



Caldwell County
North Carolina
Board of Commissioners Meeting

January 9, 2023 at 6:00 PM
City-County Chambers
905 West Avenue NW, Lenoir

MINUTES

Attendance:

Randy Church, Chairman
Mike LaBrose, Vice Chairman
Jeff Branch, Commissioner
Donnie Potter, Commissioner
Robbie Wilkie, Commissioner
David Lackey, County Attorney
Donald Duncan, County Manager
Abby Rich, County Clerk

Absent:

Call to Order

Chairman Church called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Public Comment Period

There were no individuals signed up for public comment.

Invocation

Chairman Church introduced David Crisp, Executive Pastor of Living Hope Church to lead the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Donnie Potter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Amendments from the Board, Manager & Public

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Vice-Chairman LaBrose made the motion to accept the agenda as presented by the County Manager.

The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Items

1. Presentation for Naming of "Love Mountain"

Aaron Helms came to the podium to present to the Board. Mr. Helms and his family own a parcel of land in Caldwell County that includes a summit. Mr. Helms told the Board that his family thought it would be fun to name the peak that sits on their property. Mr. Helms told the Board that the namesake of "Love Mountain" comes from the love that his family and others have for the Mountains and that he wanted to choose a name that was neutral. Mr. Helms provided the statement that he gave to the US Board on Geographic Names.

The consensus of the Board was to remain neutral on the subject.

2. Recent Caldwell County Retirees

Chairman Church called up the first retiree to be recognized, Kathy Whittington. The Chairman congratulated Whittington on this achievement. DSS Director Will Wakefield offered words of appreciation for Whittington and the time that she served with Caldwell County. Chairman Church next called up Laurie Ellsworth and offered congratulatory remarks to her. DSS Director Will Wakefield thanked Ellsworth for all of her hard work during her time with DSS. Chairman Church then asked Vickie Williams to come up and offered congratulatory remarks to her. Sheriff Alan Jones told Williams that he appreciates all of her hard work and adaptation to change in the time that she served with the Sheriff's

Office. Sherri Marshall was the next to be called up. The Chairman offered congratulatory remarks to Sherri for her time spent with Caldwell County. The last to be called up and recognized was Debbie Steele. The Chairman congratulated Steele for her time served. Library Director Leslie Griffin stated that Steele was a treasure to the Library and always went beyond the call of duty.

Consent

3. **Ambulance Purchases (LATCF, SCIF)**
The County Manager stated that the grant funds for both of these were previously approved. One was a federal grant and one was a state grant. Prices have escalated based on the proposals submitted more than a year and a half ago. Due to this, ARPA funds will be used to match the cost. Overall, none of the funds will come from the County budget.
4. **Purchase of Office Equipment for RESTART**
Grant funds received will fund the office equipment that needs to be purchased for the new RESTART offices. The amount for office furniture is \$13,000. Commissioner Potter asked that the County get more bids for the office furniture. The County Manager said that the County uses State contract pricing, so they will look at local options as well.
5. **Metal Detector Replacement at Courthouse**
With power surges in the month of November there was damage caused to the main unit at the Courthouse. The IT department were able to find parts to get the 20-year old unit working again, but it is being requested that a new one is purchased. This is local money, but it is not a new appropriation.
6. **Sheriff's Office Purchase of Equipment for Undercover Narcotics Officers**
The Sheriff's Office is requesting to use funds to purchase new equipment for undercover narcotics officers.
7. **Use of Donated Funds to Purchase Grooming Items for New Animal Care Shelter**
One of the staff members at the Animal Care and Enforcement office has been working to obtain their grooming license. The materials purchased will be used to groom the animals at the shelter and improve their condition upon intake.
8. **Animal Shelter Change Order #33**
This change order will be funded through SCIF monies granted by the State.
9. **Health Department Additional Grant Funding for Family Planning in Health Department Clinic**
This grant passes straight through and no local monies are spent.
10. **Health Department Additional Grant Funding from CDC**
These are additional funds granted to be used for breast and cervical cancer screenings.
11. **Purchase of GIS Cloud Hosting using ARPA Funds**
Moving the GIS data to the cloud will save the County money and they won't have to maintain servers on site. This will be funded through ARPA funds and will not require any local funding.
12. **Premium Pay 2023 Installment 2 of 2**
This is the second installment of premium pay. This will be funded through ARPA funds. \$2,000 for full time employees and \$1,000 for part time employees that are making under \$92,000 a year.
13. **Scream Half Marathon**
This letter is authorizing support for the Scream Half Marathon to take place.
14. **Blue Ridge Community Action Community Services Block Grant Report (DSS)**
The money for this grant is a pass through for the County budget.
15. **Ratification for Tri-County Speedway Special Event Permit**
The event held was for Toyota to test female drivers for a new NASCAR series.

16. Extension for Project Einstein

The Board needed to ratify the granted extension.

17. Appointment of County Manager to Caldwell-Lenoir Rail Transload, LLC

The County Manager needed to be appointed as the designee for Caldwell for the Caldwell-Lenoir Rail Transload, LLC.

18. Appointment of Robbie Wilkie to the Caldwell County Communities in Schools Board of Directors

Commissioner Wilkie will need to be appointed to serve on the Caldwell County Communities in Schools Board of Directors.

19. December 5th Meeting Minutes

Approval is needed for the December 5th meeting minutes.

Adjourn

Commissioner Wilkie made the motion to adopt the consent agenda as presented to the Board by the County Manager. The motion carried unanimously.

With there being no more business to attend to, Commissioner Potter made the motion to adjourn at 6:27PM. The motion carried unanimously.

**THIS PAGE LEFT
BLANK**