# Caldwell County
# North Carolina
# Board of Commissioners Meeting

September 28, 2026, at 6:00 PM
City-County Chambers
905 West Avenue NW, Lenoir

## MINUTES

### Call to Order

Chairman Randy T. Church called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and welcomed those in attendance.

### Public Comment Period

Roger Patterson came to the podium to speak. He spoke about ALPRS Automatic License Plate Recognition Systems also known as Flock cameras. Mr. Patterson said they have sparked widespread debate concerning law enforcement misuse. He added they are cameras that automatically capture license plates, vehicle make, and model and they are installed on public roads and parking lots to track vehicle movements and find vehicles associated with crimes. He stated they also record ordinary movements of people which reveal association without any wrongdoing, linking devices and vehicles to individuals with numerous documented cases using flock cameras without probable cause. He stated he feels they are stripping away privacy one scan at a time with no oversight and no accountability, taking over neighborhoods and violating the right to privacy. He stated that on behalf of citizens he asks commissioners to get rid of flock cameras in our county.

### Invocation

Pastor Mack Jarvis of Hudson First Baptist Church came to the podium and led the invocation for those in attendance.

### Pledge of Allegiance

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

### Agenda Amendments from the Board, Manager & Public

Chairman Church asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. County Manager Fox stated no sir.
Vice Chairman LaBrose made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented by the County Manager. The motion carried unanimously.

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Chairman Church then provided a brief statement to address some recent changes in the council chambers. Church stated he knows several citizens have questioned why a knee wall was added to the chambers, he said that recently the County had to close courtroom 6 at the county courthouse and that created the need for an alternative space to accommodate court proceedings. This wall was added in the event they need to utilize this space for court. Church stated that by adding the wall it provides an added level of separation and security providing a safer environment for judges, court personnel, attorneys and defendants when court is being held in these chambers. In closing Mr. Church stated that the board believes this is a responsible and practical way to meet the needs of our court system and ensure safety and security.

**Agenda Items**

1. **Moving Mountains Award - Zoey Carroll**

Chairman Church then recognized Zoey Carroll. He stated that she is a student at South Caldwell High School and in 2020 she started wakeboarding at the age of 9 on Lake Hickory. He added that in 2022 she experienced an e foil session incident that resulted in tragedy and the loss of some fingers and most people assumed that would be the end of her story but however her spirit persevered and she went back to the sport a mere 63 days later and won a championship. Mr. Church said there was a recent article in the newspaper, that he picked up several statements from Zoey, with one of those being the time and effort she has to put into wakeboarding to get one trick and figure out ways around mental blocks and she thinks that is one thing a lot of people miss. Church added that in 2024 she was selected to be on Team GoPro and in 2026 She won the 66th Nautique Masters Jr Pro Women's Championship and this past September 12th and 13th she went on to win the WWA Jr Pro Women's Wakeboard World Championship. Chairman Church then said that to think of someone from Hudson, North Carolina going against others from all over the world including Italy and Australia and Zoey persevered, rose to the top and won the world championship. Church then recognized Zoey and her family to come up, and she was presented with the Moving Mountains Award that is in recognition of young people and their outstanding accomplishments within Caldwell County.

2. **2016 Tax Release**

Jason Pennell, Interim Tax Administrator, was next to the podium to present a request to release delinquent taxes. Mr. Pennell stated that each year they request the release of delinquent 10-year-old property taxes, which are no longer collectible using enforced collection methods per North Carolina General Statute 105-378(a). Pennell stated that every effort has been made to collect these taxes. Pennell said that he is requesting the board to release the real and personal property taxes for 2016 in the amount of $57,462.54

Commissioner Potter made a motion to release the taxes as the administrator has presented.
The motion carried unanimously.

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3. **Animal Care Enforcement Updates/ Spay and Neuter Clinic**

