MINUTES – JULY 15, 2019

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the Caswell County Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 15, 2019. Members present: Rick McVey, Chairman, Jeremiah Jefferies, Vice Chairman, Sterling Carter, William E. Carter, Nathaniel Hall, Steve Oestreicher and David Owen. Also present: Bryan Miller, County Manager, and Brian Ferrell, County Attorney. Paula P. Seamster, Clerk to the Board, recorded the minutes.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

Chairman McVey opened the meeting with a moment of Silent Prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Commissioners and all the guests in the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman McVey stated that the agenda needed to be amended to add the School Contract and for it to be put after Item #7.

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

The following item was included on the Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes of July 1, 2019 Regular Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman McVey opened the floor to Public Comments.

Mr. John Claggett came before the Board and made the following statement:

“Good evening, my name is John Claggett and I reside at 108 Jaye Lane, Providence, NC. This evening I would like to ask the Board why a defensive posture is displayed by some county staff when requested public information turns out to be inaccurate or incomplete. I would also like to know why the public routinely is not afforded the same open discussion agenda items as the Board possesses? I’d also like to know why I’m portrayed as a troublemaker when I ask questions publicly that this Board should publicly be asking and/or discussing. Thank you.”

Chairman McVey asked if anyone else wanted to speak during Public Comments. With no further comments Chairman McVey closed Public Comments.

RECOGNITIONS

There were no recognitions.

OFFICIAL CASWELL FLOWER

Ms. Celia Spillmann thanked the Board for the opportunity to present a new idea to the Board. She added that she is married to Matthew Hoagland, County Planner, and she runs and owns The Caswell Flower Company which grows specialty cut flowers and the flowers are grown on the family farm. Ms. Spillmann stated that the Caswell Flower Company does floral designs for weddings and events. She presented to the Board the idea of Caswell having an official flower because having an official county flower addresses several items such as there are not many if any counties or cities that have an official flower, there are counties and cities that celebrate a specific flower but none of them have made the official commitment of adopting an official flower as an official item so this would be unique for Caswell County to do. Ms. Spillmann stated that the official flower could be used to unite local growers, home gardeners and flower lovers. She added that this will also have a huge economic impact which will lead to flower festivals, events, marketing strategies and other agritourism opportunities for the community. Ms. Spillmann stated that the Hoedown would be in September and this would be a great opportunity to introduce the county official flower to the rest of the community. She added that an official flower helps to attach flower growers to a national movement that encourages consumers to purchase flowers on a local or American grown scale since currently only 20% are sourced from local or American grown flower farms which means that 80% of the flowers that are purchase come from outside of the country. Ms. Spillmann presented the Zinnia as the official flower for Caswell County. She stated that many might ask why not a flower that is specific to Caswell County and the only flower that may be specific to Caswell County or North Carolina is the Venus Fly Trap. Ms. Spillmann stated that the zinnia is native to the United States but it is more towards the southwestern area. She added that the other idea was the tobacco flower but the official flower would represent the future and not the past. Ms. Spillmann stated that the zinnia is an incredibly diverse flower and she cultivates about 15 to 20 different types of zinnias on her farm which ranges in different colors, petal shapes and varieties. She stated that zinnias thrive in the heat and drought. She stated that the zinnia is a strong and resilient flower like our community and thrive in the heat and sun where many other flowers struggle and come back in abundance after battling weeds and pests which makes them true flower champions. Ms. Spillmann stated that the Flower Farmers of Caswell County have a social media group that is used to communicate and exchange information about the flowers as well as buy flowers from each other and this is the platform that she used to communicate this idea of having an official county flower. She added that this was not her idea, it was actually Michael Graves’ idea which is an active member of the Piedmont Progressive Farmers Group and she agreed with this idea. Ms. Spillmann stated that she shared this idea with the social media group which consists of 15 members and most of the members agreed with the choice of zinnias as the official flower. She added that she has spoken with the offices of Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, and they plan to speak to the Cooperative Extension once the new leadership has settled into their new positions and they plan to communicate further with the Women in Ag group, Piedmont Community College Agribusiness and Technology Program, the Local Foods Council and the Piedmont Progressive Farmers Group to build momentum and take action in celebrating the official flower. Ms. Spillmann stated that this is important to the flower growers because most people when they see flowers they don’t take it as a serious operation but she spends a lot of hours outside, 14 hours sometimes, and a lot of the work is done by hand. She asked if the Board had any questions.

Commissioner Owen stated that he is not a flower guy but he understands Ms. Spillmann’ s group and the desire to have an official flower and he thinks it is a good thing and something unique. He added that his question is if this is going to be the county flower how can the public get more involved before stating the zinnia is the county flower. Ms. Spillmann responded that this is a great question but she was unsure that the public would understand the values of having an official, specialty cut flower as the flower growers do. She added that it is about creating that momentum behind the cut flower movement and united the county around a flower that everyone can all get behind and grow but she was open to suggestions on how to bring in the public and she did not think it was a bad idea to see what they feel but her only reservation would be that they would suggest things like wildflowers or the tobacco flower. Commissioner Owen stated that he was not suggestion that there be a county vote on this but the public should be aware before the Board just makes a decision so they can voice their opinion if they want to because it represents the county. He suggested maybe doing this through articles in the newspaper or however it needs to be done to let people know that this is what the county is considering and this is the flower that is being considered and this is why we are considering this flower. Ms. Spillmann stated that the only other devil’s advocate is sometimes she thinks it is up to certain people to make that commitment and to be the leaders in action and to do something that gets the people’s attention because they may not be aware that this could be done and they can get behind this and rally behind that person.

