay Hagan. She was only the second woman to ever be elected as a US Senator in this state and US Senators are few and far between as far as years of service whenever we have an unexpected passing and this was the case. I am just going to read the facts on this piece of paper and used that as my comments towards recognizing her. She was born in 1953 in Shelby, NC. She was the devoted wife of Chip Hagan and she was the mother of three. She earned her Bachelor’s degree from Florida State University and she had a Juris Doctorate from Wake Forest. She diligently executed her professional career as an attorney and banker and she has the position as being the vice president of the North Carolina National Bank which formerly was the largest bank in North Carolina. She began her political service as an intern with the US Senate in the 70s and she was a county campaign manager for Governor Jim Hunt. She was first elected to the North Carolina State Senate in 1998 and she served the citizens of central Guilford County for the 32nd and 27th Senate districts for 10 years. In 2008 she was elected to the United States Senate where she served one term until 2015. And she was a passionate and selfless individual, I had the pleasure of meeting her once, she was very inspiring to talk to but she give a lot of time and effort and a lot of hours, a lot of stress, there was trouble times when she was senator for this state and nevertheless she persevered and she helped lead us through those challenging economic times in this country and so I hope I can at least get a nod from the rest of this Board that this wonderful woman is worth recognizing today and I would like to extend my personal if not the Board jointly our condolences to her family. Thank you.”

(At 9:13 a.m. Commissioner W. Carter entered the meeting.)

PIEDMONT LEGACY TRAIL RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Ms. Jenny Edwards with the Dan River Basin Association came before the Board to seek a resolution of support for the Piedmont Legacy Trail. She stated that she lives in Stoneville in Rockingham County. Ms. Edwards stated that the Dan River Basin Association has been around for 12 years and it was founded to promote the natural and cultural resources of the Dan River basin of which Caswell County is a part of. She asked the Board to adopt a resolution of support of the Piedmont Legacy Trails; she added that there is no obligation of funding. Ms. Edwards stated that this is a grand vision of creating a system of trails across the piedmont region. She added that these trails also include blueways. Ms. Edwards stated that the Piedmont Legacy Trails arose from some work in Rockingham County. She added that these trails connect businesses and communities. Ms. Edwards stated that trails are a high level asset with relatively low costs and the most requested amenities of people when moving into an area. She stated that in 2012 the Dan River Basin Association along with community members and funding from the Danville Regional Foundation began a trail system planning for Caswell County so Caswell has a great start. Ms. Edwards read the resolution to the Board.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a comment. It is so good to see you again; we go a long ways back. I helped Jenny and, who was it, Chad back at the old office here on the Square when we put the plan together. They are an awesome group and I just wanted to thank you for all the work you all have done to the Piedmont Land Conservancy. If you have not gone out on one of their outings it would be well worth your time and they are a great group of individuals and I just wanted to thank you for what you do.”

Chairman McVey thanked Ms. Edwards.

JUDGE ROBERT BLACKWELL’S PORTRAIT

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Chairman McVey to support Ms. Pugh’s suggestion to put Judge Bob Blackwell’s portrait in the Historic Courthouse.

Commissioner Owen stated that he did not have a problem with this but he knew there was a group earlier that had a request like this and he wanted to know if Ms. Pugh had a conversation with this other group. Mr. Ferrell responded that the way it was left was he had written a letter to the local bar association. He added that the bar association had asked if the County had a policy on this and the Board made the decision to hang the portrait in the new courthouse and then to form a committee that would look at a policy about hanging similar items in county buildings or courthouses in the future. Mr. Ferrell stated that the committee was to have 3 members and one of these should be a member of the local bar and that is where the Board left the discussion. Commissioner Owen stated that the County does not have any authority over the picture itself. Mr. Ferrell responded that he believes it was gifted to the county but the bar association just accepted it. Commissioner Owen stated that the Board gave the bar association permission to hang the portrait in the new courthouse. Mr. Ferrell responded that there was a motion to hang the portrait in the new courthouse and then form a committee in conjunction with the local bar on how to address similar donations and gifts in the future. Commissioner Owen stated that he did not know if the portrait has been hung in the new courthouse. Chairman McVey responded that he was told it hung. Mr. Miller responded that he was contacted by a member of the local bar recently and they are still in the process of identifying the member to serve on this committee.

