

MINUTES – APRIL 18, 2011

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, April 18, 2011. Members present: Nathaniel Hall, Chairman, Kenneth D. Travis, Vice-Chairman, Erik D. Battle, William E. Carter, Jeremiah Jefferies, and Cathy W. Lucas. Absent: Gordon G. Satterfield. Also present: Kevin B. Howard, County Manager, Brian Ferrell, Interim County Attorney and Angela Evans representing The Caswell Messenger. 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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Hall stated that he would like to add to the agenda Discussion of Budget Directives for Staff.

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Battle to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Discussion of Budget Directives for Staff. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The following items were included on the Consent Agenda:

- A) Approval of Minutes of April 4, 2011 Regular Meeting

- B) Tax Director's Monthly Report for March, 2011
 - Total Amount of Taxes Collected for March, 2011 \$420,365.07
 - Tax Maps/Cards 100.50
 - County Maps 39.60
 - Beer License 25.00
 - NSF Charge 225.00
 - 2012 Prepayments 5,165.68

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Hall opened the floor for public comments.

Mr. Rodney Beagle and Mrs. Christy Beagle came before the Board regarding the Summer Camp Program at the Parks and Recreation this summer. Mrs. Beagle stated that she had two children, Dylan and Drew, who are 6 and 7 years old. They attended the Summer Day Camp last year and loved it. Mrs. Beagle stated that she was a little skeptical about putting her children there but after talking with Tonya and the teachers there she was convinced. She stated that right before Christmas she received a letter from Ashley stating that there would not be a summer camp this year. Ms. Beagle stated that in the letter there was mention of the employees needing to be licensed. After doing some research Ms. Beagle found this to be not true and that summer days camps are exempt from this. She did find that if the employees were licensed the camps could be subsidized through the childcare program. Ms. Beagle stated that she was paying one hundred (\$100.00) dollars per child, per week to attend this summer camp program. She stated that she could take her children out of the county for a lot less money per week but she wanted her children to be with their friends. Ms. Beagle stated that she was really offended by the letter that she received. She stated that she had talked to Mr. Howard earlier today and that he had informed her that the Parks and Recreation Department was trying to still have a half day summer camp from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Ms. Beagle stated that she did not want to drop her children off at 7:00 in the morning. She stated that she made some telephone calls to the commissioners and that they seemed unaware that the program had been dropped.

Commissioner Lucas asked Mr. Howard how long the county had offered the Summer Camp Program. Mr. Howard responded since 2007. Mrs. Beagle added that she had spoken with an employee that had worked with the Summer Camp Program and she had been a part of it for five years.

Commissioner Battle asked Ms. Beagle if she was the only person who received this letter. Ms. Beagle responded that all the parents of the children who attended the Summer Camp Program and the workers of the Summer Camp Program had all received the letter.

Chairman Hall informed Mr. & Mrs. Beagle that the Board did not normally take action during the public comments part of the meeting but the Board would get with staff and get them an answer.

Commissioner Travis asked Mr. Howard when he thought the parents would know if the county would offer a Summer Camp Program. Mr. Howard explained that he was waiting on the decision from the school board on when school would start. The Summer Camp Program would need to be held at the Annex Building because the gym is not air conditioned. Commissioner Travis added that half days would be hard to arrange for the parents that work. Mr. Howard responded that there were sports camps scheduled for every week this summer. Commissioner Lucas asked if this was something new. Mr. Howard responded no. The Parks and Recreation normally has sports camps during the summer but the sports camps were increased this summer. Commissioner Lucas stated that it sounded like the sports camps were taking the place of the Summer Camp Program.

Mrs. Beagle stated that Ashley had made the statement that the summer camp program was losing money. She stated that her children had an "awesome time" at this camp. The teachers were awesome especially Ms. Stewart. Ms. Stewart works with the special needs children at

Oakwood Elementary and that she had connected very well with Ms. Beagle's children. Ms. Beagle made the statement that the camp kept the children on track for school because of some of the activities that were being done like keeping a daily journal.

