

MINUTES – JULY 20, 2011

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners reconvened its meeting at the Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 8:00 A.m. on Wednesday, July 20, 2011. Members present: Nathaniel Hall, Chairman, Kenneth D. Travis, Vice-Chairman, Jeremiah Jefferies and Gordon G. Satterfield. Absent: Erik D. Battle, William E. Carter and Cathy W. Lucas. 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.

Chairman Hall stated “We do not have a written agenda and we did not send out one but there are a couple of things that we wanted to cover quickly before we start our building tours. I heard from Ms. Lucas early this morning and she will not be here this morning. I have not heard from any of the other commissioners.” The Clerk informed the Board the Mr. Carter had a meeting at work. Chairman Hall continued “Mr. Carter had a meeting so that leaves Mr. Battle. Let’s talk about the tennis courts first.”

TENNIS COURTS

Mr. Howard stated “You have in front of you a packet with pictures. Recreation called on some references and got some input from some of the folks that worked had been done for. We are looking at two difference process. (Mr. Howard showed the Board a sample of the versa court system). That square is a sample of the versa court system, the interlocking pieces that they use. We are still waiting on the US Tennis Association for the grant but they have told us that the maximum amount of a grant we would get is about 20% or up to \$35,000.00 on the cost of the project. We were hoping to have their decision today so you could possibly make a decision. They recommended the asphalt. There is some information that they have seen apparently, some groups say that the versa court is not a certified playing surface so if we were to have tournaments out there or our high school were to have a tournament there are some questions and we are trying to do some research on that now on whether or not they would be allowed to play on that kind of surface. It is also the most expensive of what we are looking at as well. It costs \$170,000.00 to do all six with the court surfacing and I think the paving was around \$120,000. I have talked with the School System. Dr. Barker said just as soon as we know how much it is going to cost to let him know. They are looking at trying to do about 50% of what we have to pay out. We have a \$10,000.00 grant already. If we get up to the \$35,000 on this one that will leave with the asphalt around \$85,000 and if they can pay for half of that then it would leave us about \$40,000 to come up with to do the tennis courts.”

Commissioner Satterfield stated “I thought that Ruston Paving’s contract was around \$110,000.” Mr. Howard responded “Okay. I knew that both of them were not over \$120,000. Ruston was the lower of the two. That is why we called their references. Ashley spoke to the references and she said that everybody she talked with on Ruston Paving said they did an outstanding job. They came in and got it done quickly and were just very professional in everything they did.”

Commissioner Travis asked "Don't some of these courts have problems with roots?" Mr. Howard responded "I don't think so. We did talk about taking some of the back trees down but that was just to keep this from happening in the future. I don't think there is a root problem. It is just they have not been sealed over the years and water has gotten in and frozen and cracked it up." Commissioner Satterfield added "That has been the problem over there, Commissioner Travis, it has not been maintained by anybody. I have watched it over the years because I have played tennis over there. What happens is it starts out as little bitty cracks and instead of somebody going out there before the winter time and sealing it, they have just left it and the water gets down in those cracks and expands those joints and it has just gotten worse over the years. I have not seen any signs of any roots. I have not seen any signs of any kind of settling anywhere on the courts. It has just been a lack of maintenance."

Commissioner Travis stated "Before we spend any money on these tennis courts we need to make sure that we are going to maintain it. If we are not going to maintain them then we are wasting money by fixing them." Commissioner Satterfield responded "I think that is the biggest problem, the lack of attention."

Chairman Hall stated "So the issue is whether tournaments can be played on a certain surface. If you will contact the appropriate associations they can tell you that." Mr. Howard responded "I just did not have that for this morning. Ashley is working on that now. The question was first raised by Ruston Paving. They said that some associations do not recognize it as a playing surface and also when it rains it gets slick." Chairman Hall stated "I understand but we need to confirm that." Mr. Howard stated "I am sure the US Tennis Association can give her that information. We are pretty close to getting the grant. Ashley has been going back and forth and answering their questions and giving them information for the grant. I thought we would have the information on the grant today the way it was going last week but we should have all the information by the first meeting in August."