Chairman McVey asked if the motion needed to be rescinded or continue on with the motion. Mr. Ferrell responded that he just wanted to remind the Board of its prior actions but the Board can proceed however it sees fit.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman I want to bring us in a little bit, in respect of the agenda I think it is very rude that we just totally bypassed the resolution that was just presented to us by a very nice lady and I would recommend that we go with this resolution that was the agenda item first and then we are welcome to discuss an additional item that is not on the agenda.” Chairman McVey responded that the Board has not as far as he knew discussed the Piedmont Legacy Trail at all and added that he did not even have a copy of the resolution so that is the reason he bypassed the resolution and he was going to continue on with the motion that is on the floor.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion failed by a vote of three to three with Commissioners S. Carter, Oestreicher and Owen voting no.

Commissioner Owen asked that the Board pursue a conversation with the original group and if they want to put it in the historic courthouse but the Board had already voted to put the portrait in the new courthouse.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman I was the representative for this Board on that committee. Again, I have not heard anything from the bar and I asked Bryan a month or so ago if they could get someone to meet with me about it so we could proceed.”

Mr. Miller stated the he would try to get this process speeded up and get a recommendation back to the Board in short order.

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that as a point of clarification the Board had already voted to write a policy and that is the reason why he voted no. He added that he would like to see the committee move forward on writing this policy and revisit the location. Chairman McVey responded that the location of the portrait died because no one has worked on this as usual.

TAX OFFICE UPDATE

Mr. Thomas Bernard, Tax Director, came before the Board and gave it an update on the Tax Office. He stated that the Tax Office met another high tax collection rate for the 2018 fiscal year which was over 98.55% which is due to the Tax office’s persistence in tax efforts and their ability to work with and set up payment agreements with the taxpayers. Mr. Bernard stated that as of October 29, 2019 the collection rate is 1.62% ahead of the same time last year. He added that as of September the Tax Office is fully staffed. Mr. Bernard stated that the major undertaking now in the Tax Office is the conversion from the ACS software to the new system Bi-Tek. He added that Bi-Tek is finally getting information from ACS to start pulling data from the old system. Mr. Bernard stated that the Tax office is waiting on IT to get a server for this new software. He stated that the first phase will be the collections section first, then in December the second phase of listing will take place, and the third phase will take place after the first of the year for the CAMA system.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked Mr. Bernard if he had his hands and fingers on the new software and if so if there were any comments. Mr. Bernard responded that the Tax office does not have its hands on it yet. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if Mr. Bernard would keep the Board updated on the process. Mr. Bernard responded that he would keep the Board updated.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Just a reminder, we will need another report in January.” Mr. Bernard responded yes sir and added that he may be back before January.

PIEDMONT LEGACY TRAILS RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT (cont’d)

Commissioner Owen stated that this is something the Board has done before in trying to promote natural tourism in the county. He added that the county did complete a trails plan and it is a very good plan.

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner S. Carter to approve the resolution of support for the Piedmont Legacy Trails. The motion carried unanimously.

PIEDMONT LEGACY TRAILS

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Whereas Caswell County is committed to enhancing the quality of life for its citizens and recognizes that supporting Piedmont Legacy Trails will help create a regional network of trails, including greenways and blueways; and

Whereas, trails provide key amenities to neighborhoods and safe areas for our citizens and children to travel, exercise, play and connect with nature and communities; and

Whereas, trails have significant impact on the economic viability of the region through increased tourism, enhanced property values, as well as the ability to attract and retain businesses to the region due to improved quality of life; and

Whereas, committing to this Resolution may help leverage funding from federal, state, local and private sources for trails; and

Whereas, Piedmont Legacy Trails is coordinated by Piedmont Land Conservancy which is dedicated to preserving important natural areas, and Piedmont Triad Regional Council, which is a regional planning organization.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that Caswell County supports Piedmont Legacy Trails in partnerships with neighboring communities to implement a system of regional trails that connects our communities, people and regional points of interest for years to come.

