Caldwell County
North Carolina
Board of Commissioners Meeting

December 2, 2024 at 6:00 PM
City-County Chambers
905 West Avenue NW, Lenoir

MINUTES

Call to Order
Chairman Church called the December 2, 2024, meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

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

Invocation
Pastor Ann Gibart of Colliers United Methodist Church provided the invocation for those in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance
Commissioner Jeff Branch led the Pledge of Allegiance for those in attendance.

Agenda Amendments from the Board, Manager & Public
The County Manager informed the Board of an amendment to the agenda, the removal of Item 5.
Vice Chairman LaBrose made the motion to adopt the agenda with the proposed changes. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Items

1. **Swearing in of Elected Officials**
   The Honorable Wayne Rash came to the podium to swear in the newly elected Board members.

   Commissioner Elect, Patrick Starnes, came to the front and took the oath of office of Caldwell County Commissioner.

   Commissioner Elect, Jeff Branch, came to the front and took the oath of office of Caldwell County Commissioner.

   Commissioner Elect, Randy Church, came to the front and took the oath of office of Caldwell County Commissioner.

2. **Organizational Meeting**

Chairman Church turned the meeting over to the County Manager, Donald Duncan.
The County Manager entertained a motion for a Chairman nomination.
Commissioner LaBrose nominated Commissioner Church. Commissioner Potter provided a second to the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.
The County Manager entertained a motion for a Vice Chairman nomination.
Commissioner Branch nominated Commissioner Starnes. With there being no second to the motion, the motion failed. Chairman Church nominated Commissioner LaBrose.
Commissioner Potter provided a second to the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

3. Adoption of 2025 Meeting Calendar

Commissioner Potter made the motion to adopt the meeting calendar as presented.
The motion carried unanimously.

4. Moving Mountains Award- WCHS JROTC

Deputy County Manager Jimmy Harrison came to the podium to acknowledge the accomplishments of the West Caldwell High School NJROTC. The members of the NJROTC Color Guard are two-time National Champions of the American Legion JROTC Color Guard competition in New Orleans. Additionally, this group also competed in the Open Class Color Guard competition representing the newly founded sons of the American Legion Squadron 29 of Lenoir. They were crowned National Champions of this division as well.

The members honored were, Caleb Kirby, Miles Sterling Phasoulas, Aiden Kirby, and Kaleb Kunkle.

Commander Bill Oxford with American Legion, Senior Chief Pitts with West Caldwell High School, and Master Chief Wayne Mihalech with American Legion all came to the podium to express words of praise for these NJROTC members.

Commissioner Potter made the motion to award the Moving Mountains Award to the West Caldwell NJROTC.
The motion carried unanimously.

5. Pump Stations Project Ordinance

The County Manager presented information about the Pump Station Improvement Project.

Chairman Church commented that he knows the pump stations are in need of maintenance.

Commissioner Starnes asked if Clayton is the same company working on the project in Sawmills, and he asked if they had any progress on that project. The County Manager informed Commissioner Starnes that Clayton is working on the Sawmills project and they have made progress, but the County was waiting for grant funding to be finalized.

Commissioner Starnes made the motion to approve the Pump Stations Project Ordinance.
The motion carried unanimously.

6. Conveyance of Surplus Property to Patterson Fire Department

The County Manager informed the Board that Patterson Fire Department had requested to purchase a Ford F-150 from the County. The purchase amount is $1.00 and the County will have first right of refusal for the vehicle should Patterson wish to dispose of it.
Commissioner Starnes made the motion to approve the resolution.
The motion carried unanimously.

Consent

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

7. Acknowledgment of Reviewal of Bonds

The County Manager explained that the bonds must be reviewed annually and presented the amount of these bonds to the Board.

8. ARC Grant Contract with WPCOG for Evergreene Industrial Park

The County has received the release of funds from this ARC Grant in the amount of $513,000. The WPCOG will be administering this contract and their contracted amount is $25,000.

9. 911 Grant for Communications Center and Project Ordinance

The County received $2,659,312.07 for the new Communications Center. These funds are for the purchase of equipment.

10. Duke Energy Foundation Grant for Rescue Equipment

The Duke Energy Foundation Awarded the County $25,000 for high-end rescue equipment.

11. Supporting Blue Ridge Parkway Repairs

This resolution is in support of renovation of the Blue Ridge Parkway following Hurricane Helene.

12. Sheriff's Office- Purchase of Robot

This budget revision in the amount of $18,000 uses asset seizure funds to purchase a component of a robot that was previously purchased after being approved with this year's budget.

13. Sheriff's Office- Acceptance of Gary Sinise Foundation Grant

This grant paid for two Honda 4-wheelers that the Sheriff's Office was able to use to aid citizens after Hurricane Helene.

14. Sheriff's Office- Approval of Submission for National Police Dog Grant

The amount of this grant request is $5,000 and will assist in replacing a K-9 set to retire soon.

15. Sheriff's Office- Acceptance of Lenco Bearcat Award

Lenco has donated $1,000 to the Sheriff's Office and was used to purchase items needed to assist in relief efforts following Hurricane Helene.

