MINUTES – FEBRUARY 5, 2018

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 Monday, February 5, 2018. Members present: Nathaniel Hall, Chairman, Rick McVey, Vice-Chairman, Sterling Carter, William E. Carter, Nathaniel Hall, Jeremiah Jefferies, David Owen and Kenneth D. Travis. 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 Hall 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

Commissioner Owen asked to make an amendment to the agenda under Closed Session to add to consider the compensation, terms of appointment and performance of an individual public officer (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)) and to preserve attorney/client privilege (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)).

Commissioner Travis asked to remove the Budget Amendment #7 from the Consent Agenda and to add as a line item.

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

APPROVAL OF FY 2017-2018 BUDGET AMENDMENT #7

Commissioner Travis stated that the reason he wanted this removed was because the $5,000 budget amendment was for the commissioners to be able to take trips. He added that $5,000 was put in this line item during the budget process. Commissioner Travis asked if the original $5,000 had been spent. Chairman Hall responded that from his understanding it will be. Commissioner Travis asked if the money had already been spent for the trip. Chairman Hall responded that he did not know but he knew the money had been committed or encumbered. Commissioner Travis stated that the Finance Director was in attendance and she could answer this question. Commissioner Travis asked Ms. Vaughn if the check had been written for the trip. Ms. Gwen Vaughn responded that the money had been encumbered for the trip. Commissioner Travis asked how much the check was written for. Ms. Vaughn responded that she did not know the amount. Commissioner Travis asked the County Manager if he knew about this. Mr. Miller responded that the initial estimates for the trip were about $7,000 for 3 commissioners to attend the conference in Washington, DC. Commissioner Travis stated that the money should have been approved by the Board before any money was sent. Mr. Miller responded that the budget amendment needed to be approved. He was not sure if the payment had been made, he was only aware of the initial estimates on travel, the conference registration and the hotel expenses.

Commissioner McVey stated that he could not believe that between the finance director and the county manager that they did not know if the money has been spent or not. Chairman Hall responded that he suspected that the money had not been paid. Commissioner McVey continued that someone should know if the check had been cut and if it has been paid or not. He asked why the finance director or county manager would not know that. Mr. Miller asked Ms. Vaughn if the check had been cut or if the expenses were paid with a credit card. Ms. Vaughn responded that it was paid with the credit card. Commissioner Travis stated that it did not matter if the check had been cut, the money needed to be there before the check is cut and the line item did not have the money in it. Commissioner Travis asked what would happen if the Board did not approve this request. Mr. Miller responded that the reservations and the registrations could be cancelled. He added that when staff was made aware that the expense was going to be more than the budgeted amount it was put on the agenda. Mr. Miller stated that registrations have to be made in a timely manner or the county has to pay more.

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to deny the $5,000 on this particular line item.

Commissioner McVey asked again if any of this had been paid for or not. Commissioner Travis responded it has been paid on the credit card. Commissioner McVey asked if the whole amount had been paid. Chairman Hall responded that he did not think so. He added that staff should be able to answer that. Chairman Hall did not think the whole amount would have been paid in full for a meeting in March. Ms. Vaughn stated that the hotel reservation has been paid by check. Chairman Hall asked how much this was. Ms. Vaughn responded that she would have to check on the amounts. Chairman Hall asked what the cost of the registration was. Commissioner S. Carter responded “Not off hand.”

The clerk stated that Commissioner S. Carter’s hotel reservation was paid by credit card for around $2100. The registration fees for the conference for all three commissioners were paid for by credit card. Commissioner Jefferies and Chairman Hall’s hotel reservations were paid by check and each of these two reservations was around $1636 each. The registration fees for the conference were around $500.

Chairman Hall stated to answer Commissioner Travis and Commissioner McVey’s question the fee have been paid.

Commissioner Owen stated that his concern was not with attending the conference but to begin the year $328,000 in the hole and the county spend more money for 3 commissioners to go to a conference. He could understand one commissioner attending the conference. It also seems to be a done deal before it came before the Board for approval. He assumed that the $5,000 would come out of fund balance.

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

Commissioner Travis stated that from this point on things like this needs to come before the Board before the process starts. Mr. Miller responded yes sir. Commissioner Travis stated that this was like writing a bad check.

Mr. Miller stated that Budget Amendment #7 has still not been approved.

Commissioner W. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve FY 2017-2018 Budget Amendment #7. The motion carried by a vote of four to three with Commissioners McVey, Owen and Travis voting no.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

The following items were included on the Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes of January 10, 2018 Special Meeting

B. Approval of Minutes of January 16, 2018 Regular Meeting

C. Approval of FY 2017-2018 Budget Amendment #7

PUBLIC HEARING – NC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM – 04-D-2706

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner McVey that the Board enter into a public hearing to receive comments on the NC Department of Commerce – Community Development Block Grant Program 04-D-2706 close out. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Gwen Vaughn stated that the Commissioners have a letter in their packets to request a public hearing to close out the Commerce Fellows Grant.

Chairman Hall asked for a brief overview explaining the grant, what it was used for, when it started and when it ended.

Ms. Vaughn stated that the Commerce Fellows Grant was a Community Block Grant for Caswell County. The grant number was 04-D-2706. It was awarded by the North Carolina Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant Program. The grant period for Caswell County was July 2016 through December 2017. The purpose of the grant was to allow county staff to obtain professional development. This grant included employees from Caswell County government, the Town of Yanceyville and the Town of Milton. The Town of Milton was unable to send any of its staff. The County has had a completed review and was found in compliance. The grant manager reviewed the grant information on December 29, 2017. The grant was administered by county staff internally by Finance management. The grant award was $30,476.01. The county used the reimbursement payment method to request the CDBG funds. The grant funds requested and received were $25,971.16. Ms. Vaughn named the courses that were taken by County staff and Town of Yanceyville staff. Ms. Vaughn asked the Board for approval to close out the Commerce Community Development Block Grant.

Chairman Hall asked if there were any questions for Ms. Vaughn.

Ms. Lynn Talley asked what the grant was used for. Chairman Hall responded that the grant was used for training for the staff of Caswell County, the Town of Yanceyville and the Town of Milton. He added that as Ms. Vaughn stated the Town of Milton was not able to participate.

