MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the Caswell County Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 3, 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 amended the agenda to include the Bi-Tek agreement and added it to the agenda under Item #8 Recognitions and removed Item 12. Disposition of County Property and Item 13. Employees Serving on Boards and Committees.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

The following items were included on the Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes of August 15, 2019 Special Meeting

B. Approval of Minutes of August 19, 2019 Regular Meeting

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2020-2021 COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM, CAPITAL 5310, AND CAPITAL CALL FOR PROJECT GRANT APPLICATIONS

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen that the Board enter into a public hearing to receive comments on the FY 2020-20201 Community Transportation Program, Capital 5310, and Capital Call for Project grant applications. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Melissa Williamson stated that the Caswell County Area Transportation System (CATS) is required to complete the Community Transportation grant application and the Capital Call for Project grant applications for fiscal year 2020-2021 by October 4, 2019. She added that CATS is required to hold a public hearing to allow the public to comment on the transportation needs and on the grant applications. Ms. Williamson stated that CATS is requesting 1 replacement bus in the capital grant application and administrative funding in the 5311 CTP application. She added that the Capital 5310 purchase of service’s objective is to provide transportation services that meet the special needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities to who mass transportation services are unavailable, insufficient or inappropriate. Ms. Williamson stated that she will need a motion made by a Board member and a second by another Board member for the adoption of all the grant applications. She added that CATS is requesting $123,338 for Administration, $60,350 for Capital (Vehicles & Others), and $25,000 for Capital 5310 Purchase of Service totaling $208,668 and the local match will be $27,044 which will come from the Enterprise fund.

Commissioner Hall asked Ms. Williamson if she would give a quick overview of what CATS accomplished over the last year. Ms. Williamson responded that the administrative grant covered 100% of her salary, 50% of the coordinator’s salary as well as benefits, copier, office supplies, workers’ compensation, etc. She added that last year CATS requested 4 vehicles and all 4 have been replaced. Ms. Williamson stated that the funds from 5310 go to pay for services that are out of the county and these funds run out pretty quickly. Commissioner Hall asked for an estimate on how many miles or how many trips were done outside of the county. Ms. Williamson responded that she did not have that information with her but she knew that CATS had about 278,000 service miles in all for the year but she was not sure how many of those miles were for out of the county.

Chairman McVey asked the Board if there were any more questions. Chairman McVey asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak during the public hearing.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked how much money was in the budget for these grants. Ms. Williamson responded that the budget for CATS is for over $400,000 but she did not know the exact amount. Commissioner Oestreicher asked how much money was in the budget for the match. Ms. Williamson responded that the $27,400 would come out of the Enterprise Fund. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if this was included in the budget. Ms. Williamson responded yes it is already included in the budget.

(At 9:07 a.m. Commissioner S. Carter entered the meeting.)

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to go out of the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the grant applications for CATS. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CASWELL COUNTY UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE (continued)

Commissioner W. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Oestreicher that the Board enter into a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed amendments to the Caswell County Unified Development Ordinance which was continued from the August 19, 2019 Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Matthew Hoagland, County Planner, stated that the exact same regulatory language that the Board was considering at the previous public hearing is still the same on Article 9, Part II. Manufactured Home Siting and Article 9. Part III. Wireless Communications Facilities. He added that at the last meeting the instructions from the Board was to invite the Tax Director Thomas Bernard and the Building Inspector which is Rockingham County’s Chief Building Inspector Mark Langel, which is not here today, to answer the Board’s questions.

Chairman McVey asked Mr. Bernard how the new product would affect the tax value versus a brick and block foundation. Mr. Bernard responded that the county does not have any experience with the new product and it is not listed in the schedule of values. He added that he understands that there is not a lot of difference in the cost of block/brick and this product. Mr. Bernard stated that a manufactured home placed on block/brick would depreciate less than a manufactured home assessed as personal property but he stated again that he had not dealt with this product before. Chairman McVey asked if this product would decrease the value of a home. Mr. Bernard asked Mr. Hoagland what the cost difference would be. Mr. Hoagland responded that the cost for an average double wide with a brick skirting would be about $9,000 and an average double wide with the masonry substitute would be $3,000 to $4,000.

Commissioner Hall stated that when this was addressed several years ago one of the things the Board had to consider was real property versus personal property and he wanted to know if this new product would make a difference between real property and personal property. Mr. Bernard responded that this would be a factor because real property is valued higher than personal property. Commissioner Hall stated that he understood this but he wanted to know if this would make a difference. Mr. Bernard responded that in order for a manufactured home to be considered real property the tongue and the axles will need to be removed and have block/brick underpinning underneath. He added that if the new product is installed and the tongue and axles are removed it would still be taxed as real property.

