Caldwell County
North Carolina
Board of Commissioners Meeting

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

MINUTES

Call to Order
Chairman Church called the February 10, 2025, Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Invocation
Jonathon Cook led the invocation for those in attendance.

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

Agenda Amendments from the Board, Manager & Public
Assistant County Manager Wayne Rash informed the Board there were multiple amendments to the agenda. The first amendment is the addition of Item 2a, a Proclamation for Black History Month. The next amendment was the removal of Item 4 and Item 18. The last amendment was the addition of Item 23, the appointment of Heather Cox as Deputy Finance Director for the purpose of signing purchase orders.

Vice Chairman LaBrose made the motion to accept the agenda as the Assistant County Manager had presented.
The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Items

1. **Honoring Dr. Roger Lim**
   Chairman Church made the motion to adopt the resolution in honor of Dr. Roger Lim.
   The motion carried unanimously.

2. **Honoring County Attorney David Lackey**
   Vice Chairman Mike Labrose read the resolution to those in attendance.
   Vice Chairman Mike Labrose made the motion to adopt the resolution in honor of County Attorney David Lackey.
   The motion carried unanimously.

   Item 2b. Proclamation for Black History Month
   Leonardo Chimbunini came to the podium to read the proclamation for Black History Month to those in attendance.

Vice Chairman LaBrose made the motion to adopt the proclamation as read. The motion carried unanimously.

3. System 3 Student Ministry

Gary Hamby came to the podium to present information about System 3 Ministry. Commissioner Potter thanked Mr. Hamby for all he is doing.

4. Republic Services Cap Agreement Extension

This item was removed from the agenda.

5. Presentation Of 2025 Revaluation

Tax Administrator Josh Angle came to the podium to present information about the 2025 tax revaluation.

There was a discussion about the County's percentage triggering a revaluation due to it falling below the 0.85 threshold.

Vice Chairman LaBrose asked what would happen if the County decided not to do an evaluation. Mr. Angle said that while he is not a lawyer, his assumption was that if the County went against State law there would be consequences.

There was a brief discussion about why the County was able to do an eight-year evaluation previously.

Chairman Church asked Mr. Angle to speak about the curb evaluation process. Mr. Angle stated that his team has used aerial photography, maps, and went into the field to appraise properties.

Commissioner Branch asked if the County used drones. Mr. Angle said they do not.

Commissioner Potter asked if the County used a 3rd party company for appraisals. Mr. Angle explained the County only uses a third party to appraise commercial and industrial properties. All residential properties are appraised by County staff. Commissioner Potter then asked what the County's percentage of increase was. Mr. Angle said the County is roughly near 55-60%, but it's hard to establish until all appeals are completed. The County has received around 450 appeals so far.

Vice Chairman LaBrose asked how much it would cost the County to use a 3rd party for revaluation. Mr. Angle said it depends on how good the County would want the data to be.

Commissioner Branch said the Board would drop the tax rate as low as they can to be as close to revenue neutral as possible.

The Commissioners asked for Chief Financial Officer Tony Helton to come to the podium and explain how the tax rate works in relation to revaluation.

There was more brief discussion between the Tax Administrator and the Board regarding where tax dollars are spent.

6. Public Comment Period

Dick Story was the first speaker to come to the podium to address the Board. Mr. Story provided he has concerns about people shooting guns near Thornfield for extended periods of time on Sundays. Mr. Story continued by stating that Dean Wilkie owned approximately 70 acres adjoining his property and Mr. Wilkie was a big game hunter for years. Mr. Story also stated that Mr. Wilkie had set up gun ranges to site his guns. It was then said Mr. Wilkie sold 30 acres of his property to Jennifer Gates. Mr. Story then told the Board that Jennifer's son, Brock Gates, and his friends use the gun range on Sunday's with no consideration for those living in Thornfield. Mr. Story claims the excessive noise from the gun range prevents him and his neighbors from enjoying outdoor activities and the noise carried indoors. Mr. Story said the attempts to reason with Brock Gates were unsuccessful. Mr. Story told the Board he has spoken with Chief Deputy Jonathan Kirby numerous times about this situation. It was then noted two citations were issued, but these were dismissed by the DA due to how the existing statute is written. Mr. Story says this issue is not about guns, this issue is about respect for the people in Thornfield. Mr. Story said he wants the statute amended to force a change in selfish behavior.

