

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

July 15, 2024
OTHERS PRESENT

Jeremiah Jefferies, Chair
Finch Holt, Vice Chair
John Dickerson
Ethel Gwynn
Rick McVey
Frank Rose
Tim Yarbrough

Scott Meszaros, County Manager
Melissa Williamson, Deputy County Manager
Melissa Miller, Interim Finance Director
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, July 15, 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 July 15, 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.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW:

Thomas Bernard, Tax Director, said good evening commissioners. We need convene the meeting and make a motion for the Board of Commissioners to sit as the Board of Equalization and Review.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** to sit as the Board of Equalization and Review. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Dickerson, Gwynn, and Jefferies)

Mr. Bernard said Mr. Chairman, I have no one with any appeals. I ask that the Commissioners close the Board of E & R for this year.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Holt and seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough and **carried unanimously** to close the Board of Equalization and Review. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Dickerson, Gwynn, and Jefferies)

Mr. Bernard said Mr. Chairman, I'd like to recognize the Tax Office for all the work they have done. This year was the first time it has happened, but we had a 99.04% collection rate. We have had a 96% and 97% rate, but in my tenure and before that we have never hit 99%. This year 99.04% collection rate, and I would like to just recognize the Tax Department. Chairman Jefferies said I will have the Board sign it, and we will get an accommodation to your department. Mr. Bernard said thank you, sir.

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Commissioner Rose said I did bring up the reevaluation contract. I wanted to know if there was any way we could get any compensation for the delay in the reevaluation. I wanted to see if we could get an update on that. Could we have the County Manager and Attorney to look into the contract.

County Attorney Johnston said Mr. Chairman, I will say that the County Manager and I have looked into the reevaluation contract and the obligations. We will have some updates for you in closed session.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2024 PHA PLAN:

Samantha Shumaker, Section 8 Director, said the purpose of this hearing is to give the public a chance to give feedback on the proposed 2024 PHA Plan. Since the posting of the Plan, no comments have been received. With that being said, I would like to give an overview of our current operations. Our mission is to promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity, and a suitable living environment free from discrimination. Our goal continues to be to provide housing opportunity with decent, safe, and sanitary conditions. There will always be a need for affordable housing. Housing stock continues to be limited as rents climb making it difficult for our voucher holders. Our strategy remains: to work diligently to find new owners all while retaining our very much appreciated participating owners. The strategy includes advertising, being involved in community events, and keeping an open line of communication. We will work hard to keep rents “reasonable” and negotiate rents when we can to keep them affordable for Section 8. Setting a cap on the annual rent increases to \$50 annually will be required moving forward for all rents that are near or at market rates. Lower rents will be evaluated when request is received. We will also request to change our payment standards for 3, 4 & 5 bedrooms to 90%. Section 8 continues to offer one-on-one customer service, courtesy inspections, and direct deposit payments. Each month we are assisting approximately 210 families in our county with rental assistance. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to serve our community.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner Dickerson and **carried unanimously** to enter the public hearing. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Dickerson, Gwynn, and Jefferies)

There were no public comments concerning this annual plan.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Holt and seconded by Commissioner Gwynn and **carried unanimously** to accept the plan. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Dickerson, Gwynn, and Jefferies)

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Rose and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** to close the public hearing. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Dickerson, Gwynn, and Jefferies)

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PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE UDO & HIDO:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner Holt and **carried unanimously** to enter the public hearing. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Dickerson, Gwynn, and Jefferies)

Jason Watlington, Planning Director, thank you for your time. First, let's address stream setback amendment in the HIDO, High Impact Development Ordinance. So this proposal is redrafted because Mr. Yarbrough requested for the setbacks to be the same for all classes. The Planning Board did vote and accepted setting the distance at 100 foot to create a safe buffer for the more intense classes which will be more than adequate for the less intense classes. Initially I came to you with 50 foot for Class I and II and 75 foot for Class III and IV. We researched other counties and the average was the same. So the proposal of a change in language, clarifying that the setback distance be measured on Both sides of the stream. 200 foot across the stream protection from both sides.

