Caldwell County
North Carolina
Board of Commissioners Meeting

April 27, 2026, 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
Shane Fox, County Manager
Destin Hall, County Attorney
Tasha Brown, Clerk to the Board

DRAFT

Call to Order
Chairman Church called the April 27, 2026, Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Public Comment Period
Faith Naff was the first to come to the podium. Ms. Naff expressed concerns about the previous year's property tax increase. She noted several accounting figures from the prior year budget and financial audit. She asked why the County can't increase spending on education. She also stated that she is hoping for a 2.2-million-dollar savings in the new budget year.

Kate Daly also signed up to speak. However, when Chairman Church recognized her to the podium she passed on speaking.

Invocation
Reverend Leonard H. Bolick from Philadelphia Lutheran Church 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

County Manager Shane Fox informed the Board of an amendment to the agenda. This amendment is a late addition of a resolution authorizing the County to participate in the Remnant Opioid Settlement Agreement. Mr. Fox then stated that he would move to add this to the consent agenda as Item number 17.

Vice Chairman LaBrose made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented by the County Manager.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Church then recognized the loss of a great firefighter in our community, Chief Keith Owens of the Gamewell Volunteer Fire Department. He stated that he was a mentor to many firefighters in our community. He also recognized Owens for serving as the Chief in Gamewell for 31 years combined with his service at the North Carolina Forest Service as well as his service through Lenoir Fire Department, with a cumulative total of 55 years of service to Caldwell County and the residents. Church then shared that The Chief Owens Firefighter School is now open to 6th - 8th graders in the County.

Agenda Items

1. Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

Laura Harrison, Caldwell County DSS Deputy Director came to the podium. Ms. Harrison stated that the department can't do this alone and relies on community partners including Law Enforcement, Schools, Emergency Services, Mental Health, the Hospital, the Board of Commissioners, and the DSS Board to effectively serve the community.

Chairman Church then read Proclamation 02-2026, proclaiming April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Commissioner Potter made a motion to adopt the proclamation as read.
The motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Proclamation

Chairman Church welcomed Becky Price, Amanda Duty, Johnathan Norris, Dawn Hardin, who is a 30-year employee as of last month and Ryan Dula to the podium to be recognized. They serve the County as Telecommunicators on both day and night shifts. Ms. Price stated that they do a wonderful job and make her job much easier. She then said that they are always there and ready to lend a hand to anyone that calls or comes in.

Chairman Church stated appreciation for everything they do for our County. He then said when you dial 911and someone answers that call; it is very important. He reiterated appreciation for all they do. Chairman Church then read the Proclamation 05-2026, proclaiming April 12th – April 18th, 2026, Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Commissioner Branch stated appreciation for what they do, and mentioned the new location they will be moving to.
Ms. Price said that she appreciated the new location and they needed the space.

Commissioner Starnes said that he appreciates what they do because they are the first and the last call, without you the community is lost, and he appreciates their time and efforts.

Commissioner Starnes made a motion to adopt the Proclamation.
The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Church stated that there are several Proclamations tonight. He said that he read recently someone said that the Commissioners like to do Proclamations and very little business. He then said that the Board does like to honor those who deserve that Honor. Commissioner Potter agreed. Church said we are trying to highlight the importance of all our County and those that have a part.

3. Proclamation National Apprenticeship Week 2026 Proclamation

Next to the podium was Ashley Bolick, Economic Development Director, along with Tara Brossa, Executive Director of Rise Caldwell – Watauga. Ms. Bolick stated that this is the 12th annual National Apprenticeship Week, and it is coordinated by the US Department of Labor. This will take place April 26th – May 2nd under the theme America at Work, Making America Skilled Again, through registered apprenticeships. Ms. Bolick said that this week is meant to showcase the value of registered apprenticeships in building the skilled workforce. She then mentioned that she wanted to take time to highlight a local initiative, R.I.S.E (Regional Initiative for Skilled Employment) Caldwell - Watauga. It is a joint effort between Caldwell and Watauga Counties that continues to build on emphasizing employer driven work force development. She then introduced Tara Brossa to speak. Ms. Brossa thanked the Board for their support of the twenty students in the program that are thriving and she is grateful to the thirteen employers who have partnered with them. She added she is very excited about this summer and that there will be over 50 students in the program in Caldwell County. Ms. Bolick then recognized Dr. Mark Poarch as one of threads that ties Caldwell – Watauga together and our Community College. She stated that Dr. Poarch Chairs the Executive Committee which includes herself and the Economic Director of Watauga as well as the School Superintendents for both Counties.