Chairman Hall asked Mr. Howard to get with the Parks and Recreation Director and to get back with the Board. Chairman Hall wanted answers on why the letter was sent out and why the program was discontinued. Commissioner Lucas asked if it was possible to get the number of children that attended the program in the past. Mr. Howard responded that he would have that information within two to three days.

CASWELL COUNTY DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION SSPP

Ms. Melissa Williamson, CDOT Director, came before the Board to seek approval for the CDOT's System Safety Program Plan (SSPP).

Ms. Williamson stated that the North Carolina Department of Transportation was conducting reviews of all the transit systems in the state of North Carolina. Ms. Williamson stated that Caswell was fortunate enough to fall at the top of the list. The North Carolina Department of Public Transportation went through CDOT's records, preventative maintenance schedules, and safety equipment as well as observed the drivers as they were leaving and coming back to the facility. It was a very thorough audit. Out of one hundred and two (102) items NCDOT only found ten (1) items that needed to be corrected by CDOT. These items have all been corrected except for this SSPP plan being approved by the Board. Ms. Williamson stated "The System Safety Program Plan was developed utilizing established guidelines listed in the procedural manuals of the North Carolina Department of Transportation Standard Operating Procedures SSPP-001 and the State Management Plan. The SSPP consists of and addresses the required six core elements: 1) Driver/Employment Selection; 2) Driver/Employee Training; 3) Safety Data Acquisition Analysis; 4) Drug & Alcohol and Abuse Program; 5) Vehicle Maintenance and 6) Security. Caswell County Division of Transportation completed its SSPP Review on January 5th and 6th. The review was conducted by Henry Staten, Safety and Training Specialist with the North Carolina Public Transportation Division. Henry has reviewed Caswell County Division of Transportation's SSPP and it has been approved by NCDOT and meets all of the requirements." Ms. Williamson stated that CDOT likes for their drivers to get additional training in other areas besides what is required by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. All the drivers are certified in CPR and First Aid training. They all have map reading skills and also go through a course in how to handle irate people. Ms. Williamson stated that she encourages her drivers to take additional classes that will help them with their jobs. Every new employee that is hired has to go through all of these classes. Ms. Williamson also goes on a ride along with the new drivers to make sure that they are doing things the correct way. She will then follow up with two more driver ride alongs at six months and then again after a year to make sure that the drivers are adhering to the safety practices. All the drivers have to fill out a Vehicle Check sheet before they leave in the mornings and then fill out another Vehicle Check sheet when they come back in the afternoons. Ms. Williamson stated "The only step left is to have our governing board approve our SSPP and we will be in full compliance with NCDOT."

Commissioner Jefferies asked how often the drivers had to fill out the vehicle check sheets. Ms. Williamson responded daily. She stated that CDOT has to keep these records for the life of the vehicles. Each time a driver gets into a van he or she has to go through this check sheet and then it is done again at the end of the day.

Commissioner Lucas asked if the System Safety Program Plan (SSPP) was something new. Ms. Williamson responded no. There was one already in place but there have been changes made to it and it is in a different format. She stated that each transit system had its own program and the state wanted all the transit systems to follow the same program.

Commissioner Lucas asked what items had to be corrected after the inspection. Ms. Williamson stated that the bus had a tire wrench that was not bolted down. Mr. Staten recommended that CDOT remove the wrench completely since the drivers are not the people who normally change the tires. The bus came to CDOT in this condition. There was an emergency exit sign missing in one of the vans. This was nothing that CDOT did. It was delivered to them that way. The emergency exit sign has been posted in the van. Another item that was cited was the SSPP. This program had to be accepted by the NCDOT before it could be approved by the commissioners. Everyone was cited on this item. Commissioner Lucas asked why it had to be approved by NCDOT before the county commissioners. Ms. Williamson responded that this is what she was instructed to do by NCDOT. She was instructed to send the SSPP to the NCDOT for approval first.