Commissioner Hall stated that when he heard about this he went straight to the source, he got permission from his wife to support this because he did not know what a zinnia was but he plans to support it.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I have a very diverse background here with a love of flowers, I have always enjoyed zinnias but where is it native of or is it a native of the state and its not but in your very thorough explanation of the parallels to the people of this county and I am very appreciative of how you described it. I am definitely for the idea but I also slightly agree with the idea of presenting it to the public just like you presented it to us to see if there is any feedback. I am kind of curious on what some of the other runner ups might have been, are you able to share that or willing, it seemed liked it was…” Ms. Spillmann responded that there were not a lot of suggestions made; she thinks it tends to be one of those things that people say is a great idea but they don’t have anything to contribute to the conversation. She added that she gave a couple of recommendations but once the flower growers on the page saw the pictures of the zinnia they attached to it. Ms. Spillmann stated that the only other one that was suggested was the tobacco flower but this would be feasible for the type of mission they are looking for in an official flower. Commissioner S. Carter continued “No, I definitely don’t want to associate with nicotine...” Ms. Spillmann responded that if someone cuts the flower it exposing their skin to the nicotine so it can seep into the skin. Commissioner S. Carter stated “But yeah if it’s the consensus of this Board and we decide today I would support it. I think it is a great connection to the people and I feel like they would agree but by all means I would like to see what other would say but I am also agreeable to get it out there first to see how people react to it. Ms. Spillmann responded sure.

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that he is delighted that the Board has to consider this with all the other things the Board has had to consider this year so far so this is a very pleasant decision that the Board will be capable of making at some point. He added that he likes Commissioner Owen’s perspective because the Board represents the people of the county but to make a unilateral decision in one evening is not what the Board normally does. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that the Messenger may be willing to publish an article that Ms. Spillmann will prepare giving some options and why the zinnia was considered, why the conclusion was reached and also put this article on the county website for a way to get some input from the citizens on their thoughts. He added that he liked the idea and he likes the flower but he is one of $23,035.

Chairman McVey stated that he agrees with the rest of the Board members and he thinks it would be to everyone’s advantage for Ms. Spillmann to publicize this information. He added that the Board will support Ms. Spillmann because it is a fantastic idea and he asked Ms. Spillmann to get back with the Board in a meeting or two after this information is publicized and talked about. Ms. Spillmann responded absolutely and thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak.

SCHOOL CONTRACT

Mr. Miller stated that in front of the Commissioners a standard form and agreement between the agreement and architect but it was not included in the agenda. He added that this agreement has been reviewed by the bond counsel and by the county attorney and he turned it over to the county attorney.

Mr. Ferrell stated that the Board recently saw a similar version with the Enterprise Center project and added that this is a standard AIA, architectural services agreement with Dewberry for the design services and construction support services in the bidding process related to the high school project. He stated that Dewberry was very receptive to a number of changes that was proposed and are incorporated into the document after some negotiations and slight revision but the negotiation process was straightforward and he appreciated them accepting the vast majority of the suggested changes. Mr. Ferrell stated that in his view there are only two things outstanding and one of those is Dewberry put together a cost estimate that is a USDA required form for the project and bond counsel had a few ideas about tweaking some of the numbers to make sure that the numbers are as accurate as possible and also getting the help of the financial advisor to do this. He asked that if the Board decides to approve this document today he asked that the Board approve it subject to the managers finalizing that cost estimate. Mr. Ferrell stated that this will not change the project budget by any means it is really just the line items within the project budget that will be adjusted, the bottom line amount will not change. Mr. Ferrell stated that the other item is the USDA process requires sort of a preliminary project approval which is basically a notice to proceed from the USDA as a prerequisite to move on with the remaining portion of the contract so he asked that the Board’s approve be based on the USDA finally approving the project and the funding for it. Mr. Ferrell stated that the contract before the Board is in good legal form and it has been negotiated with Dewberry with a lot of cooperation.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked for the county manager’s perspective or opinion on the contract. He asked if the county manager had reviewed the contract in depth and detail and if he finds it to his satisfaction. Miller responded yes and stated that he would echo the county attorney’s sentiment when he said that Dewberry has been very pleasant to work with and agreeable to the changes that were suggested. He added that the contract comes in a little over 6 ½% of the total project cost which is substantially less than what the county has seen in other contracts and he thinks it is a good contract. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the county attorney agrees that there are no hidden traps because it was a lot to read in 20 minutes. Mr. Ferrell responded that the AIA form is the industry has developed this form in an attempt to avoid as many traps as possible and added that it is an industry standard form. He added that it is impossible to cover every area of concern and he stated that he would not say that the contract addresses everything in the universe but the standard template is a collective view of the most common issues in construction and goes a long way to address the common issues frequently seen in the industry when there is a large construction project. Mr. Ferrell stated that included in the agreement is a pretty comprehensive set of required modifications to the AIA terms that the USDA requires and Dewberry will agree that the changes that the USDA requires is pretty much owner friendly which means that this protects the owner over the architect so it favors the county. He added that he thinks this is a pretty good agreement.

Chairman McVey asked for a consensus from the Board on whether to review the contract further or to vote on the contract tonight.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman I make a motion that we approve the contract subject to the provisions the attorney just mentioned.”

Commissioner Oestreicher asked Commissioner Carter to restate his motion. Commissioner S. Carter responded “The Chairman asked if we want to vote on this tonight or to wait until the next meeting, I make a motion that we approve the contract subject to the USDA notice to proceed and to finalize the cost estimates.

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Hall to approve contract contingent upon USDA project approval or the notice to proceed as well as finalizing the cost exhibit.

Commissioner Owen stated that he generally does not like to vote on something that he sees for the first time but this issue has been going on for a long time and he believe it needs to move on and he added that he is going to trust the county attorney and county manager because if this does not work out well the Board knows what can be done so he is in favor of the contract tonight. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that he wanted to second the threat.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that he agrees with Commissioner Owen that he hates to see something that is received at the Board meeting and then take action on it but he is going to trust the county attorney and county manager but he asked in the future if the Board is going to vote on a document it needs to have time to read over the documents. Mr. Ferrell responded that it was just finalized and the manager wanted to get this to the Board at the earliest opportunity and if the Board wants to move forward it can but the Board can wait on this, because they are still working through a number of preliminary steps for the USDA, it can.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS’ BUDGETS

