

Code of Ethics for the
Board of Commissioners of
Caswell County, North Carolina

WHEREAS, public officials are charged with upholding the public trust, and;

WHEREAS, public trust in its elected officials is essential to the orderly and successful conduct of the public's business and government, and;

WHEREAS, the proper operation of democratic representative government depends upon public confidence in the integrity of the government and the responsible exercise of the public trust conferred upon public officials, and;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon public officials to conform the exercise of their public duties in an ethical manner which warrants the trust of the public, and;

WHEREAS, Section 160A-86 of the North Carolina General Statutes requires local governing boards to adopt a code of ethics.

NOW THEREFORE, the Caswell County Board of Commissioners adopts the following Code of Ethics as a guide for members of this Board to follow in the course of conducting the business of the public.

CODE OF ETHICS

The purpose of this Code of Ethics is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for the Board of Commissioners and to assist in the determination of what conduct is appropriate in particular cases. It is not a substitute for the law or the best judgment of a board member.

SECTION 1.

Board members should obey all laws applicable to their official actions and should be guided by the spirit as well as the letter of the law. Mere disagreement with the policy position of another Board member does not warrant a charge of unethical behavior and the making of such a charge is itself unethical.

Board members should endeavor to keep current, using all resources available to them, about new or ongoing legal or ethical issues which they might face in their official duties.

SECTION 2.

Board members should act with integrity and independence from improper influence as they exercise their official duties. For example they should:

- Be unaffected by improper influence while at the same time be open to consideration of the opinions and ideas of others.
- Disclose contacts and information about issues that they receive outside of public meetings and refrain from seeking or receiving information about quasi-judicial matters outside of the quasi-judicial proceeding itself.
- Treat other board members and the public with respect.
- Not reach conclusions on issues until all sides have been heard
- Avoid conflicts of interest
- Board members should make decisions based on the public good and not on their desires or considerations of special interests.

SECTION 3.

a. Board members should avoid impropriety in the exercise of their official duties. Although opinions may vary about what behavior is appropriate in any given situation, this Board will consider impropriety in terms of whether a reasonable person who is aware of all the relevant facts and circumstances surrounding the member's action would conclude that the action was inappropriate.

b. If a board member believes that his or her action, while legal and ethical, may give the appearance of not being so, he or she should seek the advice of the board's attorney and should consider publicly disclosing the facts of the situation and the steps taken, if any, to resolve it.

SECTION 4.

Board members should faithfully perform the duties of their office, and should always keep in mind the trust placed in them by the public. Members should faithfully attend and prepare for meetings, should be willing to bear their fair share of the Board's workload and should be willing to put the Board's interests above their own in the conduct of the public's business.

SECTION 5.

Board members should conduct the affairs of the Board in an open and public manner, comply with all applicable laws governing open meetings and public records and should respect the sanctity of closed sessions.

Adopted this 4th day of December, 2017.


Bryan Miller, County Manager


Nathaniel Hall, Chairman