Richard Gilliland, Animal Care Enforcement Director was next to the podium. Mr. Gilliland provided an update on what the department has been doing in the last few months. He then presented a PowerPoint presentation for those in attendance and watching. He stated that a few months ago they received a call asking if they accepted donations. They received a donation of $10,000 from the Estate of Deb Hall with instructions on what to do with the funds. With the donation they covered 91 adoptions which included spay and neuters, 700 rabies vaccines, 15 pet carriers for transport for the spay and neuter program and scanning station supplies. Mr. Gilliland said they were able to place Microchip Stations in 4 different locations across the County. He said stations were located at Hudson Police Department, Granite Falls Fire Department, Lenoir Police Department and the County Animal Care Facility. He added that this was all paid for with the Deb Hall donation, and the stations have both English and Spanish instructions. Mr. Gilliland said that there are a lot of people who love animals in this community and if they find an animal on the side of the street, they can go to one of these locations to find information to contact the owner and hopefully get the animal back to their owner. Then Mr. Gilliland spoke about the Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program stating that this is a three-year project. He said this is a huge issue not only in Caldwell County but all over the state and country, with unspayed and neutered animals roaming the streets. He stated that he heard about this program through ASPCA at a conference several years ago and tried year after year to get into the program. He stated that at the beginning of this year he received a phone call from the ASPCA to join the program. He said initially this program was for shelter animals, however, he asked if it could be opened to the citizens, as this was a needed program. Mr. Gilliland said the ASPCA agreed and the first run was started in July. He said the department was able to trade another department a truck for a van to be used for transport for this program. The program started with 20 animals a month and in July going into august they received a call asking if they could move it up to weekly transport. With that they went from 20 animals a month to 80, they have spayed/neutered 162 animals and have 240 more scheduled with 500 on the waitlist. He said this is a well needed program that has blown up and continues to do good things. The next program Mr. Gilliland spoke about was the Community Pet Pantry. He said this is a huge need and when he ran the numbers in July 47% of intakes were owner surrenders, adding that often this is due to owners not having money for food or vet care. He said there are a lot of people who come to the facility asking for cat food, dog food, and cat litter, and one thing they like to do is utilize donations they get and give those back out to the community. With this need the department opened the pet pantry in honor of Deb Hall. They utilized her donation to purchase pet food, treats, toys, pet litter, shampoo and more. He said they are asking neighbors to help other neighbors with a take what you need leave what you can mindset. They hope to keep the pantry filled with donations from the community. Mr. Gilliland then provided an update on rabies vaccines stating that they are looking at trying a change of plans. He said in the Spring at the last rabies clinic they administered 680 vaccines in 4 hours at the fairgrounds. This created a backup of traffic with vehicles. He stated there was a scheduling conflict this Fall and they are not going to be able to hold a drive-thru rabies vaccine clinic. With this he said they have created a link online for citizens to set up an appointment and receive the vaccine at their facility. Starting at the end of

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October they will administer free rabies vaccines in their facility.

Commissioner Potter told Mr. Gilliland he was doing great work. Vice Chairman LaBrose thanked him for all he does. Chairman Church said he appreciated what he was doing and is receiving a lot of great comments about the Spay/Neuter program.

4. **WPCOG Community Development Block Grant Application**

Kyle Case, Community & Economic Development Manager, with the Western Piedmont Council of Government came to the podium. Mr. Case said the reason for this public hearing is to declare the counties' intentions to potentially apply for these Community Development Block Grant funds. Mr. Case stated that CDBG funds require two public hearings for every application with this being the first one for general notice that we are interested in these funds and give the citizens opportunity to make comments and to offer ideas we might have. Then in the future another public hearing will be held after working with staff on developing project ideas and that hearing will be more project specific. Mr. Case then stated this public hearing is to receive citizen input in the development of CDBG applications for the coming year and these applications will be submitted to the North Carolina Department of Commerce. He added that CDBG funds may be used for a variety of different activities which may include neighborhood revitalization, economic development, infrastructure, community housing, demolition of publicly owned or dilapidated buildings in order to create reusable industrial sites, and disaster recovery including support to help communities deal with recovery from Hurricane Helene. must predominately benefit low incomed. Mr. Case stated that all CDBG funds must predominantly benefit low to moderate income people. He said that all CDBG funds come from the federal government and are passed from HUD to the North Carolina Department of Commerce who disperses them in the state. Case said there are a variety of different avenues to pursue CDBG funding, however, the current focus is on disaster recovery funding.

Chairman Church then declared the public hearing open and stated that he hopes that will serve as Mr. Case's testimony and there will be no need for him to repeat that into the record. The County attorney replied, yes that is fine.
Chairman Church said that no one signed up to speak and with that Church declared the public hearing closed.

Commissioner Starnes made a motion to approve the application process to apply for CDBG funds.
The motion carried unanimously.

