



Caldwell County  
North Carolina  
**Board of Commissioners Meeting**

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August 11, 2025 at 6:00 PM  
City-County Chambers  
905 West Avenue NW, Lenoir

## **MINUTES**

### **Attendance**

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

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Church called the August 11, 2025, Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

### **Public Comment Period**

There were no individuals signed up for public comment.

### **Invocation**

Discipleship Pastor Kevin Burns with Waterlife Church led the invocation for those in attendance.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Patrick Starnes 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 four amendments to the agenda. These amendments were the addition of Item 24, an Amendment of the Opioid Fund Expenditure Resolution, the addition of Item 25, an Acceptance of Grant Funding for the Sheriff's Office, the addition of Item 26, the Rollover of STRAP Grant Funding, and the addition of Item 27, a Revision of the Board of Commissioners Meeting Dates for the remainder of the Calendar Year.

Vice Chairman LaBrose made the motion to adopt the agenda as presented.  
The motion carried unanimously.

Before beginning the review of the agenda items, Interim County Manager Wayne Rash informed the Board that, at the direction of the County Attorney, "A list of the persons owning

real property whose taxes for the preceding year remain unpaid is available in the Caldwell County Tax Department."

## **Agenda Items**

### **1. EMT of the Year**

Irv Eurto of American Legion Post 29 came to the podium and introduced the other Post 29 members in attendance with him. Mr. Eurto told the Board each year Post 29 accepts a nominee for EMT of the Year and Sheriff's Deputy of the Year. Mr. Eurto asked Emergency Services Chief, Trevor Key, to come to the podium. Chief Key announced Paramedic Zack Bumgarner as the EMT of the Year. Chief Key said Mr. Bumgarner joined Caldwell EMS in 2022, and he is a proactive employee and a great recruiter for the department.

### **2. Deputy of the Year**

Sheriff Bean came to the podium to introduce the Deputy of the Year, Detective Jacob Britt. Sheriff Bean described Detective Britt as a hard worker with a positive attitude.

### **3. Bailiff of the Year**

Sheriff Bean remained at the podium to introduce the North Carolina Bailiff of the Year. Sheriff Bean said Bailiff Frankie Holder was chosen from a group of 100 applicants. Sheriff Bean commended Deputy Holder for working tirelessly even during times of personal adversity.

### **4. RZ 2025-1 GB to L-IND - Connelly Springs Rd.**

Assistant Planning Director Kim McGee came to the podium to present a rezoning request. The request is to rezone 10 acres located at 2881 Connelly Springs Rd. Granite Falls, from general business to light industrial. Raymond Dollar is the property owner and the parcel is vacant and heavily wooded. Ms. McGee provided the Planning Board approved the request with the contingency statement that "Approval of this request is reasonable and in the public's best interest because the amendment is consistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan that contains a future land use map that aligns with the request by suggesting Light Industrial zoning for this area (via a Commercial Corridor node). There's no evidence that the rezoning would negatively impact the surrounding neighborhood and adjacent properties, and it can promote public health, safety and welfare by allowing the manufacturing of goods to the public as well as other businesses. Approval is also contingent on NC-DOT driveway permit and septic and well permit approval."

The Board asked about the access to water at this site. There was discussion about the potential for drilling a well and the feasibility of a sprinkler system for an industrial business.

Chairman Church declared the public hearing open and with no individuals signed up to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Branch made the motion to adopt the rezoning as presented in the contingency statement.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **5. Economic Development - Project SpaceX**

Economic Development Technician Jesse Trivette came to the podium to present Economic Development Incentives for Project Space X. Chairman Church opened the public hearing, but there were no individuals signed up to speak. Mr. Trivette introduced Jerry Soots and Robert Melton, both representative of the company. The proposed tax agreement would be between Caldwell County and Dynastar Aerospace Machining. The project has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Economic Development Advisory Committee. Dynastar has communicated its intent to invest \$4,400,000 in Caldwell County. The company will be hiring 5 full-time positions within the first year. Over the next 3-5 years the company plans to create approximately 30-40 jobs with an average salary of \$65,000. Economic Development would like to offer a tax grant of 50% of the County property taxes paid on the increased net taxable real estate improvements and equipment. This grant would be awarded annually for 3 consecutive years beginning with a tax year of Dynastar's choosing, but no later than December 31, 2027. This grant requires no upfront funding.