On May 6th, Commissioner McVey inquired about the negative impacts of solar farms. The largest negative impact on our land is the clear cutting and grading on a large scale which is required for the construction of these farms. Without the requirement of a soil and erosion control plan and strict floodplain development policies, the bare land tends to erode into our streams and eventually affect our water reservoirs as well as our ecosystems. We do require engineered soil and erosion control plans. These are done through the North Carolina. Solar panels once consisted of Cadmium Telluride, Copper, Aluminum, and Lead. Due to the heavy metal contents these panels were considered hazardous waste. New panels are being constructed using primarily silicon cells which do not contain toxins. The most important issue to date is how companies discard of the used panels. Concerns have risen over panels being discarded into landfills and leaching contaminates into the soil. The solar industry is constantly evaluating their recycling programs and continuing to look at ways to enhance it. Pinegate Renewables, the developer/Contractor at the Pelham Solar Farm, recycles all of their panels, inverters, racking, and piles. No scrap goes into our local landfill. Yes, we do have solar farms in our county that possibly contain the older type panels, however I feel confident through my research that the recycling programs of these companies are adequate. The Planning Board feels that by setting all stream buffer setbacks at 100' will be more than adequate to buffer ALL Classes of Industry listed in our HIDO. The state, NC DENQ, sets them at 50 foot. Alamance, Alleghany, Avery, and Watauga have 100 foot setbacks.

Scott Oakley: I am a member of the Planning Board. I wanted to thank you for pushing back the 50 foot buffer and increasing it to 100 foot. Protecting streams and water is very important so stating that the distance has to be on both sides of the stream is important. You are verifying the language. The state minimum is 50, but pushing this back is a good thing.

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Then Mr. Watlington moved on to his next proposal, which was a bond addition to the HIDO. This proposal is in reference to Commissioner Dickerson's request to add a bond requirement for solar farm clean-up. This addition is written to allow the county to use bonds for other development as seen necessary in the future. The opening sentence uses Caswell County may receive, which will allow this Board to determine if other future projects should require a bond. There is a bond requirement for subdivisions already in our HIDO. The existing subdivision bond was reworded and used for our HIDO. I have also included the insert referencing the Decommissioning Plan in our HIDO. I am proposing to add #6. Immediate cleanup of any destroyed panels. Which would protect the land owner and county from situations such as the Texas incident in which a hail storm damaged hundreds of panels. In summary, the developer would have an option of a surety performance bond, cash, or equivalent security cash letter. Each would equal 125% of the cost of the project. The estimate would be provided by a North Carolina licensed engineer.

An application must include a decommissioning plan signed by the party responsible for the decommissioning and the owner (if different) addressing the following:

1. Defined conditions upon which decommissioning will be initiated (i.e. end of land lease, no production for 12 months, etc.)
2. Restoration of property to condition prior to development for Class IV operations.
3. The timeframe for completion of decommissioning activities.
4. Description of any agreement (e.g. lease) with Owner regarding decommissioning.
5. The party responsible for decommissioning.

The last one is recreational vehicles temporary permit amendment. Before you is an amendment to the temporary use of an RV found in Article 9, Part 5 of the UDO. Specifically, Section 9.42 Individual Residential Uses. This amendment is proposed in an effort to better control and clarify the use of RV's outside of an RV Park. We are finding more and more the use of RV's as permanent dwellings and also the use of RV's as temporary residences while building homes. The Office of the State Fire Marshall specifically states that RV's cannot be used as permanent dwellings in NC. We do offer a Temporary Use RV Permit.

In the past, these permits have been issued without the requirement of on-site sewer and water. Our Environmental Health Department, through consultation from the State are now requiring that all temporary use of RV's have water and sewer on-site prior to issuing a temporary permit. An electrical outlet "ONLY" is no longer sufficient. These requirements are similar to our surrounding counties however we are more lenient being that most other counties only allow temporary RV use while constructing a house. Our current ordinance allows for up to 6 months without reason.

The Planning Board is Proposing to add the language stating the requirement of electrical, water, and septic/sewer, add a statement stating that RV's shall not be used as a permanent residence nor as long term rental property, and to add a 2-year temporary permit with the ability to Increase

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to 3 years while building a house or due to a catastrophic event. They must show proof of construction permits and have their well and septic installed. This particular addition is found in most counties in NC. The Planning Department is aware that there are several situations to which RVs may be used on a short term basis. An addition stating, permits will not be required for use less than 30 days, will be added. Such situations would consist of: visiting your land for the weekend, hunting excursions, or perhaps visiting a family member. Many times these situations are actually primitive style stay, meaning the use of the RV's own utilities.