Dean Wilkie was the next speaker to come to the podium. Mr. Wilkie says he bought this piece of property 45 years ago for peace and tranquility, but in the last two years there is no more peace and tranquility. Mr. Wilkie says on certain weekends you cannot hear noise because you have to cover your ears and the sound is unbearable. Mr. Wilkie stated there needs to be a noise ordinance or nuisance ordinance allowing individuals to shoot in a practical manner. Mr. Wilkie told the Board he is an avid hunter, and when he would shoot on this range, he would shoot approximately 100 rounds, and this would take around 3.5 hours. Mr. Wilkie says there is no consideration for the neighbors. Mr. Wilkie asked for the Board to consider a noise ordinance and a nuisance ordinance that the landowners can live with, and the neighboring individuals can live with.

Brock Gates was the next speaker to come to the podium. Mr. Gates indicated he is the owner of the range the previous speakers had referred to. Mr. Gates said this is an agricultural property and was sold as farm land. Mr. Gates then told the Board when the property was sold to Mr. Gates' family, the property was marketed as a gun range. Mr. Gates said this was part of the enticement as buyers of the property. Mr. Gates then claimed Mr. Wilkie admitted in his previous statements to trespassing and discharging his firearms. Mr. Gates then said the property is in the County and what Mr. Wilkie deems as a nuisance ordinance is unfair. Mr. Gates also stated this issue is also a waste of resources from the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Gates said the individuals speaking against him had encouraged him to start a firearms business. Mr. Gates told the Board he enjoys going out to this property and uses suppressor technology to mitigate the sound signature. Mr. Gates then mentioned that the County is a sanctuary for gun ownership. Mr. Gates said he hopes that the County can continue to honor these rights because the noise is not as ridiculous as others have claimed. Mr. Gates told the Board they have gone without shooting for months at a time.

Brent Esther came to the podium to speak. Mr. Esther said he lives about a mile from the property and Mr. Gates is a good friend of his. Mr. Esther said Mr. Gates does a lot for the community, and it's in his spare time that they go out to the range to shoot. Mr. Esther said sometimes they may go twice in one month, and sometimes they may go

months in between visits. Mr. Esther also indicated they use suppressors. Mr. Gates then told the Board they have had issues with certain individuals, and he has videos of harassment from these individuals. Mr. Esther said officers came out 25 times last year for separate events. Mr. Esther said there are several active duty officers from various agencies that come out to shoot. Mr. Esther outlined the safety measures they have put in place for shooting. Mr. Esther said they are not doing anything unlawful, and they are trying to get along with people. Mr. Esther said individuals have been calling to report them, blocking in their cars, cussing them, etc. Mr. Esther said they never shoot from 11:00 PM to 7:00 AM. Mr. Esther said this is an agriculture-deemed farmland in the County and there are no laws being broken out there. Mr. Esther said changing this law because individuals have connections or money does not change the legality of the events occurring.

Angie Woods came to podium to speak. Mrs. Woods said she tried to speak with Mr. Gates about this situation, and she was told things she will not repeat. Ms. Woods said she has nothing against them shooting. Her issue is the shooting on Sunday's for 5 or 6 hours. Mrs. Woods said she agrees it's their land, and they should be able to do things, but it is a huge nuisance to people on Sunday afternoons. Mrs. Woods said they have let up the past couple of months. Mrs. Woods said the noise is not 1 or 2 hours, it's a continuous high-powered rifles, and it's causing windows to shake. Mrs. Woods then played a video of the noise for the Board. One of the gentlemen in the crowd asked Mrs. Woods how many times her husband had went there to shoot. She said that he has been twice in the 20 years they have lived there. Chairman Church had to call the room to order. Mrs. Woods said it's inconsiderate to the people who live in the area and their families. Mrs. Woods said that when your constitutional rights impeded on someone else then your rights no longer exist. Mrs. Woods said she understands them wanting to the use the property to discharge firearms, but does not like it being done on Sunday's with high powered rifles so close to their homes for hours at a time.

Stuart Tucker came to the podium to speak. Mr. Tucker said he lives in the same neighborhood. Mr. Tucker said he has been down on this range shooting and the individuals that shoot there are respectful. Mr. Tucker said these individuals focus on safety and it is a good training session. Mr. Tucker told the Board there are other people who shoot in this neighborhood, especially on the backside, and especially recently. Mr. Tucker said he is about 100 yards away and he can hear the shooting when he is outside, but he hears other people shooting as well. Mr. Tucker said he shoots for recreation, but the other gentlemen do it for competition training.

