ORDINANCE NO. 36

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE NAMES OF ROADS IN CASWELL COUNTY AND A PROCEDURE FOR THE FUTURE NAMING OR RENAMING OF ROADS IN CASWELL COUNTY

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

Under the provisions of North Carolina General Statutes 153A-239.1 and 153A-240, counties may by Ordinance name or rename any public or private road within any unincorporated area of the County.

In naming or renaming a road, a county may not

(1) change the name, if any, given to the road by the Board of Transportation, unless the Board of Transportation agrees;

(2) change the number assigned to the road by the Board of Transportation, but may give the road a name in addition to its number; or

(3) give the road a name that is deceptively similar to the name of any other public or private road in the vicinity.

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners desires to name all roads within the unincorporated areas of Caswell County and to erect road name signs for these roads so that emergency services such as law enforcement, fire, and medical rescue can locate rural addresses more quickly.

This Ordinance shall establish the procedures for naming existing roads and future roads and for renaming any road. The Caswell County Board of Commissioners shall name all existing roads and shall consider petitions on the renaming of any road. The Board of Commissioners may delegate the responsibility for the naming of future roads to the Caswell County E-911 Board. It shall be the duty of the Caswell County E-911 Director to maintain and keep updated at all times a master list of every road officially named by the Board of Commissioners or by the E-911 Board.

As used in this Ordinance, the term "road name" means a name officially adopted by the Caswell County Board of Commissioners; the terms "road" and "street" are interchangeable and have the same meaning.

SECTION 2. EXISTING ROADS

(a) The Caswell County Board of Commissioners shall hold a public hearing before naming any existing public or private road within the unincorporated areas of Caswell County. At least ten (10) days before the day of the public hearing, the County Manager shall cause notice of the time, place, and subject matter of the hearing to be prominently posted at the County Courthouse, in at least two public places in the township or townships where the road is located, and shall publish a notice of such hearing in at least one newspaper of general circulation published in the County. The Caswell County Board of Commissioners shall name the proposed roads and cause the list of approved names, with approval date, to be added to the master list of road names maintained by the E-911 Director. Construction and maintenance history of the road and duplication and similarity of existing names may be considered in naming the road.

(b) In deciding the names for existing roads, the Board of Commissioners will give favorable consideration to the majority (51%) of property owners or households on the road.

(c) Landowners with an established, improved lot will have one vote. Landowners with an unimproved lot will have one vote for every one hundred feet of road frontage with a minimum depth of four hundred feet. Residents who are not landowners will have one vote per household.

(d) Identifying street markers shall be located at each intersection of each officially named public or private road throughout Caswell County.

(e) The Caswell County E-911 Director is authorized to correct such clerical errors or sign location adjustments as may from time to time occur and to purchase and have installed signs as are needed to carry out the purposes and intent of this Ordinance within budgetary limitations.

SECTION 3. RENAMING ROADS

(a) Persons desiring to have the name of a road changed or to name a road not so designated or otherwise provided for as a part of this Ordinance must petition the Caswell County Board of Commissioners. The petition shall be reviewed by the E-911 Director for duplication and phonetically similar names prior to submission to the Board of Commissioners.

(b) The petition shall contain the existing road name, the proposed road name, and the signatures of no less than 75% of property owners or households on the road. Landowners with an established, improved lot will have one vote. Landowners with an unimproved lot will have one vote for every one hundred feet of road frontage with a minimum depth of four hundred feet. Residents who are not landowners will have one vote per household. The petition should state the beginning and termination point of the designated road name and each petition must be accompanied by cash, money order, or cashiers check payable to Caswell County in the amount of $100, which is a non-refundable deposit plus the current cost of labor and materials for removing the existing signs and installing the new signs and for the cost of advertising the public hearing at all locations. In the event that the road name is not changed and a public hearing is held, the cost of labor and materials for removing the existing signs and installing the new signs will be returned. In the event that the road name is not changed and a public hearing is not held, the cost of labor and materials for removing the existing signs and installing the new signs and the cost of advertising the public hearing will be returned. Construction and maintenance history of the road and duplication and similarity of existing names may be considered in naming the road.

(c) The Board of Commissioners shall hold a public hearing on the proposed name change. At least ten (10) days before the day of the hearing, the Board of Commissioners shall cause notice of the time, place, and subject matter of the hearing to be prominently posted at the County Courthouse, in at least two public places in the township or townships where the road is located, and shall publish a notice of such hearing in at least one newspaper of general circulation published in the County. The renaming of any such road shall be noted in the master list of road names.

(d) No petitions for the changing of names of roads as herein established shall be accepted by Caswell County until five years from the effective date of this Ordinance or until five years from the filing of the last petition for the changing of a road name.

SECTION 4. NEW ROADS

(a) Roads shall be named when created by the North Carolina Department of Transportation or by the subdivision process, and signs conforming to County standards shall be posted at intersections showing the name of every street. New streets which are obviously in alignment with others already existing and named shall bear the names of the existing street names.

(b) Because most new roads are created by the subdivision process, which is reviewed by the Caswell County Planning Board, the Caswell County Board of Commissioners does hereby delegate the authority and responsibility for naming new roads to the Caswell County Planning Board as set forth in Article VIII, Section 13 of the Caswell County Subdivision Ordinance, revised November 16, 1992. Proposed road names shall be considered by the E-911 Director in conjunction with submission to the Planning Board to review for duplication and phonetically similar names.

(c) When the developer or subdivider submits the preliminary plat to the Planning Board or Subdivision Administrator, the plat shall contain proposed street names. The E-911 Director shall review the proposed street names for duplications, phonetically similar names, and acceptability and report back to the Planning Board. If there is a problem with any of the names, the developer or subdivider shall submit a substitute name for consideration. When the Planning Board approves the plat, they shall, at the same, time, approve the proposed or substituted street names as a part of the plat.

(d) Upon construction of the road, the developer or subdivider creating new streets shall pay Caswell County for the actual cost of purchasing and erecting street signs which meet the standards established by Caswell County. After the proposed subdivision has received the appropriate preliminary plat or rezoning approval, the E-911 Director shall compute the total actual cost of required street signs and shall collect this sum from the developer or subdivider so that the County may purchase and install the signs.

SECTION 5. NOTIFICATION PROCESS

Following the public hearing, when any road is renamed or added to or deleted from the County's master list of official road names, it shall be the duty of the Caswell County E-911 Director to send a notice of each change to the Tax Mapping Department, the Register of Deeds Office, to the local postmaster having jurisdiction over the road, to the local office of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, to any town within five miles of the road, to the County Emergency Services Director for distribution to fire departments having jursidiction over the road, to the Transportation Coordinator for the Caswell County Schools, and to any other party as deemed appropriate.

SECTION 6. MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Signs located on and identifying public or private roads shall be maintained by the County within limits established by budgetary appropriations.

SECTION 7. PENALTIES

It shall be unlawful for any person, corporation, firm, or association to alter, remove, deface, destroy, or purposely damage any road name signs erected by Caswell County pursuant to this Ordinance and any amendments thereto, or to erect road name signs that indicate a road name other than that established by law. Any violation of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor, as provided by North Carolina General Statutes 14-4, and shall be punishable as therein provided and shall be liable to Caswell County for all costs related to the repair or replacement of said signs.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become and be effective on and as of the date of adoption of this Ordinance.

ADOPTED THIS THE 7th DAY OF June, 1993.

John H. Blackwell
John H. Blackwell, Chairman
Caswell County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Wanda P. Smith
Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board