Mr. Miller asked Mr. Hoagland if there is a requirement in the new language of the UDO if someone uses the masonry board siding for skirting to have the tongue and axles removed. Mr. Hoagland responded yes sir. Mr. Miller stated that this would still be considered real property. Mr. Hoagland responded that the regulatory changes would only affect manufactured homes placed on individual lots and would not change mobile home lot regulations. Mr. Bernard stated that if this is the case it would not be a whole lot of price difference but he did not know because this product had not been look at. Mr. Miller asked if the new product would depreciate at the same rate as block/brick. Mr. Bernard responded it should depreciate at the same rate. Mr. Miller stated that it had been established that both methods would be considered real property. Mr. Bernard responded yes sir.

Chairman McVey asked how much of an effect would a manufactured home with a brick foundation beside a $150,000 house have versus a manufactured home without a cement fiberbord foundation beside a $150,000 house as far as the value. Mr. Bernard responded that it would not have an effect because the county does not have zoning.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked what affect this would have on the comparables when doing appraisals. Mr. Bernard responded when comparables are done they would look at houses and double wides that are comparable to the $150,000 house so it may be just a little below average.

Commissioner Owen stated that he wanted to get this on public record that there is nothing included in the UDO talking about the foundation and the process if the foundation gets damaged. Mr. Hoagland responded that there is nothing in the UDO about repairing the foundation but if household trash became a factor the County could probably pursue this under the Solid Waste Management Ordinance but in a manufactured park there would be a process. Commissioner Owen stated that if he ran into his manufactured home and damaged the brick the damage could stay there for as long as he wanted it to because the County couldn’t do anything about that. Mr. Hoagland responded that this was correct.

Chairman McVey asked if there were any more questions for Mr. Bernard.

Mr. Miller stated that Ken Caison, who has been serving as one of the County’s building inspectors over the last year or year and a half was present and that he was willing to talk about the mobile home foundations and the brick and block foundations as opposed to cement board type products.

Mr. Ken Caison stated that he found out about this at the last minute but cement board is not approved for ground contact because it may deteriorate. He added that anything that is used for manufactured home skirting has to be a substance that will not deteriorate over a period of time and to his knowledge cement board is not approved for this use because this material has to be at least 4” above the ground.

Chairman McVey asked if the cement board is approved for ground contact. Mr. Caison responded that to his knowledge it is not approved for ground contact.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman we had some cement board reps for a lack of a better description and they were saying that you had to, you know, put this stuff in the ground and they were all chipper about it lasting forever and not having issues so this is interesting to hear.” Mr. Caison responded that he had worked in a lot of places and in 8 jurisdictions and this had not come up in the other places he had been but unless the manufacturer approves it for ground contact it would not be something that building inspections could approve. Mr. Hoagland responded that this is how the ordinance changes would read; cement board that is approved for ground contact as per the manufacturer’s instructions and that is what these changes would allow.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked how this issue could be resolved because the building inspector is stating that it is not approved to his knowledge. Mr. Miller responded that at the last public hearing the Board saw a product that had a strip that went into the ground and then the cement board went into the strip so the cement board was not within 4” of the ground. He asked if this information was correct. Mr. Hoagland responded that it was correct.

Chairman McVey asked what prevented water from getting into the strip at the bottom. Mr. Caison responded that the key to all of this is the manufacturer would have to put it in their manufacturer’s instructions to specifically approve this cement board for ground contact or how far it has to be above the ground. He added that this product is used on houses as a subsurface but it needs to follow the manufacturer’s instructions because that is how a code enforcement official would determine if it is an approved product or not.

Commissioner Owen asked Mr. Caison if he had approved this product in Rockingham County. Mr. Caison responded no. He added that there are many counties like Alamance County that do not have a local ordinance that restricts what can be put up and there may not be anything required for skirting but the counties that have ordinances states it has to be installed per the a manufacturer’s instructions. Mr. Caison stated that vinyl skirting is approved for ground contact.

Commissioner Jefferies stated that Caswell County needed to be using the same products that Person, Alamance and Rockingham Counties are using. He added that he does not want people to move to other counties when they can live in Caswell because taxes are taxes and that is the only way Caswell County operates.

Chairman McVey asked if there was a difference in the brick and fiberboard as it relates to safety. Mr. Caison responded that there is no difference when it comes to safety. He added that the cement fiber is not a combustible material so it is safe just like brick. Chairman McVey asked if the cement fiberboard was just as safe as a brick foundation under a manufactured home. Mr. Caison responded that it is fire resistant. Chairman McVey stated that this would be fire, wind, storms, etc. Mr. Caison responded that the cement fiber is only as strong as whatever it is attached to. He added that block/brick is stronger as it relates to resistance to wind than the cement board because the board is only ½” thick. Mr. Caison stated that the cement fiberboard is not as strong as brick but it is stronger than vinyl.

Commissioner Owen asked if this related to the safety of the mobile home. Mr. Caison responded that fire could spread better with vinyl or the cement fiberboard than the brick and block. He added that if there is fire underneath the house whether it is a mobile home or a house it is not going to be a good ending either way. Commissioner Owen stated that if a hurricane was to come through would there be a difference between a mobile home with a cement fiberboard foundation and a block/brick foundation. Mr. Caison responded that basically it is a skirting and the brick does not contribute to anything as far as the structural integrity of the mobile home.