Pursuant to NC General Statute 160D-604(d), the Caswell County Planning Board finds that the attached amendment to Article 9, Part V of the UDO (Recreational Vehicles) is consistent with existing regulations because it is substantially similar to the existing allowance for mobile homes to be used as temporary dwellings while residents are building their permanent homes. Furthermore, it is also similar in nature to the county's current allowance for temporary recreational vehicles as found in UDO Section 9.42.1 as well as similar to the requirements of our surrounding counties.

Then County Planner Watlington answered questions from the Board.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner Holt and **carried unanimously** to accept the amendment. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Dickerson, Gwynn, and Jefferies)

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner Rose and **carried unanimously** to accept the 100 foot setback. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Dickerson, Gwynn, and Jefferies)

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Holt and seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough and **carried unanimously** to approve the bond with the changes. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Dickerson, Gwynn, and Jefferies)

County Planner Watlington said I will get the corrected language and send out the amendment for the bond.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** to accept the recreational vehicles, RV, amendment. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Dickerson, Gwynn, and Jefferies)

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** to close the public hearing. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Dickerson, Gwynn, and Jefferies)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no other public comments.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chairman Jefferies said I would like to add Declaring Caswell as a disaster from the drought.

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

RECOGNITIONS:

There were none.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. June 10, 2024 Budget Meeting
- b. June 17, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Rose and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** to approve the consent agenda. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Dickerson, Gwynn, and Jefferies)

DECLARING A DISASTER IN CASWELL:

Chairman Jefferies said it is due to the drought.

Commissioner Yarbrough said everyone knows the challenge. We would benefit if the state were to offer some type of ag payment to them.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** to declare our county a disaster. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Dickerson, Holt, Gwynn, and Jefferies)

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:

Rebecca Page said I hope you can hear me. I have been having trouble hearing you all tonight. Thank you for the opportunity to be here. I am Rebecca Page, a member of the Caswell County Tourism Development Authority. Our Chair, Kamara Barnett, that was scheduled to speak this evening was called away due to a family health situation. Here tonight with me are other board members: Angela Upchurch, Mindy Stinner, Amanda Hodges. Imtiaz Ahmed, is a member also, and our contracted director.

First, I would like to thank you all for your support to get the Caswell County TDA additional 3% resolution passed here so that it could move forward to the State legislature for approval. To reiterate to everyone, this tax is NOT from Caswell citizens or the county tax fund. It is directly from overnight visitors. We thank you all also for your leadership in helping the community understand that all funds come from the visitors that stay here, not from county funds, taxes, or county citizens. The state statute that allowed the Caswell County TDA to form, requires a report to be provided regularly to the Board of Commissioners. At this time, we would like to share with you this report for the past year.

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You each have a copy of the report. AS you can see, the mission of the TDA is shared as well as a brief summary of our work in bullet points. On the second page at the bottom, you can see the main numbers we want to highlight.

- 18.42 million is the total amount spent in the county in 2022 according to the NC Department of Commerce (including gas, food, lodging, purchases) based on a formula from the Department of Commerce.
- \$800,000- total number of Tax dollars collected from the purchases made above. Sales taxes, service taxes, and occupancy taxes of which the TDA receives a 3% of the occupancy tax portion.
- \$20,935-the grant funds we gave back to the community. There will be an article in the paper this week detailing these organizations receiving funds. Funds can be granted to businesses and nonprofits. Uses of the funds include adding to facilities like a porch at the Milton 66, extending the disc golf course at the Flying Disc Company, sponsoring events, providing funds for brochures, websites, and marketing materials for several of the groups.
- \$63.12 is the amount each person in Caswell County is said to save because of tourism. This is based on a formula the NC Department of Commerce has developed to help measure the positive impact of tourism on the state and broken down to the county level.
- \$3.1 million-the income that is made collectively by individuals in Caswell County that somehow contributes or can be traced to tourism.
- 86-number of people employed in tourism or tourism related industry
- 100+-the number of placed that have viewed our website at the printing of the report. We get a report each month telling us from where visitors on the site are looking.