5. **Drug Recovery Court Updates**

Brittany Williams, Recovery Court Coordinator, came to the podium and spoke about the recovery court program. Ms. Williams stated that Recovery Court was established and in the last year they spent most of their time establishing policies and procedures. She stated the program went live in January with the first session held on January 14th and since that time they have had 39 referrals into the program and now have 15 total participants with 3 additional pending admissions. Ms. Williams said

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Recovery Court consists of 5 phases; Phase 1 is an orientation phase were participants are just getting into treatment, and most are still in active addiction, as participants move through phases requirements are to be met for graduation after completion of all 5 stages. Ms. Williams stated that to date 8 participants have been successful in inpatient treatment. She added that everyone starts the program in an outpatient setting and if they cannot achieve sobriety then they are ordered to go to inpatient treatment, she added that all that have been to inpatient treatment have maintained sobriety. She mentioned the program is currently funded under the opioid settlement funds, and they were awarded a $200,000 Governor's Crime Commission Grant that will be effective October 1st and that will fund the program for a year and allow for additional services for those participants. Williams said they have also expanded the program to include a dedicated peer support specialist, Josh Carden who was in attendance. She stated this position allows peer support to provide case management, offer transportation, and overall support throughout the program. Williams shared that we are now partnered with Burke County for shared coordination of Recovery Court adding that the prosecutorial district was going to be splitting between Caldwell and Burke, being one district and they will be aligned to mirror each other. Ms. Williams then discussed sobriety successes through the program with 1 participant at 30 days sober, 1 90 days sober, 2 120 days sober, and 1 at 1 year sober, Danielle Bradley. She then introduced Ms. Bradley, who came to the podium to share her story. Ms. Bradley said that she had been in Recovery Court for a little over a year and without Recovery Court, her children wouldn't have a mother, she wouldn't have a life, because she was in active addiction and there was no doubt in her mind that she would be dead without this program. Ms. Bradley said her probation officer came to her and suggested the program, and she gave it a try because everything else she had tried was failing. Ms. Bradley then thanked the Board for giving her a second chance at life and giving her children a mom again. She said she was very thankful for the chance to live again.

Commissioner Potter said they are very proud of her.
Vice Chairman LaBrose thanked her and said she had to do the hard work.
Commissioner Starnes told Ms. Bradley to hang in there.
Commissioner Potter then asked Ms. Williams to tell the commissioners about the process.

Ms. Williams said that our Recovery Court is post-conviction, adding that someone is convicted of a crime that they committed, and they are placed on probation. Ms. Williams stated there are two ways to be referred into Recovery Court; First upon an Initial plea or sentence, the Judge orders them in, the Second is through probation violation, probation then refers them and asks for them to be placed in Recovery Court. She added at that point she receives the referrals, meets with them, completes initial paperwork, and schedules them for an assessment with the treatment provider. Ms. Williams said from the assessment they are placed into the outpatient treatment setting where they must attend groups every week and depending on what level they assess on determines how many days a week they must go to the outpatient treatment and then court is bi-weekly, and they are going in front of a judge and being held accountable every other week. Ms. Williams said the participants are drug screened twice a week and along with that comes all of the case management, so we are not just treating the substance use, we are treating them as a person as a whole

and what all their needs are.
Commissioner Starnes said he thinks this is a great program.
Chairman Church thanked her for everything they do.

6. **Sales Tax Reinvestment Fund Request for Economic Development**

Jesse Trivette, Interim Economic Development Director, came to the podium.
Chairman Church declared the public hearing open.
Mr. Trivette said that Caldwell County is considering the acquisition of approximately 6.8 acres of property located at 4054 Lower Cedar Valley Rd. within the Town of Sawmills. Mr. Trivette stated the property has been identified as a potential site to support future economic development. Trivette said the negotiated price for the property was $300,000 and in addition to the purchase price the County anticipates the cost associated with that transaction to be $20,000. He said to provide sufficient funding for the acquisition and related cost, the County is considering an appropriation of $320,000 from the sales tax reinvestment fund. He added that to protect the County's interest, prior to closing, the property must satisfactorily pass geotechnical Soil compaction testing and must confirm the property can be used for industrial development, it must also be completely surveyed without issue with the survey report issued before closing. He said that acquisition of the property will allow the county to secure additional property for future economic business development, adding that the property is adjacent to a parcel already owned by the County and will support continued economic investment in Caldwell County. Mr. Trivette then said his request was for the approval of expenditures of funds from the sales tax reinvestment fund for the purchase of the property.