Ms. Sandra Aldridge what kind of training was involved. Ms. Vaughn responded that the trainings were conducted through the UNC School of Government and this grant gave a block of courses that the county and municipalities could participate in. There was training for Community Development, Economic Development, Supervisory training and the Administration of County and Municipal Government.

Chairman Hall asked if there were any further questions or comments. Chairman Hall declared the public hearing closed.

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner S. Carter to close out the NC Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant 04-D-2706. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Hall stated that there were 7 or 8 individuals signed up to speak. He asked as he calls the individual’s name if they would come forward and give their name and address and to limit their comments to 3 minutes.

Ms. Jo Page Sicz came before the Board and made the following statement:

Ms. Page stated that it was encouraging to find animal abuse issues on the agenda again today. She stated that she appreciated and respected the commissioners that are listening to the voters to resolve long neglected problems. She added that many people are watching to see Animal Control become a division of the Sheriff Department. One excuse she has heard why this has not happened in the past was the Sheriff Department would not accept it and she asked if that was true. Another excuse given was ‘it would be an outrageous expense’. She did not know how this could be true since the county already had the vehicle, the equipment and personnel on staff. She stated that she has also heard a rumor that the current sheriff has said that he might agree to accept Animal Control after the May election. She stated that she sincerely hopes this is not true and that this is only a rumor and that is not just playing politics with the issue. Ms. Page stated that she was not sure when the county would not enforce the law because it might cost too much or be too much trouble. She was glad the Animal Control Ordinance is still being considered today and she hopes it is approved. She added that no two individuals will agree on every detail on how pets should be treated but a healthy debate is a good thing. Ms. Page stated that as for the puppy mill the residents continue to watch and wait for the news. They will not forget the pictures of that place and of those dogs suffering. She has heard that a puppy mill ordinance is being written and this is a great thing. She did ask that the ordinance include cats. She added that Caswell County has received a lot of negative publicity lately over these issues and this could be reverse if there is compassionate forward thinking officials who enact ordinances and enforce the law and the Board has the opportunity to make that happen.

Ms. Cynthia Bradner came before the Board with the following statement:

Ms. Bradner lives at 285 Gatewood Road, Yanceyville. Ms. Bradner stated that she send an email to all the commissioners and asked for a response on January 29th and she thanked Commissioner Sterling Carter for his response. She stated that she was going to read her letter that she sent in case none of the other commissioners read their email. She stated that the animal control ordinances needed to be changed or amended to protect animals from neglect. She added that she was sure the commissioners are aware of the puppy mill incident involving Mr. Holmes from Fayetteville, NC and she was greatly concerned about how the county manager took this concern so lightly and believed the pictures of Charlie were altered and the incident was not real. She added that Mr. Holmes is a serviceman that serves her country and theirs. She asked the Board if they believe that Mr. Holmes would drive from Fayetteville to Pelham just to start a stink. Ms. Bradner stated that she called the Sheriff’s office when she saw the article on Facebook and the deputy that she spoke to said this was the Animal Control’s job and not the Sheriff’s office. She asked what the duties of the Animal Control officer in Caswell County. She added that if the Animal Control officer does not have the authority to handle a situation such as puppy mill then the ordinances need to be changed or amended. She stated that situations like a puppy mill should be handled with the aid of the Sheriff’s Department. She did not want to diminish the job of the animal control officer but they need more authority to handle certain situations. Ms. Bradner stated that the commissioners were voted in because people trusted them to do the right thing and it is time that they do it. The commissioners need to make a change to the ordinances to help helpless animals from cruel living and disgusting places to make money off of them. She then asked the commissioners to reply to her email so she would know who was on the side of helpless animals. She then gave the Board the definition of a puppy mill: it is someone abusing animals and suspicions of cruelty and should be reported to law enforcement agencies, human control agency or animal control agency or a taxpayer funded animal control shelter. She added that when Mr. Holmes reported his observation at the scene it was not taken seriously. Ms. Bradner stated that if the ordinances were changed or amended and law enforcement had been involved maybe it would have been taken more seriously. She asked the Board to do the right thing and help the animals.

Ms. Kathy Shealy came before the Board and made the following statement:

Ms. Shealy stated that she lived at Old US 29 in Pelham. She stated that she was a very small voice in a very big room and she is getting to know how things work. She is still doing research and she is looking to see what other counties and other states are doing. How they are enforcing their ordinances so she will know what the citizens ask for can be done. She stated that this was a big problem and she would not want to have the commissioners’ job because they are trying to please everybody and trying to do the right thing and this is great. She stated that she has narrowed her vision down to one dog that is on her road. She has called the animal control office and reported a couple of dogs. She stated that she does not know what methods are used to patrol; she is still looking this up. She stated that she is an outsider looking in. She stated that just because someone is following the law does not mean it is enough. Some of the dog houses are useless because there is still no bedding, water is still frozen, wind going into the dog house and a lot of people say it is just a dog, they can take the cold. She stated that some dogs can but some of them can’t because they don’t have an undercoat. People need to use a little common sense. The dog she is talking about is named Lincoln. Ms. Shealy stated that all of her efforts are going to go into helping to change the laws, not to make hunters mad, this is for Lincoln. She went and bought a bail of straw and shavings and gave them to the owners. She stated that you can buy these things but that does not mean they will use them. She has driven passed this place several times and they have not done anything. She called the animal control office on the weekend because bitter weather was coming and during off hours she was instructed to call the Sheriff’s Department. She called the Sheriff’s Department and she asked for a wellness check on a dog and they responded on a dog and she responded yes because this is where she was instructed to call. She stated that she is trying out the system and it does not seem to be working. She stated that the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing and she is saying this is a Christian manner. Ms. Shealy stated that Lincoln is still at the end of his chain. It is long enough but she has never seen anyone play with the dog and she has never seen him off that chain. She added that tethering makes a dog meaner. They get territorial so they kind of create a monster. She stated that she wants to see laws changed if it will help Lincoln get off the chain for a little while. She would love to help every dog in the county, every dog in the state and every dog in the nation but she can’t save them all so she is going to concentrate on Lincoln. She wants to see some laws changed to get Lincoln off the chain. She is going to try to get pictures of the dog and give them to the commissioners. She added that if they are a Christian they should know that God created the 10 commandments not because he thought we would follow them but to make us accountable. She added that she has now told the commissioners about Lincoln so they are not accountable.

