

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

December 2, 2024
OTHERS PRESENT

Tim Yarbrough, Chair
Frank Rose, Vice Chair
Ethel Gwynn
Finch Holt
Greg Ingram
Tony Smith
David Wrenn

Renee Paschal, County Manager
Melissa Williamson, Deputy County Manager
Russell Johnston, County Attorney
Carla Smith, Clerk to the Board

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Caswell, North Carolina, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, December 2, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Historic Courthouse.

WELCOME:

Chairman Jefferies called the meeting to order, and welcomed everyone to the Caswell County Board of Commissioners meeting on December 2, 2024. Then all paused for a moment of Silent Prayer, and the Board of Commissioners and all the guest in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Dickerson: I would just like to thank the citizens of Caswell County for the opportunity to serve on the Board, and I did my best to try to stand up for the citizens and taxpayers of this county. I wish the new members of the Board all the best in their endeavors to carry on, and I hope that they will scrutinize the spending and try to keep the taxes down. Thank you.

Commissioner Jefferies: I'd like to also thank everyone who supported me, and I thank Caswell County. As of 30 some odd years, I've been around for a long time, and we made a lot of accomplishments. A lot of good things have happened and a lot of good things going on. As you know we renovated this building right here. It was one of the things we did when I first came on. We renovated the library, built a new jail, and the thing in Pelham that is going to be built has been started, which will be an organization of the community, and also Co-Square on the square. Many things were accomplished in these 30 years. But I want to say I know our tax base was low and I'm going to leave thinking that I have done a good job for Caswell County and its people. Thank you and may God bless you.

Clerk to the Board: Before we get to that Mr. Jefferies, we would like to take the time, on behalf of the employees and the citizens of Caswell County, to let you all know that we appreciate all your hard work. We do want to give you a small token of our appreciation just to say thank you for your service to Caswell County and the citizens. These plaques were done for John Dickerson to thank you for your years of service from the Caswell County citizens for serving as a Caswell County Commissioner. We also have one for Mr. Jefferies thanking you for

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your 32 years of dedication and service to the citizens of Caswell County. I'll pass those out to you, we will take a brief recess to switch seats so that new members can come up.

OATH OF OFFICE:

The Clerk asked the elected Commissioners to take their seat at the table after taking their oath. Then we got ready for the swearing in of the Commissioners by taking their oaths. The floor was given to Judge Osmond Smith III, Superior Court Judge-retired, who administered three of the oaths. (Commissioners Ethel Gwynn, Greg Ingram, and Tony Smith) Then Judge Jason Ramey administered the oath of office for Commissioner David Wrenn.

The oaths are attached below. They were executed following the swearing in.



CASWELL COUNTY

Board of Commissioners

"Preserving the Past - Embracing the Future..."

NORTH CAROLINA

CASWELL COUNTY

OATH OF

COMMISSIONER OF CASWELL COUNTY

I, **ETHEL B. GWYNN**, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the Constitution and laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as Commissioner of Caswell County, so help me God.

S/Ethel B. Gwynn

Ethel B. Gwynn

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this 2nd day
of December, 2024.

S/W. Osmond Smith

W. Osmond Smith III

Superior Court Judge-Retired

Title

**144 Court Square • P.O. Box 98 • Yanceyville, NC 27379 Phone:
(336) 694-4193 • Fax: (336) 694-1228**

December 2, 2024



CASWELL COUNTY
Board of Commissioners

"Preserving the Past - Embracing the Future..."

NORTH CAROLINA

CASWELL COUNTY

OATH OF

COMMISSIONER OF CASWELL COUNTY

I, **GREG LAMONT INGRAM**, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the Constitution and laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as Commissioner of Caswell County, so help me God.

S/Greg L. Ingram
Greg Lamont Ingram

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this 2nd day
of December, 2024.

S/W. Osmond Smith
W. Osmond Smith III

Superior Court Judge-Retired
Title

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CASWELL COUNTY

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NORTH CAROLINA

CASWELL COUNTY

OATH OF

COMMISSIONER OF CASWELL COUNTY

I, **TONY SMITH**, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the Constitution and laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as Commissioner of Caswell County, so help me God.

S/Tony Smith
Tony Smith

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this 2nd day
of December, 2024.

S/W. Osmond Smith
W. Osmond Smith III

Superior Court Judge-Retired
Title

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CASWELL COUNTY
Board of Commissioners

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NORTH CAROLINA

CASWELL COUNTY

OATH OF

COMMISSIONER OF CASWELL COUNTY

I, **DAVID WRENN**, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the Constitution and laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as Commissioner of Caswell County, so help me God.

S/David Wrenn
David Wrenn

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this 2nd day
of December, 2024.

S/Jason E. Ramey
Jason E. Ramey

Superior Court Judge
Title

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ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD:

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:

The Clerk to the Board called the organizational meeting to order and opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Rose nominated Tim Yarbrough as Chairman. Commissioner Holt nominated David Wrenn as Chairman. There were no other nominations, so the floor was closed for nominations. After a roll call vote, the vote carried 4-3. (Commissioners Rose, Smith, Yarbrough, and Ingram voted in favor of Yarbrough as Chairman. Commissioners Wrenn, Holt, and Gwynn voted in favor of Wrenn as Chairman.) Commissioner Yarbrough was appointed Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for this upcoming year.

Chairman Yarbrough presided over the remainder of the meeting.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN:

Chairman Yarbrough opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Smith nominated Frank Rose as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Wrenn nominated Finch Holt as Vice Chairman. The floor was closed for nominations with 2 said names. After a roll call vote, the vote carried 4-3. (Commissioners Rose, Smith, Ingram, and Yarbrough voted in favor of Frank Rose as Vice Chair, and Commissioners Wrenn, Holt, and Gwynn voted in favor of Holt as Vice Chair.) Commissioner Rose is the Vice Chair for the upcoming year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

RECOGNITIONS:

Commissioner Smith: I'd like to say just how proud I am to serve on this Board. I've got high hopes that we can come together and the chemistry be right so that we can make good decisions for the county and move forward.