Mr. Vernon Massengill thanked the Board for allowing him to come before the Board to update it on the budgets for the fire departments in the county. He stated that 7 out of the 10 fire department have CPAs that finalized their end of the year accounting and they also have their local treasurer that does the day to day items. Mr. Massengill gave a brief synopsis of what the county did this year. He stated that many departments bought new turn out gear and this turn out gear is supposed to be replaced every 10 years and some departments had turn out gear that was 20 to 22 years old. Mr. Massengill stated that many departments bought portable and mobile radios that both UFH channels are on, gas meters were purchased, thermal imaging cameras were purchased, SCBAs, the air packs the firemen wear on their backs inside of homes were purchased. He added that some departments had air packs that were over 20 years old and the company was not in business anymore for those particular air packs, recommendation is that these be replaced every 15 years. Mr. Massengill stated that one department replaced a 1970 brush truck with a new one because of the safety factor. He stated that one station bought a new engine this year and another station bought some hydraulic tools for extrication, both hydraulic and electraulic where if a car is 200 feet off the road the electraulic tools, battery powered, can be taken to the scene. Mr. Massengill stated that one station replaced a generator for inclement weather and one station replaced a couple of air conditioned units. He stated that Leasburg purchased land for a substation. Mr. Massengill stated that land had already been purchased for a new station in the Casville area and they are in the process of talking with architects. He added that the Casville building is almost 60 years old with limited space. Mr. Massengill stated that there is now an area lateral truck in the county and can be used anywhere in the county that is necessary as well as a crash truck that was purchased by one of the departments for extrication on high technical pin ins. He stated that Yanceyville’s station has had between 15 and 20 of the residents in the county come into his business and lay checks on his desk where they received refunds from their insurance company and said that the fire department deserved it and signed the back of the check and gave it to the fire department and added that the lowest check was $50 and some odd cents and the highest check was $412 so there have been significant savings due to the ISO inspections that the fire departments went through.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “How many stations have substations?” Mr. Massengill responded that the county has 4 substations in Anderson, Yanceyville, Milton and Leasburg is building a substation. Commissioner S. Carter continued “With the new insurance ratings is there a way to more publicize that, I feel like a lot of the public is still at a disadvantage on that for not understanding what they need to do.” Mr. Massengill responded that the public does not need to do anything. He added that most of the checks have already came back but he added that some insurance companies are a little bit lazier or slacker than others but once it came down of ISO effective April 1st to the companies it was pretty much automatic. Commissioner S. Carter stated “Those sluggish companies, we shouldn’t have to worry that they will respond to those residents.” Mr. Massengill responded that he hoped they would. Commissioner S. Carter continued “I have had a couple of citizens come to me and say well I had to called them to tell them because the insurance company didn’t know about it.”

Commissioner W. Carter thanked the fire marshal for a detailed report on all the fire stations.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Just for the minutes and the public’s information, all the adjustments to the districts and all is that pretty much up to speed now?” Mr. Massengill responded that this is correct but there are a few GIS issues with an insurance company saying no it’s not and the county is saying yes it is and that state is bringing the state GIS person in but there are just a few that have to be done.

Chairman McVey asked if there were any more questions.

Mr. Massengill informed the Board if it gets a chance to watch PBS it is running a series or a program on volunteer fire departments in North Carolina or the beginning of the end of volunteer fire departments in North Carolina and wanted the Board to be prepared at some point in time when it is approached by a citizens that says his or her house burned to the ground that there was no fire department there. He suggested that the Board form a committee of a couple commissioners, the fire committee, and maybe two or three citizens to discuss this. Mr. Massengill stated that it is hard to find volunteers during the day time especially.

Commissioner W. Carter asked if there are any young people that are interested in getting into fire service. Mr. Massengill responded that young people are getting tougher and tougher to find. He added that the school program has helped somewhat and the fire department has gotten 2 from the school program. Mr. Massengill stated that 8 graduated last year from the school program which was great but 8 are not going to keep 10 departments going but for so long. He added that the county had a fire two weeks ago Saturday and there were about 30 guys there but when he looked around they were all his age so it is getting tougher for the younger guys to do it.

Commissioner Owen asked if any of the stations are using this money to pay firemen to be on call because he knew it was part of the original discussions and it came up several times about not having volunteers. Mr. Massengill responded that Casville is using the money to pay firemen because they are having a hard time keeping people, they have about 4 or 5 paid firemen and a couple of paramedics and Providence is using their money for one day a week.

E-911 BOARD RECOMMENDATION ON ESINET

Mr. Vernon Massengill stated that on February 27th Mr. Kenneth Everett, new 911 Director and he went to Raleigh to meet with the State Executive Director of the 911 Board, the State Finance Person of the 911 Board, and a lady named Angela who has a lot of hats that she was and one being what is going to be discussed. He stated that on Wednesday, May 1st Mr. Everett sent an email to the state executive director of the 911 and asked if they would bring their group to Caswell County to present the program that the state is moving towards and he turned the meeting over to the 911 Director, Kenneth Everett, to talk about the meeting that took place a couple of weeks ago.

Mr. Kenneth Everett stated that on July 8th the State 911 Board came to Caswell County and had a meeting with the county manager, finance, sheriff’s department, fire marshal’s office, to explain this new project of IP based internet that would service the county will 911 services. He stated the State is working on a strategic plan on a 3 to 5 year development and implementation of the ESINET system which is all IP based 911. Mr. Everett stated that the current system that 911 is using is a 1970 infrastructure that is used across the state and this structure is not keeping up with modern times and the modern technology that is in the state. This ESINET system will serve all 100 counties in the state as well as 120 PSAP center across the state as well so it will be all of the 911s on one network and a new GIS vendor will be coming in to assist and this vendor will be mandated to oversee all 100 counties and it will be a GIS state database. He added that AT&T currently holds the contract and he knew that AT&T did not have good service in Caswell but they have contracts with Verizon, CenturyLink, Sprint and any other cell phone and landline companies in the county but AT&T will host it and it is called a call hosting system. Mr. Everett stated that out of the 127 centers in North Carolina currently there are 8 on the network, there are 109 centers that have been approved and are waiting, and there are 10 centers left for commitment and Caswell County is currently one of the 10 left. He added that tonight he hoped to make the recommendation to move this project forward. Mr. Everett stated that the contract is up for renewal in 2020 with CenturyLink so therefore since the contract is coming up so soon the state is going to work with the county to move the county up to list. He stated that 80% of the calls that are received by 911 are mobile phones and 30% of those are directed to the wrong 911 center because of towers and the way the calls are picked up and this system carried the county back to a 2% wrong 911 center call. Mr. Everett stated that a 911 center call should decrease by 500% in which a 911 call takes 5 seconds minimum and this system will reduce that call transfer down to 1 second so there will be a lot of benefits overall.

