

MINUTES – FEBRUARY 2, 2009

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2009. Members present: George W. Ward, Jr., Vice-Chairman, Eric D. Battle, William E. Carter, Nathaniel Hall, and Kenneth D. Travis. Absent: Jeremiah Jefferies and Gordon G. Satterfield. Also present: Kevin B. Howard, County Manager, Michael R. Ferrell, County Attorney, and Angela Evans representing The Caswell Messenger. Wanda P. Smith, Clerk to the Board, recorded the minutes.

Commissioner Hall presided over the meeting.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

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

Commissioner Hall announced that Chairman Jefferies and Commissioner Satterfield were absent tonight because of illness and that Vice-Chairman Ward would be attending the meeting, but would be late.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Battle moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis that the agenda be amended to include a Closed Session to discuss a personnel issue and to preserve the Attorney/Client privilege. The motion carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman Ward absent.

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Battle to approve the agenda as presented and amended to include a Closed Session to discuss a personnel issue and to preserve the Attorney/Client privilege. The motion carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman absent.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman Ward absent.

The following items were included on the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2008, January 5, 2009 (Regular Meetings), January 10, 2009 (Reconvened Meeting), and January 10, 2009 (Special Meeting – Board Retreat)

- 2) Tax Director’s Monthly Report for December, 2008

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| Total Amount of Taxes Collected for December, 2008 | \$2,418,996.48 |
| Tax Maps/Cards | \$ 58.15 |
| County Maps | \$ 19.80 |
| Beer License | \$ 35.00 |

| | | |
|--------------|----|--------|
| Wine License | \$ | 50.00 |
| NSF Charge | \$ | 589.20 |

3) Financial Report – July 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Hall opened the floor for public comments.

Commissioner Hall welcomed to the meeting and acknowledged Boy Scouts of America, Troop 396 members.

Mr. Eddie Davis, of Durham, NC came before the Board and stated that he is a retired school teacher and for the past few months has been working with a group called *Inclusive North Carolina*. Mr. Davis added that the group has been looking at several different aspects of inclusion in the State and one area has to do with Memorials on Courthouse Squares. Mr. Davis informed the Board that in some counties in the State there are listings of those who have been involved in the supreme sacrifice for their country, unfortunately in some of these cases, there is not a total inclusion of all ethnic groups. Mr. Davis stated that Caswell County is not guilty of this, however, the *Lest We Forget* statue on the Courthouse Square does segregate the races who were involved with the World War. Mr. Davis added that he recognizes that the Memorial was probably placed there at a time when separation of the races was what one would expect and there is something to be said for maintaining the historic integrity of that period of time. Mr. Davis suggested to the County Commissioners and other organizations in the County that they look at the possibility of using the next Veterans Day to have some kind of alphabetical listing of those troops who made that supreme sacrifice during the World War. Mr. Davis stated that there may be some that take issue that there is another Memorial right beside it that pays tribute to all of the men and women in Caswell County that have given their services to their country, however, there is an issue about trying to make sure that in the 21st Century perhaps there could be a way to have an alphabetical listing of those troops who are on the *Lest We Forget* Memorial. Mr. Davis noted that the alphabetical listing could be attached to the opposite side of the current memorial and then the integrity and historical significance of the plaque originally placed there would be preserved, as well as in the 21st century having an alphabetical listing so that there would not be segregation of those troops. Mr. Davis added that he did not think such a plaque would be an exorbitant cost and that there are probably organizations or individuals in Caswell County that would be more than glad to contribute to such a plaque. Mr. Davis stated that Caswell County should be applauded for having such a Memorial and that all people that were involved were included. Mr. Davis stated that he felt that the people of Caswell County would appreciate the fact that the County Commissioners would lead the way in trying to make sure that the inclusion and diversity that we have in the 21st Century would deal with the freedom, democracy, and equity that is expected of such a great County.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Ms. Dianne C. Moorefield, DSS Director, came before the Board and stated that she would like to request that the Board lift the hiring freeze and grant her permission to fill four vacancies

within the Department of Social Services. Ms. Moorefield presented and discussed the following four vacant positions.