SHOOTING RANGE PROPOSAL:

Clayton Myers, Deputy at the Sheriff's Office, said the Sheriff and I went to the Sheriff and asked him about possibly approve a firing range for our office. Currently we have to borrow a range to do training for the State. This proposal is for a dual firing range. Currently we are training about 18 hours a day. The shooting range will be located on the landfill, and the map shows the area in red. This is where 75% of law enforcement ranges are built. For example, Person County Sheriff's Office Firing Range and Reidsville PD range is built on the water treatment facility. Page 2 is a picture of the landfill. The yellow areas are gas vents and the blue are the water wells. The gas vents that are located to the south of the proposed area are monitored and tested on a regular basis. These gas vents are regulated by the state. Methane gas is what's monitored and according to the Solid Waste Director, these levels have been well below state requirements since the landfill was closed. Page 3 shows the area closer. Page 4 is a picture of a typical range. The front lobbying area of the solid waste entrance will be used for temporary proofing.

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The additional pros are it is in the county. It will cut driving time to another county. We will increase accessibility because we will not need prior authorization. There is little to no cost to construct this range. The dirt is free. The range will be behind 3 locked gates. When the landfill is closed that entry gate will be closed. If the landfill is open, we will be behind 2 locked gates. There will be a gate at the weigh station and another gate for the range. The proposed range will be further away from town and city limits than the current Department of Adult Corrections range located just off Murray Road.

Some of the considerations we took is that the closest residence is 135 Pine Road, and it is a mobile home located at a 45 degree angle to the right at 1,425 feet. The closest residence in the impact area is 15,822 feet or 3 miles away. Storm water runoff will be diverted away from the impact area and around the berm. Catch basins have been discussed to eliminate standing or ponding water. We also considered lead remediation. I worked with the VIR on their firing ranges where we shot millions of rounds into the same berm. The berm was in a flood zone along the Dan River. For our Sheriff's office we have 52 total to qualify and it would have taken us a lot of years. For shooting to be a danger to the methane gas we would need to be shooting incendiary rounds for the fact of there being a possibility of it sparking or being a methane gas leak. There is also communication by both radio and cell service at the landfill. The Dan River range has limited to no cell service. I have purchased a NRA Range Source book for reference.

Then Sheriff Durden greeted the Board and explained the need for the shooting range.

Vice Chairman Holt asked about the liability. Attorney Johnston said that question was posed by Commissioner Rose a couple of meetings ago. The County Manager had HR reach out to Sedgewick Insurance, the carrier for the County's liability insurance. So based upon the response from Sedgewick Insurance, any employee of the Sheriff's Department that happened to get injured on the range would be covered under worker's compensation. Any other citizen, individual, or neighbor whose property is damaged or is involved in an injury outside of the range or as a result of the range is also covered under the County's general liability insurance. I also asked the agent if premiums would increase as a result of this activity, and they informed me that the Sheriff's Department is already covered by the general liability policy. So there will be no effects in premiums.

Then Commissioner McVey asked question and Sheriff Durden responded. Commissioner Rose asked about the funds available to cover any cost associated with this proposal. Sheriff Durden responded and stated that he would share more funding numbers with the Commissioners. Vice Chairman Holt also asked a question that the Sheriff and Clayton Myers responded to.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Holt and **carried unanimously** to advertise so that the public can voice their concerns at the next meeting. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Dickerson, Holt, Gwynn, and Jefferies)

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LEGAL CONTRACT FOR COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Attorney Johnston said good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, we have the contract for legal service. The current contract expires at the end of the month. I have added the county attorney contract along with the delinquent tax collection contract in the agenda. I sent out an email last week to the commissioner. In paragraph 3 of the county attorney contract on page one, I changed the term of the contract to 5 years, which is equal to the terms of the tax collection contract. On page 3 of the contract, the monthly general retainer of \$7,500 and under Section B on page 4, the hourly rate of \$250. On page 5 you will see language that is similar to that found in the County Manager contract, which provides for severance and explanation of cause. Finally, in paragraph 6, you will see language entitled resignation, which requires the County Attorney to give 30 days notice. This is also equivalent to what is in the County Manager's contract. Attorney Johnston said in reference to the delinquent tax collection contract, there are no changes in the actual substance of the contract other than being set to a five-year term. There were some adjustments made to the fee schedule at the very end. These fees have not been updated since 2018. Those are the proposal, and I will be glad to answer any questions you have.

Commissioner Yarbrough said the fees there in the end, how do they differ? Attorney Johnston said is that for the tax collection contract? Commissioner Yarbrough said yes. Attorney Johnston then described what he did to determine the changes in the fee schedule.