Commissioner Rose: First of all, I got to attend the retirement celebration for Mr. Jefferies on Saturday night. It was a real honor. It's been a privilege working with you on the Board. This is not an easy job. You don't always make everybody happy. All we can expect is to get up here and do the best that we can for the taxpayers. I thank you for your service.

Commissioner Gwynn: I want to sort of piggy back off of what Mr. Rose was saying. It has certainly been a pleasure working with Mr. Jefferies, and he has given me strict instructions before he left to do the right thing. I will try my best to do the right thing.

Commissioner Ingram: Mr. Jefferies, I just want to personally thank you for your service to this county. Thank you for all you have done. I appreciate it and enjoy yourself.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Gwynn and seconded by Commissioner Rose and **carried unanimously** to approve the agenda. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Smith, Wrenn, Rose, Gwynn, Ingram, and Yarbrough)

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. November 18, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. November 21, 2024 Joint Town Meeting Minutes
- c. Approval of Bonds for Public Officials
- d. 2025 Holiday Schedule
- e. Request for December 23 to be closed at noon
- f. Budget Amendment # 8 Public Health
- g. Budget Amendment # 9 Sheriff's Department (Special Revenue Fund 290)
- h. Budget Amendment # 10 DOJ/NCDPS Grant
- i. Revised ARPA Ordinance Amendment # 4

Chairman Yarbrough asked if items f, g, h, and I be done separately.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Rose and seconded by Commissioner Wrenn and **carried unanimously** to approve the consent agenda items a through e. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Smith, Wrenn, Rose, Gwynn, Ingram, and Yarbrough)

Budget Amendment # 8 Public Health

County Manager Paschal said the proposed budget amendment for Public health that increases their budget due to increased State funding and grant funding. It allocates it among the expenditures in their department. I did get a question about the bonuses that are included, and I spoke with the Health Director. The bonuses are for staff who did not receive bonuses last year. If some of you will recall that they did award some bonuses. This is for those that did not receive them. It included the clerical staff, a nurse practitioner, and two case management nurses. It also includes sign-on bonuses for nurses, nurse practitioners, and social workers. I will point out that the Health Director is not included in the bonuses. Commissioner Wrenn asked if it was state funds and the County Manager replied this budget amendment only deals with state and grant funding.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Wrenn and seconded by Commissioner Rose and **carried unanimously** to approve budget amendment # 8. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Smith, Wrenn, Rose, Gwynn, Ingram, and Yarbrough)

Budget Amendment # 9 Sheriff's Department (Special Revenue Fund 290)

County Manager Paschal said budget amendment # 9 is to allocate funds to the Sheriff's Office from their special revenue funds. They receive donations. So it's budgeting the donation and expense. They receive funds for selling a calendar annually, and this is budgeting the revenue and expense. They also receive ABC dollars, and again budgeting revenue and expense. Substance abuse tax dollars and finally they receive DEA funds. All of these are not from the county general fund. They are all outside revenue sources.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Rose and seconded by Commissioner Smith and **carried unanimously** to approve budget amendment # 9. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Smith, Wrenn, Rose, Gwynn, Ingram, and Yarbrough)

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Budget Amendment # 10 DOJ/NCDPS Grant

County Manager Paschal said the Sheriff's Department was awarded a grant in March of 2022. There is a remaining balance of \$2,555.03. The budget amendment just rolls that money so that the Sheriff can spend it in the current year.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Wrenn and seconded by Commissioner Gwynn and **carried unanimously** to approve budget amendment # 10. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Smith, Wrenn, Rose, Gwynn, Ingram, and Yarbrough)

Revised ARPA Ordinance Amendment # 4

County Manager Paschal said you approved an ordinance amendment at a recent meeting. As we talked about House Bill 10 actually did pass, which removes the match requirements for counties to use ARP dollars to fund broadband. At the last meeting, or the meeting before, we asked you to adopt a new ordinance that shows those dollars being spent for Public Safety salaries. Since that time, Melissa Williamson, our Deputy County Manager, has been in contact with the Association of County Commissioners. They recommended that we do a cleanup ordinance revision. So this takes no further action. It just cleans up and restates what you've already decided as a Board.

Commissioner Wrenn asked why is the money being turned into Public Safety salaries? County Manager Paschal said when ARP dollars came down from the federal government, jurisdictions were allowed to use the money for existing staff salaries. So that is one of the things we have chosen to do in the past and what we recommended. Otherwise we will not have a contract to spend the broadband money. That money would revert back to the government and we would lose \$600,000. We're not doing anything with the Public Safety salaries. We're just paying them as normal, but we are receiving this offsetting revenue for that. Commissioner Wrenn said but you are earmarking this money for Public Safety salaries. County Manager Paschal said we are not recommending any pay changes as a result of this action. We are just saying you gave us this \$4 million dollar and this is how we spent that \$4 million dollars. Commissioner Wrenn said so we should have a surplus in that line item. County Manager Paschal said correct. We will have a surplus in the General fund not necessarily in those line items.

Commissioner Smith said I know you've got some other CAB programs coming down the line, 2.0 and 2.5. As it stands right now, we think that maybe its not going to be a match. County Manager Paschal said there is no match required. House Bill 10 passed on November 19th, which removed the match requirement. We are about to give a broadband update and also the Brightspeed representative is here. So I think we will answer those questions. Melissa Williamson and County Manager Paschal has had a long conversation with the Department of Information Technology, and they thought our strategy of waiting to see how many of our customers would be served by these next rounds of broadband was a wise one considering we have so many other needs in the county.