Chairman Church then read the Proclamation 03-2026, proclaiming April 26th – May 2nd 2026, National Apprenticeship Week.

Commissioner Branch made a motion to adopt the Proclamation as presented.
The motion carried unanimously.

4. Proclamation Professional Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioners' Week

Chairman Church then read the final Proclamation of the night, 04-2026 Professional Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioners Week, proclaiming May 3rd – May 9th 2026, Clerk to the Boards of Commissioners Week, to honor and recognize our Clerk to the Board.

Commissioner Starnes then thanked Ms. Brown for the job that she does and expressed appreciation for what she has done.

Chairman Church stated that they were fortunate to have Ms. Brown join their staff and for everything she does for us.

Commissioner Starnes made a motion to adopt the Proclamation.
The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Branch recognized Iris Whitt, and the work she did serving as the Interim County Clerk. Chairman Church thanked her and recognized the work she continues to do as the Deputy Clerk when the need arises for back up.

5. Appointment of Commissioner to the Library Board of Trustees

Chairman Church offered his name to serve as the appointee unless someone else desires to serve on the Library Board.

Commissioner Branch made a motion to appoint Chairman Church to the Board.
The motion carried unanimously.

6. Sales Tax Reinvestment Fund Request for Economic Development

Chairman Church welcomed Ashley Bolick, Economic Development Director back to the podium to present a Sales Tax Reinvestment Fund Request for a property purchase for Economic Development. Ms. Bolick started by explaining that the Sales Tax Reinvestment Fund is basically a savings account for the purpose of economic development and officially this fund represents an agreement between Caldwell County and the municipalities of Cajah's Mountain, Hudson, Gamewell, Granite Falls and Sawmills. Where these municipalities help fund economic development within the County by consideration of the County's continued election of the per capita method of local government sales tax and use dollars. These municipal partners collectively contribute $600,000 annually to this fund. And we use this fund to offer grant matches such as the NC Department Department of Commerce Building Re-Use Grant, Local Jobs Creation Grants, and Product Development. Ms. Bolick then

spoke about product development, describing it as the process of creating or improving or launching new properties that enhance our competitiveness as a community to spur innovation and economic growth through product development. And that is what this request is, it is for continuing product development in Caldwell County. Ms. Bolick said that since the February 23rd Board of Commissioners meeting, the County has decided to pursue the purchase of the Lower Cedar Valley property itself and not through the nonprofit, Vista Ventures. She also noted that also during that time, staff has been able to conduct the required due diligence needed and has a more accurate understanding of the cost, so we have been able to lower the original request from $552,000 to $545,000. Ms. Bolick said the request to be purchased is a 15.562 acre property on Lower Cedar Valley Road, located in the Town of Sawmills for the development of a new industrial building or industrial park. The negotiated purchase price is $525,000 with the total request of $545,000 to cover acquisition, due diligence, soil compaction testing, environmental work, and closing project costs. Ms. Bolick then showed an aerial photo of the property as well as a survey. She then spoke on product development from the State level. She stated that they work with EDPNC, Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. They lead the state's business recruitment and tourism efforts.

Chairman Church then declared the Public Hearing open. No one signed up to speak during the public hearing. With that, Chairman Church closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Starnes made a motion to adopt the Sales Tax Reinvestment Fund Request for Economic Development.
The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Church then asked Ms. Bolick if it was correct that this property was known as the Bolick property. She responded, yes. Chairman Church then stated that they see the potential there for economic development, the location off Hwy 321, the property already has water and sewer and a power hub.

7. Capital Project and Strategic Initiative Updates

County Manager, Shane Fox, was next to the podium to provide an update on several projects and initiatives the County has been working on and may consider moving forward. Mr. Fox started by listing the capital projects, other updates and initiatives he would be speaking about. Mr. Fox started with the Collettsville Water Tank Project. He stated discussion began in 2018 for this project. The project includes a 200,000-gallon elevated tank located at 4487 Rocky Road on 8 acres of land and was purchased in 2018. Low water pressure and fires in this area drove the project. The project was bid twice and awarded in August 2023. Fox said the cost for the project was $4.8 million, $3.2 million ARPA funded and the remainder funded through the water capital fund. Fox then mentioned the water fund does not have any debt and the project was fully funded. With the project now complete the pressure and fire suppression has improved and the County now has four tanks online at 200,000-gallons each. He also mentioned the water fund has over 10,000 customers and a wonderful staff that does a tremendous job. This tank will be beneficial to those in the Collettsville area with water pressure as well as firefighters and others that need that valuable resource.