Chairman Church stated this funding comes from Sales Tax Reinvestment Funds. Vice Chairman LaBrose asked about the staggering of the percentages over the years for tax grants. Mr. Trivette indicated this project was presented as a flat rate and was discussed as such. This grant will be a flat 50% for 3 years. There was a brief discussion about the water pressure on the site as it relates to the sprinkler system.

Chairman Church closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Potter made the motion to approve the economic development incentive for SpaceX as described by Mr. Trivette. The motion carried unanimously.

## **6. Economic Development - Granite Falls Composites, Inc.**

Granite Falls Composites was the next project to be presented. Mr. Trivette introduced Jamey Little and Melissa Curtis with Granite Falls Composites. This project is a conversion of Roblon to Granite Falls Composites. Mr. Little said he had heard news Roblon would be divesting its Granite Falls location, and he was concerned about the future of the location and the individuals that worked there. Mr. Little said it looked as though another foreign entity was going to purchase and operate this location and this did not sit well with the leadership team, so, they constructed a management buyout. This deal was completed in July of 2025. They are happy they were able to keep this business local and save over 100 jobs. Chairman Church declared the public hearing declared open, there were no individuals signed up to speak. Mr. Trivette began his presentation by stating this project has been approved for recommendation by the Economic Development Advisory Committee. Under the terms of this agreement, Granite Falls Composites has committed to maintaining 70 full-time jobs. To receive this grant, these jobs must be maintained for a full 12-month period in accordance with the County's established policy and must meet the County's definition of full-time employment, which is no less than 30 hours per week per employee. The Economic Development Advisory Committee recommends that the County offer a \$1,000 grant per maintained job for a total maximum incentive of \$70,000. These funds will only be awarded after a full 1-year retention period has been completed and the employment has been verified through the office of Economic Development. Additionally, Caldwell County Economic Development is asking for the consideration of a jobs creation incentive agreement between Caldwell County and Granite Falls Composites. Granite

Falls Composites is committed to creating 30 new full-time jobs in Caldwell County by July 30, 2026, while also retaining its 70 current full-time positions. These positions will meet Caldwell County's definition of full-time employment of at least 30 hours per week. The Caldwell County Economic Development Advisory Committee recommends a performance-based grant of \$2,000 per job up to a total maximum incentive of \$60,000. There are no upfront funds to be distributed. Granite Falls composites must also remain up to date on all County fees and taxes to receive the funding. These funds will come from the Sales Tax Reinvestment Fund.

Attorney Hall made a clarifying statement by saying the requirement to keep any of the grants is that the company has to keep the 70 full-time jobs in the period of the agreement and the new jobs. The company can obtain the old job grants in the period of 1 year if those old jobs were retained, but the company would also have to keep those old jobs, plus a minimum of 5 new jobs from 1 year from that. Mr. Hall said this is really a 2-year deal. The company just receives partial payment a year into it, but the company still has to maintain all of those old jobs and the new jobs throughout the 2-year period or all of the money is clawed back.

Chairman Church declared the public hearing closed.