Commissioner Hall stated that he is all for progress but he has had and has experience with AT&T as well as Verizon and in parts of his district the call is dropped if a person turns their head. He added that he heard Mr. Everett quote the percentage on the calls and how great the things will be but he wanted to know who would police that because he suspects that AT&T will probably pay the fine before they will upgrade the service in Caswell County. Mr. Everett responded that the service will be contracted by AT&T. Commissioner Hall stated that this is what concerns him. Mr. Everett stated that AT&T is in charge of the hosting and direct them to the central board and direct the calls back to the 911 center. Commissioner Hall stated that this concerns him because Mr. Everett stated that the calls will be reduced from 5 seconds down to 1 second and he has old cable from back in the 60s this call will not happen and his question is who is going to make sure that AT&T upgrades the lines in the county. Mr. Everett stated that the State 911 Board is in charge of making sure that the AT&T contract is fulfilled in every obligation. Commissioner Hall asked if these were the people that were going to come down and talk to the Board. Mr. Everett stated that the State 911 Board has already come to the county and talked to several people. Commissioner Hall stated that he would like for them to come before the Board so he can ask them his question. Mr. Everett stated that the 8 centers that have gone live have experienced the 1% call transfer time. He asked Commissioner Hall who his landline is through. Commissioner Hall responded that his landline is AT&T. Mr. Everett stated that Commissioner Hall’s call will go through an analog circuit but what they are seeing is once it is transferred over to an IP based system the speed is a lot faster. Commissioner Hall asked if this was on analog. Mr. Massengill responded that after it leaves analog it speeds up. Commissioner Hall stated that if it rains the analog is down and that is how it has been for 39 years since he has lived on Marshall Graves Road so that is his concern. He added that he is all for progress but we need better service in the county.

Mr. Massengill asked if the county approved the Verizon contracts. Commissioner Hall responded that he did not think so. Commissioner S. Carter responded “No.” Mr. Massengill stated that he thought the county approved those contracts. Commissioner Hall responded that he did not think so.

Mr. Everett stated that AT&T will contract with all the cell services. Commissioner Hall responded that the cell service is the county is not the best. Mr. Everett responded that the cell service is not and this new system will not improve that part of it. Commissioner Hall responded that if AT&T would do something with their landlines that would improve the service. Mr. Everett stated that he could not say that AT&T would come in and change that right now but AT&T holds the contract for the state ESINET and they are just trying to get everybody on board to IP based. He added that the state bided this out to everybody but AT&T won the bid. Commissioner Hall responded that at some point the Board or some board has to have a discussion with AT&T because nothing has changed over the last 30 years on Marshall Graves Road.

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that the service that everyone has now whether cell phone or landline will not be impacted by this change. Mr. Everett responded no. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that the difference is one the call goes out it will come in on an internet based, more reliable, better backed up system so if someone is able to get out now they will be able to get out then. Mr. Everett responded yes. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if there is a car accident that knocks out the telephone lines this system will still work. Mr. Everett responded that this system is hosted so it will be IP based so once it leaves the person area and goes to the server it will not be lost. He added that getting the call to the system is the same but getting it from the system to the center is a million times better. Mr. Massengill stated that a plus for this new system is if a tornado hits both systems within about 2 minutes someone else will answer that call. Commissioner S. Carter asked “And that is where the centralized is?” Mr. Everett responded yes.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Just curious on how this may affect our existing equipment, structure and the coordination of that?” Mr. Everett responded that AT&T will look at all the lines coming in and looks at any changes that have to be made and all of this falls back on the state. He added that they will prepared everything and get everything laid out and then the training implementation process begins and the system will be tested all the way through and then it will be install and then it will be tested again. Mr. Massengill stated that any new equipment will be paid for and installed by the state with no expenses from this county. Commissioner S. Carter continued “And then what is our time at this point if we have prioritized priority?” Mr. Everett responded that the county’s contract ends with CenturyLink in February so the goal is to run the system by February. Mr. Miller added that a lot of this depends on the state and how quickly the state can transfer the county over, how quickly AT&T can respond to the county’s needs as far as updating the current equipment and current lines.

Chairman McVey stated that this new system is basically not costing the county any money. Mr. Everett responded no, the money will coming out of eligible state 911 funds just like it does now. He added that the only different will be that the funds will be taken out directly instead of being billed to the county and the county paying the invoice.

Mr. Massengill stated that all the 911 Board is asking for tonight is for the Board to authorize the county manager or the 911 director to write a letter to the State 911 Board that Caswell County would like to move forward and hopefully get it up and running by next year.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked what the ramifications would be for Caswell County if it turns this over to the state. Mr. Massengill responded that the state has not tried to tell the county what to do and the State 911 Board is made up of county managers, fire, EMS, 911 directors, general public, and the executive director is a paid full time position.

Mr. Miller stated that once the state has all the counties on the same platform the state has more leverage with the provider more so than the counties individually by themselves.

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that his concern is that the county’s voice goes from 100% to 1% and that the county feels comfortable that the county will lose its identity. Mr. Massengill responded that the county already lost its identity when the state took over control of the 911 funds and he added that the state has been really good to work with.

Commissioner W. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to authorize the county manager and/or 911 director to write a letter to the State 911 Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Thank you for what you do.”

RECESS

The Board took a brief recess.

PROPOSED LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR 2019-2010 FISCAL YEAR

Mr. Ferrell stated that the contract that the Board has in its packet is the same contract that the Board has seen for the last 3 years and there is no proposed rate increase or retainer fee increase. He added that he has a longstanding relationship with Caswell and he would like to continue.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I would like to publicly thank the attorney for keeping us in your thoughts and trying to keep the rate where it is and we appreciate the relationship.” Mr. Ferrell responded thank you.

Commissioner Oestreicher thanked the county attorney for being available when the Board needs to call him, promptly answers the questions and does a good job on the Robert’s Rules of Order questions. Mr. Ferrell responded that he appreciated all of that.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that he appreciated Brian being here and that he has done a good job.