Mr. Fox then spoke about the Cajah's Mountain EMS Base Project. He mentioned the project started as a doctor's office and discussions began over 18 years ago for the project. EMS Base #8 is located at 1901 Connelly Springs Road. Fox stated that in 2023 the County purchased the land, 2 acres. A contractor out of Hickory was selected and broke ground in June 2024. Fox added that the total project cost with the land, building, renovations, and addition was $5.2 million. Fox also mentioned the partnership with the Town of Cajah's Mountain, who contributed financially to the project in the amount of $500,000. Fox said that the base has three double bays where six vehicles can be located. It houses two crews and the building also includes several areas that are truly cutting edge. This includes several mock rooms. An Emergency Room with triage and hospital station, and the other mock room being an in home situation and the third being an ambulance "box" room, all designed to assist EMS with training. The base was online on Monday April 20th and ran 40 calls in 7 days.

Chairman Church mentioned he was glad to see the completion of this project.

Mr. Fox then discussed the Kincaid Building Project that is located at 240 Pleasant Hill Rd. He stated this is now being called Caldwell County Government and Emergency Operations Complex. Discussions began about the space needed for a new EOC/911 in 2021. The original plan was to construct a standalone facility with an estimated cost of $50 million, that was not feasible. However, in early 2025 Kincaid/La-Z-Boy reached out to the EDC as they were making transitions with their corporate structure. This included a potential sale of this building. The County moved forward with the purchase in November 2025 for $4.78 million utilizing state appropriated monies received in 2021. Fox then stated that no local money has or will go into this building. He then showed pictures of the building and stated that along with the building the County purchased 20.55 acres of land. He also described the layout of each floor is separated by stairs allowing for easy separation, creating four quadrants. This building will house Emergency Management, EMS, Fire Marshall, 911 Communications, IT, State Agencies, along with HR, Finance, and Administration. Fox said the building itself was in good shape at only 24 years old and no structural work was needed. Cosmetic renovations began around December 2025 that includes paving, fencing, carpet, paint, interior walls, IT wiring, and furniture. The total project cost will be around $6 million or $187 per square foot. Fox then paused to thank Jimmy Harrison, Deputy County Manager, for his work on leading this project and the tremendous job he has done. He said that the building is now open to a few, Jimmy Harrison, IT and the State Agencies, with the others too follow as it is close to completion within the next 30 days.

Chairman Church stated that he felt this property was a big win for our County. He also wanted to highlight the State Agencies housed there. The North Carolina Emergency Management Western Regional Office is moving to this location in our County. Having that resource in your County is a big win in handling any emergency in Western North Carolina. Church also mentioned the grading that had been done to create a helipad for the Governor and others to fly in for emergency situations.

Commissioner Starnes thanked Mr. Fox and Mr. Harrison, fellow Commissioners and anyone involved in getting us far away from spending $50 million dollars. He appreciates that.

Vice Chairman LaBrose stated that this was a good use of taxpayer dollars, we saved money and accomplished great things. He also said he was grateful for the State and all that they have been able to do to help us with this.

Commissioner Potter said that a lot of people had been thanked and he wanted to also thank the Speaker Destin Hall, he said without his help a lot of this would not be possible.

Next, Mr. Fox discussed the Hickory Springs Warehouse located at 2145 Norwood Street. He said discussion began back in 2021 for EO/911 space needed. Fox also said that during Helene this building was leased through a special meeting held on 10/2/2024 to house equipment and supplies during Helene. The building is an 89,000 square foot space and 6 acres of land. The negotiated price of the property purchase was $2.4 million which closed right before Christmas in December 2025. This property was purchased with state appropriated funds the County received in 2021. Mr. Fox then showed several photos of the building and mentioned that EMS, Emergency Management, Fire Marshall, Sheriff and Water were utilizing the space to house equipment. The Sheriff's office is currently utilizing the office space in the building as well. The space was in very good condition and no structural changes were needed. The space is open and being utilized.

Vice Chairman LaBrose stated that one of the main reasons for this warehouse was to bring the Counties' assets together for emergency response in a disaster, instead of being spread out causing delays. This location can house assets from multiple departments in an environment that keeps them out of the weather, which prevents deterioration of the assets. He also asked if the State Emergency Management was leasing space in the warehouse for their vehicles and equipment.

