

MINUTES – MAY 15, 2012

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners reconvened its meeting at the Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15, 2012. Members present: Nathaniel Hall, Chairman, Cathy W. Lucas, Vice-Chair, William E. Carter, and Jeremiah Jefferies, Kenneth D. Travis and N. Kent Williamson. Absent: Gordon G. Satterfield. Also present: Kevin B. Howard, County Manager. Paula P. Seamster, Clerk to the Board, recorded the minutes.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

Chairman Hall opened the meeting with a Moment of Silent Prayer.

DAN RIVER RECLASSIFICATION

Chairman Hall stated “Before we recessed the last meeting we approved the resolution for the Dan River reclassification. The next thing we wanted to do was to have a meeting with the Town of Yanceyville about our proposed actions. Third, we wanted to decide if we wanted to contact our legislative leaders. I understand from the County Manager that the Town of Yanceyville was not able to meet with us today.” Mr. Howard responded “That is correct. I talked with Mayor Davis on Friday morning and explained to him what we wanted to do and gave him a handwritten letter as well as a copy of the resolution. He called me back later that afternoon and said that they would not be able to meet at this time. He could not get the whole board together to meet. We did not discuss other dates because we had this meeting already set.” Chairman Hall asked “You did explain to the Mayor what this was all about?” Mr. Howard responded “I explained that due to the time frame of course we had to meet pretty quickly.” Chairman Hall continued “But you explained what it was all about?” Mr. Howard responded “Yes sir, I explained it and everything. I gave him a copy of the resolution as well.”

Commissioner Lucas asked “As far as you know he did speak with other council members to try to arrange it?” Mr. Howard responded “I assume that he did. He said that he would have to call council.” Chairman Hall stated “Only because Ms. Lucas asked I will respond, I spoke with one of the council members and they were not aware of the meeting.” Commissioner Lucas stated “I know that Mr. Brigman was out of town because he got married.”

Chairman Hall asked “Are there any further discussions about our previous meeting?”

(At 3:35 p.m. Commissioner Travis entered the meeting.)

Commissioner Lucas stated “Chairman Hall in light of the fact that the motion passed with an amendment to include the Town and that was carried through to no avail I think we have met the criteria of the last meeting. I think we need to move forward with contacting the legislature. I have personally spoke with one and forwarded the resolution to him. I think we need to have a letter written specifically from the County Manager or yourself stating what our intentions are.”

Commissioner Travis asked “So the Town did not want to meet?” Chairman Hall responded “I think the answer to that is they couldn’t meet.” Commissioner Travis continued “Well then I think we need to move on.”

Commissioner Lucas stated “I think it is important that we send a copy of the resolution and maybe a cover letter from County Manager and yourself stating the position of the Board to DENR as well.”

Commissioner Jefferies asked “Did she say to send the Town a cover letter?” Commissioner Lucas responded “To the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.” Chairman Hall stated “I think that would be a good idea.” Commissioner Jefferies continued “At least they will know what we are doing and that we are not trying to pull anything over on them. We asked them to come and they did come so send them a copy of the letter.” Commissioner Travis asked “Did you send them a copy of what we did?” Mr. Howard responded “Yes I did. I also gave them a letter requesting the meeting and I gave it to the Mayor so when he talked to them he would have a breakdown on what to say as well as a copy of the resolution.”

Chairman Hall asked “And it was sent to the Town?” Mr. Howard responded “I hand delivered the letter to the Mayor. I did not mail it.” Chairman Hall continued “I think at this point I support sending a letter to the Town also. I would ask the County Manager to send a letter to the Town Manager covering today’s minutes and a copy of the resolution so that they will be aware. I know that one council member was not aware of the meeting. We don’t necessarily have to agree but the lines of communication still need to stay open. I think a copy of the resolution and a cover letter to the Town is in order. How do we proceed with our legislatures?” Commissioner Lucas responded “I think a letter needs to be mailed and a copy of the resolution to Representative Faison and Senator Gunn.”

Commissioner Carter asked “Mr. Chairman what about the Town of Milton? Do we need to send a letter to them since it is in the Town of Milton?” Chairman Hall responded “It would not hurt. At this point we have asked them to become a part of the table so I think that is a good idea.”

Chairman Hall stated “So from what I am hearing we will send a copy of this resolution to DENR, a copy to the Town of Yanceyville and Milton with a cover letter from the County Manager and a separate copy of the resolution and letter to our representatives and it was suggested that it go out under the chairman’s signature.”

Commissioner Lucas stated “Chairman Hall I did not put the administrative rule in this resolution but I think the copy of the letter that is going to the legislatives should include it to make it more easily accessible to them. There is more in the rule than this one issue.” Chairman Hall responded “Okay if we can get that we will include that rule in the letter.”