16. Sheriff's Office- Acceptance of North Carolina Community Foundation Grant

The Sheriff's Office received $2,500 for the Kids and Cops program.

17. Replacement of Patrol Car

The replacement value of the vehicle was $15,958 and the County will add $52,000 from fund balance to replace this car.

18. Facilitites Services- Snow Plow Attachment Purchase

The snow plow purchase amount is $8,965. This plow will be attached to a truck purchased previously this year.

19. Health Department- Agreement Addendum for 701 CF Case Reporting

This agreement addendum in the amount of $1,390 is for child fatalities. These funds are for a multidisciplinary team for the reviewal of any adolescent deaths.

20. Hurricane Helene Documentation Coordinator

The County would like to add a seasonal staff member to assist with the financial documentation of funds for Hurricane Helene relief efforts. This position is 100% reimbursable by FEMA. Commissioner Branch asked if this position would be a full time employee for the County. The County Manager informed Commissioner Branch that this position would be a full time seasonal employee for approximately 18 months or as long as the position is needed. Commissioner Starnes asked what the pay for this position would be. The County Manager said it would be $25-$30 an hour.

21. Training Module for Cajah's Mountain EMS Base

This budget revision in the amount of $132,998.20 is for the purchase of an ambulance training box for the Cajah's Mountain. EMS Base. The Commissioners had several questions concerning this box. During the discussion, Emergency Services Chief Trevor Key came to the podium. Chief Key explained the future goals and the purpose of having this training module. There was a discussion about recruitment and retention of EMS employees and then continued discussion about the ambulance box and if it was needed.

22. Appointment of Ashley Young as a Plat Review Officer

The Town of Rhodhiss has asked for Ashley Young to be appointed as its Plat Review Officer.

23. Appointment of Judge Andrea Plyler to JCPC

Judge Andrea Plyler has requested to be appointed to the JCPC.

24. Approval of Minutes from November 12, 2024, Meeting

The approval of the minutes from the November 12, 2024, Board of Commissioners meeting is requested.

Commissioner Branch made a note that he is in favor of all items except the item for the ambulance box at the Cajah's Mountain EMS Base.

Vice Chairman LaBrose made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.
The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

With there being no more business to attend to, Commissioner Potter made the motion to adjourn at 7:04 PM.
The motion carried unanimously.

Calendar Year 2025

Caldwell County Commissioner Meeting Schedule

City-County Chambers
905 West Ave. NW
Lenoir, NC

Date	Day	Time	Meeting
January 13, 2025	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Regular
February 10, 2025	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Regular
March 10, 2025	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Regular
April 14, 2025	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Regular
May 12, 2025	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Regular
June 9, 2025	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Regular
July 14, 2025	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Regular
August 11, 2025	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Regular
September 8, 2025	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Regular
October 13, 2025	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Regular
November 10, 2025	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Regular
December 8, 2025	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Regular

Adopted by the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners during a duly held meeting on the 2nd day of December 2024.

*All meetings will air live on the Caldwell County Government TV channel (Spectrum Channel 190) and may also be viewed anytime by visiting www.caldwellcountync.org

ATTEST:

Abigail Rich, County Clerk

Randy T. Church, Chairman

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WATER BOOSTER PROJECT ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, there is a need for water booster pumps to enhance the county's water system.

WHEREAS, Caldwell County's Water Fund has sufficient resources to pay for this project without the need to borrow money.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners that:

Section 1. The governing board hereby creates a project fund for the purpose of designing water boosters.

Transfer from the Water fund	$177,000
Design Fees	$177,000

Section 2. The fund will remain operational until completion of the project and the disbursement of all project funds.

Section 3. The project shall be effective December 2, 2024.

Adopted December 2, 2024

ATTEST:

Abby Righ
Clerk to the Board

Randy T. Church
Chairman

RESOLUTION

22-2024

RESOLUTION APPROVING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY TO A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION PURSUANT TO G.S. 160A-279

WHEREAS, the Caldwell County owns personal property in the form of an automobile

A. 2015, Ford F-150, VIN # 1FTEX1E80GFB02945

WHEREAS, this vehicle is currently in the Building Inspections fleet, it is not marked and has no emergency lighting or warning systems, and in excess of 150,000 miles on the odometer; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute §160A-279 authorizes a county to convey real or personal property by private sale to a nonprofit corporation if the city or county is authorized by law to appropriate money to the corporation; and

WHEREAS, Caldwell County agrees to convey these personal properties for the sum of $1.00 to A) Patterson Volunteer Fire Department, for the intended public use of this property in the service of all Caldwell County citizens; and

WHEREAS, if these personal property items are to be sold or otherwise disposed of, all proceeds are remitted back to Caldwell County, or the vehicle may be returned and disposed of by the County.

NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSONERS RESOLVE THAT:

1. The County Manager is authorized to execute all documents necessary to convey title to aforementioned personal property, with the caveat that any proceeds generated from sale be returned.
2. The County clerk shall publish a notice summarizing the contents of this resolution.