Chairman Church thanked these individuals for coming to voice their opinions.

Tyler Sanders was the next individual to come to the podium. Mr. Sanders said he is proud to live in Caldwell County. Mr. Sanders said he believes the Commissioners dropped the ball and continued by saying the previous revaluation was roughly a 19% increase and the current revaluation is much higher. Mr. Sanders said there could have been another paper with the revaluation notice that explained the revaluation. Mr. Sanders told the Board that people think the government is out to get them, and he is in a government position himself. Mr. Sanders said he thinks this could have been played better and that is why there is a large audience in attendance and a large number of people concerned on social media. Mr. Sanders then went through a few

calculations he had conducted. Based on his valuation, taking the tax rate from $0.63 to $0.35, his tax bill would increase by $63.00 per year, equating to about $5.00 more each month. This calculation did not include Little River Fire and Rescue tax. If the tax rate was changed to $0.40, the tax bill would be $243.00 more each year and at $0.45 the tax bill would be $422.00 more each year. Mr. Sanders said there are individuals who are concerned about this increase.

David Deal came to the podium to speak. Mr. Deal said he and his wife have lived in Hudson for almost 30 years. Mr. Deal said he and his wife are retired and he saw the price increase of his property that doubled. Mr. Deal noted the amount set by the State in order for an individual to have their taxes reduced. Mr. Deal then asked when this was reviewed last and this number is erroneous. Mr. Deal encouraged the Board to be proactive and take the next step and talk to the State Legislators to have this number changed to a more realistic figure.

Stephanie Alexander was next to come to the podium. Ms. Alexander said she and other concerned citizens want to help Caldwell County look more beautiful. Ms. Alexander said they want to aid in a de-littering program, even more so than the County has now, and they want to make this as free to the County as possible. Ms. Alexander said she has done research to see what other communities are doing.

Marlese Lessing came to the podium to speak. Ms. Lessing said this event was sticker shock to many and property taxes are often terrifying. Ms. Lessing said there are retirees and people on fixed incomes. Ms. Lessing continued by telling the Board that when property taxes increase and individuals are on a fixed income and cannot afford the increase, they risk losing their home. Ms. Lessing then mentioned rumors of property taxes being eliminated by the federal government. Ms. Lessing said she understands that nearly half of the funds come from property taxes. Ms. Lessing said that property taxes increase each year and even with a tax rate adjustment, the amount will continue to increase each year. Ms. Lessing said citizens' funds are going to continue to be "eaten up" by property taxes until they potentially have to move away.

Phillip Shell came to the podium to speak. Mr. Shell said he does not believe the appraisers took into account if people moved into the County from the State or if they moved into the County from out of State. Mr. Shell said there has been a mass exodus of individuals from certain states that do not comply with the way people believe they should. Mr. Shell then told the Board that individuals from western states can move here and purchase houses for $800,000 that sold for $400,000 a couple of years ago. Mr. Shell said when you pile that in, it increases the average. Mr. Shell said he applauds the Board for their commitment to keeping the tax rate low.

Ray Austin was the next speaker at the podium. Mr. Austin asked who was responsible for doing the evaluation. Mr. Austin then said no individuals came to his house to view his property. Mr. Austin said his property joins the old landfill, and it is just mountainous terrain. Mr. Austin said it isn't worth the value, and he is on a fixed income at 85 years old. Mr. Austin said he does not see his property taxes going up 100%. Mr. Austin asked again who is responsible for coming out to do the evaluations. Chairman Church told Mr. Austin the staff is responsible for this and encouraged him to reach out to Josh Angle to discuss what he thinks his property is worth. Mr. Austin indicated that he has repealed before, and he does not mind paying his taxes.