Commissioner Lucas asked Ms. Williamson if she had stated that all the items had been corrected. Ms. Williamson responded yes that all items had been corrected. A letter was sent stating that all deficiencies were corrected.

Commissioner Carter asked how many vans were in service with CDOT. Ms. Williamson responded ten (10). Commissioner Carter asked if Ms. Williamson expected any cutbacks from the state. Ms. Williamson responded that she had not heard of any but there is a rumor that the Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) Grant could be affected.

Commissioner Lucas stated that she had concerns as to whether all the items were corrected. Ms. Williamson stated that the last item to be corrected is the System Safety Program Plan (SSPP) that the Board has to approve tonight. Commissioner Lucas stated she was taking Ms. Williamson at her word that all the items were corrected. Commissioner Lucas asked Ms. Williamson to provide a list of the items that were deficient and how they were corrected by the next meeting.

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to adopt the System Safety Program (SSPP) as presented by CDOT. The motion carried unanimously.

FORESTRY SERVICE/WATER QUALITY

Mr. Steve Thompson, County Ranger, Mr. Bryan Singleton, Assistant County Ranger and Mr. John McBride, D-11 Water Quality Forester came before the board to discuss issues with soil erosion as it relates to timbering.

Mr. Thompson stated that he understood there were some concerns regarding bad water quality in reference to timbering. He stated that there were no laws in North Carolina to protect water quality due to forestry. He stated that the Forestry Service does go out and check the areas that are being timbered. The Forestry Service makes recommendations on how to correct issues when the loggers are not in compliance. Nine hundred and twelve (912) inspections have been done by the Caswell County Forestry Service in the past five years which covered twenty-five thousand seven hundred (25,700) acres of land. This was in an eight (8) county area, in which these three men are responsible, there were four thousand and twenty (4,020) inspections performed for over ninety-nine thousand (99,000) acres of land. Mr. Thompson informed the Board that there were no notification requirements for the logging companies to notify the Forestry Service that they were logging in the county. If the Forestry Service happened to be driving by a logging site they would stop and inspect the site. When this is done a paper trail is started on this site. The Forestry Service checks to make sure that there is no soil erosion.

Chairman Hall asked how many violations had been written. Mr. Thompson responded thirty-four (34) violations had been written in the past five years. If the Forestry Service looks at a job site and finds violations and they are corrected within a certain period of time it is not reported as a violation. He stated that if the Forestry Service can explain the correction that is needed and the loggers get it corrected it saves a lot of time and money for both parties involved. Mr. McBride added that this is why there are a lot of inspections done.

Chairman Hall stated that he was not going to assume that soil erosion is caused only by timbering but he wanted to know what else could cause soil erosion. Mr. Thompson responded the only thing the Forestry Service could inspect is forestry items. He stated that the Forestry Service recommends following the Best Management Practices when timbering. Mr. Singleton added that looking at it from a logging standpoint, such as clear cutting land, there will be some runoff. There needs to be barriers installed to prevent runoff.

Chairman Hall stated that he drove past Farmer Lake this past Saturday and the lake was red. He stated that it was not all from forestry. He asked what was being done to mitigate this. Mr. Thompson responded that any soil that is exposed has a potential for erosion. He stated if a person plows a field the soil is exposed and this could cause soil erosion. Any soil that is exposed has the potential for erosion. Clay soil will turn water red. He added that as they inspect logging sites they look for deposits of sediment in the streams. If there is sediment present this has to be corrected so that no further sediment can get into the stream. Mr. Singleton added that agriculture and development could also cause soil erosion.