Mr. Fox replied that is correct.

Vice Chairman LaBrose then added that the rent received from the State Emergency Management is being utilized to pay for the buildings' utilities. He said that no County tax dollars are used for this space other than upkeep and maintenance.

Commissioner Potter then thanked Jeff Cardwell for the work he has done for this project and for helping them understand the need for this building.

Mr. Fox then shared that with the last two projects mentioned, the County has really set themselves apart from a disaster and preparedness standpoint and ability to respond.

County Manager, Fox, then provided an update on the Plaza/Uptown "Services" Building also known as the Alden E. Starnes County Office Plaza. He stated that the building is currently home to Tax, Register of Deeds, Finance, Human Resources, Administration, PIO, IT, Mapping, GIS and Veteran Services Departments. He added that with the Kincaid Building several departments would be moving and would help to reimagine this space as a true services building and a one stop shop approach for the public while also bringing more traffic to the downtown area. With that Water, Building Inspections, Planning and Zoning and Environmental Health Departments will be moving in. Fox added that no major changes were needed to the space and the goal is for Fall 2026 for completion.

Chairman Church said that again this is a great utilization of the space and he added that the Board has heard for years that people who need a building permit must go to two or three different locations to obtain one. This will be a benefit for our citizens and public. You will be able to come to the County Plaza and pay everything in one place without traveling throughout the County to two or three different locations.

Mr. Fox then discussed a FEMA update as related to Hurricane Helene that occurred on September 27, 2024. He provided a recap and said the recovery process had begun in October 2024. Fox recognized the core team members within the recovery process, Suzette Bradshaw, Vic Misenheimer, Jeff Cardwell, and Jimmy Harrison. This team was put together to start the recovery and reimbursements due to Helene. He stated that the County had a total of 16 FEMA Public Assistance Projects that totaled $9 million. With removal of debris in public right of ways totaling $6.1 million, private property debris removal $1.1 million, County-Wide Emergency Protective Measures $600,000, Wilson Creek Center/Flood Sirens $500,000, Warehouse cost $425,000 and Management costs $240,000. Mr. Fox stated there are several private projects still to be completed with 70% complete as of now. Those private projects have been turned over to NCEM SMART Program and are not County driven or paid. He added all work on the County projects has been completed except for the Wilson Creek Field Renovation and Collettsville Convenience Site funded through the North Carolina Office of State Budget Management in the amount of $1.5 million. Fox added that all monies have been obligated and received and he recognized Suzette Bradshaw and her dedication and hard work to get us to this point and for the County to be fully reimbursed is a wonderful accomplishment.

Commissioner Potter then thanked Suzette for her dedication and her hard work.

Chairman Church then mentioned the amount of debris that had been picked up, the families helped, the housing that took place to help those who were displaced. He then commended the team for the astronomical job they have done.

Vice Chairman LaBrose mentioned that during the onset the County was having to spend a lot of money and weren't getting reimbursed at that time. He then commended the Board for their forethought in moving forward to pay for what was needed utilizing fund balance to take care of the needs of the citizens. He then thanked Tony Helton, Chief Financial Officer, and the team effort.

Commissioner Starnes then said that there is a County in this state that is owed more than their budget and they have not received what is owed.

Mr. Fox then presented an update on Trash and Litter. He mentioned the Gold Star Contract, that we have and they clean up debris on secondary roads and has been in place for several years that is funded with monies from the landfill. He added that there is a need for more and so there is now a Litter Committee that has been formed including Caldwell County, Caldwell County Schools, NCDOT, and Republic Waste.

Commissioner Potter, who is on this committee, stated that they will be working on solutions to help solve the litter problem and educate the public, especially our children. He also mentioned that the State is working on increasing fines for littering. He also mentioned that County employees will be participating in a cleanup day on 5/21/26.

Manager Fox said that the NCDOT has collected 10 tons of trash this year in Caldwell County. The numbers are staggering. These are the things the committee will be talking about and trying to work on finding solutions for this problem.

Commissioner Potter then mentioned that the State changed their contract for pickup on Highway 18/Loop. When the change occurred, it was removed from the list. This has now been corrected and they will be keeping up with that area now.

Chairman Church asked if we knew the amount that Gold Star has collected.

