



Caldwell County
North Carolina
Board of Commissioners Meeting

March 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM
City-County Chambers
905 West Avenue NW, Lenoir

MINUTES

Attendance:

Randy T. Church, Chairman
Jeff Branch, Commissioner
Patrick Starnes, Commissioner
Wayne Rash, Interim County Manager
Destin Hall, County Attorney
Abby Rich, County Clerk

Call to Order

Chairman Church called the March 10, 2025, Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Public Comment Period

Ernest Watson was the first to come to the podium. Mr. Watson expressed that he is upset about the current Noise Ordinance. Mr. Watson had the Sheriff's Office called on him for a complaint about him shooting guns on his property. Mr. Watson said the Noise Ordinance is too vague and asked the Commissioners to consider amending it.

Jesse Wallace was next to come to the podium. As a resident, Mr. Wallace is upset about trash along the roadsides on Abington Rd. and Beecher Anderson Rd in Lenoir. Mr. Wallace would like to see this area cleaned up.

Justin Boyd was the last to come to the podium. Mr. Boyd is upset about the tax value increases with the revaluation. He expressed his challenges with speaking to the tax office.

Invocation

Chairman Church returned the meeting to regular session at 6:10 PM.

Pastor Rocket Barber of Anchor Church came to the podium to provide the invocation for those in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Branch led the Pledge of Allegiance for those in attendance.

Agenda Amendments from the Board, Manager & Public

Interim County Manager Wayne Rash informed the Board of one amendment. This amendment would remove Item 4 to move to April's regular meeting.

Commissioner Branch made the motion to accept the agenda.
The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Items

1. Retirement of K-9 Pancho

Captain Derek Philyaw came to the podium and read the resolution for the retirement of K9 Pancho. Commissioner Starnes made the motion to adopt the resolution.
The motion carried unanimously.

2. Retirement of K-9 Angie

Captain Derek Philyaw came to the podium and read the resolution for the retirement of K9 Angie.
Chairman Church made the motion to adopt the resolution.
The motion carried unanimously.

3. Line Worker Appreciation Day

Chairman Church read the proclamation for Line Worker Appreciation Day.
Commissioner Branch made the motion to adopt the proclamation.
The motion carried unanimously.

Robin Nichols with Duke Energy came to the podium to provide remarks about line workers. Ms. Nichols also awarded a check for a Disaster Preparedness Grant to Caldwell Emergency Management in the amount of \$25,000.

4. Dr. Lim- Presentation to Family

This item was removed and moved to the April 14, 2025 meeting agenda.

5. RHA Behavioral Health Urgent Care

The presenters were not present for the meeting.

6. Caldwell County Housing Plan

Economic Development Director Ashley Bolick came to the podium to introduce Alison Adams with WPCOG.

Ms. Adams reviewed the Caldwell County Housing Plan presentation.

Consent

Chairman Church turned the meeting to Interim County Manager Wayne Rash to review the Consent Agenda.

7. Golden Leaf Grant Administration Contract

Economic Development requested the approval of the Golden Leaf Grant Administration Contract with the WPCOG.

8. Golden Leaf - Airport Due Diligence Agreement

Economic Development requested the approval of the Golden Leaf Airport Due Diligence Agreement.

9. Sales Tax Reinvestment Agreement

Economic Development requested the approval of the Sales Tax Reinvestment

Agreement between Caldwell County and the local municipalities.

10. WPCOG Agreement for Code Enforcement Services

WPCOG requested approval of the updated contract for Code Enforcement Services.

11. DSS- Request for Four Part-Time Staff Members

DSS requested 4 part-time temporary SW III positions to assist with permanency case management while recruiting and training.

12. 911 Fund Balance Correction

The budget revisions allows the County to move \$28,895 from the general fund to the 911 fund to correct the balance for disallowed expenses.

13. Gamewell Sewer Fund

This budget revision in the amount of \$30,000 allows the County to increase its line items for both revenue and expense related to Gamewell Sewer. These funds are a flow through for the County.

14. Building Inspections Position

Building Inspections requested to fill an open position.

15. Animal Care and Enforcement- Use of Donated Funds for Rabies Vaccines

Animal Care and Enforcement is requesting to use \$1,800 in donated funds for an upcoming rabies vaccine clinic.