Commissioner W. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to approve the Legal Services Contract. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO AMEND THE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY RESOLUTION

Mr. Ferrell stated that at the last meeting the Board voted to increase the board membership of the Tourism Development Authority from 3 to 5 members and he informed the Board at that time that a resolution would need to be brought back to the Board to specifically make that amendment because the Board created the authority via a resolution back in 2016 when the Board adopted the occupancy tax. He added that the resolution before the Board is to increase the 3 member board to a 5 member board, it adds two additions slots: one for someone who is affiliated with an occupancy tax collector and one for someone involved in tourism within Caswell County and these ratios match the state law requirement for the creation of the Authority in Caswell. Mr. Ferrell informed the Board that he made two more additional tweaks to the resolution to preserve a little bit of flexibility because the initial resolution stated that the initial board members could only serve a one year term and he realizes that it has taken some time to get this Authority going so he thought it would be advantageous for the Board to have the ability should it so chose to be able to reappoint the initial appointee to that same seat for another term up to an 8 year term. He added that the membership is staggered so all three or five members are coming off at the same time. Mr. Ferrell stated that it also states that if a member is reappointed for an 8 year terms that member will have to come off for one year and then that member can be reappointed.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Mr. Chairman, I was just curious if we might could condense A, B, C, D, and E because it just seems like it is a lot of repetitive language that could be more. Mr. Ferrell responded that this is a good point and added that each seat repeats itself either 3 times for the general tourism seat or twice for the occupancy tax collectors seat and the reason it was set up this was to stagger and define the seats.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “I still think we can list that instead of listing them individually. Mr. Ferrell responded that this could be done but this was one way to set it all out to make the seats clear. He added that he mirror the prior resolution but explained the different seat descriptions.

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that revisions cost the county money. Commissioner S. Carter responded “I will be happy to revise it now. You’ve got the three that is for the tourism business, I am sorry two and then you have the three for the promotion of tourism so it seems that 1 and 2 needs to be associated with a business that collects occupancy tax and those two seats will have staggered terms, one being a four year and the other being a three year.” Mr. Ferrell responded that this is more or less what was done. He added that the last sentence of the seat appointments it talks about what that seat is for and the effort is to just keep it clean to show which seat is which and when that seat is up for reappointment. Mr. Ferrell stated that he did not think there was a rush on this resolution so it could be revised to make it shorter. Commissioner S. Carter responded “That is what I was talking about, we could replace seat four and seat two because they are together.” Mr. Ferrell responded that this makes sense. Commissioner S. Carter responded “And its Caswell and not Casswell.” Mr. Ferrell stated that what Commissioner Carter is suggesting is that the like seats be grouped together and he added that he could make these changes as well as the typo correction.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I will make that motion to approve this contract as amended. Mr. Ferrell responded that it would be to approve the resolution as amended. Commissioner S. Carter continued “To approve the resolution as amended.”

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the only change was to move 2 paragraphs. Commissioner S. Carter responded “Replacing D with B…no swapping.”

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Oestreicher to approve the resolution as amended.

Chairman McVey asked if there were any more questions.

Commissioner Owen asked the clerk if the County had received an application for someone that is affiliated with a business yet. The clerk responded that she has not received any as of yet.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman, that question that Commissioner Owen just made I would be happy to step forward and work with the county manager or whoever I need to work with to contact those businesses that I mentioned at the last meeting that are affiliated with AirBNB, they are out there and there is like 15 of them and we need to make sure they are collecting occupancy tax but also allow them to express interest in this committee and I think it would be very simple to contact those people and hopefully we can move forward.” Chairman McVey thanked Commissioner S. Carter.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CASWELL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CASWELL COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**WHEREAS**, the Caswell County Board of Commissioners created the Caswell County Tourism Development Authority (the “Authority”), a public authority under the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, by Resolution adopted the 15th day of August, 2016 (the “Initial Resolution”); and

**WHEREAS**, Board of Commissioners desires to amend the Initial Resolution to increase the membership of the Authority from three (3) members to five (5) members, remove the prohibition on reappointment of initial members, and clarify reappointment eligibility.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** as follows:

1. The Authority shall be governed by an Authority Committee of five (5) members appointment, term of office, and other qualifications shall be as follows:

A. Seat 1: The member holding Seat 1 shall be appointed by the Caswell County Board of Commissioners. The first person appointed to Seat 1 shall serve an initial term of not more than four (4) years ending June 30, 2020. Subsequent appointments to Seat 1 shall be for a term of not more than four (4) years, however, such term always ending on June 30 of the last year of such appointment. The member holding Seat 1 shall be an individual who is affiliated with businesses that collect the occupancy tax in Caswell County as required by Section 2 of Session Law 2007-224.

B. Seat 2: The member holding Seat 2 shall be appointed by the Caswell County Board of Commissioners. The first person appointed to Seat 2 shall serve an initial term of not more than four (4) years ending June 30, 2023. Subsequent appointments to Seat 2 shall be for a term of not more than four (4) years, however, such term always ending on June 30 of the last year of such appointment. The member holding Seat 2 shall be an individual who is affiliated with businesses that collect the occupancy tax in Caswell County as required by Section 2 of Session Law 2007-224.

C. Seat 3: The member holding Seat 3 shall be appointed by the Caswell County Board of Commissioners. The first person appointed to Seat 3 shall serve an initial term of not more than two (2) years ending June 30, 2018. Subsequent appointments to Seat 3 shall be for a term of not more than four (4) years, however, such term always ending on June 30 of the last year of such appointment. The member holding Seat 3 shall be an individual who is currently active in the promotion of travel and tourism in Caswell County as required by Section 2 of Session Law 2007-224.

D. Seat 4. The member holding Seat 4 shall be appointed by the Caswell County Board of Commissioners. The first person appointed to Seat 4 shall serve an initial term of not more than three (3) years ending June 30, 2019. Subsequent appointments to Seat 4 shall be for a term of not more than four (4) years, however, such term always ending on June 30 of the last year of such appointment. The member holding Seat 4 shall be an individual who is currently active in the promotion of travel and tourism in Caswell County as required by Section 2 of Session Law 2007-224.