Commissioner Starnes made the motion to accept the grant as presented by Mr. Trivette.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **7. Economic Development - Project Picanha**

Mr. Trivette introduced Diogo Lobo and Ladislav Lieskovan, representatives of the company for Project Picanha. Chairman Church declared the public hearing open, there were no individuals signed up to speak. Mr. Trivette began his presentation by stating this is a tax grant incentive between Caldwell County and Project Picanha. This company is an agricultural manufacturer of prepackaged proteins here in Caldwell County. This project has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Economic Development Advisory Committee. Project Picanha has communicated its intent to invest approximately \$20,000,000 in Caldwell County. This investment includes a 55,000 square foot expansion of its current facility. This expansion is estimated to create 50+ new jobs. Economic Development is proposing a performance-based tax grant incentive equal to the following percentages of the ad valorem taxes paid by the company that are directly attributable to the improvements made between September 1, 2025, and August 31, 2027. Year 1 will be a 20% tax grant, year 2 will be a 30% tax grant, year 3 will be a 40% tax grant, and years 4 and 5 will be a 50% tax grant. The company may elect to begin the 5-year grant period in any tax year through the year 2027. This grant involves no upfront payments from the County. Chairman Church asked if this tax grant is just based on the additional investment of \$20,000,000. Mr. Trivette clarified this is based on the investment attributable to the increase in the tax burden on the company.

Chairman Church declared the public hearing closed.

Commissioner Branch made the motion to approve the agreement as has been presented for Project Picana.

Attorney Hall made a clarifying comment that the investment period is up until December 31 of 2027. This means the company has until that date to make whatever

investment they are planning to make on this project.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **Consent**

Chairman Church turned the meeting to Interim Manager Rash to present the Consent Agenda.

- 8. DSS- Hurricane Helene Mitigation Funding Rollover**  
This budget revision rolls over \$148,361.50 in Hurricane Helene mitigation funding from the 24-25 FY to the 25-26 FY.
- 9. Health Department- Agreement Addendum Funding for Retention and Training**  
An agreement addendum in the amount of \$80,462.00. This funding will be used for the training and retention of Health Department employees.
- 10. Health Department- Agreement Addendum Funding for WIC**  
An agreement addendum in the amount of \$29,869.00. This funding will be used for the support of a Breastfeeding Peer Counselor.
- 11. Health Department- Agreement Addendum Funding Communicable Diseases**  
An agreement addendum in the amount of \$55,213.00. This funding will be used to expand communicable disease services.
- 12. Health Department- Agreement Addendum Funding for Public Health**  
An agreement addendum in the amount of \$37,692.00. This funding will be used for public health services.
- 13. Health Department- Agreement Addendum Hurricane Helene Mitigation Funds**  
The Health Department received an agreement addendum for Hurricane Helene Mitigation Funding in the amount of \$798,920.00.
- 14. Health Department- Rollover of Grant Funding**  
This budget revision rolls over \$55,030.73 in funding from the 24-25 FY to the 25-26 FY.
- 15. Budget Revision and Closing Statement for Communications Center 911 Grant**  
This budget revision closes the 911 Communications Center Grant. The funding amount is \$2,659,312.07 and the funds are no longer needed due to a change in project.
- 16. Borrowing Resolution for Capital Outlay Loan**  
Finance requested approval of the Borrowing Resolution for the Capital Outlay Loan.
- 17. Purchase Order Rollovers from 24-25 Fiscal Year**  
This budget revision rolls over all purchase orders that were not closed out in the 24-25 FY. The total amount is \$542,708.12.
- 18. SCIF Funding for Ambulance Purchase**  
The County received \$275,000.00 in state funding to assist with the purchase of a new

ambulance. This budget revision allows these funds to be spent.

**19. Not to Exceed Agreement with Southern Disaster Relief**

The Not to Exceed Agreement with SDR needed to be increased from \$5,000,000 to \$5,325,000 for Hurricane Helene debris clean up.

**20. Ratification of Tri County Speedway Special Event Use**

Tri-County Speedway hosted Luke Combs to shoot a music video. This event was one of the Speedway's special events for the calendar year.

**21. Reappointment of Dr. Rebecca Whisnant to Board of Health**

Dr. Rebecca Whisnant requested reappointment to the Board of Health.