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A **motion** was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Ingram and **carried unanimously** to approve ordinance amendment # 4. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Smith, Wrenn, Rose, Gwynn, Ingram, and Yarbrough)

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

COMMISSIONERS' PLANNING WORK SESSION:

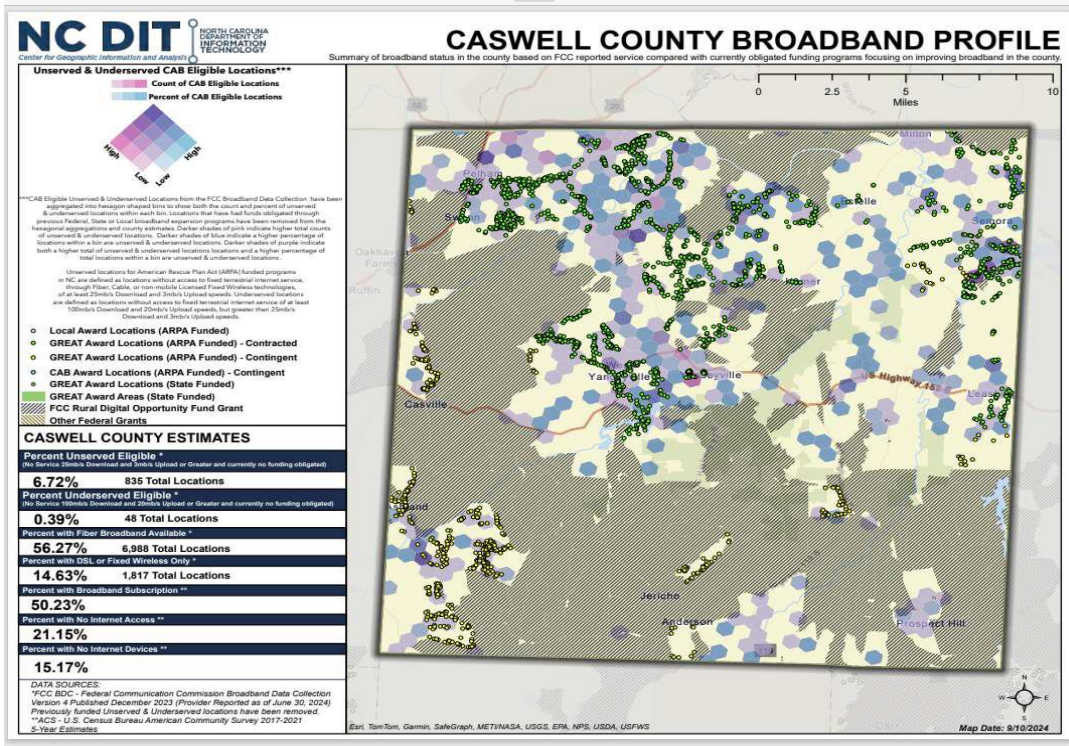
County Manager Paschal said you received a memo a couple of meetings ago. On November 4th you approved the Budget Calendar for the 2025-26 budget. Part of that calendar recommended holding a goal setting and budget guideline retreat in mid to late January. I have spoken with Amy Cannon with the Association of County Commissioners and also Johnna Sharpe with the Association, and they have agreed to be our facilitators, if we would like. I think they would do a great job. Also the cost of that is already covered by our NCACC dues. So there will be no additional cost for the facilitators. The dates that are given are January 13, 14, 15, 18, 21, 22, 25, 27, 28 and 29. We would ask the Commissioners to set you dates. We will do our best to hold the content to one day, but it would be good to go ahead and have a second date in case its needed.

The consensus of the Board was to hold the Planning Work Session on January 25 and 28. Lunch will be provided, and we will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Gunn Memorial Library.

BROADBAND UPDATE:

County Manager Paschal said next we have an update on broadband. Basically from start to finish what has happened in the last four or five years. I've asked Melissa Williamson, Deputy County Manager, to give this presentation.

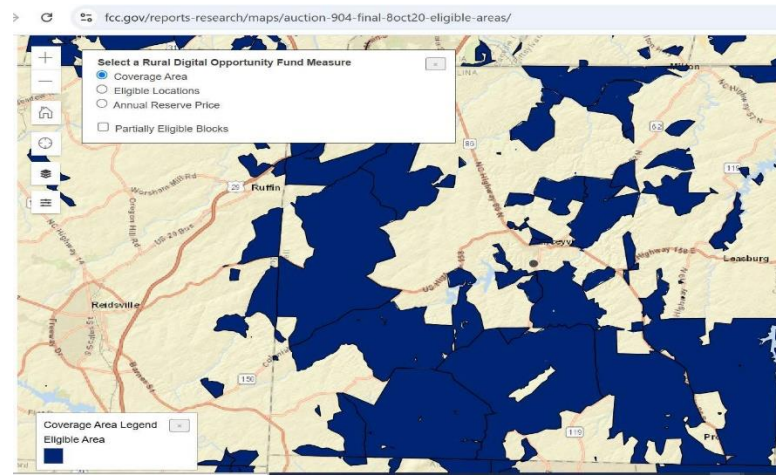
Melissa Williamson said we thought it would be a good idea to give the Board an overview of the broadband in the county. I know some of you have heard this before, but for the new Commissioners, I think it would be good for you to have an overview to know where we are in the county right now with broadband. We do have some new updates that will be good for everyone. This is on the NC DIT website, and it is updated periodically. This is the Caswell County Broadband Profile.