E. Seat 5. The member holding Seat 5 shall be appointed by the Caswell County Board of Commissioners. The first person appointed to Seat 5 shall serve an initial term of not more than four (4) years ending June 30, 2023. Subsequent appointments to Seat 5 shall be for a term of not more than four (4) years, however, such term always ending on June 30 of the last year of such appointment. The member holding Seat 5 shall be an individual who is currently active in the promotion of travel and tourism in Caswell County as required by Section 2 of Session Law 2007-224.

2. Authority Members are permitted to serve terms consisting of not more than eight (8) consecutive years. Members shall not be eligible for appointment or reappointment to the Authority Committee after the expiration of such eight (8) year period unless such person shall not be a member of the Authority Committee for a period of one year prior to reappointment.

3. Except as specifically modified herein, the terms of the Initial Resolution shall govern the formation and operation of the Authority.

This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption. Adopted this the 15th day of July, 2019, upon motion of Commissioner S. Carter, seconded by Commissioner Oestreicher.

S/Rick McVey\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Rick McVey

Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Attest:

S/Paula Seamster\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Paula Seamster, Clerk to the Board

RETIREMENT OF A SERVICE DOG

Mr. Miller stated that the Board had a letter from the Sheriff’s Office in its agenda packet requesting that the Board surplus a retired K-9, K-9 Bolle, beginning July 19, 2019. He stated that the K-9 is 6½ years old and is used as a bitter or an attack dog as well as a narcotics dog and the plan for the animal is to return the animal to the original trainer which is Bright Hall aka “AK9 LLC”.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman, I am happy to recommend that we write a letter of recognition for this K-9 and his deputy for the fact that the animal has given a lot of service to the county improving the…well what do I want to say…lessened crime in the county and I would be happy to write it and bring it back and we sign it and then recognize the deputy, what’s his name?” Mr. Miller responded that there were several deputies that worked with this K-9 over the last 7 years.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “I meant the current deputy.” Mr. Miller responded that he would be happy to contact the Sheriff’s office to find out that information. Commissioner S. Carter asked Frank Rose who was in the audience “Do you know who it is?” Mr. Rose responded that the last one he remembered was Scott Norris. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Scott Norris, and invite the deputy.”

Chairman McVey asked for a consensus on the letter of recognition. There was no consensus.

Commissioner Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to approve the surplus of the retired K-9 Bolle. The motion carried unanimously.

SPECIAL SEPARATION ALLOWANCE

Mr. Miller stated that this item has been talked about several times but the special separation allowance is to allow officers after 25 years to retire and still receive their special separation allowance that is paid for out of county funds and not out of the state retirement funding. He stated that the Board had some questions such as how many individuals this would pertain to and how much it would cost the county and he continued by saying that according to legislation and according to the officers that are currently employed now it seems that over the next 5 years this would impact 2 officers and 1 additional officer within the next 5 years so over 10 years it would be 3 officers. Mr. Miller stated that financially the net impact for the county is zero, part of legislation is that the officers could not receive more than what they would have received if they had met the magic retirement dates. He added that what the county would essentially do is to buy out the officer’s special separation allowance and this could be payable in a lump sum at the discretion of the county or payable to the officer’s retirement account.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if this would have an impact on the cash flow. Mr. Miller responded that it would impact the cash flow because the monies would be paid out sooner in lesser amount of if they are lump sum buyouts then it would definitely have an impact on cash flow but he thought the county would be able to structure those payouts the way the county wants to structure them.

Commissioner Hall asked how much money this could be. Mr. Miller responded that the average special separation allowance is around $11,500 per officer per year from the date that they retire until they turn 62.

Commissioner W. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to approve the special separation allowance as presented by the county manager.

Commissioner Hall stated that he wanted to get the dollars in his head, it would be an average of $11,500 per officer per year until age 62, and he asked the county manager about the 3 people that would be able to take advantage of this he wanted to know the approximate age of these people when they would be able to take advantage of this special separation allowance. Mr. Miller responded that they would be between 50 and 55. He added that they have to have 25 years of service or 55 years old with 30 years of service.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

ANSWERS FOR DISCUSSION ON HOUSE BILL 233

Mr. Miller stated that the finance director prepared some information that is contained in the agenda packet to address some of the questions that were asked on House Bill 233. He added that there is still one piece of information that is still outstanding but it will be brought back to the Board at a later date.

DISCUSSION ON RETIREE INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Mr. Miller stated that at the last Commissioners meeting the Board discussed the possibility of reducing the retiree premiums to zero. He added that currently all retirees pay $15 a month regardless of the plan they are on for the county insurance which became effective in July. Mr. Miller stated that all county employees are paying $15 for their insurance. He added that over the next 15 years based on the potential retirees that the county has the maximum liability for the county would be $68,220 which equates to approximately $5,000 per year that retirees would pay towards their health insurance premiums. Mr. Miller stated that the county is looking at 16 current employees that are on the retiree insurance and in the future the county is looking at approximately 34 employees that could potentially become eligible for retiree insurance.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I would like to reintroduce the motion that we made at the last meeting to cover their insurance premiums at 100%.

Commissioner Owen asked if this was retirees with 30 years of service. Commissioner S. Carter responded “Yes sir.”

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Carter that the County will cover the cost of the retirees with 30 years of service insurance premiums.

Commissioner Hall stated that he disagreed because financially this did not make a lot of sense to him because the Board has to make decisions every year about the budget. He added that he understands the service that people have made to the county but he also understands that insurance is expensive and he will not support paying 100% for anybody or everybody indefinitely. Commissioner Hall stated that he has suggested for the last 5 or 10 years the employees make some kind of contribution to their insurance and he also thinks retirees should make a contribution to their insurance.

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that his concern is along similar lines in the fact that he is not sure that this Board should be making decisions that would affect the budgets in perpetuity to cover whatever the cost may be and that is what the motion implies to him and he is not comfortable with this concept.

Mr. Ferrell stated that he wanted to make it clear that the Board is not able to bind future boards in this way. He added that the Board made a budget decision to charge the retirees $15 for their insurance premiums so what the motion would do is reverse that decision for the current budget because the Board will still have to adopt a budget every year.