Commissioner Hall asked about the impact of water or moisture under the home between the two products. Mr. Caison responded that a mobile home that is tied down properly is resistant to water and skirting keeps the water out from underneath the house. He added that a brick foundation would do a better job of keeping the water out than the cement fiberboard.

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that he was concerned about the fiber that is used between the layers of concrete and he asked if there are any specifications on what the fiber was made of. He added that it used to be asbestos at one time. Mr. Caison responded that it probably does not contain asbestos anymore but there are minimum specifications that the manufacturer has to follow for the product. He added that it is basically a tile product. Mr. Caison stated that the manufacturer may have approved this for skirting underneath a mobile home but he was not aware of it but that did not mean that it did not exist. He added that he could look at the product to see if it would be approved for this use as far as the mobile home code. Mr. Caison stated that the County does not want to allow people to use something that the manufacturer says that it cannot be used for that purpose because the manufacturer will not stand behind the product.

Commissioner Owen stated that the language for this was included in the UDO. Mr. Hoagland responded yes sir and added that the language states ‘Skirting materials shall be approved for ground contact per the manufacturer’s instructions.’

Commissioner W. Carter stated that if the Board approves this change the building inspector will have to give the final approval. Mr. Caison responded that any product that goes into a building a code official has to determine whether it is an approved product or not and the way that is determined is from the manufacturer’s tests and approvals and it will have to be installed per the manufacturer’s instructions.

Chairman McVey asked if anyone from the public would like to speak during the public hearing.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman we are not finished with the public hearing, we are not finished with discussing this, is that correct?” Chairman McVey responded no because the Board will have to go over the Wireless Communication Facilities as well. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Can I say something on this one before we move to the second one?” Chairman McVey responded yes sir. Commissioner S. Carter continued “At our last meeting I brought up a couple of points regarding the exemptions for skirting and I appreciate all of this information regarding the higher grade of the materials. I am unaware of, you know, all of those…the range that exists but I still don’t believe that we should have an exemption for anyone that has a…even a temporary site because temporary sites can end up being years, you know, for health and well-being of the citizens of the county, you know, it doesn’t matter that it is this board that we keep talking about or it be brick just one of those higher grade materials that is approved for ground contact I think everyone should be able to abide by that and not have exemptions in these cases and that’s 9.21.3.2 and that’s on the second page.”

Chairman McVey asked if there were any more comments on Manufactured Home Siting. With no further comments the Board moved on to Article 9, Part III. Wireless Communications Facilities.

Mr. Matthew Hoagland, County Planner, stated that this regulation had not changed from the last meeting. He added that notifications were mailed out to the cell tower owners and a lot of feedback was received which caused the Planning Board to go back to the drawing board. Mr. Hoagland added that this information had been shared with the Carolinas Wireless Association Regulatory Committee for review as well and he had relayed this to the county manager and the county attorney that this could take up to a couple of months before the county would get the final regulations.

Mr. Ferrell stated that he talked with the Planning Director briefly and that the Planning Director is not ready to make a recommendation without input from the individuals that are constructing and using the towers in the county. He asked the Planner if this was his recommendation that the Board refer this back to the Planning Board to bring back at a later date. Mr. Hoagland responded that this would be his recommendation at this time.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Do we have anyone that would like to speak on this one?” Chairman McVey asked if anyone from the public would like to speak on this part of the public hearing.

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Carter to go out of public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner W. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to adopt Article 9, Part II. Manufactured Home Siting as per the Planning Board’s recommendation.

Chairman McVey stated that this is to allow the cement fiberboard to be put under a manufactured home. Mr. Ferrell responded that this also changes the prohibition of bringing older mobile homes into the county and this was included in the change as well.

Commissioner Hall asked why this prohibition was being removed. Mr. Hoagland responded that one of the Planning Board members looked at the changes to the UDO and recognized that the county had 2 standards of recognizing homes that are allowed in the county. He added that one was a strict year standard that said no mobile homes before 1976 and the other referred to the Federal Mobile Home Safety & Security Act of 1974 which went into effect in 1976 so there was a redundancy there. Mr. Hoagland stated that the reason the strict year standard was removed because there was a Court of Appeals ruling in 2009 that prohibited Pasquotank County from saying no mobile homes more than 10 years old because they found that the county could regulate based off of safety standards but a strict year standard could not be imposed so this redundancy was being removed.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion carried by a vote of four to three with Commissioners S. Carter, Hall and McVey voting no.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that the Board needed to address Article 9, Part III. Mr. Ferrell responded that this was correct; the Board needed to act on the second piece of the public hearing if the Board was inclined to do so.

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner S. Carter recommended sending back Article 9, Part III. Wireless Communications Facilities to the Planning Board for further review. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman McVey opened the floor to Public Comments.