Commissioner Satterfield asked "What does the USTA recommend?" Mr. Howard responded "When they gave us an idea on what the most would be if they were to give us the grant, they said they recommended the asphalt." Commissioner Satterfield asked "Well will they give us the grant if we do this other?" Mr. Howard responded "They will, they said the decision was up to us on which one we wanted to use. They would not tell us which one but they recommended the asphalt."

PARKING FOR COURTHOUSE

Mr. Howard stated "Right now the Town is not towing from the parking lot. I actually spoke with Haynes Brigman. What they are trying to do is to get some ordinances together so when they do tow they are covered legally. With the information I presented to you last week, they could not get here before today, but I am going to have the architects to come up to give me some ideas on what areas will be closed off for the construction of the detention center. We will see what areas we may be able to put a temporary parking lot in to help to cover some of this. The bottom line is, once the detention center starts and we close it off we are not going to have enough spaces for that peak time. Actually today when we go down it may be a good day to see

how many cars are down there. I think they will be parking across the street because I don't think the Town will be enforcing that today either. My recommendation is going to be that we get the employees to park in the lower parking lots to free up the upper lots for the public. We will put signs up for the Recreation parking and any other parking areas. I know the first court session for the first week of July did not use the parking lot. I have heard that the bank was upset because they used their parking lot. They used the first visible parking lot that they felt was public and the bank was one of them. They have not called me but I have heard through the grapevine that the bank was a little bit upset because their parking lot filled up for a couple hours during court. I know that they are parking at the Presbyterian Church as well. I may be able to go to some of these folks and request permission for them to park there. I did not think about that until I heard that they had filled up as well."

Chairman Hall stated "Whatever you recommend I propose that we do it. I think that is within your authority. The only thing I would request is that you lay it out, lay out the lots and lay out the proposal and bring it back to us for information or action but we don't need to take a whole lot of time." Mr. Howard responded "I will have a completed plan by the first meeting in August so we can get this taken care of." Chairman Hall continued "We know that parking is going to be an issue so we need to deal with it. One thing that we have not dealt with from the commissioners is the west parking lot being taken by the superior court judge. I had a personal conversation with the superior court judge and I told him before we talked that is was a personal conversation because the Board had not discussed it and the Board had not authorized me to talk to him about anything but I did express my personal concern about him confiscated a lot without giving the Board the opportunity to deal with the parking situation. The order that he did was dated June 29th. He told me that he was trying to protect the parking and the status quo. I told him that we had heard that the lots were going to be closed but as far as I knew the Town had not communicated anything formally, certainly not to me, and if they had communicated to the county manager formally that I was not aware of it, so we could not deal with rumors. Once the rumors were out there we felt they were pretty sure but I felt that the judge should have given this Board the opportunity to deal with the problem or the situation and he did not. He just confiscated the lot. At some point this Board is going to have to decide if we want to deal with that, not deal with it, ignore it or whatever we want to do. As far as the other parking situation we can address that and it should not take long for us to do that." Mr. Howard responded "Once we know about the space for temporary parking that will help the situation greatly."

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S CONTRACT

Chairman Hall stated "I thought we were going to put this on our August meeting agenda." Mr. Howard responded "His contract ended June 30th and we did not extend that or anything." Chairman Hall stated "He brought that to our attention back in June because I remember talking about it. We will put this on the August agenda and handle it. This was a special meeting and we did not send out an agenda so without an agenda we did not give the other commissioners the option of being here."

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies that the Board enter into Closed Session 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.

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Satterfield to accept the recommendation of the County Manager to promote Ms. Angy Turner as Section 8 Director. The motion carried unanimously.

WORK SESSION

The Board toured the county buildings to see what capital projects were needed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:10 a.m. Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Satterfield to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Paula P. Seamster
Clerk to the Board

Nathaniel Hall
Chairman
