Caldwell County
North Carolina
Board of Commissioners Meeting

November 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM
City-County Chambers
905 West Avenue NW, Lenoir

MINUTES

Call to Order
Chairman Church called the November 12, 2024, Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Public Comment Period
There were no individuals signed up for public comment.

Invocation
Pastor Steve Coonse of Church Street Baptist Church provided the invocation for those in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance
Commissioner Donnie Potter led the Pledge of Allegiance for those in attendance.

Agenda Amendments from the Board, Manager & Public
There were no amendments to the agenda.
Commissioner Potter made the motion to adopt the agenda as presented.
The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Items

1. **Martin and Starnes 2023-2024 FY Audit**
   A team member from Martin and Starnes came to review the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Audit. There were no major findings in this audit.

2. **Honoring Commissioner Robbie Wilkie**
   Chairman Church read the Resolution Honoring Commissioner Wilkie for those in attendance.
   Commissioner Potter made the motion to adopt the resolution.
   Commissioner Branch said it has been a pleasure working with Commissioner Wilkie.
   Commissioner Potter said they have accomplished a lot, and he appreciates Commissioner Wilkie's friendship.
   The motion carried unanimously.
   Commissioner Wilkie said it's been an honor to serve Caldwell County.

3. **Sponsorship Letter for EWP Assistance**

Will Faulkner came to the podium to request the Board's support for a letter in reference to requesting assistance for Emergency Watershed Protection. The letter will support debris removal and stream restoration efforts.

Chairman Church made the motion to approve signing the letter and sending it to the appropriate recipient.
The motion carried unanimously.

4. Adoption of the 2025 Schedule of Values

Tax Administrator Josh Angle came to the podium to request the 2025 Schedule of Values to be adopted.
Commissioner Wilkie made the motion to adopt the 2025 Schedule of Values.
The motion carried unanimously.

5. Water Department Fee Amendment for Fire Departments

Water Department Deputy Director Heather Cox came to the podium and read a resolution requesting an amendment to the 2024-2025 Fee Schedule. This amendment would change the amount charged to local fire departments to only the base rate.
Chairman Church provided further explanation about the need for the amendment.
Commissioner Branch made the motion to adopt the Water Department fee amendment for the fire departments.
The motion carried unanimously.

6. Mckinsey Settlement Opioid Funds

The County Manager informed the Board that the Mckinsey Distribution Corporation had agreed to voluntarily settlement in reference to the opioid settlement. The County Manager stated that these funds must be spent on opioid recovery and the County should receive roughly $76,000.
Commissioner Potter made the motion to approve the budget revision for the McKinsey Settlement opioid funds.
The motion carried unanimously.

7. Emergency Services - Recovery Court Coordinator

The County Manager provided a background about the need for a Caldwell County Recovery Court. Judge Kuehnert came to the podium to provide remarks in support of a Recovery Court for Caldwell County. Commissioner Potter provided remarks of gratitude.
Commissioner Wilkie made the motion to adopt the Recovery Court Coordinator budget revision.
The motion carried unanimously.

Consent

Chairman Church turned the meeting over to the County Manager to review the Consent Agenda.

8. Sheriff's Office - Narcotics K-9 #1

$7,500 was donated to the Sheriff's Office for a new Narcotics K-9. The remaining $5,115 for the purchase will be funded through a fund balance appropriation.

9. Sheriff's Office - Narcotics K-9 #2

$12,615 of asset seizure funds will be used to purchase a Narcotics K-9 that will replace one set to retire soon.

10. Health Dept - Agreement Addendum WIC

The Health Department received an agreement addendum for a reduction in the amount of $18,749. This reduction is a reflection of a WIC participation rate lower than 97% during the asset months.

11. Grant Funding for Caldwell County Historical Display

The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources has awarded the County $10,000 in grant funding for a historical display.

12. Grant Funding Purchase - Prime Mover

The County has been awarded $90,000 in grant funding. This revision allows the County to accept and spend these grant funds.

