Caldwell County
Lenoir, North Carolina

Board of Commissioners
February 4, 2019
6:00 p.m.

Present: Randy T. Church, Chairman
Mike LaBrose, Vice Chairman
Jeff Branch via teleconference
Donnie Potter
Robbie Wilkie

Absent: None

Staff Present: Stan Kiser, County Manager
Kathy Greene, Clerk to the Board
David Lackey, County Attorney

Chairman Church opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Public Comment

There was no public participation.

Regular Session

Rev. Lynn Parsons, Pastor of Day 3 Church, provided the invocation and Commissioner Branch led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Church asked if there were any additions or amendments to the February 4, 2019 agenda. The Clerk requested the deletion of a consent agenda item (#9E). Commissioner LaBrose moved to approve the agenda as presented and amended by the Clerk. The vote was unanimous.

Proclamation of Appreciation to Rusty Dellinger

Rusty Dellinger, former County Ranger with the North Carolina Forest Service said he was honored to serve the citizens of Caldwell County for thirty-two years and glad he was able to serve Caldwell County, his home county, for his entire career. Mr. Dellinger said he felt very blessed. He extended appreciation to the current and former Boards of Commissioners, as well as County Managers Stan Kiser and Bobby White for their assistance to him and his agency during his seventeen years as County Ranger.

Chairman Church read the following proclamation and, upon its reading, moved to adopt same. The vote was unanimous.
Proclamation

of Appreciation to Rusty Dellinger

WHEREAS, Russell “Rusty” C. Dellinger, Jr. was born on August 11, 1966 and is a lifelong resident of Caldwell County; and

WHEREAS, Rusty grew up in the Colletsville Community and loved the outdoors especially time spent hunting and fishing with his father; and

WHEREAS, Rusty developed his interest in firefighting and his desire to be a forest ranger early in life having watched and admired the service his father, Russell Charles Dellinger, Sr. provided as a charter member and Chief of Colletsville Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Rusty’s passion and determination carried him through in continuing his service with the North Carolina Forest Service following the loss of his father during a firefighting incident; and

WHEREAS, Rusty began working for the North Carolina Forest Service as a pre-arranged firefighter on an as needed basis and, in 1986, began his temporary job as a Smoke Chaser; and

WHEREAS, Rusty was promoted to the Assistant County Ranger on October 31, 1988 following his completion of the NCFS Ranger Training Program and, in the Spring of 2002, Rusty was promoted to NCFS County Ranger, a role he served until his retirement on January 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Rusty was always willing to offer assistance to other agencies in Caldwell County as well as across the State and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, Rusty is admired for his outstanding leadership and commitment in his firefighting career with the North Carolina Forest Service and for his dedication as a public servant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners does hereby congratulate Rusty Dellinger for his outstanding career with the North Carolina Forest Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners extends appreciation to Rusty for his public service and extends best wishes in his retirement.
Randy T. Church, Chairman

Attest:

Kathy T. Greene, Clerk to the Board

Announcements—Library

Lesly Mason announced there were exciting programs/exhibits happening at the Library during February in recognition and in honor of Black History Month. She invited everyone to visit the library to see the exhibits and experience the events. Ms. Mason also thanked the County’s Maintenance staff for helping to set up the exhibits and ready the library for the Black History Month Celebration.

Public Hearing—Naming of a Road in The Coves for 911 Purposes

Micah Kelly presented a request before Commissioners to formally name a road off of High Country Road in The Coves. He proposed the name of High Country Extension and said the naming was necessary for 911 emergency purposes.

Chairman Church declared the public hearing open; however, there was no public comment. Chairman Church declared the public hearing closed.

Commissioner Wilkie moved to approve the road name, High Country Extension, as proposed and presented by staff. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution in Support of Local Control of School Calendars

Dr. Don Phipps, Superintendent of Caldwell County Schools, asked the Board to adopt the resolution citing the State’s current regulations “hemmed in” the local school system regarding calendar beginning dates. He said Caldwell County Schools would like to start a little earlier in August in order to allow completion of the first semester before the Christmas holidays. Dr. Phipps said the resolution would send a message of the local government’s support to the General Assembly. He said many districts across the state were asking for the change with the biggest push back from counties that rely on the summer months for vacationers and tourism.

Commissioner LaBrose moved to adopt the resolution which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes (Exhibit A). The motion carried unanimously.

Request to Purchase Chiller for Courthouse

Maintenance Director Bryan Davis requested authorization to purchase a new chiller for the Courthouse to replace a chiller that broke down in December due to mechanical malfunction. He
said the eleven-year-old unit did not have the proper controls and caused the lines/coils to freeze during cold nights and burst. Mr. Davis said that resulted in contamination of the Freon. To repair the unit, it would cost $55,000 and would only be warrantied for 90 days and a year on the parts. As well, he said the software needed to make the existing unit comply with the new controls would cost more. He recommended a new chiller be purchased and that the County buy an extended five-year warranty for an additional $8,000.00 resulting in a ten-year warranty. Mr. Davis said he had wanted to put the acquisition in the budget for FY2020-2021; however, the emergency resulted in the need to replace it now. It was noted that he and his staff would remove the old equipment to save time and costs and that Duke Energy would rebate the County $2,500.00 on the replacement chiller. Mr. Davis said he hoped to have the new system installed within about a month.