TIMELINE

Estimated 35.9% households unserved in 2017

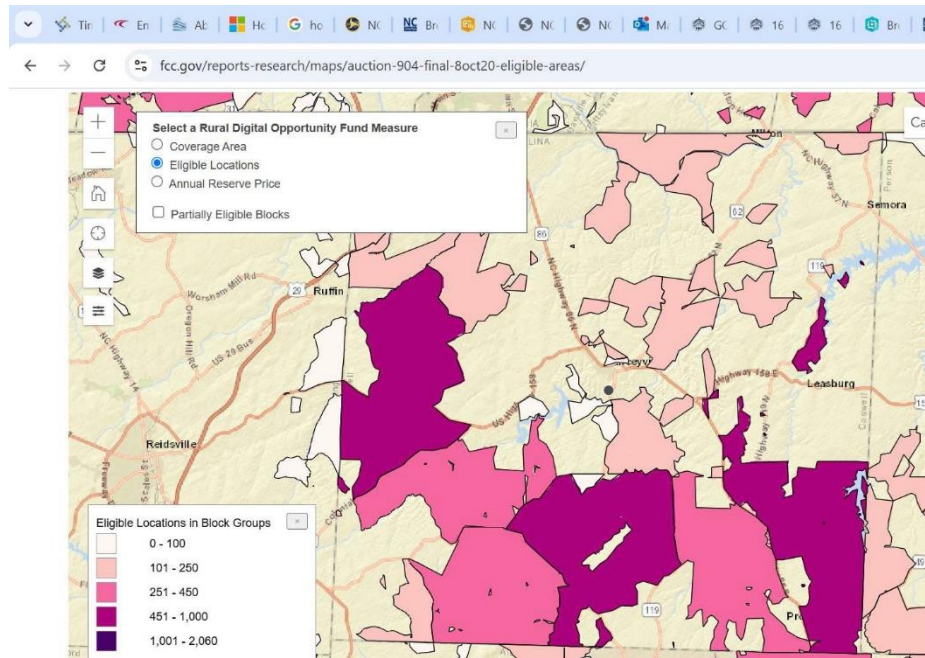
Existing providers: Legacy, Brightspeed, Spectrum, and Comcast



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TIMELINE—RURAL DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FUND (RDOC)

First grant was RDOC: served 3,618 households (award amount unknown)—served with at least 25 Mbps download around 2020. This was the first grant that came through to help Caswell County get Internet service in the county.



TIMELINE—GROWING RURAL ECONOMIES THROUGH ADVANCE TECHNOLOGY (GREAT) GRANT

Great Grant: Awarded to Zitel in August, 2022; 1,906 locations; \$4M; county committed \$250K match

Required 100Mbps download/20 upload

Zitel later pulled out March 2024; grants awarded to Brightspeed and Spectrum

Spectrum: 844 households and 11 businesses, \$2.9 M, deadline 6/30/26; county committed \$10K match

Brightspeed: 289 households; \$1.3M; deadline 9/30/26, county committed \$10K match

Match funds provided by Piedmont Electric

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TIMELINE—COMPLETING ACCESS TO BROADBAND (CAB)

Awarded June 27, 2024 to Spectrum

589 locations, cost of \$3M; deadline October 31, 2026; county originally committed \$350,000

100Mbps upload/download

House Bill 10 that just became law removes ARP match requirements, so no match is needed

SUMMARY

Grant	Locations Served
RDOF	3,618
GREAT—Spectrum	855
GREAT--Brightspeed	289
CAB	589
Total	5,351

We have already served more locations than were originally estimated to be unserved and underserved.

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TIMELINE—FUTURE FUNDING

CAB 2.0--Approximately \$3.3M; to be awarded approximately March 1, 2025, with 2-year deadline; no match requirement after HB 10

"CAB 2.5"—Remaining funding from 2.0 to be reallocated

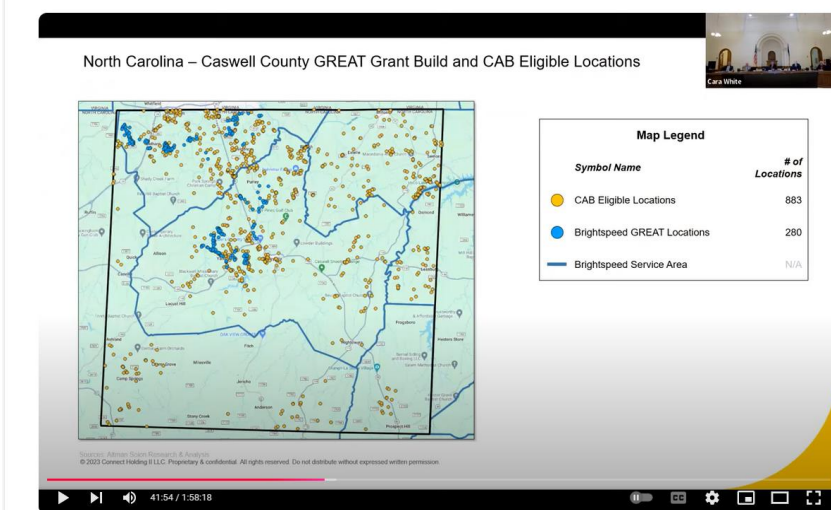
Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD)--\$1.4 Billion for NC; expect awards in summer 2025

Stop-Gap: \$86M statewide for "last-mile" locations

"No reason why all NC residents won't be served"

County Manager Paschal said I just want to reiterate that the slide that shows the number served is how many residents and business are under contract. The providers have two years to actually have the service on the ground. Residents may be listening to this and going I don't have internet, but internet is coming. They can contact my office or the state office to find out the status of their internet.

Steve Brewer, Director of Governmental affairs for Brightspeed came up and shared a slide presentation.



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The blue dots that you see on this slide are the GREAT grant locations that Brightspeed has been awarded. This project comes with a completion date of no later than September 30, 2026. We are also building over our copper network in the Yanceyville community or in and around the Yanceyville community, where we will deploy just over 1,200 locations with fiber in that area as well. Those are private investment dollars. The grant programs have no impact on that. Mr. Brewer said Mr. Smith, you had a question earlier about future match requirements, and House Bill 10 has removed the requirement for CAB 2.0 and the BEAD grant. You should be complete with your county investment. It's a requirement for the state of North Carolina to participate in the Federal Government's BEAD program. You're obligated as a state to get universal coverage of speed of at least 100 Mbps coming into your home and 20 upload. That is the minimal requirement. Any product that we are installing now is fiber to the home or business. So when that is installed we will be providing at a minimal 1 gig by 1 gig, which is 10 times faster than the federal government's requirement coming into your home or business and 50 times faster than the requirement going out. Again, that is the product that we are installing. This contract was recently signed and comes with a two-year build out. Right now we are in what we would call the high level design process. What that does is identify the most efficient route to deploy the fiber, and it will also make the determination of whether or not you go underground or aerial. Once that is complete, a local engineer will take a look at it, and very quickly pass it along to our construction vendors. Because we are building out the Yanceyville community with our own private investor dollars and given the size of this particular project, I anticipate us completing this project in advance of the two-year deadline of September 30, 2026.