S/Rick McVey\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ November 4, 2019\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name Date

Chairman\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title

ZONING PRESENTATION

Mr. Miller stated that the Piedmont Triad Regional Council has been contacted and they are available on the morning of December 2nd to give the Board a presentation on zoning. He added that this is the Board’s regularly scheduled organizational meeting so it is a little bit out of the ordinary to have something on the agenda other than the Board organization but if this suits the Board PTRC is available on December 2nd to do this presentation.

Mr. Ferrell stated that the Board had asked him to be prepared to talk about zoning today and he stated that he is prepared to do that. Chairman McVey asked Mr. Ferrell to continue. Mr. Ferrell stated that municipalities or cities were given the authority to introduce zoning in the 1920s but counties did not get that authority until 1959 and since that time counties have taken advantage of the zoning authority to the extent that somewhere around the 90% range of areas in North Carolina are subject to zoning. He added that as of 2016 there were 67 counties in North Carolina that had countywide zoning; 13 counties had partial zoning and Caswell County follows in that partial zoning category in the Hyco Lake area. Mr. Ferrell stated that there were 20 counties as of 2016 that did not have any zoning whatsoever but this number has come down since then. He stated that in North Carolina legislature grants the counties authority to zone and in the current session the zoning statutes for cities and counties have been combined and the new changes are effective in January and what he is talking about today refers to the new set of statutes that is laid out in 160d. Mr. Ferrell stated that he will be working with the Planning Director because there will need to be some changes to the Caswell County UDO to implement the required changes. He added that a local government may adopt zoning regulations and these regulations may regulate and restrict the height, number of stories, the size of buildings and other structures; percentage of lots occupied; size of yards; density of population; location and use of buildings, structures and land; the keys are the county can regulate density and uses. Mr. Ferrell stated that a zoning district is an area of the county where the county has decided that particular uses are permitted and other uses are either not permitted or permitted subject to certain specific regulations and example of this would be a business district or a residential district. He added that for a county to implement zoning a county must have a comprehensive plan, must prepare a zoning ordinance, and a zoning map and in order for the Planning Board to weigh in these documents must be in place. Mr. Ferrell asked the Board if it had any questions.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Just a few, can you explain for lack of a better set of words the voluntary agricultural program farmland preservation how that is affected or not affected by zoning?” Mr. Ferrell responded that the key word to that program is voluntary so individuals can choose to participate in the voluntary Ag district which places voluntary restrictions on their property and the owner commits to use that property for agricultural purposes. He added that he did not see where this would be impacted necessarily. Commissioner S. Carter continued ‘And let’s say that once a given area no matter how small or whatever is requisite for the smallest area…” Mr. Ferrell responded 640 acres, 10 parcels in separate ownership. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Let’s say down to that smallest amount if it’s zoned residential can it become commercial and vice versa, what is the process for that?” Mr. Ferrell responded that the county does not have to zone the whole county. He added that if the minimum land size is met and ownership requirements a particular area can be zoned but once a zoning ordinance is adopted the text and the permitted uses in that district are the allowed uses and in order for this zoning to be changed or amended it would have to go through a variance process through the Board of Adjustment. Mr. Ferrell stated that the standards for a variance are very strict. He added that a way to change the zoning district would be to change the ordinance to allow a use that was not allowed before and this would be done through the ordinance amendment process through a public hearing and Planning Board input, etc. Mr. Ferrell stated that once zoning is adopted the regulations are as adopted subject to very limited variance on a case by case basis.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the Board wanted to discuss the availability of a December 2nd meeting and asked if it would be appropriate to hold a special meeting after the regular meeting. Commissioner S. Carter responded “That’s an option I would think.” Commissioner Oestreicher proposed that the Board hold a special educational meeting after the regular meeting on December 2nd. Commissioner S. Carter responded “That’s fine with me.”

It was the consensus of the Board to have a special meeting on zoning after the regular scheduled organizational meeting on December 2, 2019.