Ms. Lynn Talley came before the Board and made the following statement:

Ms. Talley stated that she lives on 158W. She stated that she believes that everything has been said today that needs to be said. She stated that the Board of Commissioners have a tremendous responsibility for a lot of things and it is time to let one of those things go and that would be Animal Control. She added that when you are dealing with misdemeanors and felonies, criminal and civil laws there are people that deal with this and it is not the county manager and steps need to be taken to put Animal Control back under the Sheriff’s Department. Animal Control staff needs to be training and have a detailed job description and work evaluations. Ms. Talley stated that she would hope that the Board would let Animal Control go. This needs to be cleaned up and not covered up. Ms. Talley stated that as far as hunting she is pro hunting but they should not have special stipulations.

Mr. Steve Oestreicher came before the Board and made the following statement:

Mr. Oestreicher stated that he lives at 228 Cactus Drive, Prospect Hill. He signed up just to be able to speak because there is an item on the agenda for a Historic Preservation Commission and he would like for this item to be open for public comments. Chairman Hall responded that this is not the Board’s standard procedure; the items on the agenda are for discussion by the Commissioners. Chairman Hall stated to Mr. Oestreicher if he had comments to be made to make them now. Mr. Oestreicher stated that without knowing what is going to be said he was not sure his comments would be very knowledgeable. Commissioner Owen stated that the discussion would be a very general discussion because it is only the second time the Board has discussed this item.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman may I speak? This is just to bring it to the Commissioners formally; it was discussed at our Planning meeting in January. This is just basically we are there to make a direction whether we want to pursue it or not formally and then we will also have pending discussion at joint meetings with the Town of Yanceyville and the Town of Milton and the County which is on March 15th in Milton and their comments and input will also be taken into account on whether the county as a whole would like to pursue it at this time.”

Mr. Oestreicher asked if this would be available for public comment. Chairman Hall asked what Mr. Oestreicher was referring to. Mr. Oestreicher stated he was referring to subsequent discussions. Chairman Hall responded that no subsequent discussions would be available for public comments. He suggested to all the citizens that if they want to speak to any commissioner involved doing that before leaving today. Mr. Oestreicher stated that it is his understanding that the Historical Association for Caswell County has not been included in any planning or discussion about this and he asked that Mr. Carter include a discussion with the Historical Association.

Mr. Andy Turner came before the Board and made the following statement:

Mr. Turner stated that he lives in the Baynes Community on 119S. He stated that he was the county’s entire animal control department and that he had various titles such as ‘animal control officer’, ‘dog catcher’, ‘dog man’ and ‘dog warden’. He did wear a badge and that statute 67-31 regulations the powers and duties of a dog warden. Mr. Turner stated that in Section 1 of this statute it states ‘he shall have the power to arrest and be responsible for the enforcement within his county of all public and public local laws pertaining to the ownership and control of dogs and shall cooperate with all other law enforcement officers operating within the county in fulfilling this responsibility.’ He finds it surprising that animal control is not under the sheriff’s office because all of the surrounding counties do. He added that this office is supposed to enforce both civil and criminal laws and he asked how Caswell County could override the state statute which gives this position the power to arrest. Mr. Turner stated that in 1981 the county manager which was Steve Stewart requested that animal control be placed under the sheriff’s office but for whatever reason the commissioners refused to do that so 37 years later there is still no progress. He added that the puppy mill subject is not getting enough attention. Mr. Turner stated that most people don’t understand the difference between selling a puppy and an appliance. He added that way too often profits are put ahead of pet welfare and many puppy mills are illegal. Back in 2013 NC House Speaker Thom Tillis pushed for and got certain inhumane breeding practices prohibited in our state but Caswell is dragging its feet on this issue. A variety of laws are designed to protect and save animal lives and some are stronger than others. He added that he hoped and prayed that the county leaders will open their eyes to this problem.

Mr. Ken Schneider came before the Board and made the following statement:

Mr. Schneider stated that he lives on the Ralph Daniel Road in Pelham. He added that he and his wife, Karen, moved here 17 years ago. When they moved here they wanted to find ways to be helpful so they became board members on the APS which lead them to come before the Board and four of the Board members today voted for he and his wife to become animal cruelty officers. He added that they found out that the animal control ordinance was dated back to 1994 and at that time the Animal Protection Society was in charge of animal control but they were not because it has been changed. They started with Sheriff Welch’s encouragement to combine all the different things and in 2010 they came before the Board and asked for a new ordinance. This was tabled and sent to a committee. He fast forwarded to 2016 and he stated that he came back to the Board and asked through a petition that the Board get active as a board and do what is right and form a committee. He gave the Board a timeline of Board discussions. He stated that minutes were supposed to be kept from public meetings but he has never seen those minutes. He stated that he understands that Dr. Foster and APS were consulted on the animal control ordinance. The Conservators’ Center was consulted but no one else.

Chairman Hall informed Mr. Schneider that he was running out of time.

Mr. Schneider continued by saying the proposed animal control ordinance in the packets was not the same as the one on the internet. He added that animal cruelty investigators are appointed by the Board which is non-compensated, non-employees so when it states animal control employees are animal cruelty investigators the county is violating state law. He stated that there are many problems in the ordinance. He added the USDA came before the Board and showed the Board that they were in violation of federal laws.

Chairman Hall informed Mr. Schneider that he was out of time.

Mr. Schneider asked the Board when it comes to the Animal Control Ordinance to have the nerve to table it and give it back to the committee and get community members involved.

Chairman Hall informed Mr. Schneider that his time was up.

Chairman Hall asked if anyone else would like to speak during Public Comments.

