



Caldwell County
North Carolina
Board of Commissioners Meeting

May 8, 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

Call to Order

Chairman Church called the May 8th, 2023 Board of Commissioners Meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Public Comment Period

There were no individuals signed up for public comment.

Invocation

Michael Medlock, Senior Pastor at Resurrection Hope Church of God, provided the invocation in the form of a song.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Robbie Wilkie led the Pledge of Allegiance for those in attendance.

Agenda Amendments from the Board, Manager & Public

There were no amendments made 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. Moving Mountains Award- Foothills Robotics 6888

The Moving Mountains Award was presented to Foothills Robotics 6888 members Aiden Pepoli, Ian Martinichio, Aaron Martinichio, Aubree Hearn, and Lillian Sebastian.

County Manager Donald Duncan spoke first, acknowledging the perseverance of the group after their robot was damaged on the way home from the first competition. The County Manager also noted that the accomplishments of individuals who play sports are often acknowledged, but individuals who excel in the areas of technology or arts do not often receive the acknowledgement that they deserve.

Commissioner Wilkie spoke next, stating that their determination not to give up after their robot was damaged spoke volumes to him about the character of these individuals. Commissioner Wilkie continued by saying he is expecting great things to come from this team for Caldwell County and he also mentioned that the teams that Foothills Robotics 6888 compete against have large sponsors, while this team works with the funds they are given through donations. Commissioner Wilkie concluded by saying that the individuals on this team were well deserving of this award.

2. Public Safety Professionals Month

Chief Dino DiBernardi came to the podium to present a proclamation that requests May of 2023 to be declared as Public Safety Professionals Month. Chief DiBernardi read the proclamation to those in attendance.

Chairman Church made the motion to adopt the proclamation.
 Commissioner Potter took the opportunity to say thank you to all of the first responders for what they do. Commissioner Wilkie and Vice Chairman LaBrose also offer sentiments and thanks to first responders.
 The motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Safety Professionals Month Awards

Chief Of Emergency Services, Dino Dibernardi, presented the "Of the Year" awards to: EMS Employee of the Year – Ethan Miller (Paramedic)
 EMS Paramedic of the Year – Makayla Murphy (Paramedic)
 EMS Officer of the Year – George Durfor (Captain)
 EMS Rookie of the Year – Kate Johnson
 Tim Miller Award for Excellence in Patient Care – Paul Williams (Paramedic)
 Communications Telecommunicator of the Year – Bailey
 Quick Communications Call Taker of the Year – Dawn Hardin
 Communications Supervisor of the Year – Ryan Dula
 Communications Employee of the Year – Dawn Hardin
 Fire & Emergency Management Employee of the Year – Michael Parnell (Captain)

EMS Chief Jonathan Cooke presented the Cardiac Arrest Save Awards to: Amber Outlaw, Brian Crump, Abby Davis, Taylor Fredericks, Joe Petrone, Makenzie Thompson, Daniel Lynam, Jessica Dillard, Kenny Hall, Sarah Pennell, Brooke Rozier, Justin Glenn, and Josh Welker.

Others recognized for action on a call were Chrissy Hopkins, Sydney Younce, David Crouse, and April Bivens.

4. Clerks to the Board of County Commissioners Week

Chairman Church read the proclamation for Clerk's to the Board of Commissioners Week for those in attendance.

The Commissioners expressed their gratitude to County Clerk, Abby Rich.
 Commissioner Potter made the motion to adopt the proclamation as read.
 The motion carried unanimously.

5. Older Americans Month

DSS Director Will Wakefield and Beverly Ruppard came to the podium to present a proclamation for Older Americans Month. Ms. Ruppard read the proclamation to those in attendance.

Commissioner Branch made the motion to adopt the proclamation.
 The motion carried unanimously.

Consent

Chairman Church turned the meeting over to the County Manager to present the items on the Consent Agenda.

6. Budget Revision - Survey for Cahah's Mountain EMS Base

This item approves a survey of the property purchased to house a new EMS Base in Cahah's Mtn. \$15,000 will be moved from the Animal Care Shelter capital project funds to cover this cost.