Amanda Hodges, Executive Director of the Caswell County Chamber of Commerce, came before the Board and updated it on the Hoedown which will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2019. She stated that the Caswell County Chamber of Commerce is a 501c6 organization which is governed by a board and it is a membership organization so all of its funding comes from its membership as well as fundraising that the Chamber may do via grants or sponsorships for events the Chamber holds. Ms. Hodges stated that the Chamber as well as others having been working very hard to raise funds for the Hoedown this year. She gave the Board a flyer on the Hoedown and she went through the events that will be held that day. Ms. Hodges stated that one of the main changes is that the event will be moved back to the Square. She added that she has weekly meetings with the community every Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. at the Yanceyville Municipal Building. Ms. Hodges stated that she also gave the Board the Chamber’s newsletter. She asked each Commissioner to join the Chamber. She thanked everyone in the community that had helped to plan this event and thanked the Sheriff for being so kind and helpful with the event and for the planning of the safety during the event.

Mr. Thomas Wright came before the Board and stated that he was brought 2 bills for Eselle Womack’s heirs from the Tax Office and he does not know where the mobile homes are located. He added that he has the bills and he knows where one of the mobile homes is located because Ms. Womack only owned one mobile home. Mr. Wright stated that he thinks the bills are for two mobile homes and he added that Mr. Bernard could not explain where the two mobile homes were located because there can’t be two mobile homes on the same address. He added that he would be paying the bills because he had been paying the bill since 1997 when Mr. Bernard took over the Tax Director’s job. Mr. Wright wanted to ask the Planner the process on what happens when someone purchases a mobile home and moves it into the county. He added that he knew a moving permit had to be bought but he wanted to know how it gets to Mr. Bernard and how it gets listed on the taxes. Mr. Wright asked the Board to find out where the other mobile home is located because he knew where one of the mobile homes was located but not the other one.

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

RECOGNITIONS

Commissioner Owen thanked the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners for the annual conference that was held in Guilford County and thanked Guilford County for hosting this conference. He thought it was a very good conference, it was well attended and there were a lot of good sessions that were offered. Commissioner Owen stated that for the commissioners that were not able to make it he had most of the sessions online. He also recognized Bliss Pointer who was Caswell County’s Youth 4-H representative and the leadership at that conference.

Commissioner Hall stated that Commissioner Owen did not recognize himself. He added that Commissioner Owen was honored with having received the highest level of training, the Mentor Award, during this year’s annual conference and Commissioner Owen was the only person this year to receive this award and he added that Commissioner Owen should be congratulated.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Yes I was just going to agree with Commissioner Owen’s comments; the conference was very enjoyable, very informative. We had a lot of interaction with other leaders across the state. We were able to exchange ideas and information and it’s a very valuable experience and I would recommend that other members of the Board do attend that in the future because it is well work it and also again I agree and recognize Miss Pointer that was there. She had a great time at the Youth Voice program. I was able to attend their activities and their budget simulation. It’s incredible what these young people know about county government. It’s great to see them apply that and to think about the decisions that we go through and the process that that entails so it was a very enjoyable time there. I also wanted to recognize all the individuals and all the organizations, everyone that contributed to the Camp Springs Bluegrass Festival this weekend. I was able to attend Sunday and I heard that Saturday’s attendance was good as well. I don’t think a lot of people in my generation realize how big of a deal that event was in the past and what this means to revitalize it. This is a great new event that will be in Caswell County once again and we look forward to big named musicians coming in the future and the ones that were there this year returning next year and years to come but it was very much a purely Caswell County event. It was nostalgic for those that went to it in the past and it was an experience for those of us that have only heard about it so everyone that was involved in that process of bringing that back, that was an event for this county and I wanted to recognize and thank them.”

RECESS

The Board took a brief recess.

BI-TEK MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT

Mr. Miller stated that added to the agenda was a master services agreement for Bi-Tek and it was his understanding that it is basically a services agreement. He added that this money was included in the budget process but the Board had a rule that all non-reoccurring contracts over $5,000 needed to come before the Board and that is why this agreement was before the Board today. Mr. Miller stated that the county attorney had worked on the agreement so he was happy to answer any questions and the tax director was there as well to answer any questions.

Commissioner Owen asked the county attorney if he saw any issues or problems with the agreement. Mr. Ferrell responded that he had some comments and questions and proposed a set of revisions that had been worked on with the vendor and from a legal perspective Bi-Tek addressed the concerns that he had and what the Board was looking at was a revised version from what was originally given to the County. Commissioner Owen asked if the training portion of the agreement was included in the budget. Mr. Bernard responded yes. Commissioner Owen asked if the whole 15 days of training was necessary. Mr. Miller responded probably. Mr. Bernard responded probably so.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman for the sake of the citizens that wonder what in the world this might be for the minutes could I ask the manager to give us a quick rundown of what this contract entails.” Mr. Miller responded that it was a contractual agreement between Caswell County and Bi-Tek and the contract basically lays out the services and terms for Bi-Tek providing the county with service related to tax collections and the process located in the tax office. Mr. Miller stated that the service agreement is for $150,800 and the training component is for $15,000 billed out at $1,000 a day and if the 15 days are not needed it will not be billed.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if other providers were evaluated and if so he asked for a rundown of list and prices. Mr. Bernard responded that this was discussed during the budget process and the others were from $200,000+. Commissioner Oestreicher asked how many other providers were looked at. Mr. Bernard responded three or four. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if this program would integrate well with the proposed finance software. Mr. Bernard responded yes sir. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that this was a concern that the Board had during the budget session.