Commissioner Rose asked do you have a projected date of when you will start? Mr. Brewer said right now we are going through the process of identifying the most efficient route. I cannot give you a date of actual construction starting. There is a great deal of planning that goes on before a shovel hits the ground or a line is hung from a pole. Quite a bit of planning that goes in advance of that. As soon as I have that I will be happy to pass it along. Commissioner Rose said I hear more and more complaints about the internet service for Brightspeed, if it goes out, it takes them forever to get there to fix it. Is this going to be an upgrade that will alleviate most of those problems? Mr. Brewer said absolutely. Generally speaking, when we get customers on fiber, we don't hear from them again. Simply because the fiber network is so resilient. We do not have a lot of service area in the Western part of North Carolina, and at one point we had about 2,100 DSL customers without service. We had 7 fiber customers. A lot of times we can detect the issue before a customer can detect it and resolve it in advance of that. You mentioned some of the service interval delays, and we find ourselves right now in a situation where we are managing two networks. We are managing the copper network and the fiber network. When the assets were acquired from Centurylink, there was about 60,000 fiber passings within the footprint in North Carolina. Right now we have built an additional 370,000 to 380,000. So we find ourselves in a situation where we are managing the two networks. That will not last forever. If you have some

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constituent issues where you feel like an interval is exceeding long, please let Mrs. Paschal know. She can forward it to me, and we will see what we can do to fix that.

Commissioner Wrenn said you said in two years you should have your speed up, but that is fiber lines right? Mr. Brewer said that is correct. Commissioner Wrenn said people that have the copper, how is that going to work? Mr. Brewer said if you remember earlier, the requirement for the state of North Carolina to participate in the BEAD program requires that we get the universal service with speeds of at least 100/20. Be it by way of that program from us or another provider, all your citizens will have access to speeds of no less than 100/20. Again when we install fiber, at minimum customers will be able to get a gig by gig. Quite honestly in most locations, we are able to turn that up to two gigs in the very near future. So our participation in this program will get all of our speeds up to that level.

Commissioner Smith said I have asked for a list of households being served from all providers because we receive hundreds of calls wanting to know when they are scheduled to be connected. Mr. Brewer said there is a map on NC DIT's website that you can go in to the NC one map. There is a map where you can go and enter your address. It will identify the address as being served, unserved, or under contract. If the address is under contract for one of these numerous grant programs that have been awarded here in the county, it will give you the date.

Commissioner Wrenn said Mr. Chairman, I think we need to notify our House and State Senate people to thank them for taking the burden off the counties. They did a great thing.

Chairman Yarbrough asked County Manager Paschal if she could get the Board something written up to our state legislatures in regard to thanking them for saving us this money, if you don't mind. County Manager Paschal said she would.

ACTION ITEMS:

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 2025 MEETING DATES:

County Manager Paschal said so normally you set the meeting dates for the upcoming year at your December meeting. We talked during the orientation session that most of you attended that a lot of county and municipal boards will have a work sessions during the month. This meeting made me a liar, but most of the meetings that I have attended have been pretty light, and the business could have been taken care of easily at one meeting. What we would like to propose is not adding any meetings, but turning the first meeting into a work session. The second meeting would be where you would take action. Normally you would take action on the items that have been presented during the work session. That gives you the opportunity to dive deep into the issue, ask questions, and that kind of thing. That is the first thing we would like for you to consider. The second is starting the work session a bit earlier than your regular meeting, which is at 6:30 pm. So we are wondering if you would be agreeable to start at 5 pm or between 5 pm and 6 pm. That is the second part of the request. Commissioner Wrenn asked about taking action at the work sessions and County Manager Paschal said if something needs to be passed it can be placed on the agenda. We send the agenda out and everyone is aware of what is on the agenda.

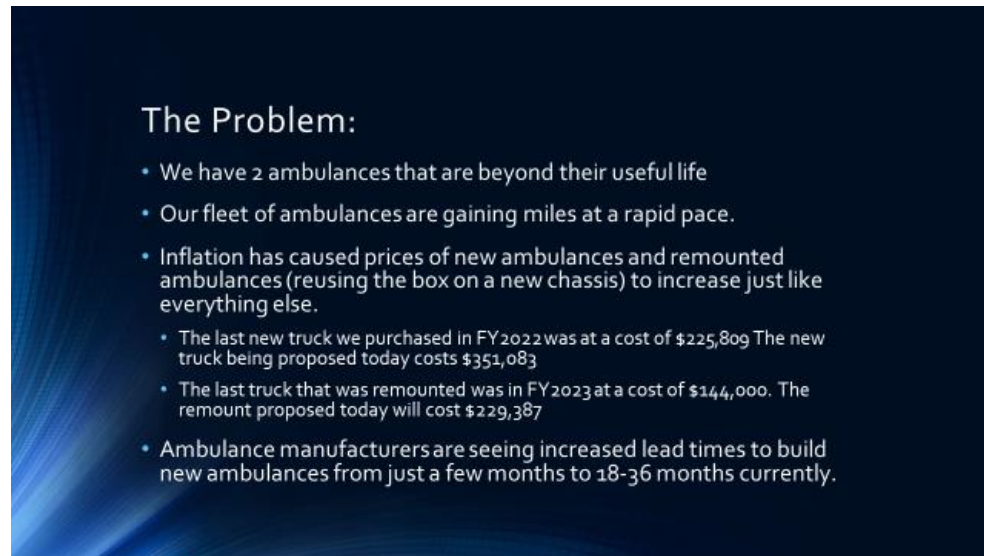
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A **motion** was made by Commissioner Wrenn and seconded by Commissioner Smith and **carried unanimously** to try it for 6 months with the first meeting being a work session beginning at 5 pm, and the second meeting being a regular meeting beginning at 6:30 pm. After the 6 months we will revisit. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Smith, Wrenn, Rose, Gwynn, Ingram, and Yarbrough)