**22. Approval of July 14, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

The approval of the July 14, 2025, meeting minutes was requested.

**23. Approval of July 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

The approval of the July 14, 2025, meeting minutes was requested.

**24. Amendment of the Opioid Settlement Expenditure Resolution**

A date on the resolution was incorrectly labeled for April instead of July.

**25. Acceptance of Grant Funding for the Sheriff's Office**

The County was awarded funding from the Governor's Crime Commission. This item allows these funds to be brought into the County.

**26. Rollover of StRAP Grant Funding**

\$430,880 is being carried over in StRAP grant funding. This is 100% grant funds.

**27. Revision of the Board of Commissioners Meeting Dates**

The Board is amending its regular meeting schedule for the remainder of 2025.

Vice Chairman LaBrose made the motion to adopt the consent agenda as presented.  
The motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn**

With there being no more business to attend to, Chairman Church made the motion to adjourn at 7:14 PM.

The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF CALDWELL, NORTH CAROLINA APPROVING AN  
INSTALLMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT TO FINANCE VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT AND  
DELIVERY THEREOF AND PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN OTHER RELATED MATTERS**

*WHEREAS*, the County of Caldwell, North Carolina (the “*County*”) is a political subdivision validly existing under the constitution, statutes and laws of the State of North Carolina (the “*State*”);

*WHEREAS*, the County has the power, pursuant to the General Statutes of North Carolina to (1) enter into installment contracts in order to purchase, or finance or refinance the purchase of, real or personal property and to finance or refinance the construction or repair of fixtures or improvements on real property and (2) create a security interest in some or all of the property financed or refinanced to secure repayment of the purchase price;

*WHEREAS*, the Board of Commissioners of the County (the “*Board of Commissioners*”) has determined that it is in the best interest of the County to enter into an installment financing (the “*Agreement*”) with Banc of America Public Capital Corp (the “*Lender*”) in accordance with its proposal dated July 21, 2025 in order to obtain funds to pay the costs of the acquisition and installation of vehicles and equipment (collectively, the “*Projects*”), and to put a security interest in all or a portion of the Projects in favor of the Lender in order to provide security for the County’s obligations under the Agreement;

*WHEREAS*, the County will enter into the Agreement in an aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$2,275,000;

*WHEREAS*, there has been made available to the Board of Commissioners in the office of the County’s Finance Officer the form of the Agreement which the County proposes to approve, enter into and deliver, as applicable, to effectuate the proposed financing at an interest rate as specified in the Agreement and in the bid summary provided to the Board of Commissioners; and

*WHEREAS*, it appears that the Agreement is in appropriate form and is an appropriate instrument for the purposes intended;

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CALDWELL, NORTH CAROLINA, AS FOLLOWS:*

Section 1. *Ratification of Prior Actions.* All actions of the County Manager, or any individual serving in an interim capacity (the “*County Manager*”), the County Attorney, the Finance Officer and the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and their respective designees in effectuating the proposed financing are approved, ratified and authorized pursuant to and in accordance with the transactions contemplated by the Agreement.

Section 2. *Approval, Authorization and Execution of Agreement.* The Board of Commissioners approves the Projects in accordance with the terms of the Agreement, which will be a valid, legal and binding obligation of the County in accordance with its terms. The Board of Commissioners approves the amount advanced by the Lender to the County pursuant to the Agreement in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$2,275,000 at an annual interest rate (in the absence of default or change in tax status) shall not exceed 3.5042%, and the financing term shall not exceed five (5) years from closing. The form, terms and content of the Agreement are in all respects authorized, approved and confirmed. The County Manager, the County Attorney, the Finance Officer and the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, or their respective designees (the “*Authorized Officers*”), are authorized, empowered and directed to execute and deliver the Agreement for and on behalf of the County, including necessary counterparts, in

substantially the form made available to the Board of Commissioners, but with such changes, modifications, additions or deletions therein as they may deem necessary, desirable or appropriate, their execution thereof to constitute conclusive evidence of the approval of the Board of Commissioners of any and all such changes, modifications, additions or deletions. From and after the execution and delivery of the Agreement, each Authorized Officer is authorized, empowered and directed to do all such acts and things and to execute all such documents as may be necessary to carry out and comply with the provisions of the Agreement as executed.

