Caldwell County
North Carolina
Board of Commissioners Meeting

October 27, 2025, at 6:00 PM
City-County Chambers
905 West Avenue NW, Lenoir

MINUTES

Call to Order
Chairman Church called the October 27, 2025, Board of Commissioners Meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

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

Invocation
Pastor Manny Elswick of Central Advent Christian Church came to the podium to provide 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 one amendment to the agenda. The amendment was to move item 10, the appointment and swearing in of Iris Whitt as Interim/Deputy Clerk to the Board, to the beginning of the agenda. This needs to be done to allow Iris Whitt to perform the duties of Interim/Deputy Clerk to the Board for the remainder of the meeting.

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

Agenda Items

1. **Appointment of Iris Whitt as Deputy Clerk to the Board**
   Chairman Church made a motion to appoint Iris Whitt as Interim/Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners. The motion carried unanimously. Register of Deeds Wayne Rash administered the oath of office.

2. **VAYA Health**
   Dustin Burleson from VAYA Health came to the podium to discuss the services they provide and the funding challenges they are experiencing due to federal cutbacks and budget uncertainty at the state level.

3. DSS H.R. 1 Updates

The DSS Director, Kim Arnett, came to the podium to discuss the local budgetary impact due to SNAP and Medicaid funding reductions in HR1 which passed the US House and Senate and was signed into law by the President. Additionally, she discussed the ongoing federal government shutdown that will impact county residents who receive benefits from the SNAP program.

4. Discussion of County Manager

After a discussion of the manager search process, Commissioner Starnes made a motion that the board approve the county manager employment contract for Billy Shane Fox as County Manager of Caldwell County. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Church noted he would start December 1, 2025, and introduced Mr. Fox and his wife Jennifer.

Mr. Fox thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity and looks forward to working with everyone.

Consent

5. Communication Center Recorder

This budget revision allows for the purchase of a new recording system for the emergency communications center. The total cost of this item is $154,132.00. The majority of that amount, $149,179.00, is eligible for 911 funds. The remaining $4,953.00 can be covered by the existing budget in the communications center.

6. Budget Revision 911 fund repayment

This budget revision moves funds from the general fund to the 911 fund. The reason for this transfer is that the state deemed certain purchases ineligible.

7. Designation of Agent Form for Hazard Mitigation Grants for Water Department

This is a designation form as required by the Hazard Mitigation Grant Application that has been signed by interim County Manager Wayne Rash, designated as the primary agent and Jimmy Harrison as the secondary agent. The Hazard Mitigation Grant provides the Water Department with funds. These funds will be used to replace and/or update several of our water pump stations that were affected by Hurricane Helene.

8. Budget Revision - Water Fund Ticket System

This budget revision allows the water department to purchase a new ticketing system to help them keep up with their tasks.

9. Budget Revision - Forklift for Warehouse

This revision allows the county to purchase a forklift and other equipment for the new warehouse using grant funds awarded in the previous year.

10. Jury Commission Appointment

This is a Jury Commission Appointment for Monty Richard Woods.

11. Caldwell County Housing Appeals Board Appointments

This is the appointment of Tracy Daryl Cornett, William "BJ" Fore, Phil Case, and Mitchell Laws to the Caldwell County Housing Appeals Board.

12. EMS Peer Review Committee Appointments

This is the appointment of Courtney Smith, Travis Davenport, Tommy Courtner, Adam Johnson, Kaylee Davis Pittman, and Norman Staines to the EMS Peer Review Committee. Commissioner Mike LaBrose will serve as the elected official of this board.

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

The approval of September 22, 2025, meeting minutes was requested.

Commissioner LaBrose made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Commissioner Mike LaBrose made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 PM. The motion carried unanimously.