Will Rich came to the podium to speak. Mr. Rich said that when Mr. Angle was presenting, he mentioned that the County had basically done a blanket appraisal because it was the more feasible option. Mr. Rich continued by saying Mr. Angle mentioned there was also an income option. Mr. Rich asked why the blanket option was chosen instead of the income option. While Mr. Rich was waiting for Mr. Angle to return to answer his question, he said he was born and raised in Caldwell County and his family worked in the furniture industry until the mass exodus in the 90's. Mr. Rich said he was taught at an early age that if he wanted to make a decent wage and live here, he had to leave the County. Mr. Rich said this is a sad truth, but the property taxes are going up while the wages are not. Mr. Rich said the County is not bringing in more businesses for wages to increase or to bring in competition for the businesses that are already here. Mr. Angle returned to the front and Mr. Rich was able to ask the question he posed when he first came to the podium. Mr. Angle was able to answer Mr. Rich's question.

Arland Kanagy came to the podium to speak. Mr. Kanagy said he is still in the building trade, and he builds 1,500-square-foot houses, and he could previously sell them for $150,000. Now, the builders have more than this amount in the house just to build the house. Mr. Kanagy said the values were inevitable because of what it costs to build.

Carl Nichols came to the podium to speak. Mr. Nichols asked if the presentation would be published for the public to access. Mr. Nichols said that if the notice had been sent via mail instead of posted in the newspaper, the public would have been better aware of the situation. Mr. Nichols encouraged the Board to consider an equitable tax rate.

Lloyd Nichols came to the podium to speak. Mr. Nichols said that with the current administration's proposals for changes to taxing methods, the economy will see stimulation. Mr. Nichols also spoke about retail taxes and tariffs. Mr. Nichols said if the County increased the retail tax, the result would be a stimulated economy and a larger County budget.

7. Tax Liens On Real Property

Tax Administrator Josh Angle informed the Board there were 5,220 outstanding tax bills for 2015. The current sum of these bills is $2,672,865.75. Mr. Angle asked the Board to ask permission to advertise the 2024 property tax liens.

Chairman Church made the motion to advertise the liens.
The motion carried unanimously.

8. New Hire and Reclassification Freeze

Chairman Church read the resolution to those in attendance.

Commissioner Potter made the motion to adopt the resolution for the New Hire and Reclassification Freeze.
The motion carried unanimously.

Consent

Chairman Church turned the meeting over to the Assistant County Manager, Wayne Rash, to present the Consent Agenda.

9. Health Department - Additional Helene Funding

The Caldwell County Health Department received an agreement addendum in the amount of $800,100 for Hurricane Helene recovery.

10. Health Department-Community Care Physician Network Grant Funding

The Caldwell County Health Department received funding from the Community Care Physician Network in the amount of $34,648. This funding will be used to purchase a new EMR and cover expenses that may arise as well as incentives for closed care gaps.

11. 911 Emergency Telephone Fund-Motorola Maintenance

This revision in the amount of $68,685 will pay Motorola for a contractual fee not included in the original budget for FY 23-24. This fee is paid every three years.

12. Administration - Interim Manager Salary

This revision in the amount of 34,324 will cover the vacation payout for the departing County Manager and the salary increase for the Interim County Manager.

13. CCSO- Request to Submit Application for Governor's Crime Commission Grant

The Sheriff's Office is requesting permission to submit a grant application for the Governor's Crime Commission Grant.

14. CCSO- Request to Submit Application for Governor's Highway Safety Grant

The Sheriff's Office is requesting permission to submit a grant application for the Governor's Crime Highway Safety Grant.

15. CCSO- Request to Submit Application for OUR Rescue- ESD K9 grant

The Sheriff's Office is requesting permission to submit a grant application for the OUR Rescue- ESD K9 Grant.

16. DSS- Work First Block Grant

The Department of Social Services is requesting the approval of the Work First Block Grant.

17. Ratification of Rescinding Winter Storm State of Emergency

The State of Emergency for the Winter Storm was rescinded on January 24, 2025, at 1200 hours.

18. Foothills Regional Airport - Golden LEAF - Grant Contract

The item was removed from the agenda.

19. Appointment of Wayne Rash to Transit Authority

As incoming Interim County Manager, Wayne Rash needed to be appointed to the Transit Authority.

20. Appointments to Board of Equalization and Review

BJ Fore (Chairman), Phil Case, Wayne Parson, Thomas (Larry) Andrews, Jeff Roland, G. David Waechter, and Bobby Price were appointed to the Board of Equalization and Review.

21. Appointments to Council on Aging

Jordan Jefferies-James, Kevyn Amos, Kathy Coyle-Graves, and Candance Simmons were appointed to the Council on Aging.

22. Approval of Minutes from January 13, 2025, Meeting

Approval of the January 13, 2025, Board of Commissioners Meeting minutes was requested.