RESOLUTION DESIGNATION OF APPLICANT’S AGENT

Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Lynch was not able to attend the meeting this morning but he was prepared to explain the resolution to the Board and ask for the Board’s approval of the resolution. He stated that the resolution pretty much gives the emergency services director and assistant the ability to apply for and receive Federal Emergency Management Association dollars. Mr. Miller stated that before the county can be reimbursed for loses the county has to have a resolution authorizing the emergency services director to apply for that funding and to receive that reimbursement on behalf of the county.

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the resolution designation of applicant’s agent. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Commissioner S. Carter stated “At our last meeting we discussed some form of a resolution for the sake of environmental conservation in relation to the county in relation to the quarry coming to the county. We wanted to put a positive twist on things and speak on behalf of the whole county. I hope everyone can see this in front of them, this is the revised resolution that I initially typed a draft, there were some minor changes from recommendations from the Board and with help from the county manager over the weekend we now have this current resolution before us. I didn’t know where everyone stood on the wording that’s here. It is fine if the Board were to pass this, its okay with me. I’m happy to take any questions or discuss it further.”

Commissioner Owen stated on a personal note, to him the resolution is not so much against somebody but a positive step in trying to protect this particular area because of the concerns of those residents. He added that he has a quarry in his district and it has been there for as long as he can remember and he believes there are areas where a quarry could go in Caswell County and not present these problems for the citizens. Commissioner Owen stated that he understand that a quarry is not right for this area in the county. He added that he did not want the resolution to be an anti-industry resolution because the county needs industry and businesses in Caswell County. Commissioner Owen stated that the types of industries coming into the county need to be looked at and as the Board looks at a zoning plan this will be where the problems are taken care of and he hopes the county residents understand that zoning is a protection for them individually and as a community.

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that he wanted to echo Commissioner Owen’s comments in the sense that the resolution does send a positive perspective on the Board’s position and that it does call into play the need for monitoring and making sure the air quality and water quality are protected by developments in the county.

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

**A RESOLUTION**

# ADVOCATING FOR THE PRESERVATION AND GROWTH OF

**A STRONG, RURAL, AGRICULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS CASWELL COUNTY** **WHILE ENCOURAGING AND PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE AND PLANNED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

**WHEREAS,** Caswell County was founded in 1777, is located in the north-central Piedmont region of North Carolina and has a population of over 20,000; and

**WHEREAS,** Caswell County has been, since its founding, noted and characterized for its beautiful rural landscapes, which its citizens and representatives past and present have sought to preserve and promote; and

**WHEREAS,** being primarily a rural community with agriculture, consisting of over 90,000 acres and woodlands, Caswell County's land, water and air have been and will continue to be a great asset to its people's health and prosperity and a driver of economic stability in the region; and

**WHEREAS,** Caswell County's Comprehensive Plan and Economic Development Action Plan addressed the importance of Economic Development, Environmental Health, Air and Water Quality, the Health and Safety of the Citizens, Agriculture, Tourism, and Farmland Preservation;

**WHEREAS,** these plans through citizen input stressed that policies assuring a healthy environment and maintaining Caswell County's air and water quality should be encouraged as well as assuring that future development does not jeopardize the air and water quality; and

**WHEREAS,** in the Caswell County Economic Development Action Plan, the following were viewed as strengths and opportunities: Recreation, Health Care, Agriculture, Proximity to developed areas while retaining historical, cultural and natural beauty and charm, good quality of life, water resources, lakes, forests, game lands and clean water, being a pristine rural county; and

**WHEREAS,** the citizens of the Prospect Hill community and other County residents have expressed their concerns to the Board of Commissioners in several public meetings that they are proponents of preservation and growth of a strong, rural, agricultural, environmentally friendly, healthy and prosperous County and are concerned with current industrial and retail development plans within their community;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that we the Caswell County Board of County Commissioners do hereby advocate for the preservation and growth of a strong, rural, agricultural, environmentally friendly, healthy and prosperous Caswell County as evidenced by the adoption of the Caswell County Comprehensive Plan and the Caswell County Economic Development Action Plan but also encourage and promote responsible and planned economic development activities.