Ms. Karen Schneider came before the Board and made the following statement:

Ms. Schneider stated that she lived at 289 Ralph Daniel Road, Pelham. She stated that she tried to compose something to say to everyone here that is in power and the best she could think of was about the tethering issue and having to keep it so the hunters could tether their dogs. She stated that this was ludicrous. She asked under what justification the Board feels that a tethering law is something the county has to have. There needs to be a humane law that affects all the animals equally. She added that when she was a cruelty officer she saw things that were awful and she added that if someone else was to see them their blood would boil. She saw dogs with chains wrapped around their necks or wires and they were tied to an inadequate dog house or they had nothing.

Chairman Hall stated that Ms. Schneider’s time was up. He added that what Ms. Schneider is saying is nothing the Board has not heard in the last 3 meetings. Ms. Schneider responded that from her it means nothing. Chairman Hall stated that the Board has taken everything that has been said into consideration. Ms. Schneider responded that she wanted to have her say because if she has to live in the county she wanted to feel like she has done everything she can.

Ms. Judy Hatchett Briggs came before the Board and made the following statement:

“Judy Hatchett Schick Briggs. I just left Greensboro at 8:00 working a 24 hour shift to get here. I hope you realize how important it is to me to do that. The ball’s in your court. What are you going to do with it? Table it? I am in the process of getting a petition upon the internet that will have access to the world, not Caswell County, not North Carolina, to the world. If y’all don’t decide to do away with tethering and do away with our puppy mills the world is going to know it and we’re going to get the signatures. If you think we are the only ones that are concerned you’re sadly mistaken, sadly mistaken. If you want to keep your position as a commissioner you better listen to us, I strongly advise it. We want you to do what is right for the animals of Caswell County and if you can’t…if your hunters are more important than we are well we will replace every one of you, I can promise you that.”

With no further comments Chairman Hall closed Public Comments.

RECESS

The Board took a brief recess.

RECOGNITIONS

Chairman Hall asked if there were any recognitions.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chair I have two recognitions, written resolutions for the Board’s consideration today and the clerk has asked that I read these out loud to you and the public. The first is a resolution honoring the life and service of Rev. John Henry Blackwell for those of you that remember Mr. Blackwell. He served on this Board for a number of years and passed away in 2016 and this is a formal resolution recognizing him and I will read it to you.

A RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF

Rev. John Henry Blackwell

**WHEREAS,** Rev. John Henry Blackwell was born on June 1st, 1949 in Caswell County, North Carolina, to the late Clayton Blackwell and Annie Pickard Blackwell, and passed away on Sunday, June 5th, 2016; and

**WHEREAS,** John was the devoted husband of the late Rev. Kitty Gunn Blackwell and Miranda Blackwell, and the loving father to Kala Blackwell Taylor, Justin Blackwell, and the loving grandfather of five; and

**WHEREAS,** John was a dedicated employee of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, and as a driver for the Greensboro Auto Auction; and

**WHEREAS,** John served the local church as Deacon, Trustee, Sunday School Teacher, Vacation Bible School Coordinator and Treasurer, afterwards accepting a call to the ministry serving as Associate Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Providence, North Carolina, and serving as Pastor of Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church in Dry Fork, Virginia for eleven years; and

**WHEREAS,** John faithfully served the citizens of Caswell County on the Caswell County Board of County Commissioners for two terms, serving as the Board’s first African American Chairman, as well as the Caswell County Board of Education for two terms, serving as Vice Chairman; and

**WHEREAS,** through his passionate and selfless service as County Commissioner, John willingly gave of his time, resources, guidance, wisdom, and knowledge, to help lead Caswell County through many great challenges.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that wethe Caswell County Board of County Commissioners, on behalf of the citizens of Caswell County, do hereby formally honor the life and service of Rev. John Henry Blackwell.

Adopted on the 5th day of February, 2018.

 S/Nathaniel Hall \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ S/Rick McVey \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Nathaniel Hall, Chairman Rick McVey, Vice-Chairman

 S/Jeremiah Jefferies \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ S/Kenneth Travis \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Jeremiah Jeffries Kenneth Travis

 S/William Carter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ S/David Owen \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 William Carter David Owen

 S/Sterling Carter \_\_

 Sterling Carter”

Commissioner S. Carter continued “The second resolution is for the late Jeffrey Henry Earp who passed away last week.

A RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF

JEFFREY “JEFF” HENRY EARP

**WHEREAS,** Jeffrey “Jeff” Henry Earp was born on February 13th, 1966 in Danville, Virginia, to the late James “J.P.” Penn Earp, Sr. and Shelby Jean Zimmerman Earp, and passed away on Sunday, January 28th, 2018; and

**WHEREAS,** Jeff was the devoted husband of Melissa Ann Boyette Earp of 14 years, and the loving father of Carly Jean Earp, Zachary “Zach” Lea Earp, and Taylor Ann Hall; and

**WHEREAS,** Jeff attended Caswell County Schools and was a graduate of Bartlett Yancey Senior High School’s Class of 1984; and

**WHEREAS,** Jeff was a dedicated employee of the North Carolina Department of Correction; and

**WHEREAS,** Jeff faithfully served the citizens of Haw River, Alamance County, North Carolina as Town Manager; and

**WHEREAS,** Jeff diligently served the citizens of Caswell County, North Carolina as County Manager; and

**WHEREAS,** through his passionate and selfless service as County Manager, willingly gave of his time, resources, guidance, wisdom, and knowledge, helping lead Caswell County through a great era of progress.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that wethe Caswell County Board of County Commissioners do hereby honor the life and service of Jeffrey “Jeff” Henry Earp, and as representatives of the citizens of Caswell County, offer our affectionate support and sincere condolences to the Earp family at this time.

Adopted on the 5th day of February, 2018.

 S/Nathaniel Hall \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ S/Rick McVey \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Nathaniel Hall, Chairman Rick McVey, Vice-Chairman

 S/Jeremiah Jefferies \_\_\_\_ S/Kenneth Travis \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Jeremiah Jeffries Kenneth Travis

 S/William Carter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ S/David Owen \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 William Carter David Owen

 S/Sterling Carter\_\_\_\_\_

 Sterling Carter”

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Thank you Mr. Chairman.”

Chairman Hall asked Commissioner Carter if he was offering a motion to approve these resolutions. Commissioner S. Carter responded “Yes, these would be separate motions and it is open to the Board to make the motion, I was just reading it out loud but they need to be separate.”