Work First Employment Services Unit

Our Work First Employment Services Unit has two social worker positions. One of these positions is vacant following the resignation of an employee due to family responsibilities. Unfortunately, the second social worker is out for up to eight weeks due to having recently had surgery so we are without staff needed to perform mandated tasks. While the Supervisor is performing some of these duties, she has several programs to oversee and is not able to complete all tasks. The vacant Work First Employment position is responsible for a caseload of forty-two cases receiving Work First assistance which includes assisting them with obtaining and maintaining employment, providing case management services for 200 cases, Intake and case management for Domestic Violence Cases.

Adult Services Unit

We once again have a Social Worker vacancy in our Adult Services Unit. As I have previously stated in earlier requests, this position experiences frequent vacancies due to the large volume of requests for services received. This position works with those with medical transportation needs, assisting individuals needing Medical Eye Care Program services, assisting individuals applying for the sliding scale fee through the Caswell Family Medical Center, assisting individuals who are homeless, and various other intake needs which arise periodically. This worker is also required to participate in the after hours on-call system.

The need for assistance with medical transportation has grown tremendously so having adequate staff is crucial to ensuring that residents receive needed medical services. Inadequate staff makes it extremely difficult for staff to respond promptly to reports alleging abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly and disabled and to conduct complaint investigations of adult care homes in a timely manner as well as conduct required monitoring of these facilities.

Child Protective Services Unit

Over the past year we have lost two Child Protective Workers due to resignations. In November 2008 we suffered a tremendous loss with the sudden and unexpected death of Earl Watlington, Jr. At present we have one unfilled vacancy and we have one employee on a reduced work schedule due to doctor's orders. This worker will begin maternity leave in March thereby creating a temporary "vacancy" and making it even more crucial to fill the vacancy we now have.

The State's focus on a family centered approach of offering services in the home when child protective service reports are received, has brought more complex and time consuming requirements for workers providing services to families. Cases are open longer in order to assist families with community services and to monitor their progress. Depressed economic conditions place additional stress on families and make it more difficult for many of them to provide for their families. While the number of child protective services reports have not increased greatly, the length of time spent working with these families has increased.

It is critical that we have adequate staff to protect children at risk, to meet state requirements for ensuring the safety of our children and to qualify for federal and state funding with which to provide these services. Therefore we are asking for approval to fill our current vacancy in our Child Protective Services Unit.

Foster Care and Adoption

We have had a Foster Care/Adoption Social Worker position vacant for several months. Foster Care caseloads have been down in recent months and we have therefore been able to provide required services. However, recruiting and training qualified applicants has historically taken several months so I would respectfully request permission to begin this process. Difficult economic times usually increase in the number of child abuse/neglect reports and I anticipate the number of children entering foster care will also increase in response to our current economic conditions.

Ms. Moorefield informed the Board that on March 31, 2009, she will have two employees retiring which will result in two additional vacancies for her agency. Ms. Moorefield stated that the first is a Child Support Agent II position and the second is an Income Maintenance Caseworker II position in their Special Assistance Program. Ms. Moorefield noted that both of these positions impact the financial operations of DSS.

Ms. Moorefield provided the following information on the two positions.

The Child Support Agent assists clients in securing court ordered child support payments, thereby reducing the need for services offered by the Department of Social Services. This position carries a caseload of 479 cases.

The Income Maintenance Position is the Lead Adult Medicaid Worker Position and maintains a total caseload of approximately 360 cases. These cases include persons needing Rest Home placements and Alzheimer placements. While requirements for various programs vary according to specific guidelines, errors can prove costly for the County. Monetary sanctions can be imposed costing the County thousands of dollars per month. Advanced planning and preparation is crucial for preparing for and filling the anticipated vacancy in order to provide training opportunities and avoid a lapse of service.