16. Health Department- Agreement Addendum for Professional Fees and Supplies

The Health Department received agreement addendum funds totaling \$11,531. This budget revision allows these funds to be spent on professional fees and supplies.

17. Health Department- Exam Table Purchase

This budget revision in the amount of \$10,005.40 allows the Health Department to purchase an exam table.

18. Sheriff's Office- Vehicle Purchase

This budget revision in the amount of \$5,600 allows the Sheriff's Office to trade in an old undercover vehicle for a new one. This revision is funded by Federal Asset Seizure funds

19. Sheriff's Office- Wrecked Vehicle Replacement

This budget revision in amount of \$68,716.00 allows for the purchase of a new patrol vehicle to replace one that was wrecked and declared a total loss.

20. Ratify Winter Storm State of Emergency Ending Date

The ending date of the Winter Storm is January 24, 2025, at 0800 hours. This decision needed to be ratified by the Board.

21. Appointments of ETJ Members to Sawmills Planning Board

Adam Wilson and Jeffrey Plummer requested appointment as ETJ members for the Town of Sawmills Planning Board.

22. Approval of 2025 Tri-County Speedway Event Calendar

Tri-County Speedway requested approval of its 2025 event calendar.

23. Approval of Minutes from February 10, 2025, Meeting

The approval of the February 10, 2025, meeting minutes is requested.

Commissioner Starnes made the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda.
The motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Chairman Church made the motion to enter into closed session to consult with the Board's attorney to preserve the attorney/client privilege as provided in NCGS 143-318.11.a (3), to discuss matters relating to the expansion of location of industries or other businesses in Caldwell County as provided in NCGS 143-318.11.a (4), to discuss matters relating to personnel as provided in NCGS 143-318.11.a (6) at 6:53 PM.

The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

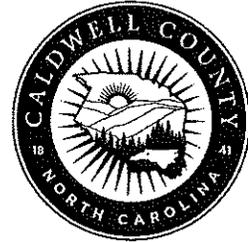
With there being no more business to attend to, Commissioner Branch made the motion to adjourn at 8:54 PM.

The motion carried unanimously.

PROCLAMATION

01-2025

LINE WORKER APPRECIATION DAY



WHEREAS, on April 10, 2013, a resolution was passed in the United States Senate to recognize April 18 annually as National Lineman (Line Worker) Appreciation Day; and

WHEREAS, the profession of the electrical line worker is steeped in personal, family, and professional tradition; and

WHEREAS, line workers are often first responders during storms and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other public safety officials, and to expedite the return of vital electrical power to our communities; and

WHEREAS, these brave men and women work with thousands of volts of electricity high atop power lines 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, risking and sometimes losing their lives to keep electricity flowing; and

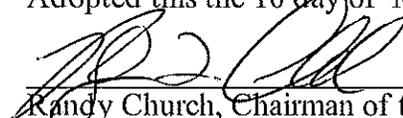
WHEREAS, line workers are often faced with dangerous conditions, far from their families, as they work to construct and maintain energy infrastructure throughout the State of North Carolina and the United States; and

WHEREAS, line workers must use their technical knowledge, physical strength and ingenuity to achieve success in challenges they face every day; and

WHEREAS, the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners thanks these skilled and heroic line workers who brave hurricanes, ice storms, snow storms, floods, and other natural disasters to maintain our community's energy grid.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 18, 2025, as "Line Worker Appreciation Day".

Adopted this the 10 day of March 2025.



Randy Church, Chairman of the Board
Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

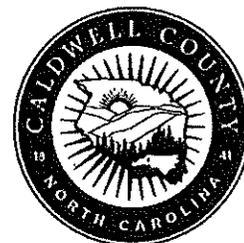
ATTEST:



Abby Rich, NCCC
County Clerk

RESOLUTION

05 - 2025



AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF RETIRED K-9 "Pancho"

WHEREAS, Sheriff's K-9 "Pancho" and his handler, Corporal Matthew January have been a great benefit to the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office and its communities; and

WHEREAS, it has come time for "Pancho" to retire from his service to the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Caldwell, NC finds that Sheriff's K-9 "Pancho" should be retired to a member of the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office due to the additional training and responsibility which is required; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-266(d) permits the Board of Commissioners of the County of Caldwell, NC to authorize the disposition of personal property as described thereunto; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Matthew January of the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office has agreed to purchase retired K-9 "Pancho" from the County of Caldwell, NC in the amount of \$1.00, and upon accepting custody of the dog will assume all liability and responsibility for the care of the animal for the remainder of its life.