Commissioner Hall asked Mr. Bernard if he looked at the software that is supported by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. Mr. Bernard responded yes that this company was one of the higher priced ones that were received and this company did not want to talk to Caswell County because it was too small. He added that Bi-Tek is in 27 or 28 other counties. Commissioner Hall asked Mr. Bernard if he had talked to the other counties that had this software. Mr. Bernard responded yes sir.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “I seem to recall that during the budget meetings that this was going to pay for itself in a matter of just a couple of years, could you just recap the specifics of that?” Mr. Bernard stated that the price that the county is paying now will be reduced greatly after this software is implemented and after 2 to 2 ½ years there would be a savings of $60,000 a year. Mr. Miller responded that this was due to the maintenance agreement.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the tax office was current on computers and servers to operate this software. Mr. Miller responded that this was discussed during the budget as well to purchase a tax server. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that the server will have to be purchased before this software can actually become functional. Mr. Bernard responded yes it will be needed to start the conversion process. He added that the IT director was looking at servers now. Commissioner Oestreicher asked when the software would take effect and be usable. Mr. Bernard responded that it should be converted over the first of the year.

Commissioner Hall asked if the software would help with the reval process. Mr. Bernard responded that the software would make it easier for the reval company to use and it will have more codes and schedules and be easier to work with in the field. Commissioner Hall asked if the county would still have to pay the same amount for the reval. Mr. Bernard responded yes. Commissioner Hall asked when Mr. Bernard looked at the NCACC’s software if he considered what it would do for the reval. Mr. Bernard responded yes because it would do the same thing because people have to do the reval.

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner S. Carter to accept the master services agreement with Bi-Tek. The motion carried unanimously.

CASWELL COUNTY STATE OF THE COUNTY HEALTH REPORT 2018

Ms. Marcy Williams stated that a copy of the Caswell County State of the County Health Report 2018 is located on the Health Department’s website and there are a few paper copies in the library. She added that a community health assessment is due every 4 years to the state and this report is done in the interim and the next big community health assessment will be due next spring. Ms. Williams stated that there have been several public meetings where information has been shared to get residents feedback. She stated that the last health report was submitted in the spring of 2016. Ms. Williams went through the health report such as the top 10 causes of deaths in the county.

Chairman McVey asked if any of the commissioners had any questions

Commissioner S. Carter asked “I’ve got a few so hang in there with me please. Was most of this data based on the surveys that we had sent out?” Ms. Williams asked if this was for the drug related information. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Overall, I know we had a couple of health department driven surveys.” Ms. Williams responded that most of the data comes from the census as far as the demographics and socioeconomic. She added that any health related items comes from the state. Commissioner S. Carter asked “And I noticed that most of this was collected between 2012 and 2016 I’m just curious when we expect updated data on this?” Ms. Williams responded that this was the most current information at the time and the 2013-2017 information will be given in the community health assessment. She added that they use 5 years rates due to the low population rate in Caswell County and this increases the statistically reliability of the numbers because it could be a handful of people that could cause the numbers to go up or down. Commissioner S. Carter continued “And then with the, I think you called it priority health concerns with the obesity column there do we have any data on that for the county? Childhood obesity is definitely that is a concern because that has been a significant increase over years and I did not know if there was a working relationship with the…” Ms. Williams responded that to her knowledge they did not have any childhood obesity data because that information is usually collected by the school system and she was not sure if they collected that information or not. Commissioner S. Carter continued “They do and I was curious if y’all had a working relationship as far as data share and if that was even legal to do because if we have a county health summary it should definitely include that in my opinion but it may be a HIIPA violation for all I know.” Ms. Williams responded that she did not think it was a HIIPA violation but she was not sure if it is collected in aggregate so it would not identify individual children. Commissioner S. Carter asked “Sure, so do we have an adult data?” Ms. Williams responded that the state collects adult data based on the region so it would be the entire piedmont region so that is why she did not include this information in the county’s report. Commissioner S. Carter continued “And then similar with the data share with the opioid epidemic that we’re dealing with, is there any way we can work with the surrounding hospitals, medical centers…” Ms. Williams responded that she has talked to Danville Regional which collects information by zip code and not by county and a lot of Caswell County’s zip codes are shared with Rockingham County and Person County so it may not be people from Caswell. Commissioner S. Carter stated “Well maybe if it’s a death it would say the county of birth or the county of residence on the death certificate.” Ms. Williams responded that the way Danville collects it they do not include county residence. She added that she has talked to data people in Virginia. Commissioner S. Carter continued “And what about North Carolina counties?” Ms. Williams responded that the NC Detect has the North Carolina hospitals so it is all North Carolina hospitals but we are losing all of the Virginia information. Commissioner S. Carter stated “Right, but…” Ms. Williams responded that NC Detect includes all of the North Carolina hospitals in the system. Commissioner S. Carter continued “So with those are we able to indicate individuals that are from Caswell County?” Ms. Williams responded that information has been obtain for Caswell County but it doesn’t really show a lot of burden here necessarily but it may not be a true picture because the county does not have the Virginia data. Commissioner S. Carter stated “True. Thank you.”