Section 3. **Further Actions.** Each Authorized Officer is designated as the County's representative to act on behalf of the County in connection with the transactions contemplated by the Agreement. The Authorized Officers are authorized and directed to proceed with the Projects in accordance with the terms of the Agreement, and to seek opinions on matters of law from the County Attorney, which the County Attorney is authorized to furnish on behalf of the County, and opinions of law from such other attorneys for all documents contemplated under this Resolution as required by law. The Authorized Officers are authorized to designate one or more employees of the County to take all actions which they are authorized to perform under this Resolution, and each is in all respects authorized on behalf of the County to supply all information pertaining to the transactions contemplated by the Agreement. The Authorized Officers are authorized to execute and deliver for and on behalf of the County any and all additional certificates, documents, opinions or other papers and perform all other acts as may be required by the Agreement or as they may deem necessary or appropriate to implement and carry out the intent and purposes of this Resolution. Any and all acts of the Authorized Officers may be done individually or collectively.

Section 4. **Reimbursement.** The County intends that the adoption of this resolution will be a declaration of the County's official intent to reimburse expenditures for the Projects that are to be financed from the proceeds of the Lender financing described above. The County intends that funds that have been advanced, or that may be advanced, from the County's general fund or any other County fund related to the Projects, for project costs may be reimbursed from the financing proceeds.

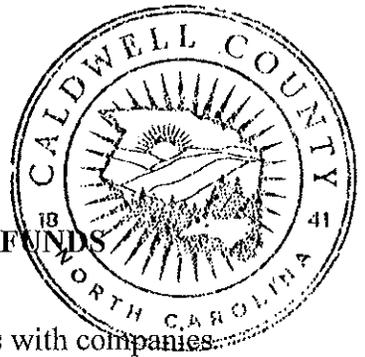
Section 5. **Severability.** If any section, phrase or provision of this Resolution is for any reason declared invalid, such declaration will not affect the validity of the remainder of the sections, phrases or provisions of this Resolution.

Section 6. **Repealer.** All motions, orders, resolutions, ordinances and parts thereof in conflict herewith are repealed.

Section 7. **Effective Date.** This Resolution is effective on the date of its adoption.

*PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED* this 11th day of August, 2025.





**A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF CALDWELL  
TO DIRECT THE EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

**WHEREAS** Caldwell County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids.

**WHEREAS** the allocation, use, and reporting of funds stemming from these national settlement agreements and bankruptcy resolutions (“Opioid Settlement Funds”) are governed by the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation (“MOA”), the Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds from Additional Settlements of Opioid Litigation (“SAAF”), and SAAF-2;

**WHEREAS** Caldwell County has received Opioid Settlement Funds pursuant to these national settlement agreements and deposited the Opioid Settlement Funds in a separate special revenue fund as required by section D of the MOA;

**WHEREAS** section E.6 of the MOA states that, before spending opioid settlement funds, the local government’s governing body must adopt a resolution that:

- (i) indicates that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; and,
- (ii) states the specific strategy or strategies the county or municipality intends to fund pursuant to Option A or Option B, using the item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to identify each funded strategy; and,
- (iii) states the amount dedicated to each strategy for a specific period of time.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, in alignment with the NC MOA, SAAF, and SAAF-2, Caldwell County authorizes the expenditure of opioid settlement funds as follows:

