Present:  Randy T. Church, Chairman  
Mike LaBrose, Vice Chairman  
Jeff Branch  
Donald A. 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  

Jonathan Beal addressed Commissioners about his concern for safety for children in Caldwell County Schools. He talked about the recent incident in which a man armed with a weapon had tried to gain entrance at three school facilities in Caldwell County. Mr. Beal said one of the schools was Collettsville School where he teaches and he said the school was on hard lock down and followed procedures during the event; however, the school did not have a school resource officer on campus and they had no way to defend themselves. Mr. Beal said it was the government’s burden to protect them. He extended appreciation to Commissioners for their consideration of funding for school resource officers at all schools not within municipal jurisdictions with police departments. He expressed hope of future legislation and initiatives on the federal and state levels to provide money.  

Regular Session  

Reverend Jim Lee, Pastor of Calvary Advent Church, gave the invocation and Commissioner Branch led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Church asked if there were any additions or amendments to the May 7, 2018 agenda. The Clerk requested deletion of item #6 (Recognition of Excellence in Customer Service Award Recipient). Commissioner LaBrose moved to approve the agenda as presented and amended by the Clerk. The motion carried unanimously.  

Public Hearing—Economic Development Incentive for Project Patrol  

EDC Director Deborah Murray reported that the EDC had been working with a company on a possible expansion in Caldwell County; however, the company executives are competing with a similar facility in another state for the expansion. Ms. Murray said the company requested local and state incentives to make the decision more favorable for Caldwell County; therefore, they requested consideration of a Local Jobs Incentive of $2,000 per new job and a Department of Commerce Building Reuse grant. She said the County would serve as the official local
government applicant for the Building Reuse grant. The Local Jobs Incentive will provide the required 5% Local Match for the North Carolina Building Reuse grant.

Ms. Murray said the expansion, Project Patrol, would result in the creation of up to 25 new, full-time jobs in addition to maintaining its current workforce. The name of the company is withheld for confidentiality until a decision is made and the company informs its employees and customers of the details of the expansion.

Chairman Church declared the public hearing open. There was no public comment; therefore, Chairman Church declared the public hearing closed.

Commissioner Wilkie moved to approve a Local Jobs Incentive of $50,000 ($2,000 per job) for up to 25 new, full-time Caldwell County jobs to be created over a two-year period for Project Patrol and to adopt the following Authorizing Resolution for the NC Building Reuse grant application. The motion carried unanimously.

**Building Reuse Program IncentiveAuthorizing Resolution**

**Project Patrol Economic Development Project**

**Whereas,** the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners and Deborah Murray, Executive Director of Caldwell County Economic Development Commission, are currently working with an existing Caldwell County industry’s potential expansion to create up to 25 new jobs, and

**Whereas,** this economic development project is locally titled Project Patrol in order to maintain confidentiality until approved for public release by appropriate company officials, and

**Whereas,** the North Carolina Department of Commerce has begun its preliminary review of this economic development project to determine the company’s eligibility for a Building Reuse grant based on the creation of up to 25 new jobs over a two (2) year period, and

**Whereas,** the Building Reuse grant requires a local government to serve as the formal applicant for these incentive grant dollars on behalf of the company, and

**Whereas,** the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners has approved a Local Jobs Incentive of $2,000 per new job created up to $50,000 during its May 7, 2018 meeting, and

**Whereas,** the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners understands the company facility in Caldwell County is in competition for this expansion project with a similar company facility in another state, and
Whereas, Caldwell County elected officials and staff have previous experience in the administration of the Building Reuse program and are willing to provide assistance in the implementation of this project.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners agree to formally serve as applicant for the Project Patrol Building Reuse grant and authorize the Chairman to sign appropriate certifications for the local government application related to this grant.

Adopted this 7th day of May, 2018.

ATTEST:

Kathy T. Greene, Clerk to the Board

Randy T. Church, Chairman
Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

Proclamation for Merlin Perry

Commissioner Potter read the following proclamation and, upon its reading, he moved to adopt same. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Potter and fellow Commissioners presented the proclamation to Merlin Perry in appreciation of his dedicated public service.

Clay McCreary, on behalf of Congressman Mark Meadows, presented Mr. Perry the United States Flag that was flown over the U. S. Capitol Building in honor of his exemplary service. Mr. McCreary said Merlin Perry, a former Lenoir City Councilman and former Caldwell County employee as well as interim county manager, was a friend and true community leader for the City of Lenoir and Caldwell County. He commended Mr. Perry for his dedicated work not only for the City and County but also for his work as a charter member of the Pathways Committee.

Mr. Perry thanked Mr. McCreary, Congressman Mark Meadows, and the Board of Commissioners for the appreciation and honors given him.