23. Appointment of Heather Cox as Deputy Finance Director

This appointment will allow Ms. Cox to sign off on purchase orders.

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, Vice Chairman LaBrose made the motion to adjourn at 8:24 PM.
The motion carried unanimously.

CALDWELL COUNTY
RESOLUTION 03-24
RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
DAVID STEVEN LACKEY
43 YEARS OF SERVICE

WHEREAS; DAVID LACKEY HAS SERVED THE CITIZENS OF CALDWELL COUNTY FOR 43 YEARS. UPON GRADUATING CUM LAUDE WITH A BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN PHILOSOPHY FROM DUKE UNIVERSITY IN 1977, DAVID WORKED FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL. DAVID OBTAINED A JURIS DOCTORATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF LAW IN 1981. HE BEGAN WORKING IN PRIVATE PRACTICE IN CALDWELL COUNTY IN 1981; AND

WHEREAS; DAVID WAS APPOINTED CALDWELL COUNTY ATTORNEY ON NOVEMBER 5TH 1990, SERVING UNTIL DECEMBER 21, 2024. DAVID IS THE LONGEST SERVING COUNTY ATTORNEY IN MEMORY WITH 34 YEARS OF SERVICE. HE WAS DEDICATED TO HIS POSITION AS COUNTY ATTORNEY PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES IN ALL MATTERS INCLUDING SPECIAL LEGISLATION, PERSONNEL, EMINENT DOMAIN, PUBLIC UTILITIES, ENVIRONMENTAL LAW, CODE ENFORCEMENT, LAND USE PLANNING AND ZONING, ANIMAL CONTROL, CONTRACT LAW, PUBLIC HEALTH, BUILDING INSPECTIONS, LIABILITY INSURANCE, RAILROADS, AND CHAIRING MULTIPLE QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARINGS FOR THE BOARD; AND

WHEREAS; DAVID LED INNOVATIONS IN THE ORDINANCES AND LEGAL OPERATIONS OF CALDWELL COUNTY. HE WORKED THROUGH SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES WITH THE COUNTY LANDFILL. HE COMPLETED THE FIRST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OF ITS KIND BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND MERCHANT DISTRIBUTORS INCORPORATED, AND, AFTER MONTHS OF SIGNIFICANT TOIL, CONCLUDED THE COUNTY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT WITH GOOGLE INCORPORATED IN 2006; AND

WHEREAS; DAVID SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CURRENT COUNTY JAIL. DAVID'S LEADERSHIP ON THIS COMMITTEE LED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WELL-RESEARCHED, INNOVATIVE, AND EFFECTIVE JAIL FACILITY; AND

WHEREAS; DAVID WAS ADMITTED TO THE NORTH CAROLINA BAR IN 1981. HE IS AN ATTORNEY OF RENOWN IN CALDWELL COUNTY AND THE 36TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT. DAVID IS A MEMBER OF THE CALDWELL COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, WHERE HE HAS TWICE SERVED AS PRESIDENT; HE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE 36TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT BAR ASSOCIATION WHERE HE HAS SERVED AS PRESIDENT. DAVID HAS ARGUED BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT AND NORTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS; AND

WHEREAS; DAVID HAS SERVED FOR 10 YEARS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF AMOREM, FORMERLY CALDWELL HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE. HE HAS SERVED AS THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND HAS SERVED ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR UPWARDS OF 5 YEARS; AND

WHEREAS; DAVID HAS REMARKED THAT IT HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT HONOR TO SERVE AS COUNTY ATTORNEY. DAVID HAS ENJOYED WORKING WITH THE MANY COMMISSIONERS, 8 COUNTY MANAGERS, MANY DEPARTMENT HEADS, AND STAFF OF THE COUNTY; AND

WHEREAS; DAVID CREDITS HIS PARENTS FOR HIS SUCCESS. THEIR HARD WORK IN THE FURNITURE INDUSTRY AND DETERMINATION FOR THEIR CHILDREN TO SUCCEED LED TO HIS SUCCESSFUL EDUCATION AND CAREER AS AN ATTORNEY. DAVID ALSO CREDITS HIS LONG-TIME PARTNER AND "TREMENDOUS MENTOR" HUGH WILSON WHO HE HAS WORKED WITH SINCE 1985; AND,

WHEREAS; IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SERVICE TO THE LAW AND THE PEOPLE OF CALDWELL. THE COMMISSIONERS SHALL PLACE DAVID STEVEN LACKEY'S PORTRAIT IN THE CALDWELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF CALDWELL COUNTY, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PUBLICLY COMMEND **DAVID STEVEN LACKEY** FOR HIS **43** YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF CALDWELL COUNTY.