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to approve the resolution honoring Rev. John Henry Blackwell. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner McVey to approve the resolution honoring Jeffrey “Jeff” Henry Earp. The motion carried unanimously.

CASWELL COUNTY FY 2016-2017 AUDIT PRESENTATION

Mr. Allen Thompson from Thompson, Price, Scott & Adams presented the Caswell County FY 2016-2017 Audit to the Board. Mr. Thompson read to the Board items from Pages 1, 2 and 3 from the summary. On the first page at the bottom there are some statements on management’s requirements that the firm has to tell the Board about. On page 2 he stated that there were no difficulties in performing the audit, no corrected or uncorrected misstatements, no disagreements with management, management did provide the firm with a representation letter dated December 29, 2017, they were unaware that management consulted with other outside auditors, etc. As far as other findings or issues there are 6 items listed on the bottom of page 2 and the top of page 3 that had an exit conference with both the finance officer and the county manager dealing with timeliness, mostly journal entries posted, EMS receivables, review of the internal control processes and making sure all the payables and receivables get posted. He stated to the Board that he would be happy to discuss any of this that they would like. On Page 4 the auditors pulled out some of the key numbers of the audit and put the 4 prior years beside those so the Board would get a feel for the trend of these numbers. The top number is for Total Fund Balance which is $6,467,985 in 2013 it was $7.8 million; Unavailable Fund Balance is $1.5 million; Restricted Fund Balance is $2,883,235; General Fund Expenditures including transfers out is $27,597,496; Fund Balance Available as % of general fund expenditures is 17.83%; the Unassigned Fund Balance is $3,584,750; Unassigned Fund Balance as % of General Fund Expenditures is 12.99%. He added that the key number is to keep away from the 8.33% state statute. Revenues over (under) expenditures before transfers: General Fund had a loss of $1,126,126; Special Fire District had a loss of $578,466; Other Governmental loss of $993,699; Solid Waste has a loss of $134,492 and the Transportation Fund had a gain of $56,919. The next set of numbers shows the Cash and General Fund at $5,474,699; Other Governmental at $350,190; Solid Waste at $976,753; Transportation at $314,435. General Fund Balance $6,467,985; Other Governmental $275,420; Solid Waste $1,151,816 and Transportation $634,301. The Property Tax Rate is .679. Collection Percentage is 98.54% and Collection Percentage excluding motor vehicles is 98.37%. Total of Breakdown of Debt $8,614,714. Breakdown of Revenues is $24,308,256. Breakdown of Expenditures is $25,434,382. The rest of the report broke everything down into charts and graphs.

Chairman Hall stated that starting on page 2 it outlined 5 items and some of them used the word significantly and he wondered why these items were not discussed with the Board before the audit was released. Mr. Thompson stated that the Board hired them to find the issues and they found the issues and reported them to the finance officer and the county manager and now he is presenting the information to the Board as a result of that. He added that he was unaware that he was supposed to do that. Chairman Hall stated that the Board hired the firm and the information should have been reported back to the Board prior to the meeting. He added that it was his personal expectation that the Board would have seen this prior to its release. The Board needs to start working on corrective actions and the Board met in a retreat in January and if the Board would have had these items it could have started working on the corrective actions.

Chairman Hall asked if the Board had any other questions or comments.

Commissioner Owen asked for a greater explanation on page 3, paragraph 4 on the key processes. He read ‘Various key processes were not completed timely, particularly during year-end closing.’ He asked for a little more of an explanation on these items. Mr. Thompson responded that this is a catch all and what they are looking for when they walk in is that all the adjustments are made; everything is reconciled to the subsidiary ledgers, etc. The auditors are concerned that the Board may not be getting the most up to date information.

Commissioner McVey asked if these same findings have been found in previous years. Mr. Thompson responded yes. Commissioner McVey stated so they are continuing to find these things. Mr. Thompson responded that not every one of them but some are repetitive. Commissioner McVey stated that the Board needs to know what is repetitive and what is not. Mr. Thompson responded that he is happy to provide the Board with that.

Chairman Hall thanked Mr. Thompson.

HOME SCHOOL RECREATION PROGRAM

Mr. Brandon Enoch stated that he was here to speak to the Board about the new 4H Home School Recreation program. The goal is to provide those who are home schooled the opportunity to come and participate in physical activity. He added that last fall it was ran as a 12 week program just as a test run and roughly 30 participants were registered and about 2/3 of them showed up. The goal for the spring is to implement a legitimate program based on physical education such as teaching those who are registered the benefits of physical activity, about body mass index, obesity, diabetes, etc. Mr. Enoch stated that he has been working with Joyce Bustamante on implementing the program. The program will be offered on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. The participants will sign the same waiver as the participant in sporting activities. The program will be supervised and these supervisors are CPR and AEP certified.

Chairman Hall asked if there were any questions for Mr. Enoch.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Thank you so much for doing this as far as the leadership and implementing it.”

Commissioner Owen stated that he was in favor of this but he asked Mr. Enoch was he was asking the Board for. Mr. Enoch responded that he was asking the Board to be allowed to collect fees for this program in the amount of $10. Mr. Miller added that the Parks and Recreation would be developing a curriculum and working with homeschool parents to develop this curriculum for physical activity.

Commissioner Travis asked if this was something Mr. Enoch knew about prior to the budget. Mr. Enoch responded yes. Commissioner Travis stated that it should have been included in the budget instead of bringing it up in the middle of the year. He added that he cannot support this because it should have been done at budget time.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman, just to respond to that Commissioner Travis, this is a revenue source not an expenditure.” Commissioner Travis responded that he did not care what it was; it should have been done at budget time. Commissioner S. Carter asked “When was the initial idea Mr. Enoch?” Mr. Enoch responded it was initiated this past summer. Commissioner S. Carter continued “After July 1?” Mr. Enoch responded yes. Commissioner S. Carter stated “It was after budget time. This is a great program, a great idea. It’s additional revenue.” Commissioner Travis responded that everyone has their own opinion, he has his and Commissioner Carter has his. Commissioner S. Carter stated “Absolutely sir.”