Ms. Moorefield noted that she is not requesting any new positions, however, is requesting permission to fill these current vacancies and vacancies that will be created when two employees retire in March, 2009. Ms. Moorefield stated that all of these positions are included in her current budget and will not require any additional funds. Ms. Moorefield added that the inability to fill these positions could impact the ability of DSS to meet required mandates for providing services and therefore impact their eligibility for state and federal funding. Ms. Moorefield noted that also of great importance is the risk some of the County's citizens face if unable to receive much needed services in a timely manner.

After discussion, Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Battle to release from the hiring freeze the four vacant positions in the Department of Social Services as presented and to allow the DSS Director to begin the recruiting process for the two positions that will

become vacant in March, 2009, due to retirements. The motion carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman absent.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REQUEST

Sheriff Michael Welch came before the Board to request that the hiring freeze be lifted for the full-time and part-time positions in the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center. Sheriff Welch noted that the Sheriff's Office has entered into a contract with the Town of Yanceyville to hire and provide four additional deputies and he continues to work on his Plan of Action in regards to districts within the County. Sheriff Welch stated that currently he has two vacant positions in the Sheriff's Office and one vacant position in the Detention Center. Sheriff Welch added that in order to meet his goals he would respectfully request that the Board lift the hiring freeze for full-time and part-time positions in the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center and this request would include any future positions from now until July.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Travis, Sheriff Welch answered that he has new recruits in Basic Law Enforcement training school at this time.

After discussion, Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to release from the hiring freeze two positions in the Sheriff's Office and one position in the Detention Center, as requested by Sheriff Welch. The motion carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman absent.

Sheriff Welch requested authorization to purchase a replacement patrol vehicle for the Sheriff's Office due to a recent accident. Sheriff Welch stated that he has received an insurance check in the amount of \$20,592 for the vehicle, but he will need an additional \$3,515.01 in funding to cover the cost for replacement of the vehicle. Sheriff Welch added that the additional funding could be appropriated from Lapsed Salaries in his Department.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Carter, Sheriff Welch answered that fleet management will be included in his FY 2009-2010 budget request. Commissioner Carter suggested the possibility of purchasing surplus Highway Patrol vehicles. Upon questioning from Commissioner Carter as to his preference, Sheriff Welch answered that he felt it would be in the best interest of the Sheriff's Office and County to approve the new patrol vehicle.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Travis, Sheriff Welch answered that he is not requesting a vehicle to be used solely for the Town of Yanceyville. Sheriff Welch stated that the Sheriff's Office is providing 24/7 coverage of the Town as well as the entire County.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Battle as to why the Sheriff would prefer one new vehicle over two surplus Highway Patrol vehicles, Sheriff Welch answered that it is because this vehicle is replacing a new vehicle that was allocated during the budget process.

Commissioner Hall stated that over the years the County has purchased all types of vehicles from surplus and it has been his general feeling that the County would be better served by not

purchasing worn out cars. Commissioner Hall added that if the Highway Patrol has driven a vehicle for two years, it is worn out.

After further discussion, Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to grant the request by Sheriff Welch to purchase a new replacement patrol vehicle for the Sheriff's Office as presented. The motion carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman Ward absent.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE REQUEST

Mr. Joey Knight, Cooperative Extension Director, came before the Board to request that the hiring freeze be lifted for two positions in the Cooperative Extension Service. Mr. Knight stated that Mr. Donald Griffith, Teen Court Coordinator, has been a part-time employee under the 4-H YES Program, but due to illness has resigned his position. Mr. Knight added that Ms. Mary Eiler, Stepping Stones Coordinator, a current part-time employee with 4-H YES, has agreed to assume the responsibilities of Mr. Griffith and become a full-time employee. Mr. Knight requested that he be allowed to transfer Ms. Griffith's responsibilities to Ms. Mary Eiler, at no additional cost to the County.