AMBULANCE PURCHASE REQUEST:

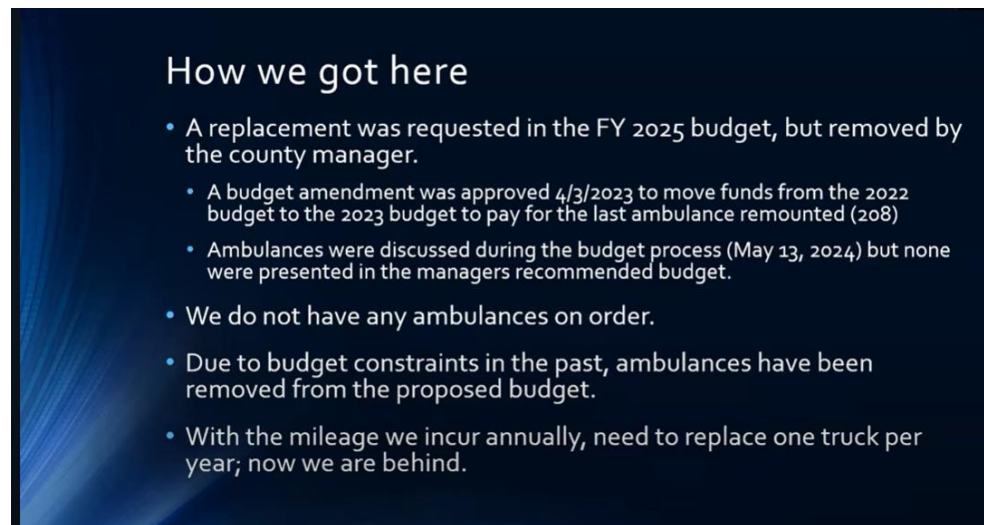
County Manager Paschal said so next up is a request from Emergency Services to purchase an ambulance. We have a presentation that our Director of Emergency Services, Barry Lynch, will provide.

Barry Lynch said good evening Commissioners. You should have all gotten a copy of this presentation. Currently we have two ambulances past their useful life. The mileage we are putting on ambulances you will see in a future slide, where each ambulance is running about 40,000-45,000 miles per year.



The Problem:

- We have 2 ambulances that are beyond their useful life
- Our fleet of ambulances are gaining miles at a rapid pace.
- Inflation has caused prices of new ambulances and remounted ambulances (reusing the box on a new chassis) to increase just like everything else.
 - The last new truck we purchased in FY 2022 was at a cost of \$225,809 The new truck being proposed today costs \$351,083
 - The last truck that was remounted was in FY 2023 at a cost of \$144,000. The remount proposed today will cost \$229,387
- Ambulance manufacturers are seeing increased lead times to build new ambulances from just a few months to 18-36 months currently.



How we got here

- A replacement was requested in the FY 2025 budget, but removed by the county manager.
 - A budget amendment was approved 4/3/2023 to move funds from the 2022 budget to the 2023 budget to pay for the last ambulance remounted (208)
 - Ambulances were discussed during the budget process (May 13, 2024) but none were presented in the managers recommended budget.
- We do not have any ambulances on order.
- Due to budget constraints in the past, ambulances have been removed from the proposed budget.
- With the mileage we incur annually, need to replace one truck per year; now we are behind.

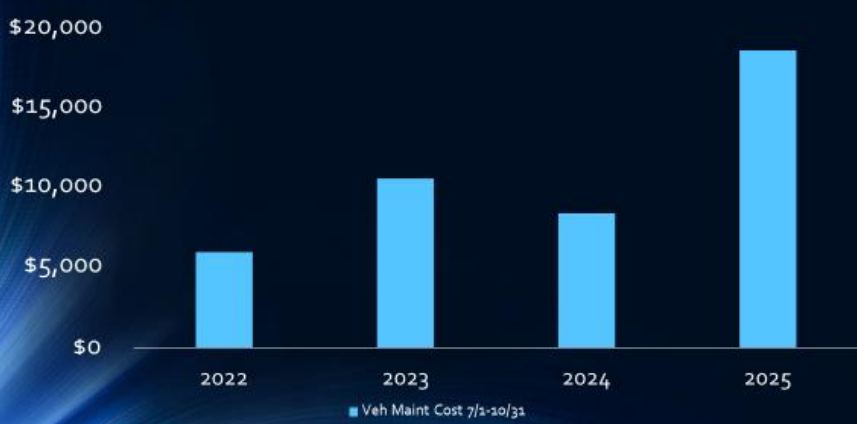
Current fleet

- Each front line ambulance travels, on average 43,000 a year.
- 3 front line trucks are on duty 24/7/365
- Currently the 24/7 trucks are 204, 206, and 207
- Truck 208 is in service from 8am-8pm.
- We have and need 2 spare ambulances to use when trucks are removed from service due to maintenance or other reason
- There have been 7 instances in the last 12 months in which we have had no spare trucks to rely on should a truck need immediate maintenance.