Chairman Hall asked if there were any requirements for buffers. Mr. McBride responded that the Roanoke River Basin does not have buffers. Most of Caswell County falls in the Roanoke River Basin area. Jordan Lake does require that buffers are in place within 50 feet of the water. There has to be a certain amount of vegetation that has to be left within these areas to prevent soil erosion. Mr. McBride added that when getting into sediment rules the number of fish kills is looked at. Caswell County is also included in the Cape Fear River Basin. Mr. Singleton stated that there is talk about making a statewide buffer rule. Chairman Hall stated that the County has buffer rules in the county's Subdivision Ordinance.

Mr. McBride continued that the Forestry Service does not have anything to do with construction and how it affects soil erosion. Mr. Singleton stated the Forestry Service can only deal with forestry.

Chairman Hall asked what about utility companies coming in, how are they handled? Mr. Thompson responded that this would need to be handled by the Division of Water Quality.

Chairman Hall asked how many perennial streams are in Caswell County. Mr. Thompson, Mr. Singleton and Mr. McBride responded "a bunch".

Commissioner Lucas asked how Caswell County's water quality is. Mr. Thompson responded that if a tract of land is given one year it will naturally heal itself. Mr. Singleton added that if a tract of land is found in noncompliance the loggers will have to follow the SMZ. Commissioner Lucas asked Bryan if the Forestry Service monitored the SMZ. Mr. Thompson responded yes. Mr. McBride added that the Forestry Service makes sure that the Best Management Practices are followed. He stated that from the data that has been collected it is working.

Chairman Hall asked if there is runoff in the short term that will affect well water. Mr. McBride responded no not in the short term. Chairman Hall stated that he has seen incidences where well water turns red. Mr. Thompson responded that is service water. Chairman Hall disagreed. He thinks the runoff affects the well water.

Commissioner Lucas asked if a logging company comes into the county does the Forestry Service inspect the site. Mr. Thompson responded if we know about it we will be on the site within five days. He stated that the loggers want the Forestry Service there because they want to know if they are in compliance or not. The logging companies do not want to have to come back and correct any violations after they have left a site. If the Forestry Service finds they are not in compliance they inform the loggers how to correct the noncompliance.

Commissioner Lucas asked if the Forestry Service has ever had a fuel leak. Mr. Thompson responded yes and the loggers have to remove so much of the soil to correct this violation. Mr. Singleton added that this is part of the Best Management Practices.

Chairman Hall thanked the gentleman from the Forestry Service for coming.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW PIEDMONT TRIAD REGIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATE

Chairman Hall stated that the two COGs were in the process of merging so the Board would need to appoint a delegate to the new board. He stated that come July the PTCOG will no longer exist.

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to appoint Chairman Hall as the delegate to the New Piedmont Triad Regional Council.

Commissioner Lucas asked what the term was for this position. Chairman Hall responded one year and that this is a mid-year change.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

CASWELL SENIOR SERVICES – MEALS ON WHEELS BID

Mr. Howard stated that the Meals on Wheels contract is reviewed every three years. The low bid for this year was Golden Corral. “Golden Corral’s bid was \$3.72 per meal. Golden Corral’s price was lower than what we are currently paying per meal which will enable us to serve more clients.” Mr. Howard asked that Golden Corral be awarded the Senior Nutrition Contract.

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to award Golden Corral the Senior Nutrition Contract.

Commissioner Battle asked about the contract. Mr. Howard responded that it would be brought back to the Board. Chairman Hall added that the county attorney would review the contract as well.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard introduced Ms. Donna Kopec as the Senior Services Director. Chairman Hall added that the commissioners needed to stop by the Senior Center to get better acquainted with Ms. Kopec.

2012 CJPP GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Howard stated that this grant application was in conjunction with Person County. There are no county dollars involved. Commissioner Lucas asked if there was a risk of losing these funds. Mr. Howard responded that there has been talk about the state taking over this program.

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Battle to approve the 2012 CJPP Grant Application. The motion carried unanimously.