Mr. Knight reported that Ms. Patsy Mancha, Administrative Secretary, retired on January 31, 2009, after 31 years of service to the county and state. Mr. Knight added that this is a critical position that needs to be filled immediately. Mr. Knight noted that this is a state position, with the County cost-share of 44.74% or \$15,074 per year of the total salary. Mr. Knight informed the Board that in talking with the state, he has learned that he will not be allowed to fill this position until June 1, 2009.

After discussion, Commissioner Battle moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to release from the hiring freeze a position in the 4-H YES Program and that the part-time position be transferred into a full-time position, and to release from the hiring freeze the Administrative Secretary position with the realization that the State will not approve the filling of this position until June 1, 2009. The motion carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman Ward absent.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES REQUEST

Mr. Jim Gusler, EMS Director, came before the Board to request that the hiring freeze be lifted for two full-time Paramedic positions. Mr. Gusler noted that with two full-time vacancies it puts quite a strain on his part-time budget and personnel. Mr. Gusler reported that EMS currently has 22 part-time positions on staff and day-to-day EMS operations require the use of three part-time personnel every day and when there are vacancies it adds a fourth part-timer.

After discussion, Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Battle to release from the hiring freeze two full-time EMS Paramedic positions. The motion carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman Ward absent.

Mr. Gusler reported that Emergency Medical Services has received a \$40,000 award from the Dan River Community Foundation to improve its cardiac care response in the County. Mr. Gusler stated that this grant will be used for the purchase of Public Access Automated External

Defibrillators (AED's) for public buildings that see the most public traffic or have a specific need and to place AED's in a number of patrol cars to potentially improve response to cardiac arrest patients in the community. Mr. Gusler added that the grant will also be used to improve technology in the EMS units to add for the transmission of vital patient information while in transit to the medical facility. Mr. Gusler noted that he is confident that these additions will improve both the mortality and morbidity as it relates to cardiac emergencies that occur in the community.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Battle, Mr. Gusler answered that he anticipates placing 25 defibrillators out in public buildings and vehicles. Mr. Gusler noted that he has identified 10 public buildings that need this service.

Mr. Gusler reported that he has a new Ford F-450 ambulance unit that is currently at Stearns Ford in Burlington with significant engine and turbo repair needed. Mr. Gusler stated that Ford has denied his claim for warranty due to usage of other than OEM oil filters and overdue service mileage. Mr. Gusler informed the Board that the cost of the repair is estimated to be \$12,500. Mr. Gusler acknowledged that this is not only a failure on his part, but in his command system to make sure that the units are maintained properly. Mr. Gusler added that he prides himself on making sure that EMS makes the right decisions and he accepts responsibility for this. Mr. Gusler stated that policies and procedures were in place to prevent this, he has personally reviewed the reasons that this oversight happened, and has dealt accordingly with personnel problems. Mr. Gusler added that he has changed the managerial oversight to ensure that this does not happen in the future and is utilizing a computer program to ensure that they do not run over the service mileage on the remainder of their units. Mr. Gusler noted that this program is in addition and supplement to current daily unit checks. Mr. Gusler noted that funding will need to be taken from other areas in his budget to pay for this.

Commissioner Hall requested that Mr. Gusler prepare a complete definitive report to be given to the Board that answers all the questions as to why this happened because it is a significant cost. Commissioner Hall directed Mr. Gusler to give this report to Chairman Jefferies or the County Manager before the next Board meeting. Commissioner Hall added that if any Board member has questions he would like answered concerning this to get them to the County Manager so that they can be answered in the written report.

Mr. Gusler noted that the dealership would like to know what to do with the unit and that it would take approximately one week to repair the ambulance unit. Mr. Gusler added that this unit has been out of service for two and one-half weeks.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Travis, Mr. Gusler answered that the ambulance unit has 31,000 miles on it, that the oil changes on the ambulance units are routinely performed in the County, and he has never had an issue with Ford in the past in using parts other than Ford products. Commissioner Travis stated that the ambulance units under warranty should be taken to Stearns Ford or another Ford dealership for service and that the dealership keep service records.