Manager Fox replied that to date he does not. However, he knows what they have in the past has been beyond 10 tons.

Commissioner Potter asked how much the contract is with Gold Star.

Fox said that the County budgets $70,000 annually for the contract. He added that this is paid for through revenues received from Republic at the landfill.

Mr. Fox then presented the last topic on the updates concerning DSS and Health Governance. He mentioned that in the past there have been conversations concerning the governance of DSS and Health. He stated that in North Carolina, Counties have four primary governance options for DSS and Health Departments which were allowed with House Bill 438 – Session Law 2012-126. Fox then listed the four options starting with Separate Agencies with Appointed Governing Boards, which Caldwell County currently has, Separate Agencies with the Board of Commissioners Governance which Burke County has, Consolidated Human Services Agency with Appointed CHS Board, Gaston County has this form, or a Consolidated Human Services Agency with Board of County Commissioners Governance and Alexander County has this form. He presented facts across North Carolina. 66 Counties have either Appointed or BOCC oversight with separate agencies and 34 Counties have Consolidated Agencies. Fox then listed pros and cons for each option. Fox noted that if we were to move forward with any changes several things would need to be considered. First, which option separate or consolidated boards –

governance BOCC or Appointed. Second, a Public Hearing would have to be held with a 30-day notice to the public prior. Then a Resolution would have to be adopted to give authority for any changes. We would then need to create a Public Advisory Committee if the Board of Health is replaced by the Board of County Commissioners, there can also be a DSS Advisory Committee as well. Lastly, we would need to decide to keep within the NC Personnel Plan or the State Human Resources Act.

County Manager Fox then announced the Budget Workshop for the FY 26/27 Budget will be held on Wednesday May 6th at 4:00 PM and will be open to the public.

Chairman Church thanked Mr. Fox for covering so much information and he hopes that the public was able to get some of the knowledge that they desire from this.

Consent

Chairman Church then turned the meeting over to County Manager, Shane Fox to present the Consent Agenda.

8. **Budget Revision - Health Dept Employee Retention and Training funds**
   This budget revision is for an Agreement Addendum received from the State in the amount of $33,649 that allows for the funds to be used for retention and training for employees. This is 100% State funds with no local match.

9. **Golden Leaf Foundation SITE Application Approval**
   The Economic Development Staff would like to submit an application for Golden Leaf funds to be used toward the local government match, should the county be awarded the Federal US EDA Grant for the Foothills Regional Airport Sewer Project.

10. **Congressional Directed Spending Funding Application**
    The Caldwell County Sheriff's Department is requesting to apply for Congressionally Directed Spending to acquire a Mobile Incident Command Vehicle to serve as a deployable Emergency Operations Center.

11. **Firehouse Subs Grant**
    The Caldwell County Sheriff's Department is requesting to receive funds awarded through the Firehouse Subs Grant in the amount of $16,392. These funds would be used to replace five AED's that have completed their useful match. This is a zero match grant.

12. **BJA FY 25 Adult Treatment Court Program Grant**
    The Caldwell County Sheriff's Department is requesting to apply for BJA Adult Treatment Court Grant. If awarded, this grant requires a 25% match. The request is to apply for the maximum allowed, $1,000,000 with a match of $333,334. This would be shared with Burke County to satisfy the requirements. Currently, the Adult Treatment Court is fully funded by the County.

13. **Revision of Circulation and Access Policy at the Caldwell County Public Library**
The Public Library Director, Janet Fore, is requesting revisions of the Circulation and Access Policy primarily focused on eligibility and registration.

14. **Fireworks Application for Town of Sawmills**
The Town of Sawmills is requesting approval of a firework application to be conducted on May 9th located at 4077 Baird Drive in the Town of Sawmills Baird Park.

15. **Fireworks Application for Town of Granite Falls**
The Town of Granite Falls is requesting approval of a firework application to be conducted on May 1st located at 56 Pinewood Road at the Granite Falls Parks and Recreation Center.

16. **Approval of Regular and Closed Session Minutes from March 23, 2026, Board of Commissioners Meeting**
Approval of March 23, 2026, Board of Commissioners Regular and Closed Session Meeting Minutes was requested.

17. **Resolution Authorizing Participation in the Remnant Defendant Opioid Settlement Agreement**
This is a request to participate in another Opioid settlement and class action suit with a May 4th deadline to participate.