Proclamation

Whereas, Merlin Perry has been a longtime resident of Lenoir and Caldwell County; and

Whereas, Merlin Perry earned his BS Degree at Western Carolina University and successfully completed the Municipal and County Administration Course at the University of North Carolina School of Government; and

Whereas, Merlin Perry served as the interim county manager for Caldwell County and, during his service to the County, was instrumental in one of the County’s largest companies and employers, Merchant Distributors Incorporated, relocating to Caldwell County from a neighboring county; and

Whereas, Merlin Perry was appointed by the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners to serve on the newly created Caldwell County Pathways Board in 2001 and has remained an
Whereas, Merlin Perry has dedicated much of his time and service as a valuable and involved member on the following boards and committees which benefits our community tremendously:

- The Friends of Wilson Creek
- North Carolina Rail Trails Board
- Habitat for Humanity
- Board of Social Services
- Tourism Advisory Board
- Caldwell County Chamber of Commerce

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize Merlin Perry for his commitment to public service and his diligence in establishing greenways, trails, and pathways for everyone to enjoy.

Be It Further Resolved that the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners, in honor of his dedication to our community, does hereby extend appreciation to Merlin Perry for his contributions to make Lenoir and Caldwell County a great place to enjoy life.

Adopted this the 7th day of May, 2018.

Randy T. Church, Chairman
Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Kathy T. Greene, Clerk to the Board

Report and Proclamation—Older Americans Month

Beverly Ruppard read the following proclamation and, upon its reading, Commissioner Potter moved to adopt same. The motion carried unanimously.

Proclamation

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH
MAY 2018

Whereas, Caldwell County, North Carolina, includes older Americans who richly contribute to our community; and
Whereas, we acknowledge that what it means “to age” has changed—for the better.

Whereas, Caldwell County is committed to supporting older adults as they take charge of their health, explore new opportunities and activities, and focus on independence; and

Whereas, Caldwell County can provide opportunities to enrich the lives of individuals of all ages by:

- involving older adults in the redefinition of aging in our community;
- promoting home-and community-based services that support independent living;
- encouraging older adults to speak up for themselves and others; and
- providing opportunities for older adults to share their experiences.

Now therefore, we the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim May 2018 to be Older Americans Month in Caldwell County. We urge every resident to take time during this month to acknowledge older adults and the people who serve them as influential and vital parts of our community.

ADOPTED this the 7th day of May, 2018.

__________________________________________________
Randy T. Church, Chairman
Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

__________________________________________________
Kathy T. Greene, Clerk to the Board

Jack Daulton gave a brief overview of the Department’s Adult Services Division comprised of two social work teams and informed Commissioners World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was June 15th. Mr. Daulton said he would highlight the program and its services during a future meeting.

Approval to Award Contract for New Phone System at Health and Human Services Building

Information Technology Director Lucas Bentley informed Commissioners that requests for proposals (RFPs) for a new telephone system to replace the existing system at the Health and Human Services Building were sent out on February 28, 2018. The closing date for submittal of bids was March 20, 2018 and Mr. Bentley said proposals were received from the following vendors. He noted Commissioners had previously approved funding for the acquisition; therefore, his request was for approval to award the bid for the new phone system.
Mr. Bentley said he and IT staff developed an evaluation matrix and carefully reviewed the bid proposals for comparisons. He said the proposals were all fairly similar in what their systems could do to fit the desired needs; however, it was staff’s recommendation to award the bid to Sanders Communications, due to the company’s lower long term costs and quicker response times as strong factors in making their decision as well as the company’s maintenance, service and warranty performances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor/Company</th>
<th>Initial Cost</th>
<th>Five-Year Cost</th>
<th>Ten-Year Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(A) Carasoft Technology Corp</td>
<td>$24,000.00</td>
<td>$594,000.00</td>
<td>$1,164,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860 Michael Faraday Drive, Suite 100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reston, VA 20190</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(B) Katalyst Network Group, LLC</td>
<td>$309,134.79</td>
<td>$433,134.79</td>
<td>$588,134.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 1st Avenue NW, Suite 613</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hickory, NC 28601</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(C) Meridian IT, Inc.</td>
<td>$212,681.99</td>
<td>$304,123.84</td>
<td>$395,571.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2537 Arden Gate Lane</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte, NC 28262</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(D) Sanders Communications Services, Inc.</td>
<td>$260,347.98</td>
<td>$263,097.98</td>
<td>$265,847.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 1556</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenoir, NC 28645</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(E) Tri-Com Communications</td>
<td>$188,264.56</td>
<td>$270,764.56</td>
<td>$353,264.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>202 N. Main St., Suite 226</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kernersville, NC 28606</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commissioner LaBrose moved to award the bid for a new phone system to Sanders Communications Services, Inc. based on the costs outlined in the company’s proposal. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval to Award Contract for Paving New Driveway at Health and Human Services Building

Stan Kiser reported bids for parking lot improvements at the Health and Human Services Building were opened on April 26th. He noted requests for proposals (RFPs) were sent to ten contractors and the following bids were received from two contractors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maymead, Inc.</td>
<td>$291,080.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>164 Bostian Bridge Drive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statesville, NC 28677</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Crest, LLC</td>
<td>$391,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1264 Taylorsville Rd SE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenoir, NC 28645</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr. Kiser said Professional Engineer Dan Shabeldeen tab certified the proposals and recommended the award be made to Maymead, Inc., the lowest responsive bidder, in the amount
of $291,080.00 to complete the project.