Commissioner Hall stated that this is what he understands about future boards but this Board went back and checked the minutes from years ago and if the Board makes this move it will be a part of the record and an employee in the future will say he or she was promised insurance and this will create another problem. He added that when an employee retires he or she should expect to say something on their insurance and added that there are very few places in the country that pays the employees insurance and especially their retiree insurance. Commissioner Hall stated that the county is paying $700 a month for one employee for insurance and this could very easily go up to $1200 a month because this cannot be controlled. He added that employees as well as retirees should expect to pay a portion of their insurance at least on a percentage or prorated basis because insurance is going to continue to go up. Commissioner W. Carter responded that there are a lot of municipalities and cities that pay their retirees with 30 years insurance. Commissioner Hall stated that he is sure there are but he is concerned about Caswell County Government and the Board had to pull money out of fund balance this year to balance the budget with this insurance figured in and now the Board has to go back and undo this and it looks like more money will have to come out of fund balance.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “In the spirit of the motion that was mentioned in the last meeting I feel like we should stand out uniquely among the crowd and to that as a service to our employees, us expressing our appreciation for their service and I feel like in today’s environment with the difficult employment situation this is one of the least things that we can do and it doesn’t have a huge impact. On our most current budget most of that fund balance is capital and it’s not going to reoccur next year. To that I am not arguing with you I am just trying to give you a perspective on that but the point being I feel like it’s a service that we should commend our employees and do it as a thanks for what they have done at least, they have done more, above and beyond.”

Commissioner Oestreicher asked to hear the motion again. Commissioner S. Carter responded “We are covering retirees with 30 years their health insurance premiums 100% until Medicare age.” Commissioner Oestreicher stated that he understands that this is an illegal motion in the perspective of committing future boards. Commissioner S. Carter responded “We can’t commit future boards on anything we decide.” Mr. Ferrell added that what Commissioner S. Carter is stating is right now for the current cycle year end there is a set of retirees that meet this criteria that are paying $15 per month for their health insurance premiums and the motion the way Mr. Ferrell understands is that the retirees would be refunded any premiums that have been paid and the premiums would be covered for the current fiscal year. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that he did not hear the current fiscal year in the motion.

Chairman McVey started that this would be only for the current budget year. Mr. Ferrell responded that this is all the Board can do.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “And back to how it will be perceived in the future for the sake of the minutes, that example that we had before us at the last meeting did not discuss the very points we just made and now it is in there as a record for anybody that wants to use it as a reference. It is in black and white and you can’t dispute it and so I feel like that give us validation is this situation and next year it could be totally different and five years we could do it again. That is just the way things are.”

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that he would like to see Commissioner S. Carter’s motion amended to be more specific on the timeline. Commissioner S. Carter responded “For the current fiscal year.” Commissioner Oestreicher stated yes. Commissioner S. Carter responded “Can you add that Ms. Seamster?”

Commissioner Hall asked what this would do to the budget ordinance that the Board approved. Commissioner Oestreicher responded that this would require an amendment. Commissioner Hall asked if the budget ordinance could be amended after it has been approved. Mr. Miller responded no, the budget ordinance cannot be amended. Commissioner Hall stated so the Board will have to find the money to cover this expense. Mr. Miller responded that the Board would appropriate about $2400 to pay for retiree insurance for the fiscal year 2019-2020 for those retired individuals with 30 years of service. Commissioner S. Carter added “And to refund those who have paid their premiums.”

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Carter that the County will cover the cost of the retirees with 30 years of service insurance premiums for the fiscal year 2019-2020 and the County will refund those retirees that meet this criterion any monies that have been paid in. The motion carried by a vote of 5 to 2 with Commissioners Hall and Oestreicher voting no.

Commissioner Hall stated that the Board vote for this and the county manager said the Board would have to appropriate the money so someone will have to do a budget amendment to identify this change that was just appropriated. Mr. Miller responded that staff will have the amendment for this change at the next meeting.

COUNTY MANAGER’S UPDATES

Duke Energy, Person Caswell Lake Authority, Person County Meeting

Mr. Miller stated that he did hear back from Person County and they do not believe this is an issue for county government so they are not inclined to have a joint meeting with all the groups. He added that Person County would be happy to entertain conversations about resolutions or a letter to provide to Duke Energy. Mr. Miller stated that the County can continue and set up a meeting with the Person Caswell Lake Authority and with Duke Energy, he is happy to proceed any way the Board sees fit.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman, I am not satisfied that Person County didn’t see it as a county issue but I would say that for us it’s a Caswell County issue predominately especially where that sediment is located because it is within our county mostly. If the Lake Authority is willing to meet and the regulatory representative from Duke Energy is willing to meet with us I feel like it is appropriate to have a meeting of those three entities at the Lake Authority’s location on the lake and entertain a pretty casual environment, not to be so intimidating, to where we can discuss how to move forward, I am open to do that as soon as convenient to the group leaders.”

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if that would satisfy Person County to not sit as the board of commissioners. Mr. Miller responded that he could not speak for Person County and he can’t speak for its manager but if the Board schedules a meeting he will reach out to the Person County manager and let her know when the meeting is going to take place and if they wish to attend they can.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Well the way I see it they already declined the invite so I am just saying they do not plan to attend the public meeting.” Commissioner Oestreicher responded that Person County declined the joint meeting of the Boards of Commissioners is the way I heard. Commissioner S. Carter continued “But this would also include the Lake Authority.” Commissioner Oestreicher responded that Person County may attend something that is maybe not so high-faluting. Commissioner S. Carter stated “Oh yeah, by all means invite them to it and I would recommend that we reach back out to them and if they want to write us a resolution support any path with improving the lake by all means but I think starting this conversation sooner than later is important because it’s going to take time to resolve it.” Commissioner Oestreicher agreed.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if there were any dates that were discussed. Mr. Miller responded no, both the Lake Authority and Duke Energy said they were fairly flexible and they had talked about the possibility of the last two weeks of this month so he was going to reach back out to them to see which date works best for those two weeks if those two weeks are agreeable to this Board.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Could we decide on some dates to send out or else we are going to be in the same boat at the first meeting in August? It seems like we are the ones entertaining the meeting to begin with.”