SENIOR CENTER STREAM WALK TRAIL CONTRACT

Mr. Howard informed the Board the Mr. Ferrell, County Attorney, had made some changes to the Senior Center Stream Walk Trail Contract.

Mr. Ferrell stated that he had been in contact with Frith Construction on some changes to the contract. There are still some other items that needed to be changed. Mr. Ferrell informed the Board that they could approve the contract subsequent upon the county attorney’s approval of the final contract. Commissioner Lucas asked about the specifics of the changes. Mr. Ferrell responded that the scope of work needed to be more detailed. He wanted the expectations to be clearer. Commissioner Lucas asked if the contract would come back before the Board. Mr. Ferrell stated that it would be.

Chairman Hall stated that no action would be taken on the Senior Center Stream Walk Trail Contract until the negotiation process is completed.

COUNTY TELECOMMUTING POLICY

Mr. Howard stated that other counties allowed their employee to work from home due to the increasing gas prices. He asked the Board if they were willing to allow this policy and if so a policy needed to be put into place.

Chairman Hall instructed Mr. Howard to design a policy and to present it to the Board.

Commissioner Lucas asked if there would be certain positions that would be allowed this flexibility. Mr. Howard responded that Home Health already uses it for the Home Health nurses since their areas are located near their home. After the nurses perform their visits they are allowed to input that data in the computer from their homes.

Chairman Hall asked that telecommuting be defined and made clear why it is needed. Mr. Howard stated that this would allow county employees to work from home two days a week. Mr. Ferrell stated that telecommuting is a flexible work arrangement where the employees are allowed to work from home.

Chairman Hall stated he would like to get a recommendation from the county manager on the definition of telecommuting, what departments it will cover and who will monitor it. He also asked for the pros and cons for allowing telecommuting.

Commissioner Battle asked if this recommendation could be presented at the next meeting. Mr. Howard responded yes.

Commissioner Lucas asked what situation brought this about. She asked if there was a certain department that was using this. Mr. Howard responded yes. Commissioner Lucas asked which department. Mr. Howard responded the Health Department.

BUDGET AMENDMENT #6

Mr. Howard presented Budget Amendment #6 to the Board and stated that the justifications were on the last page.

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Battle to approve Budget Amendment #6. The motion carried by a vote of five to one with Commissioner Lucas voting no.

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET DIRECTIVES FOR STAFF

Chairman Hall stated that the Board should give staff some guidelines on the 2011-2012 budget.

Commissioner Battle stated that he did not want to see a line by line budget from each department. He stated he would rather see a summary from each department. Commissioner

Lucas disagreed. She wanted to see a line by line budget from each department. She felt it was the most important job of a county commissioner to do this.

Chairman Hall asked for directives from the Board on how to build the budget.

Commissioner Lucas stated that no one wanted a tax increase. She stated that the Board needed to do whatever it would take to prevent this from happening.

Commissioner Travis stated that each department needed to list their needs. He asked if the employees were going to receive raises. He stated that the budget needed to get moving.

Commissioner Carter stated that the last two years had been tight. He stated that the Board needed to wait and see what the state is going to do. Commissioner Travis responded that the Board could not wait on the state.

Commissioner Carter asked if the Board could use the money in the Fund Balance to balance the budget. Chairman Hall responded yes that money could be used.

Commissioner Carter stated that when the commissioners met with the representatives last Tuesday the representatives did not know anything about the budget. However he met with the Library Board on Wednesday and they already knew that their budget would be cut by fifteen (15%) percent.

Chairman Hall stated that the Board needed to come up with a policy for staff. Commissioner Lucas asked what the practice was for last year. Chairman Hall responded the Board told the county manager what they expected to see.

Commissioner Jefferies recommended giving the county manager the opportunity to prepare the budget and then present it to the Board.

Commissioner Battle asked if all staff positions would be budgeted this year. He wanted the budget to include all positions even the ones that had been cut out.

Chairman Hall reiterated that he wanted to have a policy in place so that the staff would know how to start their budget process. He did not want them to be "in the blind".