Chairman Church moved to recuse himself from voting on the issue because he was an employee of Maymead, Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Wilkie moved to award the bid for the parking lot improvement project to Maymead, Inc. in the amount of $291,080.00 and the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution for Exemption of Engineering/Geotechnical Services on the Parking Area Adjacent to the Health and Human Services Building Estimated to Cost Less Than $50,000

Mr. Kiser requested for Commissioners’ authorization for staff to submit RFQs for engineering/geotechnical services on the parking area adjacent to the Health and Human Services building. He said that process was estimated to cost less than $50,000 and requested Commissioners to adopt a resolution to exempt the County from bidding requirements for the professional services since they were to cost less than $50,000.

Commissioner Potter moved to authorize staff to submit RFQ's as requested and to adopt the following resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION EXEMPTING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR GEOTECHNICAL SERVICES ON THE PROPERTY ADJACENT TO NEW HHS PARKING LOT FROM G.S. 143-64.31

WHEREAS, G.S. 143-64.31 requires the initial solicitation and evaluation of firms to perform architectural, engineering, surveying, construction management-at-risk services, and design-build services (collectively “design services”) to be based on qualifications and without regard to fee;

WHEREAS, the County proposes to enter into one or more contracts for architectural/engineering services for Geotechnical services on property adjacent to the new HHS parking lot and

WHEREAS, G.S. 143-64.32 authorizes units of local government to exempt contracts for the services from the qualifications-based selection requirements of G.S. 143-64.32 if the estimated fee is less than $50,000; and

WHEREAS, the estimated fee for the architectural/engineering services for the above-described project is less than $50,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CALDWELL RESOLVES:
Section 1. The above-described project is hereby made exempt from the provisions of G.S. 143-64.31.

Section 2. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

Adopted this 7th day of May, 2018.

Randy T. Church, Chairman
Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Kathy T. Greene, Clerk to the Board

Approval to Acquire Ambulance from Hudson Fire Dept

Eddie Anderson requested approval from Commissioners for Caldwell County EMS to purchase a 2009 GMC 4500 ambulance, including all ALS equipment on the truck, from Hudson Fire and Rescue Department. He said the vehicle had only 13,000+ miles and 1300 engine hours. Mr. Anderson said the paint job for the vehicle was estimated at $4,500.

Mr. Anderson said he and EMS Director Dino DiBernardi recommended the County pursue the purchase at a cost of $30,000 plus the cost of up-fitting the unit. He said the department’s capital request would be changed to reflect the purchase of either the demo Freightliner or the new Frazer ambulance for the other replacement unit scheduled for FY18/19 because the acquisition of Hudson’s unit would offset the need to purchase two new vehicles by only purchasing one new ambulance for the department.

Commissioner Potter extended thanks to Hudson Volunteer Fire Department for offering the vehicle to the County and thinking about the County’s needs because they could have sold it for quite a bit more money to someone besides Caldwell County.

Commissioner Branch moved to authorize acquisition of the GMC ambulance from Hudson Fire Department and to approve the following budget amendment for the purchase. The motion carried unanimously.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>10.9800.397000</th>
<th>Fund Balance Appropriation</th>
<th>$30,000.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>10.9000.451001.4600</td>
<td>Vehicles</td>
<td>$30,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Resource Officers for County Schools

Sheriff Alan Jones appeared before Commissioners to request and thank them for considering funding to hire six new school resource officers for his department. Mr. Kiser pointed out that existing sales tax revenue would be used to fund the new positions.
Chairman Church said Commissioners had been considering the need for additional school resource officer since the tragedy at Parkland High School in Florida and he said it was now time for Caldwell County to step up and ensure law enforcement presence at the schools in the County to make sure children and staff are safe.

It was noted the County currently had eight School Resource Officers working at the high school and middle school facilities in the County not located in the municipal jurisdictions of Lenoir, Hudson, and Granite Falls. The six additional school resource officers would be employed to cover all elementary/K-8 schools that are not located inside the city limits of Lenoir, Hudson, and Granite Falls (Currently, one SRO is assigned to Sawmills Elementary and two additional SRO’s roam and cover the remaining elementary/K-8 schools to include: Baton, Collettsville, Dudley Shoals, Gamewell, Happy Valley, Kings Creek, and Oak Hill). Five of the six new SRO’s will allow for each of the individual elementary/K-8 schools to have a permanently assigned SRO and the sixth new SRO would be assigned to West Caldwell High School as well as the backup SRO to provide coverage when needed as well as when other SRO’s are out for leave, training, etc. at the various schools.