Commissioner Travis stated that the Board needs to make a decision concerning warranty service work for all County vehicles. Commissioner Hall informed the Board that this issue would be placed on their next meeting agenda.

Mr. Gusler informed the Board that the 2007-2008 calendar year was the busiest ever experienced by EMS with over 3,000 calls, which is a 14% increase over calls for the previous year. Mr. Gusler added that historically, the last two months are not high call volume months, but this year were the highest call volume months ever, averaging over 300 calls per month. Mr. Gusler noted that the nature of the calls have not changed that much, but there are just more of them.

TAX DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

Mr. Thomas Bernard, Tax Director, came before the Board and submitted the following Monthly Report for January, 2009.

Foreclosure Process – All Files

1,622 accounts turned over to Attorney

33 parcels sold

1,065 accounts paid in full

226 accounts entered into payment plan

12 bank attached by county

27 accounts that are leasehold properties that are in debt setoff

42 entered into bankruptcy

23 in-rem foreclosure procedure

198 files moving forward

The collection rate for the 2007 tax year is 95.43% as of 6/30/208.

Mr. Bernard reported that the collection rate for the 2008 tax year as of today is 5.37% ahead of last year.

Commissioner Hall informed Mr. Bernard that he was contacted by a citizen who indicated that some of the Tax Office's personal property tax listing reports did not or are not going out in a timely manner and asked if he was aware of this. Mr. Bernard answered that all of these personal property listing reports are in the mail now, and acknowledged that this was out-sourced and there was a delay. Upon questioning from Commissioner Hall, Mr. Bernard answered that all of the personal property tax listing forms were mailed out two or three weeks ago. Mr. Bernard informed the Board that he checked with the Department of Revenue and they have agreed to an extension due to the late mailing of the forms. Commissioner Hall requested that Mr. Bernard check and let the Board know the specific date that the last mailing was sent out because some citizens are concerned that they may be penalized. Mr. Bernard assured Commissioner Hall that he would determine this date and let the Board know.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 17

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented and reviewed Budget Amendment No. 17 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. After discussion, Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to approve Budget Amendment No. 17 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 as presented. The motion carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman Ward absent.

BUDGET TRANSFER NO. 13

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented and reviewed Budget Transfer No. 13 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. After discussion, Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to approve Budget Transfer No. 13 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 as presented. The motion carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman Ward absent.

RECESS

The Board held a brief recess.

ITEMS TABLED TO NEXT MEETING

Commissioner Hall tabled the following items to the Board's next meeting when Chairman Jefferies would be present.

- Discussion of Board Subcommittees
- Appointment of Board Member to Criminal Justice Partnership Board
- 2010 Census Partner Proclamation

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Kevin B. Howard, County Manager, provided the Board with a list of the vehicles and cost that have been provided by four area dealers in consideration of purchase of a vehicle for the Senior Center. Mr. Howard encouraged the Board to consider the purchase of a new vehicle since there is a small amount of difference in the cost of a used and new vehicle and warranty. Mr. Howard stated that if the Board has an interest in purchasing a new vehicle they would need to approve an increase in the purchase amount. Mr. Howard added that he has found three new vehicles all for below \$14,500 and felt that he could find a vehicle that meets the Senior Center's needs for less than this amount and come close to the \$9,800 for the Dodge Caliber that is on the list.

Commissioner Battle stated that the Board needed to consider the longevity of the vehicle and that it be used for more than one purpose. Commissioner Battle added that the Board needed to decide whether it wants a mid-size vehicle or something else and noted that he would prefer a mid-size vehicle.

The Board discussed warranties on the individual vehicles. Commissioner Travis stated that he felt the Board needed to look further into this purchase before making a decision and would

prefer to buy a new vehicle. Commissioner Hall stated that another issue to consider is the dealership and where they are located.

Commissioner Carter stated that Barker Auto Sales in Yanceyville is a local dealership, pays Town and County taxes and he would like to see the Board purchase the Dodge Caliber there because he felt this vehicle would serve the purpose for which it has been requested. Commissioner Battle questioned whether Barker Auto Sales could service the vehicle.