Commissioner Lucas stated to keep the spending levels at last year's numbers.

Commissioner Carter agreed with Commissioner Jefferies that the county manager should be allowed to work with staff on the budget.

Commissioner Lucas stated that each department needed to provide their capital needs.

Mr. Howard stated that it was his goal to present the budget at the next meeting. He stated that he had an idea of what the Board was expecting.

Chairman Hall stated that he wanted a consensus from the Board on what they expected from the staff on the budget. He asked for a vote up or down on the following items.

- 1) Tax increases – consensus was no tax increases.
- 2) Staff salary increase, cost of living adjustment – Five to one vote in favor of raises
- 3) Use Fund Balance to balance budget – Did not pass.
- 4) Budget spending at last year's numbers – unanimous vote in favor of.
- 5) Provide Capital Budget – Did not pass.
- 6) Budget for all positions including the positions that had been cut out in the past five years – unanimous vote in favor of.

Commissioner Lucas asked to see a list of the employees and their salaries. Mr. Howard responded that he would provide that information.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Meeting with Town Council

Mr. Howard informed the Board that the Variance request for the Detention Center had been approved by the Town Council at their last meeting. He also informed the Board that the Town Council wanted to have a joint meeting with the County Commissioner to discuss the parking lot issue.

Commissioner Travis stated that the Board just needed to vote on whether they wanted to lease the parking lot or not. Chairman Hall stated that this item would be put on the next agenda.

Commissioner Lucas asked about the legality of the land for the old municipal parking lot. She stated that the parking lot was supposed to come back to the county if it was not being used anymore. Mr. Howard responded that there was no deed restrictions put on the deed. Commissioner Lucas stated that the Board needed to find out if the land is going to come back to the county.

Chairman Hall added that the Board will have to deal with the sheriff's contract with the Town as well.

County Assembly Day

Mr. Howard informed the Board that County Assembly Day would be held on May 25th. If the commissioners signed up for this by May 18th there would not be a charge.

Health Insurance

Chairman Hall asked Mr. Howard to explain the Health Insurance issue to the Board.

Mr. Howard stated that the Association would not provide the counties with health insurance after in June. He stated that the process has already begun to find another healthcare provider. There may be a 15-20% increase in health insurance premiums.

Chairman Hall stated that this will be on the next meeting agenda since it would impact the budget for next year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Carter stated that the Hyconeechee Library Board met last Wednesday and decided to dissolve. There will be a fifteen (15%) percent cut from the state which will be about ten thousand (\$10,000.00) dollars in reduction.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Battle moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies that the Board enter into Closed Session to preserve the Attorney/Client privilege (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)), and to consider the compensation, terms of appointment and performance of an individual public officer (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)). The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to resume regular session. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hall stated that the problem with the soil erosion at the Senior Center could cost the county as much as sixty thousand (\$60,000.00) dollars. He asked the Board if they wanted to allow the county attorney to contact DENR to work on the fines and to have the County Manager to quickly move to correct this situation.

Commissioner Travis asked what could be done to the company that caused the problem. Chairman Hall responded that the county attorney would review the contract. Mr. Ferrell stated that he would review the contract and see what could be done. Commissioner Lucas asked who the contractor was. Mr. Howard responded the general contractor was Quality Construction.

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Battle for the county attorney to proceed with the communication with DENR on the penalties.

Commissioner Travis stated that he was sure that the attorney would do what is needed but he would hope that the penalties could be reduced. Mr. Ferrell responded that the county had thirty (30) days to resolve the penalty. He would bring information back to the Board at the next meeting on his conversations with DENR.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion carried unanimously for counsel to proceed with the discussions with DENR to rectify the penalties for the violations at the Senior Center.

Chairman Hall asked how the Board wanted to proceed with getting the problem rectified.

Commissioner Carter stated that the county manager needed to take immediate action to address the problem.