7. Budget Revision and Project Ordinance for Evergreen Industrial Park

This revision moves \$400,000 from building reuse funds and a \$50,000 contribution from the Town of Sawmills into the Capital Project Fund.

8. Reappointment of Members to the LEPC

Several of the members of the LEPC were overdue for appointment. Reappointment was requested for: Jordan Cramer, UNC Healthcare; Frank Gordon, Community Group-CERT; Brendan Jacks, JBS; Reid Roper, MDI; Aaron Berwick, RPM; Robin Nicholson, Duke Energy; Gary Sparks, Hazmat Private Contractor; Jon Rogers, Corporate Member; Patty Nelson, Greenway Transportation.

9. Release to Dispose of Real Property

The Board of Commissioners are afforded the first right to purchase property from Caldwell County Schools. This release allows Caldwell County Schools to sell the property that was formerly West Lenoir Elementary.

10. Ratification of GREAT Grant Agreement

The GREAT Grant agreement was previously signed and needed to be ratified. The County Manager reviewed the specifics of this agreement with the Board and noted that while some of the broadband will expand into Alexander County, Caldwell will only match the portion that is located in Caldwell County.

11. Approval of Minutes from April 10, 2023 Meeting

Approval of the April 10th, 2023 Board of Commissioners Meeting was requested.

Vice-Chairman LaBrose made the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda.
The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

With there being no more business to attend to, Commissioner Potter made the motion to adjourn at 6:49PM.
The motion carried unanimously.

PROCLAMATION

02 - 2023



**CLERKS TO THE BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' WEEK
April 30 through May 6, 2023**

WHEREAS: It is imperative to the democratic process that a well-informed citizenry participates in the operation of their local government; and

WHEREAS: The office of the Clerk to the Board provides the communication link between the citizens, the local governing body and administrative departments, and local government partners; and

WHEREAS: The position of clerk is one of the oldest in local government, dating at least to biblical times, and whose term has long been associated with the written word; so, it is that modern-day clerks are official recordkeepers for their counties; and

WHEREAS: North Carolina law requires every board of county commissioners to appoint a clerk and the clerk continues in that position "at the pleasure of the board"; and

WHEREAS: The clerk's most significant statutory duties concern the preparation, filing and safeguarding of local government records, but the statutory duties constitute only a portion of what the clerk actually does; and

WHEREAS: The clerk plays a vital role in county government and provides the written record needed to ensure that the board is accountable to the county's citizens and to other public and private officials; and

WHEREAS: The clerk is sometimes described as "the hub of the wheel" in local government because of the central work that the clerk plays in the government's communication network; and

WHEREAS: As local government becomes larger and more complicated, the clerk's role as a professional, dispassionate provider of information to citizens, government officials, and the media becomes more and more important; and

WHEREAS: Clerks have the opportunity to participate in the North Carolina Association of County Clerks, a very active professional association of public officials dedicated to improving the professional competency of clerks through regular regional and statewide educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS: In cooperation with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Government and International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), the North Carolina Association of County Clerks helps to sponsor a nationally recognized, examination-based certification program that culminates in receipt of the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS: In addition, the North Carolina Association of County Clerks and the School of Government sponsor state certification programs leading to the designation of North Carolina Certified County Clerk, as well as opportunities for experienced clerks to obtain the continuing professional education needed to remain state-certified or to earn an advanced Master Clerk designation; and

WHEREAS: In addition to conducting education programs, the North Carolina Association of County Clerks also directly assists clerks on the job with mentoring programs to provide guidance to assist clerks in their day-to-day work; and

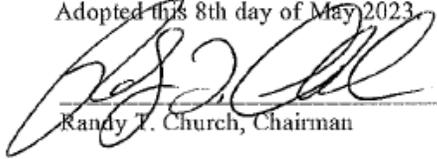
WHEREAS: Clerks, upon their own initiative, participate in these certification and education programs, including annual meetings of the North Carolina Association of County Clerks and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, which not only improve the operation of their office, but through their achievements and awards bring favorable publicity to the counties in which they serve; and

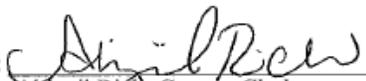
WHEREAS: Clerks are involved at the state level, as well as in potential legislative and other matters of interest; and

WHEREAS: Although clerks work for the boards of county commissioners, they truly provide public service;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize the week of April 30 through May 6, 2023, as Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioners' Week, and extends our appreciation to our Clerk to the Board Abby Rich and to all County Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the county they represent.