Commissioner Hall asked if data is collected on childhood asthma. Ms. Williams responded that she did not think data is collected on childhood asthma or not at least for this report but there could be some data somewhere out there.

Chairman McVey asked if there were any more questions. He thanked Ms. Williams.

DISPLAYING STITCHING NC: THE HUNDRED COUNTY QUILT

Commissioner S. Carter stated “In your agenda packet there should be a small sheet of information regarding that. At the NCACC conference there was a lady that had this quilt displayed and it is huge, it is 18 x 9 feet and weighs, I think, over 18 pounds and it was created from all different parts of the state, all different quilters from different counties. Caswell County on the quilt actually has 2 squares represented and it was really neat to be able to look at this quilt and pinpoint, you know, where your county was. The purpose is to bring counties together. It’s a display of unity but it also gives counties the chance to display the quilt and have some kind of interactive activities set up with citizens, with children, so the idea of bringing this to Caswell to display I thought was a no brainer and it would show not only our quilting heritage which is, you know, long past in our county’s history but also letting people be more aware of North Carolina, you know, works as one, there is one hundred counties but there is a single purpose and that is to serve the citizens and to learn about different counties across the state. So there’s materials and handouts that come with this that maybe our library could help facilitate but I was going to put it out there to the Board that this quilt is available for display starting in January. I am pretty sure it’s for a whole month, that’s how the sign up was structured but I wanted to see first are we interested in displaying this in 2020 either at the earliest available convenience we can get it at or a specific time maybe even during the Hoedown next year, that’s a thought and then where to put the quilt is the second part of that so if anyone has suggestions I am recommending that we do display it but as far as the particulars that’s for this Board to decide. I’ll recommend that we display it at the library at the earliest we can get it and I am looking forward to the interactions that the public will have with it.”

Chairman McVey stated “Thank you.”

RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE FOUNDING OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Commissioner S. Carter stated “We have a resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment but it’s also to recognize and to honor the founding of the League of Women Voters which is the organization that followed the women suffrage advocating for the passage of the 19th amendment and I was going to read the resolution if there is no objections to that. It is dated today, September 3, 2019

A RESOLUTION

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the passage of

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States

and the founding of the League of Women Voters

WHEREAS, an organized movement to enfranchise women began in July of 1848 at a convention in Seneca Falls, New York; and

WHEREAS, through the efforts of brave and courageous women referred to as suffragists, who sacrificed family, their personal life and their financial resources over seventy years, equal rights for women, especially the right to vote were achieved; and

WHEREAS, women and men, black and white, supported the women’s suffrage movement for women to gain the constitutional right of having a voice in making the laws that govern them; and

WHEREAS, the women’s suffrage movement led to the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in 1919; with ratification by the states by the summer of 1920; and

WHEREAS, the National Women’s Suffrage Association dissolved in 1920 to create the League of Women Voters of the United States to register and educate all voters; and

WHEREAS, the League of Women Voters of North Carolina was launched on October 7th, 1920, on the steps of the Guilford County Courthouse by Gertrude Weil, a politically active and tireless young woman from Goldsboro, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, more than 120,000 women were registered to vote in North Carolina by 1920; and

WHEREAS, women today constitute a majority vote in our state and the United States and are running for office in higher numbers and are more active in the election process than ever before in history; and

WHEREAS, over 8,000 women are registered to vote in Caswell County and make up a majority of the electorate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Caswell County Board of County Commissioners, hereby recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution and the founding of the League of Women Voters in the United States and North Carolina, and commend those brave women of the past for these historic accomplishments and to the tireless women of the present for their impact on citizen engagement in the electoral process and towards the greater civic life of our community, state and nation.”

Adopted on the third day of September, 2019.

 S/Rick McVey \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ S/Jeremiah Jefferies \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Rick McVey – Chairman Jeremiah Jefferies – Vice Chairman

S/Nathaniel Hall\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ William E. Carter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nathaniel Hall William E. Carter

S/David J. Owen\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ S/Sterling Carter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

David J. Owen Sterling Carter

 S/Steve Oestreicher\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Steve Oestreicher

 Attest:

 S/Paula P. Seamster \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Paula P. Seamster, Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Hall stated that he would vote to approve this resolution and added that he thought it was interesting to note that the 19th amendment was approved without the ratification of North Carolina so whatever right that women received and are still trying to get North Carolina was not a part of it. He added that there is an Equal Rights Amendment out there now for women that had been moving slowly for over 5 years and when it was put out there Congress gave it 5 years to pass and the 5 years are over but it is only one state shy of this being ratified so what the women are hoping is they will get that one state to agree and then they can go back to Congress and get the 5 year limit lifted or to get it reopened. Commissioner Hall stated that as much as people think they support the rights of women, women are really not being supported.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I was going to piggy back off of that and say that even before a ratification, I am sorry, during the process of ratification it was the state of Tennessee that made the difference in the whole process and it was only 1 vote in their state legislature so it takes bravery, you know, in those times of controversy to make good things happen and, you know, I feel that although North Carolina was not involved in that process historically I think it’s important that a county like us being one of the first to recognize the accomplishments of women in the past and those in the present and to get this out there so the citizens can join in and celebrate the 100 years that the women have had the right to vote.”