Vice Chairman Labrose made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented by the County Manager.
The motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session – Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4)

Commissioner Potter made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss potential economic development projects at 7:49 PM.
The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Commissioner Branch made the motion to adjourn at 8:55 PM.
The motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT

BK 2163 PG 617 - 617 (1)
This document presented and filed:
04/28/2026 09:16:44 AM

Fee $0.00
10118219
Caldwell County North Carolina
Wayne L. Rash, Register of Deeds

PROCLAMATION

02-2026

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
APRIL 2026

WHEREAS, we recognize that children are vital to our county, state and nation's future success, prosperity and quality of life, as well as, being our most vulnerable assets;

WHEREAS, all children deserve to have the safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities they need to foster their healthy growth and development;

WHEREAS, Caldwell County, received 2060 reports of child abuse and neglect and investigated reports involving 1638 children in 2025;

WHEREAS, children who experience abuse and neglect have higher rates of academic failure, chronic long-term health issues and increased propensity to violence, if gone untreated;

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community;

WHEREAS, communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of parenting and child development and concrete resources they need to cope with stress and nurture their children ensure all children grow to their full potential;

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human services agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Caldwell County does herby proclaim April 2026 as **Child Abuse Prevention Month**, and calls upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support children and families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the community in which we live.

Adopted this the 27th day of April 2026.

Randy T. Church, Chairman

Donnie Potter

Michael W. LaBrose, Vice Chairman

Patrick Starnes

Jeff Branch

Attest: Tasha Brown, Clerk to the Board

BK 2163 PG 621 - 621 (1)
This document presented and filed:
04/28/2026 09:16:47 AM

Fee $0.00
10118222
Caldwell County North Carolina
Wayne L. Rash, Register of Deeds

PROCLAMATION

05-2026

PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK
APRIL 12th – 18th, 2026

Whereas, Caldwell County Telecommunicators play a vital role in the protection of human life and property in our community: and

Whereas, they have been successfully serving the public safety communication needs of Caldwell County throughout the year; and

Whereas, while enduring long hours, abnormal schedules, and handling frequent life and death emergencies. Telecommunicators set high standards in performing their duties in a dedicated, diligent, and compassionate manner; and

Whereas, they provide a critical communication link between the residents and Emergency Responders; and

Whereas, Telecommunicators efficiently coordinate emergency services to ensure the health and safety of our residents, visitors, and travelers in our community, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week; and

Whereas, our Public Safety Communications personnel serve the public daily in countless ways without due recognition by the beneficiaries of their services;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Board of Commissioners of Caldwell County do hereby proclaim the week of April 12th – April 18th, 2026, **National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week** in Caldwell County, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our county and citizens safe.

Adopted this 27th day of April 2026.

Randy T. Church, Chairman

Attest: Tasha Brown
Tasha Brown, Clerk to the Board

BK 2163 PG 618 - 618 (1)
This document presented and filed:
04/28/2026 09:16:45 AM

Fee $0.00
10118220
Caldwell County North Carolina
Wayne L. Rash, Register of Deeds

PROCLAMATION

03-2026

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2026
APRIL 26th – MAY 2ND 2026

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week annually raises awareness of the vital role Registered Apprenticeships provide in meeting critical industry workforce demands. Registered Apprenticeship programs develop the highly skilled workforce that employers need and create pathways for Americans to catapult into in-demand, high-paying careers; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs are industry-driven, high-quality career pathways that enable employers to develop and train their future workforce, and individuals can obtain paid work experience with a mentor, receive progressive wage increases, classroom instruction, and a portable, nationally recognized credential; and

WHEREAS, Caldwell County Government recognizes the urgent need to prepare and maintain a highly skilled workforce that is capable of meeting the current and future demands of the industry we serve and fortifying our economy.

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs are uniquely able to meet the changing demands of the Caldwell County economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Caldwell County, does hereby proclaim April 26th to May 2nd, 2026, as **National Apprenticeship Week** in Caldwell County

This the 27th day of April 2026.

Randy T. Church, Chairman

Attest:
Tasha Brown. Clerk to the Board

BK 2163 PG 619 - 620 (2)
This document presented and filed:
04/28/2026 09:16:46 AM

Fee $0.00
10118221

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

PROCLAMATION

04-2026

PROFESSIONAL CLERKS TO THE BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' WEEK MAY 3rd – MAY 9th, 2026

WHEREAS, it is imperative to the democratic process that a well-informed citizenry participates in the operation of their local government.