Commissioner Owen stated that he did not know what the state requires for homeschoolers but he knew it has to be something close to what the public schools require. He asked who would be teaching this program. Mr. Enoch responded Ashley Byrd would be the facilitator as well as Mr. Enoch and the Facility Coordinator Johnny Crumpton. Commissioner Owen stated that he wanted to make sure that Parks and Recreation was fulfilling the requirement the homeschoolers needed to have. Mr. Miller responded that this program may not be the only component for physical activity that the homeschool parents plan to provide. This program is just an avenue for them to use. Commissioner Owen stated the he wanted to make sure that enough money was collected to pay for the facilitators. Commissioner Owen asked Mr. Enoch if he had hired anyone to handle this program. Mr. Enoch responded that he has hired one person. Commissioner Owen asked how long the program will last. Mr. Enoch responded it would be a 12 week program on Mondays and Wednesdays for 1½ hours and Parks and Recreation will compensate Ashley Byrd for facilitating this program. Commissioner Owen stated that he has been to Parks and Recreation and he has seen the program and it seems to be a good program.

Chairman Hall asked if there were any more questions or comments on the Home School Recreation Program.

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner McVey to direct the Parks and Recreation Director to move forward with the Home School Recreation Program and to collect the $10 registration fee. The motion carried by a vote of six to one with Commissioner Travis voting no.

LATE NIGHT BASKETBALL

Mr. Enoch stated that Late Night Basketball is a passive program designed to allow men and women 25 and older the ability to play basketball in the gym or just to walk around the gym. He added that this is a passive opportunity for the citizens to have recreational activities and this came about through the Master Plan results. A lot of working citizens do not have the opportunity to use the gym during working hours since it closes a 5:00. Most programs after 5:00 are designed for youth athletic programs. This program will be offered on Mondays and Fridays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The citizens will pay $1 and they have to show an ID.

Commissioner McVey asked if the $1 charge would cover the county’s expenses. Mr. Enoch responded yes. Commissioner McVey continued by asking if this covered the expense of having someone there during this time, for the lights and for the equipment. Mr. Enoch responded that it would cover the expense of the lights and for the equipment and supplies. Mr. Miller added that since this program is based on a usage fee it may or may not cover the expenses. Commissioner McVey stated that this point is that maybe a survey needs to be conducted to determine how many would use the gym after hours to offset the expenses the county would incur. Mr. Miller responded that this was one of the areas that was requested during the Master Plan surveys. Commissioner McVey stated that he wanted to know how much the program would cost the county and if only 2 people will participate, it does not make sense to do this.

Chairman Hall asked Mr. Enoch and Mr. Miller if there was a way to get an answer to the Board on the anticipated participation in this program. Mr. Enoch responded yes. Mr. Miller responded that it could be done.

Commissioner Owen stated that he did not have a problem with this program but it still concentrates on Yanceyville and there are other areas in the county that needed to be addressed.

Chairman Hall asked Mr. Enoch to get back with the Board as soon as possible on what he finds out.

ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

Chairman Hall stated that at the last meeting there were several amendments made to the ordinance, there was one commissioner absent and there was a vote taken on the ordinance which resulted in a tie so it is back on the agenda for action.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman I have one final amendment to make to the Animal Control Ordinance, the manager put the copy that I am going to discuss at the desks. This is in regard to the wildlife sections, wild animal sections of the ordinance and we are proposing to remove Sections VIII and IX and two definitions, wild and dangerous animals and wild animals in the definitions portions of the ordinance to give them more time to work with us on that part of the ordinance and this would be me making a motion on the domestic portion of the ordinance for passage today with that exclusion.”

Chairman Hall asked Commissioner S. Carter if he was moving to accept the Animal Control Ordinance with the exceptions of Sections VIII and IX which covers wild and exotic animals.” Commissioner S. Carter responded “As well as two definitions in the beginning for wild animals and wild and dangerous animal.”

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner McVey to approve the Animal Control Ordinance excluding Sections VIII and IX as well as the definitions for wild animals and wild and dangerous animals. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that he has heard several mention placing the animal control officers under the sheriff’s office and he would like to see this happen. Chairman Hall responded that he would take Commissioner Carter’s request and put it on a later agenda for discussion.

RECESS

The Board took a brief recess.

OPIOID CRISIS RESOLUTION AND CONTRACT

Mr. Miller stated that the Board has heard about the opioid crisis and what has been happening across the state. Before the Board can adopt a resolution to move forward the Board had to determine an opioid nuisance in the county so the county manager asked the Health Director, the DSS Director and the Caswell Family Medical Center CEO to come and speak.

Mr. William Crumpton, Caswell Family Medical Center CEO stated that there have been several reports of students dying on football fields. He has participated in the task force for the opioid issue and one of the biggest challenges is trying to quantify the opioid crisis in Caswell County. Caswell County does not have a hospital so the data is not available to verify this crisis. The Caswell Family Medical Center has made an effort to not prescribe these types of drugs. The staff at the Caswell Family Medical Center does find themselves involved in stories of patients involved with these issues. Mr. Crumpton stated that there is an opioid problem in Caswell but it does not look like other communities.

Ms. Dianne Moorefield, DSS Director, stated that she agreed with Mr. Crumpton that in Caswell County things are different and hard to determine. DSS has had to increase its budget for drug tests for families that work with Child Protective Services and Foster Care. In Child Services Caswell is getting requests from other states to bring children here in the county and a lot of these situations are related to the opioid crisis. DSS is beginning to see an increase in the opioid number when they do the drug screens. DSS is seeing in Adult Services where the clients are being taken advantage of or being exploited for their prescriptions by caregivers, family members or others. She does believe the opioid crisis is real and Caswell County may not be in the forefront but DSS is seeing the affects and she does think it will increase.