Chairman Church stated that no one signed up to speak for the public hearing.
Chairman Church then said that this is adjacent to a property the County already owns which will give us a bigger footprint to potentially lure economic development business to Caldwell County. He added that the location is well suited with power, sewer and water already in place.
Commissioner Branch stated that we have put another piece of property up for sale in Sawmills to go toward the purchase of this property.
Chairman Church then explained that this purchase is using the sales tax reinvestment fund. Church then provided a brief explanation on that fund; he said the sales tax is collected throughout the entire County, and all our municipalities and townships contribute to that fund, which includes Gamewell, Cajahs Mountain, Sawmills, Granite Falls, Lenoir, and Hudson. He stated that funds are then used toward economic development growth through taxes collected on services and goods.

Chairman Church then declared the public hearing closed.

Commissioner Branch made a motion to approve the request for economic development for the purchase of this property.
The motion carried unanimously.

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7. **Public Health Department Monthly Updates**

Anna Cook, Health Director, came to the podium to provide the monthly update for the Health Department. Ms. Cook stated that Dr. Picton will be retiring in February 2027 and the department is finalizing a contract for a Medical Director and their team. Ms. Cook said the department is fully staffed with authorized environmental health specialists in environmental health. She announced an upcoming educational cancer event the department will host on November 14th from 10-12 at the HUB. Ms. Cook said they are partnering with UNC Cancer Institute for this event and invited anyone who can attend. Ms. Cook also mentioned that there were rabid goats at a petting zoo within our area and luckily Caldwell County did not have any exposures. Cook stated that the flu vaccine clinic will be held on October the 8th from 4-6, she added that residents can come in to get their vaccine, and they will come out for those who are unable to give their vaccine in their car. Ms. Cook stated they are having an employee wellness fair on October 22nd from 11-3 at the Health Department and employees will be able to receive their flu vaccine at that event. She stated that Health promotion is currently working on a grant for infant mortality reduction through NCDHHS. Ms. Cook said that Accreditation is approaching with documentation due in December and a January or February site visit. She added they should know their site visit date within the next two weeks. Cook said the dental department is flourishing with the contract dentist. She added that she's seeing up to 12 patients only one day a week, increasing revenue. Lastly, she mentioned the department had hosted a reception for long term Board of Health member, Dr. John Davis, at which they honored him by naming their dental office after him. Chairman Church said he was able to attend the reception for Dr. Davis. Church mentioned that Dr. Davis was a part of building the new health department and was the first dentist in the new building. Church mentioned that Dr. Davis said that it was a great honor for the clinic to be named after him.
The Board then collectively thanked Anna for her updates.

8. **Department of Social Services CPS Update**

Shane Fox, County Manager and Kim Arnett, DSS Director came to the podium. Manager Fox said that this has been a team effort and they have been focused on Child Protective Services shortly after the board governance change and looking for ways to revamp the department and better protect children. Mr. Fox then mentioned some of the goals in the reorganization of CPS starting with enhancing community service, reducing workforce caseloads, elevating staff experience levels, and becoming the agency of choice. Mr. Fox then said that Deputy County Manager Jimmy Harrison, Deputy Director of DSS Laura Harrison, DSS Director Kim Arnett, HR Director Beth Brown and himself have collectively met for 20 hours overall. One of the first goals was finding ways to reduce caseloads within the current staff while elevating our staff experience/tenure, improving training and supervision. Fox then displayed the current structure of the department with vacant positions listed with a total of 36 employees. Ms. Arnett said they started with the intake department. She said that is where they receive calls from citizens, law enforcement, medical providers, anyone who calls with concerns of child maltreatment goes through the intake department. The department then must look at policy and statute to make sure the allegations that are reported meet a legal definition of abuse or neglect. Once that is determined, if it does meet that legal definition it will go to 1 of 3 investigation teams. She

said within a certain timeframe the investigators must visit the home to investigate the allegations reported and determine whether they are true or untrue. Arnett said if those allegations are true and we can safely put services in the home and keep those children in the home, then we move those cases to In Home Services. Ms. Arnett said In Home Services social workers work with some of the highest risk situations. She said they hope they can close cases with a child being kept safe at home. Mr. Fox stated that in looking at the chart there are several vacancies in the investigations teams and that has been typical for a few years and is typical across the state. Fox said they wanted to find a way to change the dynamic and focus on better service, full staff, and experienced staff being paid accordingly. Ms. Arnett said she is very excited about reducing supervisor case load and they will be able to offer support to their staff with the reorganization of the department. Mr. Fox then described the proposed restructuring stating that previously you had the staff development/training piece that has now gone away and those three positions have been absorbed into the investigative piece allowing us to have 5 investigative teams. He mentioned another change would be the on-call system would now be a rotating system like the Fire Marshall's office in keeping one supervisor in office and eliminating two on-call positions and folding those into the investigative teams as well. Fox said that eliminating 5 positions allows us the ability to offer incentives to employees. Mr. Fox said staff would like to offer 10% to CPS employees to help make the department more competitive and improve retention. Mr. Fox said staff believes 10% if approved by the board will help build this program and reduce caseloads with competitive pay, provide supervisory strength and offer better service by an optimized workforce because of the reorganization of CPS. Ms. Arnett said that she believes this will be helpful to staff and the families they work with. Mr. Fox then said that the goal is to make this as successful as we can and adequately serve the citizens, so we bring this proposal before the Board.