1. First strategy authorized
  - a. Name of strategy: Post-Overdose Response Team
  - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit: A
  - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: Exhibit A, Strategy 8
  - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$658,795.00
  - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:  
Start date July 15, 2025, through End date June 30, 2026
  - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Provide services as a PORT, outlined by the NCDHHS PORT Toolkit. The Caldwell County RESTART PORT will actively connect persons who have experienced non-fatal drug overdoses to addiction/mental health treatment, recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare, and/or other services or supports needed to improve the overall health or well-being.
  - g. Provider: Caldwell County RESTART
2. Second strategy authorized
  - a. Name of strategy: Evidence-based Addiction Treatment

- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
- c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: Exhibit A, Strategy 2
- d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$5,000.00
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:  
Start date July 15, 2025, through End date June 30, 2026
- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Support evidence-based addiction treatment consistent with the American Society of Addiction Medicine's national practice guidelines for the treatment of opioid use disorder – specifically Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) with any medication approved for this purpose by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration – through Opioid Treatment Programs, qualified providers of Office-Based Opioid Treatment, Federally Qualified Health Centers, treatment offered in conjunction with justice system programs, or other community-based programs offering evidence based addiction treatment.
- g. Provider: Caldwell County RESTART.

3. Third authorized strategy

- a. Name of strategy: Naloxone Distribution
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
- c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: Exhibit A, Strategy 7
- d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$ 20,000
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:  
Start date July 15, 2025, through End date June 30, 2026
- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Distribute naloxone to persons at risk of overdose or their social networks, through our post-overdose response team, program that provides naloxone to persons upon release from jail. Distribute naloxone to emergency medical service providers to provide naloxone to persons at risk of overdose, or other community-based organizations that provide services to people who use drugs.
- g. Provider: Caldwell County RESTART.

4. Fourth authorized strategy

- a. Name of strategy: Recovery Support Services
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
- c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: Exhibit A, Strategy 3
- d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$ 82,000.00
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:  
Start date July 15, 2025, through End date June 30, 2026
- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Fund a Recovery/Treatment Court Coordinator position. Position is responsible for overall administration of the Recovery/Treatment Court Program, including conducting screening/assessment of potential Program candidates and presenting cases for consideration at Team meetings. Reviewing with participants and potential participants the Participation Contract and the Participant Handbook, monitoring collection of Program

evaluation information, progress reports as required by the Recovery/Treatment Court, coordination of Staffing Team meetings, sharing of information among and providing resources to Team members as needed.

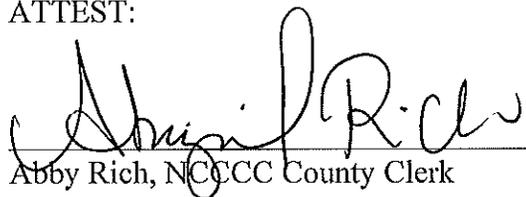
g. Provider: Caldwell County RESTART.

The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the above named and authorized strategies is \$765,795.00

Adopted this the <sup>14<sup>th</sup></sup> ~~1<sup>th</sup>~~ day of <sup>July</sup> ~~August~~ 2025. <sup>AR</sup>

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

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Abby Rich, NCCCC County Clerk

## Calendar Year 2025

### Caldwell County Commissioner Modified Meeting Schedule

City-County Chambers  
905 West Ave. NW  
Lenoir, NC

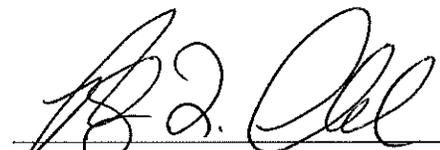
Date	Day	Time	Meeting
September 22, 2025	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Regular
October 27, 2025	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Regular
November 3, 2025	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Regular
December 1, 2025	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Regular

Adopted by the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners during a duly held meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025.

\*All meetings will air live on the Caldwell County Government TV channel (Spectrum Channel 190) and may also be viewed anytime by visiting [www.caldwellcountync.org](http://www.caldwellcountync.org)

ATTEST:

  
Abigail Rich, County Clerk

  
Randy T. Church, Chairman