Ms. Kelly Cobb, Nurse Practitioner at the Health Department, stated that she worked at the emergency room in Roxboro for 30 years before coming to Caswell. Some of the people that are affected by the opioid crisis had an injury. No one knows who will become addicted. Some kids do become addicted but they should not be punished for the rest of their lives. She added that nurses are evaluated by what patients say. If a patient came into the emergency room and stated they wanted pain medication for a stubbed toe and she did not give them a prescription she did not receive a good evaluation from this patient and pay is cut for these types of evaluations. The Health Department does see patients that are on pain plans, they don’t treat this but they see the effects of it. It is hard to measure this issue. The only way to confirm the crisis is for EMS to count the overdoses. The county cannot call the pain centers in the surrounding counties and ask how many residents from Caswell are being seen. Ms. Cobb added that pain medicine causes pain. When pain medicine is wearing off it cause the patient to have pain so they take more medication. Ms. Kelly stated that we have created the monster and it will take a generation to get rid of it. There needs to be treatment plans in place to get this generation off the medication to prevent the next generation from becoming addicted.

Ms. Jennifer Eastwood, Health Director, stated that Caswell County does not know the number for this crisis because there is no good data to back it up and they cannot get this from hospital especially Danville since they are across the state line. The Health Department is seeing an increase in babies that are born dependent on opioids and the Health Department has a Case Management department that deals closely with DSS to follow these children that are dependent on these drugs. They are starting to gather this kind of data so more information is coming. Caswell does not look like other places. Ms. Eastwood thanked the Board for discussing this issue.

Chairman Hall stated that from what has been heard this morning Caswell does have a problem but it is not easily identifiable as the surrounding counties that have hospitals.

Commissioner Owen agreed that there is a problem. The pharmaceutical companies have created this opioid issue. She shared that his wife was having an issue with pain and the physician prescribed her a bottle of pain medicine and she only took 1 or 2 so he got rid of that medicine.

Commissioner McVey stated that he wanted to make sure the Board was willing to support this crisis because it could cost the county money. This is due to the amount of time to gather the data needed as well as money and he wanted to make sure the Board is committed to follow through.

Chairman Hall stated that it will cost the county some money to gather the data.

Commissioner Owen reminded the Board that it has passed a Health in All Policies resolution and the citizens of Caswell deserve some type of resolution for this crisis.

Mr. Ferrell stated that there are two items before the Board. The first is a resolution declaring the opioid crisis a public nuisance in Caswell County for the reasons that were given today. The second is a lawsuit on behalf of Caswell County against a set of defendants that the law firm believes is responsible for allowing this opioid crisis to invade this community as well as others. The federal judge has been appointed and is located in Ohio. In North Carolina a number of counties and municipalities have joined this law suit. He added that Orange, Person and Rockingham Counties have joined this lawsuit. There is a cost to this lawsuit like Commissioner McVey mentioned. The legal fees will be paid out of the lawsuit at a rate of 25%. There will be county resources involved in the lawsuit. There will be costs to the Health Department and Social Services Department to determine the real damages to the county. Mr. Ferrell stated that he has heard from the law firm that will represent the county directly as recent as last week. This case is moving forward rather quickly. The federal judge in Ohio recognizes that people are dying as a result of this opioid crisis which makes this different from the average litigation.

Chairman Hall asked if there were any questions for general counsel.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Questions and some general follow up, do these need to be two separate motions?” Mr. Ferrell responded that these are two separate issues but on the same matter. He added that to adopt the resolution would be action one. The Board can adopt the resolution and decide not to engage the law firm. His recommendation is to adopt the resolution and to engage this particular law firm because of the research they have done in the opioid crisis.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman I just wanted to add my comments, the crisis is for sure a travesty and I know everybody agrees with that and I would like to initially make a motion to pass the resolution.

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to adopt the Opioid Crisis resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner McVey to approve the contract to engage the law firm in the opioid lawsuit.

Chairman Hall asked general counsel if the motion needed to be firm specific. Mr. Ferrell responded yes. There is a contract in the Board’s agenda packet for the Fuller Firm.

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

APPROVAL OF LIBRARY RENOVATION CONTRACT (H.M. KERN CORP.)

CONTINGENT ON LGC APPROVAL OF FINANCING

Mr. Miller stated that the Board had an AIA contract in front of them for the purpose of constructing an addition to the library as well as renovation to the existing library. There are a few minor changes and general counsel brought to the manager’s attention that he needed to state these changes. The contract is with H.M. Kern, who was the low bidder as was discussed at the last meeting. The architect Ramsey, Burgin & Smith stated the latest budget for the library project is $2,633,089. This amount deviated from the original budget of $2,214,381. The county has received additional funding from the Cannon Foundation in the amount of $45,000 and the Board heard the architect say at the last meeting that he believed there would be an additional savings of $50,000 in state sales tax and $75,000 in contingency money that would not be needed. He added that he and Ms. Griffin, the Library Director, are working with JTI and Duke Energy to complete the funding needed to fully pay for the library. There is $268,708 in county funding necessary to complete the project. He thought it was important to share with the Board this information before taking a vote.

Ms. Rhonda Griffin stated that she is working with the State Library for a LSTA grant to help provide for some of the equipment and furniture in the amount of $50,000. The application is due at the end of this month. She added that she thinks the county can find the additional money that is needed. Ms. Griffin reminded the Board about the Ground Breaking Ceremony that will take place on February 14th at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Miller stated that to date the Library Director has raised $2,214, 381 in funding to complete the project with a 0% interest loan through Piedmont Electric Corporation, the Golden Leaf Foundation and the Danville Regional Foundation.

Commissioner McVey asked the county manager how many companies bided on this project. Mr. Miller responded that 15 were listed but 12 sent in bids.

Mr. Ferrell stated that there are some very minor changes to the agreement. One was to correct the spelling of the county manager’s name. Another item he wanted to make clear and it is stated on the agenda but final approval is contingent upon Local Government Commission approval on the financing for this project. The finance officer pre-audit statement had to be added as well. Mr. Ferrell stated that the contract was very well done.

Commissioner S. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the contract as amended and that it is contingent upon the Local Government Commission’s approval on financing. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hall stated that Ms. Griffin asked him to reiterate the Ground Breaking will take place on February 14th at 10:00 a.m. and he wanted to see everyone there. This will be a major accomplishment for Caswell County.

Commissioner Owen asked if snacks would be provided. Ms. Griffin responded that the Friends of the Library will be providing snacks after the ceremony.