13. Code Enforcement - Abatement Funding

This budget revision is in the amount of $10,000 to assist Code Enforcement with abatement costs.

14. Duke Energy Grant Acceptance

This budget revision allows the County to accept and spend $10,000 in grant funding awarded by Duke Energy.

15. Approval of Minutes from September 9, 2024

The approval of the September 9, 2024, meeting minutes is requested.

16. Approval of Emergency Meeting Minutes October 2, 2024

The approval of the October 2, 2024, meeting minutes is requested.

17. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes October 2, 2024

The approval of the October 2, 2024, meeting minutes is requested.

18. Approval of Minutes from October 14, 2024

The approval of the October 14, 2024, meeting minutes is requested.

19. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes October 22, 2024

The approval of the October 22, 2024, meeting minutes is requested.

20. Appointment of Richard Harwood to Caldwell County Nursing Home Advisory Committee

Richard Harwood requested appointment to the Caldwell County Nursing Home Advisory Committee.

Commissoner Potter made the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda.
The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Wilkie took a moment to thank the County employees and the County Manager for their work and noted the continuity between the County Departments.

Closed Session
Commissioner Branch made the motion to go into closed session at 6:52 PM.

21. Closed Session Pursuant to 143-318.11(a)(3)
The Board received updates from Economic Development Director, Ashley Bolick.

Commissioner Potter made the motion to exit Closed Session at 7:03 PM.
The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn
With there being no more business to attend to, Commissioner Wilkie made the motion to adjourn at 7:03 PM.
The motion carried unanimously.

CALDWELL COUNTY
RESOLUTION 20-24
RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
ROBERT "ROBBIE" LEE WILKIE
41 YEARS OF SERVICE

WHEREAS; ROBBIE WILKIE HAS SERVED THE CITIZENS OF CALDWELL COUNTY FOR 41 YEARS. BEGINNING HIS SERVICE WITH NORTH CATAWBA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM 1983-2005, CONTINUING HIS SERVICE WITH THE CITY OF LENOIR FIRE DEPARTMENT 1988-2005. IN 2005 HE WAS APPOINTED COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL INVESTIGATING MORE THAN 400 FIRES. DURING THIS TIME, HE AIDED EVERY FIRE DEPARTMENT IN LOWERING THEIR INSURANCE SERVICE OFFICE RATING, AN INDUSTRY STANDARD OF HOW WELL A FIRE DEPARTMENT CAN PROTECT ITS CITIZENS FROM FIRE, AND SAVING MILLIONS IN INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR EVERY CITIZEN, HE ALSO WAS THE HANDLER FOR THE COUNTY'S FIRST ACCELERANT DETECTION K-9 "EMBER"; AND

WHEREAS; ROBBIE WAS APPOINTED TO SERVE AS EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR FOR CALDWELL COUNTY IN 2012. IN THIS ROLE, HE WAS DISPATCHED ON MULTIPLE DEPLOYMENTS AROUND THE STATE, MOST NOTABLY DURING HURRICANE IRENE, WHERE HE SERVED AS THE OPERATIONS CHIEF FOR PAMLICO COUNTY AND THE INTERIM INCIDENT COMMANDER; AND

WHEREAS; ROBBIE ALSO OBTAINED HIS LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATION SERVING AS A RESERVE OFFICER WITH THE GRANITE FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT AND STILL TODAY AS A RESERVE DEPUTY WITH THE CALDWELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE. HIS MULTIDISCIPLINARY TRAINING WAS VITAL IN HIGH PROFILE CASES OF OFFICER ADAM KLUTZ SHOOTING AND THE MURDER OF ZAHRA BAKER. HIS DIVERSE BACKGROUND SERVED AS A CATALYST THAT ALLOWED FOR INTEROPERABILITY WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES THAT REMAINS UNTIL THIS DAY. AS DIRECTOR, HE CLOSED EVERY LETTER AND MESSAGE WITH "TOGETHER IN SERVICE." HE EMBODIED AND LIVED THE MANTRA EACH DAY; AND