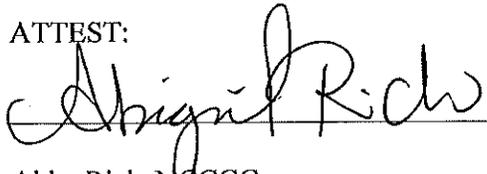
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Caldwell, NC authorizes the purchase of K-9 "Pancho" by Corporal Matthew January for the amount of \$1.00 effective March 10th, 2025.

Adopted this the 10 day of March 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Church", is written over a horizontal line.

Randy Church, Chairman of the Board
Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

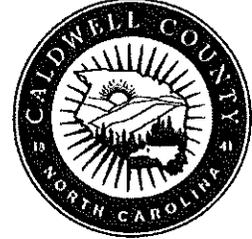
ATTEST:



Abby Rich, NECCC
County Clerk

RESOLUTION

06 -2025



AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF RETIRED K-9 "Angie"

WHEREAS, Sheriff's K-9 "Angie" and her handler, Corporal Chase Bowman have been a great benefit to the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office and its communities; and

WHEREAS, it has come time for "Angie" to retire from her service to the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Caldwell, NC finds that Sheriff's K-9 "Angie" should be retired to a member of the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office due to the additional training and responsibility which is required; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-266(d) permits the Board of Commissioners of the County of Caldwell, NC to authorize the disposition of personal property as described thereunto; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Chase Bowman of the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office has agreed to purchase retired K-9 "Angie" from the County of Caldwell, NC in the amount of \$1.00, and upon accepting custody of the dog will assume all liability and responsibility for the care of the animal for the remainder of its life.

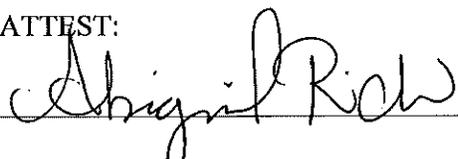
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Caldwell, NC authorizes the purchase of K-9 "Angie" by Corporal Chase Bowman for the amount of \$1.00 effective March 10, 2025.

Adopted this the 10 day of March 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Church", is written over a horizontal line.

Randy Church, Chairman of the Board Caldwell
County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Abby Rich". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Abby Rich, NECCC
County Clerk

NORTH CAROLINA

CALDWELL COUNTY

SALES TAX REINVESTMENT AGREEMENT

This Sales Tax Reinvestment Agreement ("this Agreement") is entered into by and among CALDWELL COUNTY("the County"), a political subdivision of the State of North Carolina, and TOWN OF GAMEWELL ("Gamewell"), TOWN OF SAWMILLS ("Sawmills"), TOWN OF CAJAH'S MOUNTAIN ("Cajah's Mountain"), TOWN OF HUDSON ("Hudson"), TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS ("Granite Falls") and CITY OF LENOIR ("Lenoir"), all being North Carolina municipal corporations (collectively "the Municipalities").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Towns of Gamewell, Sawmills, Cajah's Mountain, Hudson, and Granite Falls and the City of Lenoir are all municipal corporations located in Caldwell County; and

WHEREAS, the Municipalities and the County desire to collectively fund economic development activities and other public purposes within Caldwell County; and

WHEREAS, the parties have agreed that these activities and purposes will be funded by the Municipalities in consideration of the County's continued election of the per capita method of distribution of local government sales and use tax among the County and the Municipalities pursuant to G.S. §105-472(b)(1), under which election the County receives less sales and use tax revenues, and the Municipalities receive more sales and use tax revenues, than they would receive if the County elected the ad valorem method of distribution; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority of G.S. Chapter 160A, Article 20, Part 1, the County and the Municipalities have each resolved to enter into this interlocal agreement to provide funding for the activities and purposes set forth herein:

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein, the parties agree and contract as follows:

1. This Agreement is entered into for the purpose of collectively funding economic development activities and other public purposes in Caldwell County. It is the intention of the parties to this Agreement that those activities which are anticipated to have the greatest county-wide impact will receive priority in funding. Decisions on which economic development activities and other public purposes to fund, and the amount of funding, will be made by the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners. Provided, however, that no more than \$350,000.00 will be spent from the Fund for public purposes other than economic development for four (4) consecutive e years beginning with the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2025.