Ms. Griffin stated that the community, the different departments in the county and the library staff has done a lot of work into moving the library. They did not realize they would have to move out but due to the asbestos staff had to move out of the library and move to a new location. She really appreciated the work that was put into this move.

DISCUSSION ON ¼ CENT SALES TAX

Chairman Hall stated that the county has the option by referendum to impose a ¼ cent sales tax. This was attempted several years ago and the option failed. This was discussed at the Commissioners Retreat and there was some interest in putting this on the ballot again this year in the November general election.

Commissioner McVey moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to put the ¼ cent sales tax on the November general election ballot.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that he was in favor of this.

Commissioner Owen stated that he was good with this but he wanted to know if it was going to a particular fund because this will be needed to help the citizens support this.

Commissioner Travis stated that he could not support this because the citizens have already had a tax increase because labor is now being taxed for services. Commissioner McVey responded to let the citizens vote for this. Commissioner Travis stated that it failed before when it was put on the ballot.

Chairman Hall stated that Commissioner Travis is correct it was put on the ballot before and it failed. If this is passed by the Board the Board does need to think about what this money would be used for to explain to the community.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion carried by a vote of six to one with Commissioner Travis voting no.

DISCUSSION ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman, fellow Commissioners, this is just a brief follow up from our Board Retreat. You wished me to bring this item back to the Board’s attention in a regular session meeting and I am seeking direction on us pursuing communication and inviting the State Department of Historic Preservation to come and speak and present this information to us on how we should proceed further and then afterwards, after the joint meetings with the Town of Yanceyville and the Town of Milton which you direction that we should also seek their input then we will engage the proper experts and community in pursuing the ordinance.”

Chairman Hall asked if there were any questions for Commissioner Carter.

Commissioner Owen stated that the Board needed for the state committee member to come and explain everything so the Board completely understands this.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Mr. Chairman with that do we want to set an optimum meeting date at one of our meetings for the state to come. When I spoke with them they expressed they were pretty open once we extend the invitation.” Chairman Hall responded that since the Board is talking about to get someone scheduled for one of the next couple of agendas. Commissioner S. Carter continued “So would you like us to give them the option of the next meeting or the next meeting after that, allowing them to choose?” Chairman Hall responded that this will be fine.

COUNTY MANAGER’S UPDATES

Chairman Hall stated that anticipating a long meeting today he asked the county manage to summarize his items and to send them out. The Board received items A. through E. and the county manager is going to add an item F. Chairman Hall asked the Board if they had any questions on the items A. Summary on Revenues & Expenditures for 1st 6 months as well as the Trend or Changes for Revenues, B. Summary on Debt Service, C. Occupancy Tax Report, D. Revenues for Housing Permits and E. Preliminary Discussion on Minimum Housing Standards.

Chairman Hall stated that on Item C. there has been no occupancy tax paid to the county to date so this item will need to be added to an agenda to discuss options and actions to be taken since this was an approved county ordinance that was passed.

Commissioner McVey asked what action could be taken. Chairman Hall responded that this could be discussed at the next meeting.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Were we going to bring Minimum Housing Standards as an agenda item at a future meeting to discuss it?” Chairman Hall responded that the Board can if you would like. Commissioner S. Carter continued “I am fine with bringing it back for discussion.” Mr. Miller stated that he would be happy to provide the Board with what Minimum Housing Standards look like in other counties and what the regulations are.

Piedmont Triad Regional Council

Mr. Miller stated that on Friday Brian Collie, the Town Manager and he met with Reuben Gonzalez from the Piedmont Triad Regional Council to discuss the Business Investment Fund. This is a business revolving fund much like what the county has already. The fund has about $2 million in it. With this fund they want to prioritize businesses needing between $200,000 and $600,000. The loan amount will be based on job creation with $20,000 on one job being created threshold. If a company is looking to create 5 jobs they will be able to apply for $100,000. The committee will look at smaller loans for $50,000 and up but there would need to be some direct employment ties to those loans. These loan proceeds can be used to purchase land, buildings, construct new buildings, renovate existing buildings, to purchase machinery and equipment, to provide working capital, etc. The types of businesses and industries they are looking at are hospitality, agriculture, entertainment, food service, technology, manufacturing and logistics, medical practices, environmental, maintenance services, biotech, etc.

Commissioner Owen stated this was discussed extensively about this and they really want to concentrate on the rural areas. He wanted to make sure this information was gotten to the public. This could be a wonderful opportunity for a business to expand. Mr. Miller responded that this is why he brought this up in an open meeting.

NCACC EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Hall stated that he attended the NCACC Education Steering Committee met on January 24th. This committee put together 5 goals that they will present to the NCACC Board of Directors this week related to the schools. The following are the goals: 1) To seek legislation to establish a state/county partnership to address statewide public school capital challenges. 2) To seek authority to repeal statutory authority that allows school boards to sue boards of commissioners. 3) To support legislation to provide an overall increase in the funding of schools based on ADM. 4) To support legislation providing flexibility to align K-12 classes with the community college calendar. 5) To seek legislation to repeal K-3 class size mandate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Commissioners’ Joint Meeting with the Board of Education – Monday,

February 22, 2018 @ 4:30 p.m. – School Central Office.

1. Commissioners Joint Meeting with Town of Yanceyville and Town of Milton –

Thursday, March 15, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m. – Thomas Day Tavern, Milton, NC.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Mr. Chairman may I update the Board on two small items before closed session? On the historical marker the application is due in April; we would receive the sign sometime in November because of the fiscal year. Item #2 the railings for the courtroom we have inspected them to the best of our ability. The sheriff’s department has a cage where they have confiscated items in there as well, they are moving their stuff out so that we can set up and measure the railings before we proceed with that project.”

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner W. Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to go into Closed Session to discuss economic development (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4)), to instruct the public body’s staff concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5)), to consider the compensation, terms of appointment and performance of an individual public officer (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)) and to preserve attorney/client privilege (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)). The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Owen to invite Mr. Joey Knight and Mr. Nate Bruce into closed session. The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:43 p.m. Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner McVey to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Paula P. Seamster Nathaniel Hall

Clerk to the Board Chairman

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