Truck #	Year	Mileage	Idle Hours	Resulting Mileage
204	2019	220,103	4,444	353,423
206	2022	127,850	2,387	199,460
207	2019	185,892	3,737	298,002
208	2022	47,102	1,453	90,692
209	2015	315,388	5,856	491,068
211	2013	147,685	N/A	147,385

- Per Enterprise Fleet Management 1 engine idle hour equals 30 miles traveled.
- Our ambulances are not shut down during a call due to all of the electronic medical components that must have power to them.

Increasing Maintenance Costs Per Year



Industry Standards

- Per the Government Services Administration heavy duty diesel trucks should be replaced when they reach 250,000 miles.
- We have one truck that has exceeded that (209) and one that will exceed that within 12 months (204)
- It is industry standards for a box to be used for 500,000. With our current fleet it means we can remount a box one time.
- Remounting a box more than once will cause increased stress on the box and could result in welds breaking and the ambulance becoming unsafe to use.

Pricing Obtained: New Truck

- We obtained 2 quotes. Both are state approved vendors.
- Spartan Fire and Emergency apparatus provided a quote for a Demers ambulance for \$351,083
- Northwestern Emergency Vehicles provided a quote \$344,060.63
- The difference is lead time!!
- Spartan has quoted us a lead time of 7-9 months with delivery of summer 2025
- NWEV has quoted a lead time of 18-24 months

Pricing Obtained: Remount

- We obtained 2 quotes. Both are state approved vendors.
- Spartan Fire and Emergency apparatus provided a quote for a remounted ambulance for \$229,387
- Northwestern Emergency Vehicles provided a quote \$234,380
- Spartan will take the truck to be remounted in the fall of 2025. And has a quoted turn around time of 6 months which puts delivery in the spring of 2026
- Northwestern cannot start on the remount process for 18-24 months and there would be a 6 month turnaround time putting delivery at Spring 2027.

Proposed Immediate Solution

- Spartan Fire and Emergency Apparatus has proposed a new Demers ambulance purchase and we will take delivery 7-9 months from now.
- This new truck will replace truck 211 which was purchased around 2013. Most Sprinter vehicles begin having transmission trouble around 150,000 miles. The van type ambulance is not conducive to providing excellent patient care due to a lack of space.
- This new truck will become a front line truck with unit 204 becoming a spare ambulance, used when trucks are out of service due to maintenance or other issues.
- Once we receive the new ambulance we propose sending our truck with the most miles (Truck # 209) to have the ambulance box remounted onto a new chassis.

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Proposed Immediate Solution

- Once we receive the new ambulance we propose sending our truck with the most miles (Truck # 209) to have the ambulance box remounted onto a new chassis.
- Per the lowest bid of Burgess Ambulances through Spartan, the truck will go to be remounted in the late summer/early fall of 2025 and we will take delivery approximately 6 months later, in the spring of 2026.

Proposed Immediate Solution

- Our proposal to pay for the new ambulance would be to purchase the new truck from fund balance in the current fiscal year and to appropriate funds to pay for this in the current year.
- Funding would be included in the 25-26 budget to pay for the remounted truck that we would not take delivery on until late in 2025.

Proposed Long term Solution

- We would propose adopting an ambulance replacement and rotation plan.
- This would require approving the new truck tonight. We would then ask for another remount and new truck in the upcoming 25-26 budget.
- After the 25-26 budget, following this plan, we would either need to remount OR replace 1 truck per year to keep up and not get behind again.

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Proposed Ambulance Replacement Plan

Truck Number	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30
204	Move to Spare	Remount	Front Line	Frontline	Frontline	Spare
206	Front Line	Move to Spare	Remount	Front Line	Frontline	Frontline
207	Move to Spare	Replace	Front Line	Front Line	Frontline	Spare
208	Front Line	Move to Spare	Spare	Replace	Frontline	Frontline
209	Remount	Front Line	Front Line	Front Line	Spare	Replace
211	Replace	Front Line	Frontline	Spare	Remount	Frontline

Commissioner Wrenn, Commissioner Rose, and Commissioner Smith asked questions of the Emergency Services Director and County Manager. Barry Lynch said we signed a non-binding letter of intent that will hold the ambulance for the next 30 days. At the end of 30 days it is gone if we can't put in a purchase order for the purchase. Johnna Sharpe came up to go over preliminary fund balance numbers and unassigned balance and reassigned funds from broadband funds.

Commissioner Wrenn then asked about the rule that if a purchase was over a certain amount of money, the Board could not vote on it the first time they heard it. They had to sit on it for a meeting or two. It would be in the Rules of Procedure. Attorney Johnston said I'm not aware of that particular rule. Chairman Yarbrough, Commissioner Wrenn, and Commissioner Rose asked some questions of the Emergency Services Director.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Rose to table this item until the first meeting in January and discuss it further. Commissioner Wrenn asked if it could be done at the next meeting?

Then Attorney Johnston said I need to correct my previous response to Commissioner Wrenn's question. I do have a copy of the Rules of Procedure for the Board of Commissioners. Rule 27 is entitled Consideration of Unbudgeted Expenditures. No vote on expenditures for off-budget spending in excess of \$10,000 shall be held unless tabled from a prior meeting.

Chairman Yarbrough said with that being said, we cannot vote on this item tonight. Attorney Johnston said that is correct based upon the Commissioners' Rules of Procedure.

Chairman Yarbrough asked Mr. Lynch when did you sign the non-binding letter of intent? Mr. Lynch said November 25, 2024. Chairman Yarbrough said so we have until December 25.

Then Commissioner Gwynn asked a question.