Adopted this the 2nd, day of December 2024.

Randy Church, Chairman of the Board
Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

Reggie Ford, Fire Chief
Patterson Volunteer Fire Department

ATTEST:

Abby Rich, NCCCC
County Clerk

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
911 BOARD GRANT FOR COMM CENTER
PROJECT ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the state of North Carolina has made funding available for this project.

WHEREAS, Caldwell County has a need to construct a new communications center.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners that:

Section 1. The governing board hereby creates a project fund for the purpose of administering the Grant for phase two of the construction of a new emergency communications center.

Funding Sources:	
Other Grants	$2,659,312.07
Expenditures:	
Construction	$2,659,312.07

Section 2. The fund will remain operational until completion of the project and the disbursement of all project funds.

Section 3. The project shall be effective December 2, 2024.

Adopted December 2, 2024

ATTEST:

Abby Rich
Clerk to the Board

Randy Church
Chairman

RESOLUTION

23-24

**SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR REPAIRS
AND STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION
OF BLUE RIDGE RISING ALONG THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY**

WHEREAS, the Blue Ridge Parkway traverses 469 miles from Afton Mountain in Virginia to the Qualla Boundary in North Carolina and unites these two states' unique mountain cultures and identities with a world-renowned national park that celebrates the places, communities, and people along the Parkway; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ridge Parkway is the most-visited unit of the national park system, attracting nearly seventeen million visitors each year and contributing significantly to the local and regional economies in Virginia and North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Parkway generates approximately $1.4 billion in visitor spending and $1.8 billion in total economic output for the 1,799,000 residents of the surrounding corridor of twenty-nine counties, seven independent Virginia cities, and numerous municipalities in North Carolina and Virginia, including the towns of Buchanan, Fincastle, and Troutville in Botetourt County; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation serves as the sole official philanthropic partner to the Blue Ridge Parkway, advocating for necessary funding and resources for the Parkway's maintenance, preservation, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ridge Rising strategic plan provides a roadmap for the sustainable management and enhancement of the Parkway, ensuring that it continues to serve as a vital resource for environmental education, recreation, tourism, and community connection; and

WHEREAS, Tropical Storm Helene has caused catastrophic damage and loss of life for several communities in western North Carolina and southwest Virginia, including those communities adjacent to the Parkway; and

WHEREAS, repairs are critical to preserving the safety and accessibility of the Parkway and its adjacent communities, which is essential for their economic wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, collaboration among local, state, and federal governments is critical in this response and imperative to secure the necessary funding and policies that will sustain and benefit the communities surrounding the Blue Ridge Parkway; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a coalition composed of elected officials and community representatives will enhance advocacy efforts and foster a unified regional voice for the Blue Ridge Parkway corridor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners endorses and supports the following:

1. **Funding for Repairs**: Urging state and federal governments to prioritize and allocate funding for repairs along the Blue Ridge Parkway to ensure its continued safety and accessibility;
2. **Implementation of the Blue Ridge Rising Strategic Plan**: Advocating for the full funding and implementation of the Blue Ridge Rising Strategic Plan to enhance visitor experience, preserve natural resources, and promote sustainable tourism along the Parkway;
3. **Collaboration and Support**: Calling upon local, state, and federal officials to collaborate with the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation and other stakeholders to secure resources and policies that benefit the Parkway and its surrounding communities; and
4. **Coalition Creation**: Supporting the formation of a coalition of elected officials and community representatives dedicated to advocating for the Blue Ridge Parkway, ensuring that the needs and voices of the communities along the corridor are effectively represented.
5.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to relevant local, state, and federal entities, as well as the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, to demonstrate our unified support for the Parkway and its vital role in our communities.

Adopted this 2nd day of December, 2024.

Randy T. Church, Chairman

Attest:

Abby Rich, County Clerk

RESOLUTION

24-2024

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A REVIEW OFFICER FOR THE COUNTY OF CALDWELL

WHEREAS, SL 1997-309 (S875) makes a number of significant changes in the procedures for recording maps and plats; and

WHEREAS, the main purpose of the law is to transfer the responsibility for reviewing plats to determine whether they meet recording requirements from the Register of Deeds to the Review Officer; and

WHEREAS, the new GS 47-30.2 requires the Board of County Commissioners in each County, by resolution, to appoint a person(s) to serve as Review Officer to review each play before it is recorded and certify that it meets the North Carolina statutory requirements for recording; and

WHEREAS, the Caldwell County Tax Administrator has requested that the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners appoint Ashley Young as an additional Review Officer for the County of Caldwell in order to ensure an expeditious review of all maps and plats as required by GS 47-30.2 before they are presented to the Register of Deeds for recording.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners does hereby appoint Ashley Young to perform all responsibilities as required for Review Officer under the appropriate North Carolina General Statutes for Caldwell County.

Adopted this 2nd day of December 2024.

Randy T. Church, Chairman

Abigail Rich, County Clerk