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Hall to approve the resolution Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and the Founding of the League of Women Voters. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “And Mr. Chairman just to remind the Board that after the meeting all of hang out for just a second to sign this.”

COUNTY MANAGER’S UPDATES

Historic Courthouse Ceiling Repairs

Mr. Miller asked for direction from the Board on how to proceed with the ceiling repairs in the Historic Courthouse. He asked if the Board wanted the entire ceiling painted or just the spots that are peeling to be scraped and repainted. Mr. Miller stated that the price in the two options determine the method that needed to be used to obtain a contractor. He added that when he came into the room earlier today there were some chips of paint laying where Commissioner Carter sits and some on the steps near the side wall.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “When we first discussed this back during the budget the idea was to paint these spots and we did have a quote for…” Mr. Miller responded that the Board is not going to talk about it. Commissioner S. Carter continued “We are not going to talk about it. Anyway it might be a good deal to go ahead and do the whole thing. I’m now of that opinion that, you know, it might as well be handled so that we don’t have to address it again a couple of years down the road to patch some more spots.”

Commissioner Jefferies stated that the county had spent a lot of money on this ceiling. He added that this has been done several times. Commissioner Jefferies stated that there is something on the ceiling the keeps the paint from sticking because there have been several contractors that have painted the ceiling and the same thing continues to happen.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I was just going to give Mr. Jefferies some information on that point, you know because this room is not climate controlled all the time and this being interior paint, that’s the main reason why it keeps peeling and these spots occur so I think one of the ideas of this current situation is to do exterior paint since this room can sometimes be freezing cold and sometimes be 90 degrees because we don’t keep the A/C and heat during the winter running full time so I think we have an opportunity to fix the problem and of course we will deal with, you know, small things in the future but I think this will be a great help to the situation. We had a guy from the state, the State Historic Preservation Office to come and look at the ceiling and that was one of the points that he had, was it needed to be exterior paint because we are not in a climate controlled room all the time.” Commissioner Jefferies responded that this person may be right but there have been several contractors that have painted this room and someone should have known this.

Commissioner Owen stated that he would not vote to paint the whole ceiling unless he could see the figures if it is going to increase what was included in the budget. Mr. Miller responded that the contract would come back before the Board at some point in time as part of a construction and repair contract so the Board would be able to see the prices. He added that he just wanted some direction. Mr. Miller stated that it would be substantially more expensive to paint the entire ceiling than it would be to paint just portions of the ceiling. Commissioner Owen stated that he did not mind seeing quotes but until he could see those figures he would not vote to do the job. Mr. Miller responded okay.

(At 10:40 a.m. Commissioner W. Carter left the meeting.)

Commissioner Hall stated that as Commissioner Jefferies stated the ceilings have been painted several times and he recalled that the last person that painted the ceiling made a guarantee. He added that he stated that he knew what he was doing and he guaranteed that it would not chip again so staff needed to find out who this person was and even if the warranty is up the county needed to find out what the warranty was for because this had been done many times before. Commissioner Hall stated that he admitted that the ceiling looked bad and he agreed that something needed to be done but the county needed to be careful on how it moved forward because everyone that comes in here is an expert and they take the county’s money and then they are gone.

Mr. Miller stated that some spots have been repaired once since he had been with the county and he thought those spots were holding up but additional spots are occurring. He added that he did not know if there was a good solution to the peeling. Mr. Miller stated that the contractor stated that he could not guarantee putting paint on top of the other paint because if the paint was bad it would peel. Commissioner Hall responded that the last time it was repaired the ceiling was scrapped all the way down and then painted and if they did not do that the county needed to go back and talk with them about it. Commissioner Jefferies agreed.

Chairman McVey stated that he did not know how long it had been since it was painted but if there was a warranty involved this needed to be looked at. Commissioner S. Carter responded “I think it was 2011 and then it has been patched since then but the last total paint was 2011. We just don’t want it to get back to the way it was.”

Mr. Miller stated that he could prepare an RFP and send out the RFP, receive the bids and bring the bids back to the Board and he would send the RFP out for both repair and the whole ceiling.

Commissioner Hall asked if someone could look up the contractor that did this before, it may not do any good but the county needed to talk to them anyway. Mr. Miller responded that he would.