WHEREAS, the office of the Clerk to the Board provides the communication link between the citizens, the local governing body, administrative departments, and local government partners.

WHEREAS, the position of clerk is one of the oldest in local government, dating at least to biblical times, and whose term has long been associated with the written word; so, it is that modern-day clerks are official recordkeepers for their counties.

WHEREAS, North Carolina law require boards of county commissioners to appoint a clerk, serving at the pleasure of the board.

WHEREAS, the clerk's most significant statutory duties concern the preparation, filing and safeguarding of local government records, but the statutory duties constitute only a portion of what the clerk actually does.

WHEREAS, the clerk plays a vital role in county government and provides the written record needed to ensure that the board is accountable to the county's citizens and to other public and private officials.

WHEREAS, the clerk is sometimes described as "the hub of the wheel" in local government because of the central work that the clerk plays in the government's communication network.

WHEREAS, as local government becomes larger and more complicated, the clerk's role as a professional, dispassionate provider of information to citizens, government officials, and the media becomes more and more important.

WHEREAS, Clerks have the opportunity to participate in the North Carolina Association of County Clerks, a very active professional association of public officials dedicated to improving

the professional competency of clerks through regular regional and statewide educational opportunities.

WHEREAS, in cooperation with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Government and International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), the North Carolina Association of County Clerks helps to sponsor a nationally recognized examination-based certification program that culminates in receipt of the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk.

WHEREAS, in addition, the North Carolina Association of County Clerks and the School of Government sponsor state certification programs leading to the designation of North Carolina Certified County Clerk, as well as opportunities for experienced clerks to obtain the continuing professional education needed to remain state-certified or to earn an advanced Master Clerk designation.

WHEREAS, in addition to conducting education programs, the North Carolina Association of County Clerks also directly assists clerks on the job with mentoring programs to provide guidance to assist clerks in their day-to-day work.

WHEREAS, Clerks, upon their own initiative, participate in these certification and education programs, including annual meetings of the North Carolina Association of County Clerks and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, which not only improve the operation of their office, but through their achievements and awards bring favorable publicity to the counties in which they serve.

WHEREAS, Clerks are involved at the state level, as well as in potential legislative and other matters of interest.

WHEREAS, although clerks work for the boards of county commissioners, they truly provide public service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize the week of May 3 through May 9, 2026, as Professional Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioners' Week, and extends appreciation to Caldwell County Clerk to the Board, Tasha Brown, and to all County Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the county they represent.

Adopted this 27th day of April 2026.

Randy T. Church, Chairman

Donnie Potter

Michael W. LaBrose, Vice Chairman

Patrick Starnes

Jeff Branch

Attest: Tasha Brown, Clerk to the Board

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE REMNANT DEFENDANT OPIOID SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, Caldwell County (the "Subdivision") has been involved in litigation and/or potential claims relating to the opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, a proposed nationwide settlement known as the Remnant Defendant Settlement Agreement (the "Agreement") has been negotiated to resolve claims against certain opioid-related defendants; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement provides for monetary payments and other relief to participating political subdivisions, with allocations determined pursuant to the Plan of Allocation set forth in Exhibit E of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement contemplates participation by political subdivisions through execution of required participation documents and releases, and provides for the administration and distribution of settlement funds by a Notice and Claims Administrator (see § VI(B)(1)(d)); and

WHEREAS, participation in the Agreement is intended to secure funding for opioid remediation and related purposes for the benefit of the Subdivision and its residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

1. **Approval of Settlement Participation.**

The Subdivision hereby approves participation in the Remnant Defendant Settlement Agreement and elects to become a Participating Subdivision, subject to the terms and conditions set forth therein.

2. **Authorization of Execution.**

The County Manager is hereby authorized to execute all necessary documents required for participation in the Agreement, including any Participation Agreement, Release, or related certifications.

3. **Acknowledgment of Allocation and Use of Funds.**

The Subdivision acknowledges that any settlement funds received will be allocated pursuant to Exhibit E and administered in accordance with the Agreement, including any applicable State-Subdivision Agreement governing distribution and use of funds (§ I(VV)).

4. **Compliance with Terms.**

The Subdivision agrees to comply with all applicable terms of the Agreement, including requirements related to claims submission, release of claims, and use of funds for approved opioid remediation purposes.

5. **Effective Date.**

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 27th day of April, 2026.

Randy Church, Chairman
Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Tasha Brown, Clerk to the Board