Commissioner Dickerson then asked questions about the fee schedule, and Attorney Johnston answered and shared the previous fee schedule and the proposed schedule with the Board.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner Dickerson and **carried unanimously** to approve the County Attorney contract. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Dickerson, Holt, Gwynn, and Jefferies)

DELINQUENT TAX ATTORNEY CONTRACT:

Attorney Johnston said the information has already been provided. At this time, I just need you to entertain a motion.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Rose and seconded by Commissioner Holt and **carried unanimously** to approve the delinquent tax collection contract. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Dickerson, Holt, Gwynn, and Jefferies)

OPIOID RESOLUTION:

County Manager Meszaros said this is just an additional opioid settlement. So the more counties that sign on the more money the state gets. It is proposed that we get \$59,000. It's not required that we do it, but it is additional funding. If we don't sign on we will not get any additional funding from this settlement. They will determine how additional supplements get dispersed. This will affect additional programs here. We

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don't know how much these additional funds will be, but we will need to sign the resolution showing the county's support.

Vice Chair Holt asked a question and County Manager Meszaros said it's different from the first round. It's just additional funds. I think that this round will be additional money allocated to the county. Then Melissa Williamson, Deputy County Manager, gave some information.

Commissioner Dickerson asked what the County Manager was asking of the Commissioners? County Manager Meszaros said we're asking to sign on to the lawsuit so that state will get more money. Then we will get money in the districts or counties.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Rose and seconded by Commissioner McVey and **carried unanimously** to approve the resolution. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Dickerson, Holt, Gwynn, and Jefferies)

BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Board of Adjustments: There are 2 members who termed off the Board as of 6/30/2024. There is also one member who resigned for a total of 3 vacancies. The consensus of the Board was to hold this appointment until the next meeting.

COUNTY MANAGER UPDATES:

County Manager Meszaros said I just want to inform you that yesterday we had an incident with our trash service director. He was at a site and a citizen was putting things in the machine. So it's for household trash and construction debris. Anything other than that will destroy the machine. It turned into an incident where the individual tried to run him over. That person was arrested and remains in custody.

We also had some sewer issues with the facilities publicly. Just to make a public service announcement that we spent a lot of money in getting the sewer system repaired so that we don't have sanitation problems. Those are the only things that have happened that I have to report on.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

ABC Board: There is 1 member who termed off the Board as of 06/30/2024. The member is C. Keith Tatum.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Holt and seconded by Commissioner Dickerson and **carried 6-1 to reappoint C. Keith Tatum to the ABC Board.** (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Gwynn, Jefferies, Rose, Yarbrough, and Dickerson. Nays: Commissioner McVey)

Caswell County Adult Advisory: There is 1 current member who termed off the Board as of 6/30/2023 and 2 vacancies. She is as follows: Marilyn Corbett.

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A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner Rose and **carried unanimously to reappoint Marilyn Corbett to the Caswell Adult Advisory Council.** (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Gwynn, Jefferies, McVey, Rose, Yarbrough, and Dickerson)

Caswell County Regional Economic Development Commission: There is 1 current member who termed off the Board as of 6/30/2023. She is as follows: Amanda Hodges.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner Rose and **carried unanimously to appoint Thomas Goddard to the Caswell County Regional Economic Development Commission.** (Ayes: Commissioners Holt, Gwynn, Jefferies, McVey, Rose, Yarbrough, and Dickerson)

COUNTY ATTORNEY UPDATES:

County Attorney Johnston said I just briefly want to update you on the delinquent tax parcels. We have 67 parcels that have either paid or are currently on a payment plan. Then 40 other parcels that were currently in title examinations or some stage of the foreclosure process. Attorney Johnston said and I will email you all the list in an excel spreadsheet tomorrow.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Rose: Thank everybody for being here tonight. A couple of things Mr. Manager: Do we have any updates on the internet? Any updates from the State. County Manager Meszaros said they are working with the contracts. They were awarded to BrightSpeed and Spectrum. We heard from them a couple of weeks ago. They have recently begun with CAB grants, but have not heard when the work will begin. Deputy County Manager Melissa Williamson then offered some updates. Commissioner Rose said he would appreciate any future updates because he is getting phone calls. Then Commissioner Rose asked if they had received any information on the state of the completion of the audit. County Manager Meszaros said staff has assisted in completing their request, but we have not heard anything on this. It is a wildcard. I will keep you updated on this. The 2022 should be competed in August and I think the 2023 should be shortly thereafter. Commissioner Rose said the last thing I have, Mr. Chairman, is as far as the reevaluation contract having the County Manager and County Attorney find out if there is a way we could do that. I do think that the taxpayers do deserve some compensation. If we do receive any money, then that money should be set back for the next reevaluation we have to do.