WHEREAS; ROBBIE WILKIE RETIRED FROM CALDWELL COUNTY IN 2015 AND SUBSEQUENTLY WAS ELECTED TO THE OFFICE OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER IN 2016. ROBBIE'S CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SIGNIFICANT; THE REMODELING AND EXPANSION OF GRANITE FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL, THE EXPANSION OF THE SOUTHERN BRANCH LIBRARY, SERVING ON THE LIBRARY BOARD, UPGRADING WATER METERS TO AUTOMATED METER READING, FLOOD WARNING SIRENS IN WILSON CREEK, LUCAS DEVICES ON AMBULANCES, IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE EVIDENCE ROOM, COUNSELING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, A NEW HYBRID MODEL FOR ANIMAL CARE AND ENFORCEMENT, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION; AND

WHEREAS; ROBBIE WAS INFLUENTIAL IN REBUILDING THE COUNTY'S FLEETS FROM THE BRINK OF COLLAPSE TO BEING BOTH PROFESSIONAL AND SAFE IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES. APPROVING THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW EMS BASES IN VALMEAD AND LOWER CREEK, THE REMODEL OF HUDSON EMS BASE, RENOVATING THE FORMER GRACE CHAPEL FIRE DEPARTMENT INTO AN EMS BASE, AND LOCATING AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE CAJAH'S MOUNTAIN EMS BASE. THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW WATER TOWERS AT TEMPLE HILL AND COLLETTSVILLE, NEW ANIMAL SHELTER, BOARD OF ELECTIONS EXPANSION AND RENOVATION, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES WITH RURAL HEALTH ALLIANCE, RENOVATION OF MULTIPLE CONVENIENCE SITES, A NEW REGIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER, UPDATING THE COUNTY SEAL AND FLAG, AND PURCHASING A SITE AND DESIGN FOR THE NEW CALDWELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE; AND

WHEREAS; ROBBIE HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY TO IMPROVE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND PAY. INCLUDING INCREASED VACATION ACCRUAL, PARENTAL LEAVE, MULTIPLE PAY STUDIES, MERIT PAY, EDUCATION REIMBURSEMENT, COMPENSATORY AND FLEX TIME, WORK FROM HOME POLICY, ADDITIONAL HOLIDAYS, AND

WHEREAS; ROBBIE WILKIE IS KNOWN TO BE A MAN OF FEW WORDS, BUT WHEN HE SPEAKS THE WHOLE ROOM LISTENS. HIS ADVICE TO ALL: "LEAVE IT BETTER THAN YOU FOUND IT." A STUDENT OF MARTIAL ARTS. HE GIVES BACK TO HIS COMMUNITY, HIS FAITH, AND IS A DEVOTED HUSBAND TO HIS WIFE CARLENE AND A LOVING FATHER TO DAUGHTER MELINDA.

WHEREAS; ROBBIE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT NOTHING HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GRACE OF HIS LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF CALDWELL COUNTY, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PUBLICLY COMMEND **ROBERT LEE WILKIE** FOR HIS **41** YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF CALDWELL COUNTY.

ADOPTED THIS THE 12TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024

Randy T. Church, Chairman

Michael W. LaBrose, Vice Chairman

Donnie Potter, Commissioner

Jeff Branch, Commissioner

Abby Rich, County Clerk

RESOLUTION

21-2024

RESOLUTION AMENDING FY 2024-2025
WATER DEPARTMENT FEES

WHEREAS, by resolution, the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners can amend the County's schedule of fees adopted each fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Caldwell County Water Department has request to amend its schedule of fees to charge local fire departments the base rate for water services and eliminate charges for fire suppression.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners approves the requested amendments to be made to the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Schedule of Fees.

Adopted this 12 day of November 2024.

Randy T. Church, Chairman

Abigail Rich, County Clerk

BK 2122 PG 694 - 694 (1)
This document presented and filed:
11/14/2024 11:03:38 AM

Fee $0.00

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Caldwell County North Carolina
Wayne L. Rash, Register of Deeds