CALDWELL COUNTY
Lenoir, North Carolina

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 20, 2019
6:00 p.m.

Present: Randy T. Church, Chairman
Mike LaBrose, Vice Chairman
Donnie Potter
Robbie Wilkie

Absent: Jeff Branch

Staff Present: Stan Kiser, County Manager
Amanda Triplett, Interim Clerk to the Board
David Lackey, County Attorney

Chairman Church opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Regular Session

Reverend Larry Gilreath, Senior Pastor at Lower Creek Baptist Church, provided the invocation and Commissioner Wilkie led the pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Church asked if there were any additions or amendments to the May 6, 2019 agenda. The Interim Clerk requested the addition of Item 8D- Request for Approval of Fireworks Display at Veterans Memorial Park in Sawmills and an addition to the minutes to include minutes of the reconvened May 13, 2019 meeting. The May 6, 2019 had been recessed until May 13. Commissioner LaBrose moved to approve the agenda as presented and amended by the Interim Clerk. The vote was unanimous to approve.

FY 2019-2020 Budget Message - Stan Kiser & Tony Helton

County Manager Stan Kiser gave an overview of the budget for the FY 2019/2020 budget. The Commissioners were provided a booklet and Mr. Kiser showed a PowerPoint presentation. He reported that the County would “break even”.

- The recommended budget for 2019-2020 includes a balance appropriation of $6.4 million which is up $1.2 million from fiscal year 2018-2019.
- The property tax rate will not go up from the rate of 63 cents.
- Four fire departments have requested an increase in their rescue or fire tax rate.
- Funding for the public school system is increased by $350,700. Six new SRO officers will continue to be funded.
- The budget includes a little over $1.2 million in capital outlay. This includes 5 new patrol vehicles for the sheriff’s office, replacement of HVAC equipment at various county buildings, and other vehicles and equipment.
The budget includes no new staff positions or re-classifications. It does include the implementation of salary study recommendations. There will be no COLA.

The budget for the water fund includes a 2% increase in fees necessary to cover an increase in cost for the County to buy water. Also included in the water fund budget is $467,000 for the final phase of installing “radio read” meters.

Tony Helton highlighted budget statistics. The new Health Department fee schedule was included in the material as well.

Chairman Church moved to hold a public hearing to adopt the FY 2019/2020 budget at the June 3, 2019 Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**Items for Decision**

**A. Request from CCC&TI for Funding for Various Uses**

Dr. Poarch, CCC&TI President, discussed the plan for the community college to purchase the former Rite Aid building in Hudson. The college’s Board of Trustees approved the purchase contingent upon the State Board’s approval, which they received. He highlighted the advantages of the site and shared plans to put machining technology and mechanical engineering in the space. Dr. Poarch emphasized that supporting economic development was a cornerstone of the college’s mission. Dr. Poarch also summarized program additions and expansions to the curriculum and facilities of the community college. Some of those areas include: an electrical linemen training facility, welding, a furniture lab, construction, a plumbing lab, a pharmaceutical lab, human services in the mental health area, and baseball and softball programs. The college is aligning with employers to prepare a workforce to meet their needs. Dr. Poarch also mentioned the new student services building on the Watauga campus. Commissioners praised the community college and administration.

Commissioner Wilkie moved to fund the request from CCC&TI for $350,000 for various uses. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Board of Education Re-purchase of Three School Properties**

County Attorney David Lackey gave background explaining that in N. C. the school system has to convey ownership of property to the county in order to borrow money for renovations or construction. When loans are paid off the properties are conveyed back to the school system for a nominal fee. This deed includes 3 school properties: South Caldwell, Hudson Middle School, and Dudley Shoals. Commissioner LaBrose moved to convey all three schools back to the Caldwell County Schools. The motion carried unanimously.

**C. Appointment of Clerk to the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners**

Chairman Church moved to accept the appointment of Thomas Welch to serve as Clerk to the Board, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 153A-111, to begin June 1, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.
Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

The County Manager recommended the Board of Commissioners approve the minutes of the May 6 & 13, 2019, meetings as presented and amended.

B. Budget Amendments

The County Manager recommended the Board of Commissioners approve the following budget amendments.

1. Health Department Dental Office Request for 2 digital X-Ray Sensors $16,270.84*
   The dental office needs 2 additional digital x-ray sensors (1 adult size and 1 child size). This uses funds already in the budget but requires board approval since it involves purchasing a capital item.

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<thead>
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<td>decrease X-ray Sensors/Supplies</td>
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<td>$16,270.84</td>
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<td>increase X-ray Sensors/Capital</td>
<td>10.5115.452000</td>
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2. Health Department Medical Equipment $6,464.48*
   A new LEEP machine is required due to the age and malfunction of the current LEEP machine.

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3. Sheriff’s Department Asset Seizure Funds Transfer to cover the cost of the reception for Major Marc Jardon. $2,500.00*

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<td>increase Supplies</td>
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4. Maintenance Department Upgrades to County Buildings $69,250.00*

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<td>increase Equipment</td>
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<td>69,250.00</td>
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C. Request to Declare Service Weapon Surplus and Convey to Major Jardon

In accordance with N.C.G.S.20-187-2, retiring members of county law enforcement agencies may be awarded their service weapon upon request and if approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

The Sheriff’s Department has requested that the following weapon be declared surplus and sold to the retired officer, Major Marc Jardon, in the amount of $1.00. This weapon
was purchased by the county in July 2018 in the amount of $409.00 and is listed as county asset number 3218. It is a Glock 19, Serial Number BESY 660. As required by G.S. 14-402, the individual requiring the weapon must secure the necessary permit to purchase the handgun.

Staff has provided the accompanying resolution necessary to declare the weapon surplus and to convey same to Major Jardon.

RESOLUTION
By the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners
To Declare Weapons Surplus

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. 20-187.2 permits the governing body of a law enforcement agency, in its discretion, to award to a retiring member, upon request, the service side arm of the retiring member, at a price determined by such governing body; and

WHEREAS, the award of the service side arm is subject to the securing of a permit as required by N.C.G.S.14-402 et seq. or 14.409.1 et seq., without such permit provided the weapon shall have been rendered incapable of being fired.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners does hereby declare a Glock 19, Serial #BESY 660 surplus and does hereby authorize the County Manager to convey the weapon to Major Marc Jardon for a price of $1.00 pursuant to the requirements of N.C.G.S. 20-187.2.

Adopted this the 20th day of May, 2019.

Attest:

_____________________________  ______________________________
Amanda Triplett, NCCCC  Randy T. Church, Chairman
Interim Clerk to the Board

D. Request for approval of Fireworks Display at Veterans Memorial Park

Commissioner Potter moved to approve all 7 items on the Consent Agenda as read by the County Manager. All voted to approve and the motion carried.

Commissioner Wilkie moved to go into closed session Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(5) to discuss potential acquisition of property. With no further business Commissioner Wilkie made a motion at 7:34 p.m.to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor and the motion to adjourn carried.