Commissioner Potter thanked Mr. Fox and Ms. Arnett for taking time and being open-minded through this process. He added that what we had before wasn't working and he feels that 1:3 is going to be a huge improvement taking stress off supervisors and case workers and the whole picture is very positive.

Vice Chairman LaBrose asked what we are doing with recruitment and if we were going to Local colleges and job fairs. Ms. Arnett said they do all those things; and they have also met with several universities and attended their job fairs. She added they have one employee who is a Lenoir Rhyne graduate and they go back and speak to their classes.

Commissioner Potter said the biggest challenge we face is that no one is going into that field and they are not going to school for social work.

Commissioner Starnes said he is very happy about what is going on in the department. He added that change is not always bad and if it works then it works. He said he appreciated everything they have done and the hard work they have put into this.

Commissioner Starnes made a motion to approve the 10% increase and to go with program/restructuring as presented. Starnes then stated he thinks this will be good and when you can drop the load off somebody you get qualified time and education and your employees will only be as good as they are led.

Chairman Church then echoed appreciation for willingness and for working on a plan and

said he was grateful for the cooperation to make it better. Chairman Church said that child protective services have been a main concern of this board for a while and they will do everything they can to protect children and elderly.

Commissioner Branch said he understands and he has a daughter that is a social worker for the school system and to be honest he feels sorry for CPS because it is a very difficult job.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. **Department of Social Services Monthly Updates**

Kim Arnett, Social Services Director then presented a monthly update for the Department of Social Services. Ms. Arnett stated she had a Power Point presentation with information she typically provided to the social services board. Ms. Arnett started with the hiring and separation report. She said they had 3 separations in child welfare last month. They are currently hiring 10 positions, and their vacancy rate is around 10%, she added they would love to see that rate around 5%. Ms. Arnett then reviewed a financial report for the month of August for admin and operational, child resources, adult resources, temporary assistance and Medicaid transportation paid through NC FAST. The next slide she discussed was for economic services. Ms. Arnett stated that for adult Medicaid, special assistance Medicaid, family and children's Medicaid, emergency assistance, and child support, their MOUs were achieved. However, food and nutrition failed to meet their MOU. Ms. Arnett stated the food, and nutrition area has experienced quite a bit of turnover, and this area has a lot of strict, varying timelines and it is difficult for individuals to keep up. She added the department is looking into ways to improve this section and achieve the MOU goal of 95%. Ms. Arnett mentioned the child support division and noted they were awarded a certificate of excellence for their collections at the state conference.

Commissioner Starnes said he felt this was good information for the board and the public to hear and see.

Ms. Arnett then presented the monthly report on child welfare and adult services. She said child welfare had 120 reports with 166 children experiencing foster care and adult services had 52 reports for the month and 49 adults under guardianship currently. Both divisions achieved their MOU for August.

Vice Chairman LaBrose asked how the county is doing with foster parents. Ms. Arnett said they struggle with that and there is a high need for recruitment. Vice Chairman LaBrose said that he thinks from time to time we need to highlight foster care service and recruitment to show the counties need.

Ms. Arnett then provided a few program highlights. She said that the Employee of the month For August was Leslie Warren in customer service. She also said the accounting area is working very hard to distribute additional LINKS funding provided by the state for our 14-21 year olds in foster care. Ms. Arnett said that she is currently working with our regional representatives in the director's association to organize a regional meeting for all western counties in October. The Director, Ms. Arnett, was selected as part of the child welfare united

leadership team. She stated the Economic services program is continuing their contract with Expansion Solutions and working on FNS timeliness. Child welfare hosted the first call training for surrounding counties and social workers attended the 42nd Symposium on Child Abuse. She added in adult services the VPA program recently helped 4 young adults that had aged out of foster care to secure independent housing. The adult services program also completed a CQI audit and received they highest scores possible in all areas.