Commissioner Lucas moved, seconded by Commissioner Williamson to send a copy of the resolution to DENR, a copy to the Town of Yanceyville and Milton with a letter from the County Manager and a copy of the resolution and a written request to our legislatives representatives,

Representative Faison and Senator Gunn, from the chairman and to include the administrative rule of the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

EMS CALL

Chairman Hall stated “Commissioner Travis received a call from a citizen regarding an EMS call on Saturday. He in turned passed that information on to me and I in turn passed the information on to the County Manager. The call was concerning a local citizen that was having trouble. They called EMS and EMS responded with one person in the vehicle. So when this person needed to be transported there was nobody to drive the vehicle so a fireman had to drive the vehicle. It was also noticed that the ambulance took the long way around to get to the citizen’s house. I passed this information on to the County Manager and I asked the County Manager to get a clear report on this to share with this Board. I have not received it and I am not sure if he has had enough time to find out the information but we still expect a full report.”

Mr. Howard stated “I can give you a brief explanation because I just got the information this afternoon. Apparently they were short staffed Saturday morning and they were very busy Saturday morning. One medic called in sick and they could not find a replacement. At the time of that call they already had 2 ambulances out. One for a death and the other at another advanced life support call. The medic on this ambulance was actually returning from another call when the call went out and that is why they went that way. The director, Mr. Sicz, was in route to that call when the medic on the scene called, the person that drove the ambulance was a full time employee who was off that day and was at the scene so he drove the ambulance to the hospital. Mr. Sicz stayed at the base so that someone would be on standby with all three units out in case another call came in.” Chairman Hall responded “I will say this before anyone makes any comment. I asked the County Manager for a full report and I am letting the County Manager know that we want a full written report. Some of the things you are saying don’t jive with the facts that have been said and certainly there is no way we should be short staffed with 3 ambulances. There should be no shifts uncovered. If someone does not report in then they call the next person and the next person and so forth. So whatever you find out, it has to be in a written report.”

Commissioner Lucas asked “I am curious about what day this happened?” Commissioner Travis responded “Saturday morning. We pulled over on 62 to let the ambulance pass us. We took a right on Oak View Loop Road and the ambulance went all the way down to Cherry Grove Road. They need to know how to drive.” Chairman Hall responded “I know you are passionate about this that is why I asked for a full written report.” Commissioner Lucas asked “Did you say they were on a code 96 that day?” Mr. Howard responded “There was one that responded to a death and one at a...” Commissioner Lucas continued “It would be interesting to know how long that code 96 took because once they get there and they realize that they are not going to do a transport they need to clear and move on.” Chairman Hall stated “Again I have already asked for the Board to receive a full written report soon. It should not take a long time. Everybody has different kinds of information. I know that there are different knowledge skills on knowing what happened or what should have happened. I don’t know about the code 96 but I know this, the people that we pay should know this stuff and the base should never be uncovered.”

Commissioner Lucas stated "It says Emergency Services on that unit. It should be available for emergency purposes."

Commissioner Carter stated "There is something about that call that bothers me. The reason I mention this is because I was the county coroner for 16 years. If this county is going to continue and we do have an elected official as the county coroner a lot of these code 96 calls the county coroner can go out there and handle those without sending an EMS unit out there. If we are going to have a county coroner and we have a \$2500 bond in which we pay we need to use that person." Commissioner Lucas asked "How many counties in this state have coroners?" Commissioner Carter responded "2."

Chairman Hall asked "Ms. Seamster when is our next meeting?" Ms. Seamster responded "Monday night." Chairman Hall continued "Again going back to the report from the County Manager, we need to know exactly what happened because we are going to have to deal with these on a policy basis and we are going to have to start dealing with it today. The coroner, not knowing the county or whatever the issue, they are going to have to be addressed."

Commissioner Jefferies stated "I have been at a scene where a fireman had to drive the ambulance. This happens all the time." Chairman Hall responded "If that is the case that is fine." Commissioner Travis stated "If a fireman has to drive the ambulance he deserves to be paid for that. If the fireman is on the ambulance for two hours he needs to be paid for two hours of his time. The county can be held liable. If something happens someone is going to be sued. If it were not for the fire departments I don't know what we would do. When these ambulances roll we need two people in them." Commissioner Lucas stated "That is what we budgeted for."

Commissioner Carter asked "Did we budget to staff 3 ambulances?" Mr. Howard responded "Three during the day and 2 at night."

Chairman Hall asked "You have already spoken to the EMS department?" Mr. Howard responded "I was given brief details. I will be getting more detailed information later." Chairman Hall continued "The reason I asked Ms. Seamster about our next meeting is today is Tuesday surely by Monday I would hope that you would be able to get all the information you need to give us a complete written report so that we can look at it and put it on the agenda so we can talk about policy issues." Mr. Howard responded "I don't know that I will have all the information before the packets go out but I will email it to you before the meeting on Monday night." Chairman Hall stated "That will be fine."

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Howard stated "I wanted to tell you that someone who owns property behind the Pelham Industrial Park has put a gate up at the tree line which is on county property. It is a very nice gate. I am going to send them a letter to take it down." Commissioner Lucas stated "It is brick and gated. Who is it that owns it?" Commissioner Travis asked "Whose land is these bricks on?" Mr. Howard responded "It is on county property. I wanted to give you a heads up before someone calls you complaining that I asked them to take it down." Commissioner Lucas asked "Is it at the water tank?" Mr. Howard responded "No ma'am, it is at the road on down. They

have a right of way but it is on the other side of NORAG's property. There was never a road cut. They have been using that old dirt road."

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Paula P. Seamster
Clerk to the Board

Nathaniel Hall
Chairman