Adopted this the 10th, Day of February, 2025

Randy T. Church, Chairman

Michael W. LaBrose, Vice Chairman

Donnie Potter, Commissioner

Jeff Branch, Commissioner

Patrick Starnes, Commissioner

Abby Rich, County Clerk

CALDWELL COUNTY
RESOLUTION 02-25
RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
DR. ROGER BENEMERITO LIM
20 YEARS OF SERVICE

WHEREAS; DOCTOR **ROGER LIM** HAS SERVED THE CITIZENS OF CALDWELL COUNTY AND BURKE COUNTY FOR 20 YEARS. UPON GRADUATING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON, DR. LIM OBTAINED A DOCTORATE OF MEDICINE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON IN 2000. HE COMPLETED HIS RESIDENCY IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE AT ALBANY MEDICAL CENTER IN 2003; AND

WHEREAS; THE PRACTICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE IN CALDWELL COUNTY IS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT AND TAKES COMMENDABLE SACRIFICE; AND,

WHEREAS; DR. LIM SERVED AS AN EMERGENCY PHYSICIAN WITH UNC CALDWELL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR 9 YEARS AND SERVED AS THE ASSISTANT EMERGENCY MEDICAL DIRECTOR FOR TWO YEARS; AND

WHEREAS; DR. LIM WAS KNOWN FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO THE SCIENCE OF MEDICINE. DR. LIM, KEPT HIMSELF CONSTANTLY APPRAISED OF THE CURRENT SCIENCE IN HIS FIELD; AND

WHEREAS; DR. LIM WAS KNOWN FOR HIS HARD WORK, DEDICATION, AND SKILL. MANY KNEW DR. LIM TO REPORT EARLY AND LEAVE LATE. DR. LIM WAS WELL-RESPECTED AND WELL-LIKED BY HIS PEERS, INCLUDING NURSES, PHYSICIANS, AND HOSPITAL STAFF. HE IS FONDLY REMEMBERED BY THE PARAMEDICS OF CALDWELL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES. HE WAS KNOWN TO BE “A TRUE TEAM PLAYER;” AND

WHEREAS; DR. LIM’S CO-WORKERS REMEMBER HIM FONDLY AND SPOKE MUCH OF THEIR APPRECIATION FOR HIM. HE IS ALSO REMEMBERED FOR HIS EXCELLENT CARE BY HIS MANY PREVIOUS PATIENTS. HIS PATIENTS, OFTENTIMES, VISITED HIM ONCE AND CONTINUED TO REMEMBER HIS CARE OVER YEARS. IT WAS REMARKED THAT DR. LIM WAS “THE MODEL EMERGENCY PHYSICIAN AND HE SET THE EXAMPLE TO STRIVE TOWARD” AND THAT “HE WAS ONE OF VERY FEW WHO COULD THREAD THE NEEDLE BETWEEN CREATING A HAPPY PATIENT AND PRACTICING GOOD MEDICINE;” AND

WHEREAS; DR. LIM HELD NUMEROUS PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS. HE BELONGED TO THE NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL SOCIETY AND WAS BOARD CERTIFIED IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE BY THE.; AND

WHEREAS; DR. LIM WAS A DEDICATED HUSBAND TO HIS WIFE APRIL AND FATHER TO HIS SONS GABRIEL AND IAN. HE WAS A FAN OF WINTER SPORTS AND SOCCER WHICH HE ENJOYED PARTAKING IN WITH HIS FAMILY; AND

WHEREAS; DOCTOR ROGER BENEMERITO LIM WAS TAKEN FROM THIS WORLD ON NOVEMBER 16, 2024, DUE TO THE CARELESS ACTIONS OF A DRUNK DRIVER, AFTER WORKING A SHIFT WHERE HE TREATED MORE THAN TWO DOZEN PATIENTS. DR. LIM CONTINUES TO BE MOURNED BY HIS FAMILY, CO-WORKERS, FRIENDS, AND THE CALDWELL COUNTY COMMUNITY; AND,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF CALDWELL COUNTY, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PUBLICLY COMMEND DOCTOR **ROGER BENEMERITO LIM** FOR HIS **20** YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF CALDWELL COUNTY.