Commissioner Yarbrough: Just one thing Mr. Chairman. As far as the audit for 2022, 2023, and 2024 coming, seem like we are going down the same path. Every month or two it gets pushed back about a month or so. Back in early spring you thought that you would have 22 and 23 done by July 1. Is there a hold up on our end that is causing this? County Manager Meszaros said to be politically correct... Commissioner Yarbrough said you don't have to be politically correct, but I want to know what is going on. County Manager Meszaros said Finance has been sending information during the process as usual. They have been finding records that didn't have all the agreements and missing information. So when you have to go back and find the information, it slows and hinders the process. The process needs to be clean and easy to do the

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audit. It has been a lot of work and countless hours. There has been public record request also. We are not trying to throw anybody under the bus. We are trying to do the best we can to finish and wrap up. Then Commissioner Yarbrough asked is Isley Consulting still working here? County Manager Meszaros said basically they ask for all the information and they have the auditors on zoom. I just want to reiterate. 2022 is in their hands. We are waiting to hear them say put this on the agenda. Once they are ready to do that, I'm told it should not be long before 23 is done.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- August 5, 2024 Board of Commissioners Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse
- August 7-1, 2024 NCACC Annual Conference in Winston Salem, NC
- August 15, 2024 Joint Town Meeting at 6:00 pm at Co-Square
- August 19, 2024 Board of Commissioners Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made at 8:15 pm by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner Rose and **carried unanimously** to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee, which is hereby acknowledged NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6). (Ayes: Commissioners Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Gwynn, Dickerson, McVey, and Jefferies)

ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made at 9:56 pm by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner Rose and **carried unanimously** to adjourn the meeting. (Ayes: Commissioners Yarbrough, Rose, Holt, Dickerson, Gwynn, and Jefferies)

Carla R. Smith
Clerk to the Board

Jeremiah Jefferies
Chairman

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**RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF CASWELL
AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF KROGER OPIOID SETTLEMENT AND APPROVING
THE SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS**

WHEREAS, the opioid overdose epidemic has taken the lives of more than 37,000 North Carolinians since 2000; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the opioid overdose crisis, increasing levels of drug misuse, addiction, and overdose death; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates the total economic burden of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement; and

WHEREAS, certain counties and municipalities in North Carolina joined with thousands of local governments across the country to file lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, pharmaceutical distribution companies, and chain drug stores to hold those companies accountable for their misconduct; and

WHEREAS, a settlement has been reached in litigation against the Kroger Co. (“Kroger”) as well as its subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, and directors named in the Kroger Settlement; and

WHEREAS, representatives of local North Carolina governments, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the North Carolina Department of Justice have negotiated and prepared a Second Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds (SAAF-2) to provide for the equitable distribution of the proceeds of these settlements; and

WHEREAS, by joining the settlements and approving the SAAF-2, the state and local governments maximize North Carolina’s share of opioid settlement funds to ensure the needed resources reach communities, as quickly, effectively, and directly as possible; and

WHEREAS, it is advantageous to all North Carolinians for local governments, including Caswell County and its residents, to sign onto the settlements and SAAF-2 and demonstrate solidarity in response to the opioid overdose crisis, and to maximize the share of opioid settlement funds received both in the state and this county to help abate the harm; and

WHEREAS, the SAAF-2 directs substantial resources over multiple years to local governments on the front lines of the opioid overdose epidemic while ensuring that these resources are used in an effective way to address the crisis;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Caswell County hereby authorizes the County Manager or County Attorney to execute all documents necessary to enter into opioid settlement agreements with Kroger, to execute the SAAF-2, and to provide such documents to Rubris, the Implementation Administrator.

Adopted this 15th day of July, 2024.



Jeremiah Jefferies, Chair
Caswell County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Carla Smith, Clerk to the Board

SEAL