The initial startup cost to purchase six new vehicles and necessary equipment would be $668,906.47 and the recurring annual costs to be funded from the new sales tax revenues that are earmarked for education.

Chairman Church moved to authorize the addition of six new School Resource Officer positions and acquisition of the necessary equipment. Mike talked about Caldwell County with the help of Caldwell County Schools and The Caldwell County Sheriff Office would be applying for possible grants from the state and federal governments to assist in funding the SRO’s. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda**

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

   A. **Room Occupancy Tax (Flow-through Funds)** $15,000.00
   The following budget amendment is necessary to reflect additional flow-through funds in the revenue and expenditure lines for the current fiscal year budget. No local dollars are required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>10.6574.318003.5003</th>
<th>Room Occupancy Tax</th>
<th>$15,000.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>10.6574.461100.5003</td>
<td>Room Occupancy Tax</td>
<td>$15,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   B. **Sheriff Office (Flow-through Court Restitution Revenue)** $1,000.00
   The following budget amendment is necessary to reflect additional flow-through funds associated with restitution fines paid to the Clerk of Court. No local dollars are required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>10.4317.341001</th>
<th>COFC Inves</th>
<th>$1,000.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>10.4317.465200</td>
<td>COFC Inves</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Approval to Issue Permits for Fireworks Displays
Mr. Kiser reported the Fire Marshal received two applications seeking permits of fireworks displays by the following entities and it was noted that both companies submitted the necessary documentation with the applications including insurance certificates for each event. Kevin Brown advised his office would conduct the necessary inspections of the site prior to the display. Therefore, Mr. Kiser recommended the Board of Commissioners grant the permits for fireworks displays as requested.

A. Sawmills Veteran Park – May 25, 2018
   JECO Pyrotechnics company will be conducting the firework display at 5475 Water Works Road, Granite Falls, NC.

B. Village of Cedar Rock – June 30, 2018
   The Zambelli Fireworks company will be conducting the firework display at 2065 Cedar Rock Estates Drive, Lenoir, NC. A rain date has also been scheduled for July 1, 2018.

3. Appointment of Review Officer for Town of Sawmills
Mr. Kiser informed Commissioners the County received a letter from Julie Good, Clerk for the Town of Sawmills, advising Becca Bleich from Western Piedmont Council of Governments was the Town’s new Planner; therefore, the Town requested her appointment as an additional Review Officer for the Town of Sawmills. Mr. Kiser recommended the Board of Commissioners adopt the resolution which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes as recorded in the Caldwell County Registry Book 1941 Page 1123.

4. Approval to Accept $500 State LSTA Grant for Conference Travel Expenses
Mr. Kiser recommended the Board of Commissioners approve the following budget amendment to accept a $500 LSTA grant from the State for FY2018-2019 and noted the grant funds would be used to cover travel expenses for staff to attend a conference.

| Increase | 10.6110.330000 | Other Grants | $500.00 |
| Increase | 10.6110.432100 | Travel & Training | $500.00 |

5. Use of Contingency Funds
It was noted that the County’s Budget Ordinance granted the County Manager authority to use contingency funds as deemed necessary to fund urgent needs, emergency situations, or for unforeseen equipment and repairs; however, its use must be reported to the Board of Commissioners at the next available meeting. Mr. Kiser informed Commissioners that he approved the following budget amendment to use $15,365.00 in contingency funds to make needed repairs to the animal shelter to avoid being shut down or fined by the State Inspector. He recommended the Board of Commissioners ratify approval of the budget amendment.

| Decrease | 10.4110.499100 | Contingency | $15,365.00 |
| Increase | 10.4321.435500 | R & M Building | $15,365.00 |

6. Approval of Local Water Supply Plans and Water Shortage Plans for Caldwell County’s North, Southeast, West, and Addison Lane Water Systems
Mr. Kiser informed Commissioners that staff submitted water supply plans that were updated since the plans approved in September 2013. It was noted the plans were for the North, Southeast, West, and Addison Lane water systems of the County’s Water Program and, once approved, the updated plans would be submitted to the State as required by N.C.G.S. 143-355(1).
In addition, he said staff submitted water shortage plans for the same four systems that had been updated since the plans were approved in April 2010 and, once approved, would also be submitted to the State as required. Mr. Kiser recommended the Board of Commissioners adopt the resolutions and approve the water supply plans and water shortage plans for the County’s Water Systems which are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes (Exhibit A).

Commissioner LaBrose moved to approve the six items on the consent agenda as presented and recommended by the County Manager. 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 7:03 p.m.