Adopted this 8th day of May 2023.


 Randy T. Church, Chairman

Attest: 
 Abigail Rich, County Clerk

PROCLAMATION

03 - 2023

OLDER AMERICANS' MONTH 2023

WHEREAS, Caldwell County includes a growing number of older Americans who contribute their time, wisdom, and experience to our community; and

WHEREAS, Caldwell County benefits when people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds have the opportunity to participate and live independently; and

WHEREAS, Caldwell County recognizes the need to create a community that offers the services and supports older adults whom may need to make choices about how they age; and

WHEREAS, Caldwell County can work to build an even better community for our older residents by:

- Not limiting our thinking about aging,
- Exploring and combating stereotypes,
- Emphasizing the many positive aspects of aging,
- Inspiring older adults to push past traditional boundaries, and
- Embracing our community's diversity.

NOW, THEREFORE, we the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim May 2023 to be Older Americans Month. We urge every resident to celebrate our older citizens, help to create an inclusive society, and accept the challenge of flexible thinking around aging.

Adopted this day 8th day of May, 2023

Randy T. Church, Chairman

Attest: Abigail Rich, County Clerk

PROCLAMATION

04 - 2023

**Public Safety Professionals Month Proclamation To designate the Month of May, 2023, as
Public Safety Professionals Month**

WHEREAS, telecommunicators week is observed the second full week of April each year; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services is observed each May; and

WHEREAS, firefighters' day is observed May 4th of each year; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement appreciation day is observed January 9th of each year; and

WHEREAS, the members of the public safety community are always at the ready to provide life-saving care and protection to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency services dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury, greatly improves the quality of life, stands as a priority to citizens and visitors, and ensures the ability of freedom of movement; and

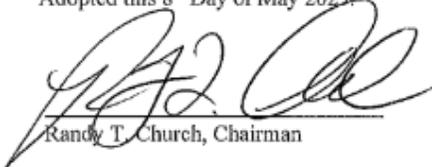
WHEREAS, the public safety community consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and

WHEREAS, public safety professionals, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their life-saving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of public safety professionals by designating the month of May as Public Safety Professionals Month; now

NOW, THEREFORE, I Chairman Randy Church and the Caldwell County Commissioners, in recognition of this profession do hereby proclaim the month of May 2023, as Public Safety Professionals Month

Adopted this 8th Day of May 2023


Randy T. Church, Chairman

Attest: 
Abigail Rich, County Clerk

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
EVERGREENE PROJECT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT ORDINANCE**

WHEREAS, there is a need for continued economic development in Caldwell County.

WHEREAS, Caldwell County has agreed to partner with the Town of Sawmills to develop a suitable property for economic development purposes.

WHEREAS, Where as suitable land for this purpose has been identified.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners that:

Section 1. The governing board hereby creates a project fund for the purpose of administering the Evergreene Project.

Land Acquisition \$450,000

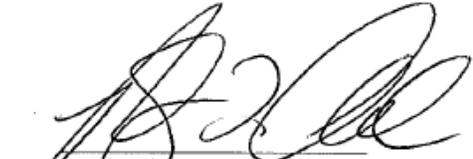
Section 2. The fund will remain operational until completion of the project and the disbursement of all project funds.

Section 3. The project shall be effective May 8, 2023.

Adopted May 8, 2023.

ATTEST:


Abby Rich
Clerk to the Board


Randy Church
Chairman

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