

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

November 18, 2024
OTHERS PRESENT

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

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, November 18, 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 November 18, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

RECOGNITIONS:

There were no recognitions.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. November 4, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. Public Health Amendment # 6 (received additional state funding)
- c. Probation Lease Agreement

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were no discussion items.

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ACTION ITEMS:

FAMILY SERVICES AMENDMENT #7:

County Manager Paschal said thank you. So good evening Commissioners. We bring before you budget amendment number seven for Family Services. As you know we've had some financial struggles in that department, and we're in danger of losing grants and that kind of thing. I have to give a big thank you to Melissa Williamson, who has worked tirelessly over the last couple of months to get Family Services' financial situation straight. In addition, she was able to reach out to some of the grantors and get them to provide grant funding. So that is the reason for the fairly significant increase in the budget. It's because of those new grants. The main thing aside from approving the amendment to approve the additional revenue and expense is that there was supposed to be a county match included in the fiscal year 25 budget. That was inadvertently left out. So in order to draw down these grant funds, we do need the \$25,000 match and that would come from fund balance. I'll be glad to answer any questions?

Commissioner Yarbrough said Mrs. Paschal, if I'm reading this right, it's \$250,000. Is that right? The amount of the grant, am I looking at the right thing? County Manager Paschal said the county match is \$25,000. The entire grant is \$404,985.92, and it is a series of grants.

Commissioner Yarbrough said okay. I was just looking at the first one I had up on screen. The county match is \$25,000. County Manager Paschal said it is. Commissioner Yarbrough said one question. If the Board decided not to approve the match, we would not get any of this money? County Manager Paschal said we would not get one of the grants, and I'll have to call on Melissa to say which grant. Melissa Williamson said it is two that we would definitely not get. It would really hinder their operations if they didn't get those grants because every other county gets those same grants. Commissioner Yarbrough said thank you.

Commissioner Dickerson asked how much are the two grants? Melissa Williamson said the two that that it goes for is the Family Violence Prevention, which that ends up being a \$54,000 grant, and then for the FVPSA that is also a 50 some thousand dollar grant as well. They've gotten it every year, and it was put in during budget time. But our former manager, for whatever reason, took it out. It was put in because I put it in. Commissioner Dickerson said thank you.

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

COUNTY MANAGER UPDATES:

County Manager Paschal said I have quite a few updates. I wanted to mention retirements and employees leaving the service of the county. Bernardo Wiley, a DSS Social Worker supervisor of 15 years retired November 1st. Cynthia Troxler, Senior Center Senior Program Assistant for six years retired in October, and Wes Harrington, who was a Sergeant with the Sheriff's Office

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for 13 years and seven years with the Town of Yanceyville passed away. In addition, we have hired Laura Young as a Payroll Specialist, Ashley Hatley as an Account Specialist, and Bridget Terry, the HR Specialist has resigned. I think everything else that I need to talk to you about is in closed session. Chairman Jefferies asked if there were any question for the County Manager?

Commissioner Rose said yes, Mr. Chairman. Madam Manager, are there any updates on the Finance Director position? County Manager Paschal said yes. We have an interview scheduled for Monday that is with a promising candidate. Commissioner Rose said thank you.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Yarbrough: I probably should have done this during recognitions instead of waiting for commissioner comments, but we do have three members of this Board that will not be serving with us in the very near future. But I'm going to specify you. I only served with you two years, but it's been a privilege and honor to serve with you during that time. You've been very professional on your part, and I think we all appreciate your service. Chairman Jefferies said thank you, sir.

Commissioner Rose: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I had the privilege of attending the Veteran's Day Memorial celebration on November the 11th. I just want to give a big shout out to all the ones that were involved in that ceremony. It was very well coordinated. They did an outstanding job. If you've never been, it is a humbling experience. I just thank everyone that was there and that was recognized for their service and dedication to the county, to the state, and to this country. Secondly, I would like to pass around to the Board, I received this in an email, they're having a Friendsgiving Day. This is being done by the Pelham Community Council. It's going to be held on November the 24th from 3:00 to 5:00 in the evening. It's basically for dinner and conversation. It may be a good opportunity to meet with the constituents and voters and see what their concerns are. That's all I have. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- November 21, 2024 Joint Town Meeting at 6 pm at the Yanceyville Municipal Building
- November 28 and 29, 2024 County Offices closed for Thanksgiving
- December 2, 2024 Board of Commissioners Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made at 6:41 pm by Commissioner Yarbrough, 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), and to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4), and 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

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public officer or employee, which is hereby acknowledged NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6). (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Gwynn, Holt, Dickerson, and Jefferies)

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner Holt and **carried unanimously** to approve the sale of 12.5 acres in the amount of \$100,000 pursuant to Project Acre. I also move to approve the amendment of the Pelham Industrial Park Restrictive Covenants so as to allow front parking in the setback and direct the County Manager and the County Attorney to represent the county at the Owners Association meeting. This sale is subject to the upset bid requirements as outlined in the N.C.G.S 160A-269. This sale is also subject to the approval of the site plan by the Pelham Industrial Park Owners Association. This sale is also subject to the approval of the City of Danville, and a 10' vegetative buffer between the parking lot and the building is required. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Gwynn, Jefferies, Dickerson, and Holt)

ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made at 8:33 pm by Commissioner Yarbrough and seconded by Commissioner Rose and **carried unanimously** to adjourn the meeting. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarbrough, Rose, Gwynn, Holt, Dickerson, and Jefferies)

Carla R. Smith
Clerk to the Board

Jeremiah Jefferies
Chairman

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CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Released January 6, 2025

A motion was made at 6:41 pm by Commissioner Yarborough, 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 in NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3). (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarborough, Rose, Gwynn, Holt, Dickerson and Jeffries).

Commissioner Dickerson asked the County Attorney to update the board on the matter of George Daniel, specifically that Mr. Daniel's law firm had filed a lawsuit to collect delinquent taxes owed by Mr. Daniel dating back to 2013, but no further action had been taken to collect the taxes.

Mr. Johnston shared an email from the UNC School of Government that stated Mr. Daniel should withdraw as counsel from the civil action on the delinquent tax matter, as not to do so presents a conflict of interest.

Mr. Johnston proposed that he retain outside counsel to handle the matter, since he, as a former member of the Daniel Thomas Law Firm, has a conflict of interest. That counsel would contact Mr. Daniel and advise him to withdraw as counsel from the civil action he filed on behalf of Caswell County against himself.

The board members unanimously agreed that this course of action should be followed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Holt, seconded by Commissioner Rose, and carried unanimously at 8:31 pm to return to open session. (Ayes: Commissioners McVey, Yarborough, Rose, Gwynn, Holt, Dickerson, and Jefferies).