Adopted This The 10th, Day of February, 2025

Randy T. Church, Chairman

Michael W. LaBrose, Vice Chairman

Donnie Potter, Commissioner

Jeff Branch, Commissioner

Patrick Starnes, Commissioner

Abby Rich, County Clerk

RESOLUTION OF THE CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Adopted February 10, 2025

- ***Whereas,*** pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 153A-76, et seq., the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners (hereinafter, the "Board"), may create, change, abolish, and consolidate offices, positions, departments, boards, commissions, and agencies of the county government, may impose ex officio the duties of more than one office on a single officer, may change the composition and manner of selection of boards, commissions, and agencies, and may generally organize and reorganize the county government in order to promote orderly and efficient administration of county affairs, subject to limitations as established by law; and

- ***Whereas,*** pursuant to Article 14 of Chapter 105 of the North Carolina General Statutes, Caldwell County has conducted a reappraisal of real property as required by law; and

- ***Whereas,*** the Board intends to approve a budget ordinance in June, 2025, at which time the Board intends to approve a real property tax rate as required by law;

- ***Whereas,*** the Board wishes to ensure the county's expenses are kept as low and predictable as reasonably possible while also maintaining critical county services;

- ***Whereas,*** the Board wishes to continue to maintain fiscally responsible budgets for the county so as not overburden the taxpayers of Caldwell County.

Therefore; pursuant N.C.G.S. § 153A-76, et seq. and other applicable law, the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners issues the following policy and directive, which shall remain in full force and effect until further resolution of the Board:

1. No new employee may be appointed, hired, or retained.
2. New positions may not be allocated.
3. Departments may not be reorganized.
4. Salary plans or pay grade plans may not be modified or revised.
5. The current classification plan may not be modified.
6. No current employees may be reclassified.
7. Current salary ranges and schedules may not be modified or revised.
8. Merit increases and longevity plans shall continue in full force and effect.
9. This resolution shall not apply to the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office, Register of Deeds, County Board of Elections, Public Health Department, or Department of Social Services, however the county may not reduce or modify the allocation of positions for these entities.
10. The County Manager, Assistant County Managers, Human Resources Director, Supervisors, Managers, and their designees, shall take all necessary steps to implement this resolution.

This resolution was adopted in open meeting this the 10th day of February, 2025 and is effective immediately.

CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
RANDY T. CHURCH, Chairman

RESOLUTION

04-25

CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina pursuant to North Carolina General Statute Section 105-322, has authorized the county commissioners of the respective counties within the State to appoint a special board of equalization and to carry out the duties imposed under Article 21 of the Machinery Act of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Caldwell County Board of Equalization and Review was established pursuant to G. S. 105-322 (a); and

WHEREAS, the Caldwell County Board of Equalization and Review consists of five (5) members and four (4) alternate members; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2023, the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners set the following policy for the Caldwell County Board of Equalization and Review:

1. MEMBERSHIP
   The Board shall consist of five (5) members and four (4) alternate members.

2. QUALIFICATIONS
   A. Each member shall be of good moral character.
   B. Each member shall have resided fulltime in Caldwell County for at least two years prior to taking office and shall reside in the county the duration of service on the board of equalization and review.
   C. Each member shall not have been convicted of a felony; if convicted of a felony their rights must be restored before they can be considered for appointment.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY
   A. Each member shall sign a Conflict of Interest policy

4. COMPENSATION
   A. To be determined by the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

5. CHAIRMAN

A. The Board of Commissioners shall designate the chairman of the Board of Equalization and Review

6. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE
   A. A member may be removed from office by the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners for:

      (1) Commission of a felony or other crime involving moral turpitude;
      (2) Violation of a State law governing conflict of interest;
      (3) Violation of a written policy adopted by the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners;
      (4) Failure to attend meetings;
      (5) Conduct that tends to bring the office into disrepute;
      (6) Failure to maintain county residency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts this policy for the members of the Caldwell County Board of Equalization and Review.

Adopted this 10th day of February 2025.

Randy T. Church, Chairman

Abigail Rich, County Clerk