Commissioner Potter moved to approve the following budget amendments to allow acquisition of a new chiller for the courthouse and to purchase the additional five-year warranty. The motion carried unanimously.

**Tax Liens on Real Property**

In accordance with General Statute 105-369, Tax Administrator Monty Woods reported the following number of accounts and dollar amounts of unpaid taxes that are liens on real property for 2018 only. He said an alphabetical listing of the accounts was available for review in the County Tax Office.

- 2018 number of outstanding accounts: 6,067
- 2018 dollar amount outstanding: $2,785,491.71

Chairman Church moved to authorize the Tax Administrator to advertise tax liens for the outstanding 2018 accounts and the motion carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda**

1. **Approval of Minutes**
   The County Manager recommended the Board of Commissioners approve the minutes of the January 7, 2019 meeting as presented.

2. **Budget Amendments**
   The County Manager recommended the Board of Commissioners approve the following budget amendments and authorize execution of associated documents.

   A. **Sheriff Office Detention Center (General Fund Balance to Cover Costs) $100,000.00**
   The following budget amendment is necessary to use revenues from the County’s General Fund to cover costs of inmate housing for the remainder of the current fiscal year due to the growing inmate population that has to be housed in facilities outside the County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Fund Balance Appropriation</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Inmate Housing</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   B. **Sheriff Office (Asset Seizure Funds to Cover Scanning of Permits) $10,000.00**
   The following budget amendment is necessary for the department to use $10,000.00 from its
State Controlled Substance Tax Funding to cover the cost of scanning concealed weapons permit files by DataDoc Imaging Services. No local funds are necessary.

| Increase | 10.4314.331100 | Asset Seizure Funds | $10,000.00 |
| Increase | 10.4310.444100 | Contractual | $10,000.00 |

C. Planning Department (Legal Fees) $8,000.00
The following budget amendment is necessary to use revenues from the County’s General Fund to cover legal costs/fees in the Planning Department.

| Increase | 10.9800.397000 | Fund Balance Appropriation | $8,000.00 |
| Increase | 10.4910.419900 | Legal Fees | $8,000.00 |

D. Library (Donated Funds) $2,000.00
The following budget amendment is necessary for the Library to use donated funds to cover the costs to host an exhibit in honor of Black History Month. No local funds are necessary.

| Increase | 10.6110.364005 | Donated Funds (Revenue) | $2,000.00 |
| Increase | 10.6110.432900 | Donated Funds (Expense) | $2,000.00 |

3. Renewal of Audit Contract with Martin Starnes & Associates for Three-Year Period
Tony Helton submitted a request for Commissioners to approve a three-year extension to the audit contract with Martin, Starnes and Associates, CPAs, P.A. for the County’s fiscal years 2018-2019; 2019-2020; and, 2020-2021. The cost for the audit of 2017-2018 was $58,000 and the renewal includes costs for each of the next three years as listed below.

- 2018-19 $60,500 plus $3,000 per major program over 5
- 2019-20 $60,500 plus $3,000 per major program over 5
- 2020-21 $62,325 plus $3,000 per major program over 5

The County Manager recommended the Board of Commissioners formally approve the contract to extend the audit services contract with Martin, Starnes and Associates, CPAs, P.A. for three years.

4. Acknowledgement of The Scream Half Marathon
Caldwell County received a request from Glory Hound Events for acknowledgement of the Scream Half Marathon Event to take place in Caldwell County. The North Carolina Department of Transportation requires its approval of such events; however, the DOT requires acknowledgement by the County of the scheduled event. The DOT requires proof of liability insurance coverage as well as operating plans. The event is scheduled for Saturday, July 13th and will run from Jonas Ridge to Mortimer.

The County Manager recommended the Board of Commissioners acknowledge the event scheduled for July 13, 2019 contingent upon NCDOT’s final approval and authorize the County Manager to send written notification.

Commissioner LaBrose moved to approve the four items on the consent agenda as presented and recommended by the County Manager. The motion carried unanimously.
Appointment of 2019 Equalization and Review Board

The Clerk informed Commissioners that Monty Woods requested their approval to reappoint the following individuals to serve on the 2019 Equalization & Review Board.

Commissioner Potter moved to appoint the following individuals as read by the Clerk and the motion carried unanimously.

Robert Baird  Reba Barlow  Debbie Bumgarner, Chair
Phil Case  Shawn Haigler  Phyllis Mitchell
Wayne Parson  Bobby Price  Manning W. (Bill) Puette
Barbara Teague  Betsy Ward  Betsy Wilson

Closed Session

At 6:42 p.m., Commissioner LaBrose moved to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss potential property acquisition and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) to discuss attorney-client privileged information. The motion carried unanimously.

At 7:35 p.m., Commissioner LaBrose moved to go out of closed session into regular session and the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Commissioner Wilkie moved to adjourn and, by unanimous vote, Chairman Church declared the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.