Caswell County Planning Board Meeting

June 28, 2022

**Members Present***:*

Chairman Russell Johnston, Antonio Foster, Scott Oakley, Steven Harris, Ron Richmond, Michael Poteat, Steven Thompson, Commissioner Steve Oestreicher, Planning Director Matthew Hoagland, Administrative Assistant Amy Lyle, Clerk to the Board Carla Smith.

**Members Absent**: Jason Daniel

**Called to Order**

Chairman Johnston called the June 28, 2022 Planning Board to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

**New Member Oath of Office**

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Carla Smith administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Steven Thompson, swearing him in as a new board member.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Hoagland stated that there were no public comments.

**Approval of May 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Foster made a motion to approve the May 2022 Planning Board minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**Unfinished Business**

**A) Watershed Review Board pending appeals**

Mr. Hoagland stated that there was no new information or updates regarding the Watershed Review Board pending appeals. Mr. Johnston read aloud the following motion: “I move to adopt the resolution from the May 22, 2022 Planning Board meeting as written with the following amendment: Now therefore, be it resolved by the Caswell County Watershed Review Board as follows: 1. The WRB hearing with respect to the Sunrock appeals now scheduled on June 28, 2022 shall be and hereby is continued until the next WRB meeting scheduled for 1pm on Tuesday, July 26, 2022.” Mr. Harris made a motion to continue the watershed appeal to the July 26th, 2022 meeting. The motion carried.

**B) Comprehensive Plan discussion/review**

Mr. Hoagland presented slides summarizing the recommendations and updates that the Planning Board have made for the UDO since the May 2022 meeting. The slides included: adding the Caswell County Chamber of Commerce to the contacts section on page 129, strike through and eliminate the potential ordinances on page 120, and a recommendation from Mr. Foster to create “Section 4.6, Education” under Section 4 Issues, Goals, and Strategies. Mr. Oakley also suggested recommending a turn lane along all of Yanceyville’s Hwy 86 business corridor, prioritizing Hwy 62 Bypass loop around BY High School, having an annual Comprehensive Plan review meeting with Commissioners, adding emphasis for traffic upgrades in light of Danville Casino development, and submitting a letter to Commissioners stressing traffic upgrade importance. The Board discussed making a recommendation to the Commissioners to add the Comprehensive Plan review to their meeting agenda in January 2023. Mr. Oakley also suggested that the following should be added to the Transportation section on page 37: “A re-assessment and prioritization of the highway improvements listed in Tables 31 and 32 should be considered as a result of the Danville Caesars Casino which is planned to open in the year 2024.” Another recommendation the Board suggested was submitting a letter to the Commissioners stressing traffic upgrade importance. Chairman Johnston mentioned that he felt good progress had been made on reviewing and upgrading the Comprehensive Plan and that it seemed to be time to compile a final package to be sent back to the commissioners. He asked that, without objection, if Mr. Hoagland could present the package of all changes to the Comprehensive Plan to be voted on at the next meeting. There was no objection to Mr. Johnston’s recommendation.

**New Business**

1. **Board Member attendance/participation**

Mr. Foster said the impetus behind him requesting this be on the agenda was Mr. Swann’s recent absences but with Mr. Thompson being appointed then it’s really a non-issue at this point. Mr. Johnston noted that Mr. Swann’s term expired in December but perhaps Mr. Hoagland could expound on that. Mr. Hoagland noted that the commissioners extended Mr. Swann’s term to March in case the pending appeals were heard in that time. However, they then replaced Mr. Swann with Mr. Thompson. Mr. Poteat said he thought this agenda item was directed toward him but he’s glad it wasn’t because he doesn’t miss a lot of meetings. Twenty five percent attendance sounds good, he said, but if you have a life and are doing things you can’t always be here. He’s been on the board about 20 years now and thought he was being called out. Mr. Foster clarified he was looking at Mr. Swann’s attendance. Mr. Johnston noted that Mr. Poteat is the longest serving member of the board and appreciates his service. Mr. Poteat added that there are special meetings and other things, and they don’t really get paid any money; $20 isn’t much money. The commissioners have the last say on everything, Mr. Poteat said, so they can do all the work they want to do but many times it goes to them and it doesn’t pass because they have the last say.

**Planning Department Updates**

1. **Broadband**

Mr. Hoagland stated that he had no updates on broadband. Mr. Oestreicher stated that he had heard that the weather has delayed the installment of lines in some areas, and the plan was to continue in areas that they did not have delays. He said most of the lines are going overhead but they do have to get access from NCDOT or other entities for poles, trenches, etc… He noted that the Stoney Creek area was being covered and infrastructure is in place. Mr. Oakley noted that the Anderson community is getting covered as well; he even called Charter and was told he could go ahead and sign up. Mr. Foster said he’s seen work being done on Allison road. Mr. Thompson mentioned he had seen them on Law Road and Park Springs Road as well. Mr. Hoagland also mentioned that he had put together a list of all private roads in the county as well and submitted that information to Charter so they can better deploy down private roads as well. Mr. Hoagland says the county is still “cautiously optimistic” that Charter will finish by the end of the year as they’ve said they would in the past.

1. **Cell towers**

Mr. Hoagland shared a picture of the Casville area cell tower project, and the cell tower project in Prospect Hill. He also mentioned he had not yet seen any movement on the third tower approved last year on Mise Road. He believes that is still tied up in federal environmental review processes.

He stated he also received an application for a 300-foot cell tower on Highway 86 North, covering the area between the landfill and Park Springs Road. He expects that to be on the agenda for the July meeting for a public hearing. Mr. Oestreicher says he’s been getting questions about who is building the towers; what provider? Mr. Hoagland said a third-party entity does build the tower but most of the time it’s dedicated to one carrier before development. For example, it’s more or less a Verizon tower from day one but it can accommodate other carriers once built. Mr. Oakley asked Mr. Hoagland if he could confirm with Mr. Barker if 5G coverage would be offered on the new cell towers.

1. **Other updates**

Mr. Hoagland also stated that he expects at least one but possible two Major Subdivisions for July’s Planning Board Meeting. He also stated that the RV flood zone amendment that the Board presented to the Commissioners was on their agenda in June, and they have requested that he made some small revisions by striking through the old text and underlining the new text, and he expects that to be on the July 18th Commissioners agenda for final consideration.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Harris made a motion to adjourn the June 28, 2022 Planning Board Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.