After further discussion, Commissioner Carter moved to purchase the 2007 Dodge Caliber at a cost of \$9,850 from Barker Auto Sales. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Battle moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to continue to look at other options for the purchase of a vehicle for the Senior Center in regards to a mid-size vehicle or mini-van. The motion carried by a vote of three to one with Commissioner Carter voting no and Vice-Chairman Ward absent.

The Board discussed a price range and Mr. Howard stated that the additional funds needed for a new vehicle could be appropriated from Contingency.

Mr. Howard presented a proposed schedule for the 2009-2010 Budget Development Calendar which was deferred to the Board's next meeting.

Mr. Howard stated that due to a request made by the Board at its Retreat, he has provided a copy of the *Agreement Between Caswell County and the Town of Yanceyville for Cooperation in Collection of Taxes* and added that he has been unable to obtain a copy of the Agreement with the Town of Milton. Mr. Howard noted that the County does not have a copy of the Agreement with Milton and there is no record in the Register of Deeds ' Office. Mr. Howard stated that he would contact the Town of Milton to determine if there is an Agreement. Commissioner Hall requested that this item be placed on the Board's next agenda.

Mr. Howard reported that the North Carolina Department of Transportation Scenic Byways Program has accepted the Piedmont Triad Rural Planning Program's proposal to consider adding the Leasburg Loop to the North Carolina Scenic Byways system as an extension of the existing Colonial Heritage Byway. Mr. Howard stated that the placement of this proposal on the state's "study list" is the first step toward formal designation for the byway. Mr. Howard added that the proposed byway extension follows NC 119 north from the Alamance County line to Griers Church Road through the Leasburg community, then continues north on Ridgeville Road, Solomon Lea Road, and Osmond Road, ending back at NC 119. After discussion, Commissioner Battle moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to adopt the following *Resolution of Endorsement for the Designation of the Leasburg Loop Scenic Byway*. The motion carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman Ward absent.

**RESOLUTION OF ENDORSEMENT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE
LEASBURG LOOP SCENIC BYWAY**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has developed a system of designated scenic byways across the state; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Scenic Byway Program is to identify and highlight scenic roads with unusual, exceptional, or unique intrinsic qualities; and

WHEREAS, designated scenic byways provide rural areas with additional tourism opportunities while interpreting and preserving distinctive geologic, natural, and cultural features; and

WHEREAS, designation of this byway will provide visitors a glimpse of our unique local history, geography, and culture along the “road less traveled”.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Caswell County Board of Commissioners hereby endorses the designation of the Leasburg Loop as an extension of the Colonial Heritage Scenic Byway, and further requests the Board of Transportation give the proposed byway extension it’s most serious consideration.

ADOPTED this the 2nd day of February, 2009.

S/Jeremiah Jefferies
Jeremiah Jefferies, Chair
Caswell County Board of Commissioners

S/Wanda Smith
Wanda Smith, Clerk
Caswell County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Hall questioned the criteria and rules used in designating a scenic bylaw and requested that the County Manager provide this information to the Board at its next meeting.

Mr. Howard reported that currently there is not a designated UPS drop point in the County and he has been discussing this with the Clerk of Superior Court. Mr. Howard stated that it has been discussed to have a drop box placed at the New Courthouse and added that there is no cost to the County for this. Mr. Howard added that other locations for the drop box have also been discussed. After further discussion, Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Battle to approve the placement of a UPS Drop Box at the New Courthouse located on 139 East Church Street, Yanceyville, NC. The motion carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman Ward absent.

Mr. Howard announced that the Senior Center Dedication is being planned for April 1, 2009.

Mr. Howard announced that the Board of Commissioners' meeting with the County's auditor is scheduled for Monday, February 16, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Howard informed the Board that the auditor has requested that the Board submit any questions they may have concerning the audit to the County Manager prior to this meeting so that he can forward them to him in preparation for the meeting.