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A **motion** was made by Commissioner Rose and seconded by Commissioner Gwynn and **carried 6 - 1** to table this item. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Smith, Rose, Gwynn, Ingram, and Yarbrough. Nays: Commissioner Wrenn)

County Manager Paschal said this county desperately needs a Capital Replacement Plan. As we saw with this ambulance, we need to be setting aside money so that we can meet needs when they arise. We're working on a recommendation to bring to you as part of the budget process to have an appropriation of fund balance go into capital reserve annually to fund those needs.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Hunting and Wildlife Advisory: There is 1 member who termed off the Board as of 10/31/2024. The member is Steve Harris.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Rose and seconded by Commissioner Ingram and **carried unanimously** to **reappoint Steve Harris to the Hunting and Wildlife Advisory**. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Smith, Wrenn, Rose, Gwynn, Ingram, and Yarbrough)

Burlington HOME Consortium: There are 2 vacancies on this board.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Wrenn and seconded by Commissioner Ingram and **carried unanimously** to **appoint Jeannine Everidge and Samantha Shumaker to the Burlington HOME Consortium**. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Smith, Wrenn, Rose, Gwynn, Ingram, and Yarbrough)

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

#11 E-911 FUND (CORRECTING FOR PAST INELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES):

County Manager Paschal said we have budget amendments 11 and 12. They pertain to the 911 fund, and I will explain them separately. So budget amendment # 11 is to reimburse the 911 fund from the General fund for ineligible expenses. As we have talked about quite a bit, our finances were not in the best shape. Mrs. Sharpe has come in and this is one of the clean-up things that we have got to do. If we do not reimburse the 911 fund, we will be ineligible to receive funding going forward, which is over \$100,000 a year. I will say that the payback to the General fund is \$185,535. It would have been approximately double that if our 911 Director, Kenneth Everett, had not negotiated with the state and got them to bring that amount down. He deserves a lot of kudos for working with the state to basically cut that amount in half. As well, Johnna deserves a lot of credit for sorting out what was a mess since 2017. Mr. Johnston, this is an unbudgeted expense so do we need to table that?

Attorney Johnston said according to the Rules of Procedure yes. That would be correct.

Commissioner Wrenn asked some questions and Johnna Sharpe answered.

#12 E-911 BUDGET (CORRECTION TO 911 FUND BALANCE):

Johnna Sharpe said the next item was actually to appropriate these additional transfers in that fund. Approval has already been obtained from the state or acknowledgement that those expenditures do meet their requirements and would be eligible.

Commissioner Rose and Chairman Yarbrough asked some questions.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Rose and seconded by Commissioner Gwynn and **carried unanimously** to table budget amendment 11 and 12 until December 16, 2024. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Smith, Wrenn, Rose, Gwynn, Ingram, and Yarbrough)

COUNTY MANAGER UPDATES:

County Manager Paschal said personnel changes. I sent out an email last week or the week before. Mrs. Moorefield, our DSS Director, has announced her retirement. She is expecting to retire either January 1 or February 1. We sent information on the fact that NC Growth is coming to visit Caswell and Danville on December 10th. We hope that Commissioners will be able to join us. They will be visiting Danville and Caswell as an immersive experience. So their team will come and learn as much as possible about our community. They can also offer assistance with economic development. They have done a number of studies and that kind of thing around the state and actually beyond the state. So we would like for you to join us for lunch at the Pelham Community Center, a tour of Pelham Industrial Park, and followed by a tour of Co-Square. I attached the itinerary to the email I sent out. If you need another one, please let me know.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Smith: I would like to just commend Mrs. Paschal on the excellent job she is doing bringing the county together and bringing professionalism to us with the new programs and so forth. We see progress already. Let's push on and get that tax information corrected. Financial.

Commissioner Wrenn: I appreciate the county staff. They have been very helpful to me. They still have to teach me how to use this laptop because my wife will tell you I am not too good on these things. But we will get there. Congratulations to the new Chairman and Vice Chairman. I look forward to working together as a board and not as a split board.

Commissioner Rose: I would just like to thank everybody for coming out tonight. One thing I will say is as you see tonight, there are some hard decisions you have to make on this Board, and I'll be the first one to say that we do owe it to the citizens of this county to make sure that they have 911 services to the best of our ability and be good stewards of the taxpayer dollars. If this was at budget time, it would be much easier for me. I think we are just going to have to work through some things and see what the best outcome is that we can come together as a board to resolve the situation.

Commissioner Gwynn: I wanted to just mention that we didn't talk about the Christmas Parade this year. Last year we planned and didn't get to do it. I think it is something we should think

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about. Chairman Yarbrough said that is Saturday. The Clerk stated that the Commissioners are registered to be in the parade if they want to participate. Staff will walk and pass out candy. We can provide a vehicle if you would like to ride in the parade. Commissioner Rose asked what is the time on that. The Clerk said 10 am. Chairman Yarbrough said if you are interested and can attend, it starts at the high school at 10:00 Saturday morning and ends at the Brian Center.

Commissioner Yarbrough: I would just like to say that I appreciate the Board entrusting me with Chairman for this year. I want this Board to be able to work together and come to a consensus on things. I know we won't always agree on everything, but as long as we can agree on big stuff or the majority of things, I think we can move the county forward. I know we had a lot tonight, but I hope you have noticed that I try to keep things moving so to speak. If any member of the Board has a question or comment regarding what we are discussing, I would ask that you go ahead and speak up because I'm not one to drag a meeting out. If somebody has something to say, they need to say it. I don't mean that to be rude in any way. I don't see any point in just dragging a meeting out just for the sake of dragging it out.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- December 16, 2023 Board of Commissioners Meeting at 6:30 pm at the Historic Courthouse
- December 24-26 County Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday
- January 1, 2025 County Offices Closed for New Year's Day
- January 6, 2025 Board of Commissioners Work Session at 5:00 pm at the Gunn Memorial Library

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made at 8:28 pm by Commissioner Wrenn, and seconded by Commissioner Rose and **carried unanimously** to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3). (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Smith, Wrenn, Rose, Gwynn, Ingram, and Yarbrough)

ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made at 8:46 pm by Commissioner Wrenn and seconded by Commissioner Gwynn and **carried unanimously** to adjourn the meeting. (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Smith, Wrenn, Rose, Gwynn, Ingram, and Yarbrough)

Carla R. Smith
Clerk to the Board

Tim Yarbrough
Chairman

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