Chairman Church asked what the age was for aging out of foster care. Ms. Arnett replied 18 and the VPA Program is for ages 18-21.

Commissioner Starnes then stated his opinion on the record. He said this is part of the reason they wanted to help social services, not necessarily for control and we weren't looking to get rid of any jobs, He added the board has had some ideas, the department has had some ideas and he wants the public to know that they are here to help and try to be more efficient for the children and the older people and do what needs to be done as a county.

**Consent**

Chairman Church turned the meeting over to County Manager, Shane Fox to present the consent agenda.

10. **Budget Revision - Library Repairs**

    This budget revision allocates $330,000 of interest earnings in SCIF funds to allow for repairs and renovations at the library.

11. **Budget Revision - Low Cost Spay and Neuter program at Animal Care and** Enforcement

    This budget revision allocates $40,000 in response to the county's low cost spay and neuter program having a greater than anticipated response and will allow for the program to continue through the end of the fiscal year.

12. **Budget Revision - Insurance for Buildings and Equipment**

    This budget revision allocates $250,000 to cover the increased cost for the county's insurance for buildings and equipment. This cost is higher than was anticipated when preparing the budget. This increase is due to the fact we have had a few accidents.

13. **Budget Revision and Project Ordinance for the Parkview Road Water Line Extension**

    This budget revision and project ordinance allows the start of the project for the Parkview Road Water Line Extension of 5,000 linear feet of water line. This allocates $210,000 in leftover funds from the Collettsville Tank Project and $90,000 in contribution funds from the owner of the proposed new RV park which will benefit from the new water line.

14. **Budget Revision Health Grants for Women's Health**

    This budget revision allocates $4,030 in Maternal and Child Health Block Grant funds to be used for women's health.

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15. **Budget Revision - Economic Development Property Purchase 4054 Lower Cedar Valley Rd.**

This budget revision allocates $320,000 from the Sales Tax Reinvestment Fund to purchase approximately 6.866 acres located at 4054 Lower Cedar Valley Rd.

16. **Budget Transfer - Health Department**

This budget transfer moves $13,100 to allow for the health department to purchase an ADA-compliant exam table with a built-in scale.

17. **2026/2027 United Way of Caldwell County Agency Agreement**

This agreement allows for the acceptance of $25,000 from United Way that is received annually by the Department of Social Services to help families in crisis with heating and cooling bills.

18. **Golden LEAF Foundation Grantee Acknowledgment and Agreement**

This is an agreement for the $1.5 million grant awarded from Golden LEAF to help offset the match for our airport sewer project

19. **Acceptance of Trailer from Grace Chapel Fire Department**

This resolution is for the acceptance of a trench trailer donated by Grace Chapel Fire Department to be used by county emergency services to provide emergency response, rescue, and special operations services.

20. **Personnel Change - Public Works Director Position Request**

This personnel change request is to post a position and advertise for a Public Works Director to provide a centralized, executive level leader to oversee the county's expanding infrastructure, utility operations, and capital assets inventory.

21. **Approval of Regular and Closed Session Minutes from August 24, 2026, Board of Commissioners Meeting**

Approval of regular and closed session minutes from August 24, 2026, Board of Commissioners Meeting was requested.

22. **Town of Sawmills - Fireworks Display Application**

**T**he Town of Sawmills applied for a fireworks display to be conducted by Skyworks Pyro and take place on October 24, 2026, at 4407 Baird Dr. Hudson, NC 28638.

Mr. Fox then shared that earlier during the Recovery Court presentation, Ms. Bradley failed to mention not only has she been able to regain her life, but she also has a full-time job now and is working and she is very proud of that. He then thanked the board for allowing that to be presented to them. He then asked the board if they had any questions about the consent agenda.

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Commissioner Branch stated that he did not have any questions, but he did want to make a statement. He said that we lost a great lady last week who will be missed and a lot of counties are observing 9/25 as Dolly Parton Day. He said he felt she was someone worth mentioning. He then spoke about the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and the number of books that have been given to children. He added that he is proud of his wife for starting that back in 2014 and it is a great thing for the county.

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

**Closed Session**

23. **Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(4) and N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6)**

Chairman Church made a motion to enter closed session to discuss matters related to Economic Development and personnel matters at 7:29 PM.

The motion carried unanimously

Commissioner Branch made a motion to exit closed session at 8:57 PM.
The motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn**

With there being no more business, Commissioner Potter made a motion to adjourn at 8:58 PM.
The motion carried unanimously.

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