Mr. Howard provided the Board with a letter from the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments, Area Agency on Aging, informing the Board that due to the low number of participation, the Pelham Congregate Nutrition Site will be closed on March 1, 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Battle reported that he attended the Planning Board meeting on January 27, 2009, and was approached with two issues. Commissioner Battle stated that the Planning Board wanted to know how soon the Board of Commissioners wanted the Planning Board to pass the proposed RV Ordinance. Commissioner Battle added that the Planning Board also wanted to know if the Board of Commissioners would be backing the County Planner in citing violators of the County's Ordinances. Commissioner Battle stated that he informed the Planning Board that he would support the County Planner in enforcing the County's Ordinances. Commissioner Battle informed the Board that the County Planner is preparing to send out letters to all individuals who are in violation of the Outdoor Storage Ordinance and the Planning Board is seeking the Board of Commissioners' support in this enforcement. Commissioner Hall stated that the Board of Commissioners had instructed the Planning Board to revisit the proposed RV Ordinance and make some recommendations to be brought back to the Board. Commissioner Hall added that Commissioner Battle could tell the Planning Board to complete its review of the proposed RV Ordinance and bring it back before the Board. Commissioner Hall stated that he felt that enforcement of any Ordinances would have to have the support and backing of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Carter referred to a memo to the Board submitted by the Clerk to the Board regarding lapel mikes for Board members. Ms. Wanda Smith, Clerk to the Board, reported that at the Board's Retreat she was instructed to obtain a cost for the purchase of individual lapel mikes to be worn by the Board members during its meetings. Ms. Smith informed the Board that Selectrocom is the company that installed the speaker system when the Historic Courthouse was renovated, but since that time Selectrocom has been sold to Audio & Light, located in Greensboro, NC. Ms. Smith reported that she spoke with Mr. Jeff Hedgecock of Audio & Light and he estimated that the total cost of lapel mikes for the Board members would be approximately \$6,000 – \$7,000, but could not give a firm cost until he came and evaluated the system and knew exactly what they would need to do as far as antenna distribution, etc. Commissioner Carter stated that this is something that is really needed in order for the Board members to be heard by the audience during its meetings. Commissioner Carter requested that this item be placed on the Board's next agenda for consideration. The Board was agreeable to this.

Commissioner Carter reported that Bojangles, located in Yanceyville, has held its Ribbon Cutting ceremony, of which some Commissioners attended, and it appears that their business is very good.

Commissioner Carter reported that there are still major problems on the Walters Mill Road with mud, debris, and congestion in the road.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Battle moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis that the Board enter into closed session to consider the competence, terms of appointment, and performance of an individual public officer (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)), and to preserve the Attorney/Client privilege (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)). The motion carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman Ward absent.

REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Battle to resume regular session. The motion carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman Ward absent.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Board discussed further the Ford F-450 ambulance unit that is currently at Stearns Ford in Burlington with significant engine and turbo repair needed. After considerable discussion, Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to authorize the County Manager to contact Stearns Ford in Burlington, NC, give them a Purchase Order Number and grant approval to repair the County's Ford F-450 ambulance unit, not to exceed \$12,500, and request that they submit a full detailed report to the Board of Commissioners as to why the engine needed repair and the effects on the warranty left on the vehicle. The motion carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman Ward absent.

(At 9:20 p.m. Vice-Chairman Ward entered the meeting).

Commissioner Hall requested that the County Manager prepare for the next meeting an all inclusive report on general and specific warranties on County vehicles and anything the County should be doing to protect those warranties.

HAYES IRON AND METAL

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, reported that Hayes Iron and Metal will soon be requesting from the Board a variance of the Outdoor Storage Ordinance.

BOARD RETREAT GOALS AND PRIORITIES

Commissioner Hall requested that all Board members who have not done so to turn in their rated Board Retreat Goals and Priorities to the Clerk to the Board.

THE ADJOURNMENT

At 9:40 p.m. Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board

Jeremiah Jefferies
Chairman