Chairman Hall asked if this work needed to be advertised. Mr. Howard responded no, the county did not need to advertise because of the amount of money that was involved.

Chairman Hall suggested contacting contractors to give bids on the work that is needed at the Senior Center. Commissioner Lucas asked how much time did the county have to address the problem. Mr. Ferrell responded that the original date was in March and they only gave the county seven days to get it corrected. Mr. Howard added that it rained five of the seven days that were given. Chairman Hall added that is why the county attorney will have to talk to the higher powers at DENR.

Commissioner Travis asked Mr. Howard if he knew everything that needed to be done at the Senior Center. Mr. Howard responded that he had met with DENR over at the Senior Center and flagged the areas that needed work as far as re-grading and reseeding.

Commissioner Travis asked when the bids would be sent out. Mr. Howard responded that several landscaping contractors had been contacted but he was requiring a site visit before he would accept the bids. Chairman Hall asked if the county could contract this out themselves. He stated that sod could be bought and put into place where needed. Mr. Howard responded there is more work out there than just putting down sod. Commissioner Carter added that the county manager had received one bid. Commissioner Travis responded that the county needed to receive more than one bid. Chairman Hall added that the job may need to be broken down into several areas. Immediate response needed to be taken because the county is facing a fine.

Carter moved to give authority to the county manager to get the work done. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

Commissioner Travis moved to have the county manager to get bids to see what the lowest bid would be. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

Chairman Hall asked what would happen if no one else bided.

Commissioner Jefferies recommended getting the Cooperative Extension to make an assessment of the work that is needed at the Senior Center.

Mr. Howard asked if the motion could give the county manager the authority to do whatever is necessary up to a certain amount.

Commissioner Lucas stated that she would like to see the sixty (\$60,000.00) be used for something else.

Mr. Ferrell stated that the county had thirty days to appeal the fine or to pay the fine. Mr. Ferrell added that there have been problems with the site from the beginning. While in construction DENR had issues with the grading. He stated that DENR had been involved for a long time.

Chairman Hall stated that he thought the County had started a file several years ago that if the county had problems with a contractor it would be noted for future reference. He stated that staff would have to be in place to keep this file up. He asked the County Manager for a report on "where the ball was dropped". Attorney Ferrell stated that he had already started that process. Commissioner Battle stated that this could take a long time. Commissioner Travis stated that after the problem is corrected at the Senior Center then who is at fault could be found.

Commissioner Carter moved to allow the county manager to take bids up to \$60,000.00 and to take the lowest bid and to see that this works gets done quickly. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

Commissioner Battle moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to direct the county manager to take bids and to notify the Board of the bids for a decision.

Commissioner Carter stated that he thought the Board should set an amount so that a called meeting would not have to happen.

Commissioner Battle stated that the people that bid on this job should be certified. Mr. Howard stated they would have to be bonded. Chairman Hall stated that there is a difference between being certified and being bonded. Attorney Ferrell stated that a person has to have a contractor's license if the job is over thirty thousand (\$30,000.00) dollars.

Commissioner Lucas asked how the contractors would be notified. Mr. Howard responded that calls are being made to contractors and that ten or twelve landscape contractors have been contacted.

Commissioner Jefferies reiterated that he thought the Cooperative Extension needed to be involved in this process. Chairman Hall asked that the county manager consider Commissioner Jefferies suggestion and to make sure that the project got on its way. Mr. Howard responded that he would contact the Cooperative Extension office.

Commissioner Carter asked if there would be a called meeting. Chairman Hall responded yes.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion carried unanimously for the county manager to take bids and to notify the Board of the bids for a called meeting to make a decision.

Mr. Howard informed the Board that he planned to take three or four days for vacation after the May 2nd meeting.

ADOURNMENT

At 8:58 p.m. Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Battle to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Paula P. Seamster
Clerk to the Board

Nathaniel Hall
Chairman