Commissioner Jefferies asked how many have complained about this issue with the sediment because only one person came before the Board. Commissioner Oestreicher responded that the gentleman that came before the Board presented himself as representing several homeowners on the lake especially on the Caswell side. Commissioner Jefferies asked why the group didn’t come before the Board.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman, I can give some perspective that I feel like that I am able to speak with only one person in a situation having been with other individuals that have boated and fished and have been on residential properties in that area with all that sediment that is out there, I have personally been in a boat where we hit a sandbar and we didn’t know it was there, ten years ago that problem didn’t exist and I feel like we should do something.” Commissioner Jefferies responded that he has not seen any of this and he has been all over that lake. He added that maybe Person County is right that this is not a county issue. Commissioner Jefferies stated that Person County and this Board have always met and had good relations and Caswell has a representative on the Lake Authority that should have reported this.

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that he thinks the Board should move forward because he believes the man was representing more than himself and that was his opinion.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “How is Monday, the 29th as a potential date?” Commissioner Oestreicher asked if this would be in the evening. Commissioner S. Carter continued “I was just putting it out there just to see how people would respond.” Commissioner Oestreicher responded that late evening would be good but if not he would prefer the 22nd. Commissioner S. Carter asked “Do you think there will be a fairly quick response?” Mr. Miller responded that he thought so. Commissioner S. Carter continued “The 22nd or the 29th does not matter to me.” Commissioner Oestreicher stated that the 30th would be a good date as well but in the evening. Commissioner S. Carter asked “Bill do you have a preference on a date, day of the week?” Commissioner W. Carter responded that if the meeting is before August 8th anytime would be okay.

Commissioner Hall stated that he knew the Health Board meeting would be sometime at the end of the month on a Tuesday. Commissioner S. Carter responded “The dates we have discussed are Mondays.”

Mr. Miller stated that if it pleases the Board he would send out another email to the interested parties for the 22nd and 29th to see how they responded and then he will send an email to the Board.

School of Government Program

Mr. Miller stated that he wanted to introduce the Board to a program that is being offered by the School of Government and the North Carolina City and County Manager’s Association which is called Lead for North Carolina. He added that this program partners a recent graduate from a MPA program with a county and the commitment from the county is that the county would retain this individual from between 1 to 2 years. Mr. Miller stated that he wanted to get this program in front of the Board so the Board will know about the program and he thinks this is an excellent program. He added that this program provides a low cost capacity option and provides the counties with some of the most cutting edge and forward thinking individuals that are recent graduates from MPA programs. Mr. Miller stated that he will probably talk to the Board several times about this program over the next year leading up to the budget. He added that he thinks this program has benefits for both the MPA graduates and the local county governments and added that he will be talking to the Board more about the potential of hosting one of these candidates over the next two or three years.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Is this for a deputy manager?” Mr. Miller responded no, the program is a little bit different.

Commissioner Hall asked if the county manager knew the cost of this program. He added that he had asked that Caswell County be put at the top of the list at the last board meeting but there was nothing mentioned about the cost of the program. Mr. Miller responded that the overall cost for the county’s contribution is between $35,000 and $40,000. He added that the individual would actually be getting paid $15,600 a year and the NCCCMA will pay for the other portion of the salary, the county would provide the individual with $9,600 for a housing stipend, human resources costs are also factored in, benefits costs and retirement system contribution which would total the $35,000 to $40,000. Mr. Miller stated that this is a smaller version of Lead for American and he would be happy to talk with commissioners individually and provide each of them more information. Commissioner Hall stated that at the last Board of Directors meeting this was laid out and he talked with staff about putting Caswell County at the top of the list because the Board needs to get quality trained staff to Caswell County one way or another.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked what MPA stood for. Mr. Miller responded Masters of Public Administration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A. Caswell County Blood Drive – Wednesday, July 17 2019 – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. –

Senior Center

B. 112th NCACC Annual Conference – August 22 – 24, 2019 – Guilford County, NC

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman I have two things that I would like to add to the announcements. I just wanted to remind the Board and announce to the public that Caswell History Speaks, that program that we had a request to rent the building a while back is coming here Saturday, August 10th at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. here at the Historic Courthouse. It’s free to the public. It should be quite a perspective. And also just to remind the Board Farmer Lake Kid’s Fishing Day, that is Saturday, August 17th 8:00 a.m. to noon and kids fish for free, they will get free rods and reels as they had done in the past.”

Commission Owen announced that Book Bag Blast will be held on August 17th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He stated that if the Board wanted to participate in this again he will be ordering a case of book bags to donate. Commissioner S. Carter asked “How much did we pitch in last year?” Commissioner Owen responded that he thought it was $10 each. Commissioner S. Carter continued “And they cost how much a piece?” Commissioner Owen responded that the case contains 24 book bags and it is $72.00 for the case.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that about a month or a month and a half ago the Board requested self-evaluations from the individuals that report to the Board and he asked if the Board would do these evaluations at the next meeting or the next night meeting. Commissioner Oestreicher responded performance reviews. Commissioner S. Carter asked “For the individuals that report to this Board?” Commissioner W. Carter responded the employees that were asked to fill out the reports. Chairman McVey stated that this would be fine with him. Commissioner W. Carter asked if the Board wanted to do this at a day meeting or a night meeting. Chairman McVey responded that he thinks it would be better to do this at a night meeting. Commissioner W. Carter stated then at the next night meeting. Commissioner S. Carter responded “Second meeting in August.” Chairman McVey stated yes. Commissioner Oestreicher responded that it would be on the agenda for that meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to go into Closed Session to preserve attorney/client privilege (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)), to consider the compensation, terms of appointment and performance of an individual public officer (NGS 143-318.11(a)(6)), and to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1)). The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner W. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to resume the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that the Board will be performing the staff evaluations at the second meeting in August and he asked that the Board read the self-evaluations and to come with its thoughts organized so this does not have to be done during the meeting. Chairman McVey responded that this would be done in closed session. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that he understood that it would be done in closed session but he just asked that the Board would come prepared.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:37 p.m. Commissioner W. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Paula P. Seamster Rick McVey

Clerk to the Board Chairman

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