Official Minutes
April 30, 2025
Board of Commissioners Meeting

Attendance:

Randy T. Church, Chairman
Mike Labrose, Vice Chairman
Patrick Starnes, Commissioner
Wayne Rash, Interim County Manager
Abby Rich, County Clerk

Chairman Church called the April 30, 2025, Budget Work Session to order at 4:11 PM.

Caldwell County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Don Phipps and CFO/Assistant Superintendent for Finance, David Johnson, were in attendance to present budgetary requests. The Commissioners and Caldwell Schools representatives discussed the State funding cuts and how this would impact the school system. With all allocations received, the school system receives about $7,000 per student. The topic of discussion turned to the School Resource Officers and the grants provided for these officers decreasing. Other discussion topics included facility needs, the bus garage, and importance of CTE classes.

The Caldwell County Schools representatives left at 4:54 PM.

The Board recessed briefly for dinner.

Returning to the meeting, County Clerk, Abby Rich, informed the Board that the only major request from Administration was $2,000 in additional funding for postal service needs.

Interim County Manager, Wayne Rash, informed the Board the only notable changes to the Register of Deeds budget is the increase in the salaries and expenses line items.

CFO, Tony Helton, informed the Board that the Finance Department is requesting funding for additional Munis software to assist with payroll. Additionally, and increase was requested for employees of the Finance Department for their roles and contributions.

Representatives for CCC&TI arrived at 6:15 to review budgetary requests. Those representatives were CCC&TI President, Dr. Mark Poarch, CCC&TI Board of Trustees Chairman, Jerry Church, and CFO, Rachelle Penley. Dr. Poarch reviewed the overall budget and how these funds are broken down. There was a slight decrease in funding to due Covid funding no longer being provided. Dr. Poarch showed this year's request and next year's planned requests. Dr. Poarch noted CCC&TI has held flat in its requests the past three budget cycles. There was a discussion held concerning the large insurance costs increase. Vice Chairman LaBrose asked Dr. Poarch what the money from the County funds. Dr. Poarch noted it funds facilities, building maintenance, and ground maintenance, per statutory requirements. After reviewing the requests, Dr. Poarch showed the Board and update rendering of the new building coming to the CCC&TI campus.

The representatives with CCC&TI left at 7:16 PM.

The last of the discussion by the Board were in reference to non-profits requesting funding, Blue Ridge Community Action, funding to assist Collettsville Park with Hurricane Helene related damages, and the school system requests.

With there being no more business to attend to, Commissioner Starnes made the motion to adjourn at 8:12 PM.

The motion carried unanimously.