2. Administrative implementation of the Fund and of the activities and purposes funded thereby shall be the responsibility of the Caldwell County Manager and his staff.

3. Pursuant to the terms of previous similar agreements, the County has established a special appropriation fund ("the Fund") under the authority and control of the Caldwell County Finance Department, which has been and shall continue to be reserved for the activities and purposes herein provided. Each Municipality's contribution to the Fund shall be paid into the Fund during July of each year, beginning July, 2025. All interest earned on the monies in the Fund shall be credited to Fund and spent for the intended activities and purposes. The County shall include the Fund in its annual audit, and within two (2) weeks after its receipt of the annual audit report, it shall provide to each of the Municipalities a written report showing Fund receipts, interest, expenditures and balance. During the term of this Agreement, the County shall continue to elect each year the per capita method of sales and use tax distribution.

4. The term of this Agreement is for a period for four (4) years, beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2029.

5. During the four (4) year term of this Agreement, the Municipalities' respective annual contributions to the Fund shall be the following:

Gamewell	-	\$189,000.00
Sawmills	-	194,000.00
Granite Falls	-	27,500.00
Hudson	-	27,500.00
Cajah's Mountain	-	155,000.00
Lenoir	-	<u>7,000.00</u>
TOTAL		\$600,000.00

6. Monies paid into the Fund prior to July 1, 2025 that have not been expended will be used only for economic development purposes.

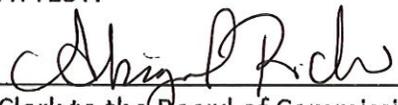
7. Should the sales tax revenues fall to a level below the level experienced at the time of this Agreement, each Municipality shall retain the right to request that its contribution be lowered. The request must be submitted to the County Board of Commissioners no later than January 31st. If approved, the lowered contribution would take effect in the following fiscal year, for the payment due to the County in July. Upon obtaining a request to lower the contribution amount the County shall analyze the actual sales tax receipts of each Municipality and determine if a reduction in the contribution is warranted. The ultimate authority on whether or not to reduce the contribution from each Municipality shall rest with the County Board of Commissioners.

8. This Agreement may be modified only with the unanimous consent of all of the parties hereto.

9. This Agreement supersedes all previous agreements between these parties dealing with this same subject matter.

10. Each of the signatories below hereby represents that this Agreement has been approved in an open meeting by the governing body represented by the signatory, and that the signatory has been duly authorized to execute this Agreement as the binding act of the governing body.

ATTEST:


Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

CALDWELL COUNTY

By: 
Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Dated: 3/10/25

This instrument has been preaudited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

Finance Officer, Caldwell County

TOWN OF GAMEWELL

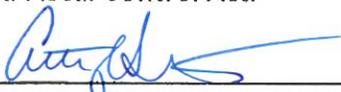
ATTEST:

Clerk to the Town Council

By: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____

This instrument has been preaudited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.


Finance Officer, Town of Gamewell

TOWN OF SAWMILLS

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Town Council

By: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____

This instrument has been preaudited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

Finance Officer, Town of Sawmills

TOWN OF CAJAH'S MOUNTAIN

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Town Council

By: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____

This instrument has been preaudited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

Finance Officer, Town of Cahaj's Mountain

TOWN OF HUDSON

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Town Council

By: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____

This instrument has been preaudited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

Finance Officer, Town of Hudson

TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Town Council

By: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____

This instrument has been preaudited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

Finance Officer, Town of Granite Falls

CITY OF LENOIR

ATTEST:

Clerk to the City Council

By: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____

This instrument has been preaudited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

Finance Officer, City of Lenoir