Adopted on the fourth day of November, 2019.

S/Rick McVey\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ S/Jeremiah Jefferies\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Rick McVey, Chairman Jeremiah Jefferies, Vice-Chairman

S/Steve Oestreicher\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ S/William E. Carter\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Steve Oestreicher William E. Carter

S/David Owen\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ S/Sterling Carter\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 David Owen Sterling Carter

Attest:

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

Paula P. Seamster

Clerk to the Board

RECESS

The Board took a brief recess.

COUNTY MANAGER’S UPDATES

Finance Software Agreement

Mr. Miller stated that the Finance Software Agreement is an approved budget item in this year’s fiscal year budget. He added that the agreement will be before the Board at the next meeting. Mr. Miller stated that the county attorney has looked over the agreement and it has gone back to the vendor for their approval.

Security at Historic Courthouse

Mr. Miller stated that the Board had indicated that it wanted the front door of the historic courthouse locked and the cost to implement this would be $8,750. He added that this is not a budgeted item so the Board would need to appropriate this money to complete the project if that is the wishes of the Board.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that he thought the security people looked at this as well and he suggested leaving the door unlocked and install an L shaped glass wall in front of Ashley’s desk so she can buzz people in. He added that he did not think people should have to stand outside in the cold weather.

Commissioner Owen recommended that alternative ways be looked into to secure this area. He added that he thinks there was ways to secure this area without spending a lot of money.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I agree with looking at other options and to keep our options open. I am not and I can’t be in favor of a glass wall, not in a building of this age and character. I just can’t do it.”

Chairman McVey directed the county manager to take a look at some various options at this point. He also asked for the county manager to compare the cost on the glass wall as well before spending $8,000.

Commissioner W. Carter asked the county manager what the security people recommended. Mr. Miller responded that he did not speak to the security people directly about any recommendations that they had. He added that he asked them bring forth a proposal to implement the mag lock door on the front door. Mr. Miller stated that there was a lot of extra cost associated with this due to having to drill down through the foundation to run the electrical wiring. He added that several alternatives can be looked at and be presented to the Board.

Capital Scenarios

Mr. Miller stated that he laid a capital scenario in front of the Board prepared by Davenport. He added that he wanted the Board to be up-to-date on the information and he has because the Board will asked to decision on how to move forward on whether the county uses the USDA route or the private market through bond financing and this decision will need to be made sometime in early to mid-January. Mr. Miller stated that there will be additional funding scenarios provided before then but he asked the Board to start looking at these scenarios and if the Board has any questions or concerns it should start to ask those questions so good concrete answers can be received before the date gets here when the Board has to make a decision.

Wright Gasoline Report

Mr. Miller stated that he appreciated Commissioner Carter bringing up at the last meeting the mistake on the Wright Gasoline report and provided the Board with an updated copy of the report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

 A. Veterans Day Ceremony – Monday, November 11, 2019 - 11:00 a.m. – Civic Center

B. Joint Meeting with Caswell County Board of Commissioners, Town of Yanceyville

 and Town of Milton – Wednesday, November 13, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m. – Thomas Day

 Tavern, Milton

C. Caswell County Blood Drive -Thursday, November 14, 2019 - 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

 Senior Center

 D. Employees Appreciation Luncheon – Wednesday, December 4, 2019 - 12:00 p.m. –

3:00 p.m. – Civic Center

Commissioner Owen stated that the Town of Yanceyville Tree Lighting and Winter Trail will be on Friday, December 6, 2019 and the Parade will be following day and he asked the Board if it was going to participate this year. Chairman McVey responded that Ms. Amanda Hodges, Chamber Director, planned on the Board participating in the Parade.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “What is the time on the lighting again?” Commissioner Owen responded 6:00 p.m. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Are they still doing the parade at 9 or 10:00?” Chairman McVey responded 10:00.

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)). The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:45 a.m. Commissioner W. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Paula P. Seamster Rick McVey

Clerk to the Board Chairman

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