North Carolina Aviation

Mr. Miller stated that he wanted to update the Board on a meeting that he attended with the director of the North Carolina Department of Aviation. He stated that it was a really good meeting and lot of things was discussed concerning locating an airport in Caswell County. He asked the Board to look at a map that he supplied to the Board. Mr. Miller stated that the purple areas on the maps are areas that are within a 30 minute drive from an airport and there are areas that are shaded in white that are not within a 30 minute drive or 20 nautical miles of an airport. He added that this map can be found on the Department of Aviation’s website but the areas in white would be eligible if they meet the rest of the requirements for being included in the North Carolina Aviation Plan which would be required to be included on the National Aviation Plan which would be required to get the grant. Mr. Miller stated that the director said that the process is not an easy process and that it takes a lot of political will and political influence as well as time and energy. He added that initial steps are a feasibility report which starts out at about $50,000. Mr. Miller stated that he would be happy to try to find some grant funding to fund the feasibility report and he is happy to proceed with whatever the Board chooses but the Department of Aviation was encouraged that a small county showed up and was looking to locate an airport.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked Mr. Miller if the airport would have to be located in the white areas on the map or just provide access to those areas. Mr. Miller responded that the airport would have to be located in the white areas on the map.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Do we have access to a more detailed map of those areas?” Mr. Miller responded that he was sure the county could get one but even enlarged the map does not give clear boundaries. Commissioner S. Carter continued “It looks like Leasburg and Anderson and some in Cherry Grove too, those southern parts.”

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that this does not seem to help the VIR situation which was kind of the driving force behind this. Commissioner S. Carter responded “That will be at least 40 minutes from there in that situation.”

Mr. Miller stated that he could certainly try to get a more detailed map. He added that Caswell County is between all the larger population counties which would help since Caswell has a small population which hurts the county in the plan.

Emergency Management Planning Session

Mr. Miller stated that he provided the county with information about Hurricane Dorian from the National Weather Service and the State Office of Emergency Management. He added that there will be an Emergency Management Planning Session at 1:00 today at the Yanceyville Fire Department and Chairman McVey and Vice Chairman Jefferies have been invited to attend the meeting. Mr. Miller stated that this meeting will be about the preparations for the hurricane.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Can others of us attend?” Mr. Miller responded that if more than 4 members of the Board come it has to be noticed and that notice time has passed. Commissioner S. Carter continued “So if I showed up with just those 3 would you be okay with that Mr. Chairman?” Chairman McVey asked who else Commissioner Carter was including. Commissioner S. Carter stated “You and Mr. Jefferies were invited to this meeting.” Chairman McVey stated that he did not think Commissioner Jefferies was attending the meeting. Commissioner Jefferies stated that he did not know if he would be able to attend. Commissioner S. Carter continued “I can go, I am interested.” Chairman McVey responded that he did not have a problem with Commissioner Carter attending the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

None were given.

CLOSED SESSION

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

REGULAR SESSION

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

SHERIFF

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner S. Carter to allow the Sheriff to engage in independent legal counsel for civil matters up to $25,000. The motion carried unanimously.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Mr. Miller recommended that the Board increase the Building Inspections part time position to a full time position with benefits.

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Oestreicher to increase the Building Inspections part time position to a full time position with benefits and to hire the individual that the county manager recommended with the objective that with this change the budget will remain the same or be budget neutral. The motion carried unanimously.

REGISTER OF DEEDS

Mr. Miller recommended that the salary line for the Register of Deeds office be increased to $117,351.

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to increase the salary line for the Register of Deeds office to $117,351.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked how this would be paid for. Mr. Miller responded that it would come out of the general fund.

Commissioner Owen asked how the salary was figured. Mr. Miller responded that he looked at the salaries on the UNC School of Government’s website and the salaries for surrounding counties.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if a budget amendment would be needed for this change. Mr. Miller responded yes and that it would come back before the Board.

Commissioner Owen stated that he had a problem with increasing one position by $9,000 and asked how much responsibility had been added to this position. Mr. Miller responded that the Assistant Register of Deeds serves as the Register of Deeds in the absence of the Register of Deeds. Commissioner Owen asked how the salary study missed this.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if it would be possible to do this in more than one step and recommended maybe increasing $5,000 now and later $4,000. Mr. Miller responded that he was worried about continuity.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion failed by a vote of 2 to 4 with Commissioners Hall, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voting no.

CONSULTANT

Commissioner Hall stated that a couple of meetings back the Board had asked him to get with the PTRC and School of Government for consultants and he had the responses back. He added that the PTRC recommended 2 consultants and the School of Government through the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners also recommended 2 consultants. Commissioner Hall stated that the Personnel Committee could look at the recommendations. Chairman McVey gave the recommendation to Commissioner Oestreicher.

EVALUATIONS

Chairman McVey stated that the evaluations were going to be postponed again because not all of the evaluations had been turned in by the Board.

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that Commissioner Hall and Commissioner S. Carter had not turned in the evaluations. Commissioner Hall gave his evaluations to Commissioner Oestreicher.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:03 p.m. Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner S. Carter to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Paula P. Seamster Rick McVey

Clerk to the Board Chairman

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