
Minutes
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners
August 30, 1999, 6:00 PM
Special Meeting: Wade, Godwin & Falcon Town Boards
District 7 School, Wade, NC

AUGUST 30, 1999, 6:00PM

PRESENT: Chairman Thomas B. Bacote (arrived late)
Vice Chairman Ed Melvin
Commissioner Talmage Baggett
Commissioner J. Breeden Blackwell
Commissioner Billy R. King (arrived late)
Commissioner H Mac Tyson II
Commissioner J. Lee Warren, Jr.
Cliff Strassenburg, County Manager
James Martin, Deputy County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Asst. County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Karen Musgrave, Staff Attorney
Tonya Harris-Council, Public Information Officer
Larry Philpott. Recreation Department Director
Sheriff Earl Butler
Chief deputy Cuyler Windham
Marsha Fogle, Clerk
Council Members, Town of Wade (Mayor Huell Aekins,
Councilwoman Ann Long, Councilwoman Grace heath,
Councilman Merrill McLaurin, Councilman Joseph Dixon and
Councilman Ray Edwards)
Cindy Burchette, Wade Town Clerk
Council Members, Town of Godwin (Mayor Deborah Tew,
Commissioners Bobby Johnson and Mack Royal)
Council Members, Town of Falcon (Mayor Wayne Lucas,
Commissioners Clifton Turpin, Jr., Wiley Clark and Alan
Hudson)

Ed Melvin, Vice Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, called the meeting to order. He called on Commissioner Baggett to give the invocation.

The Mayors of Falcon, Godwin and Wade called their meeting to order.

1. Discussion: Public utilities assistance with Town projects that serve citizens outside the town limits.

Mayor Huell Aekins, Town of Wade, discussed the need for help from the county to extend water services to the residents outside the town limits of Wade. He

said the small communities do not have the financial ability to extend lines to potential customers. Wayne Lucas, Mayor of Falcon, reiterated the comments of Mayor Aekins. He noted that Falcon has to turn down requests from citizens all of the time because they do not have the money to extend lines into the county. At this time Falcon buys its water from Harnett County and sells it to Godwin. In addition, Mayor Lucas noted the need for a sewer system. Deborah Tew, Mayor of Godwin, said that a feasibility study was done showing that Godwin, Falcon and Wade could support a system. She also noted county assistance would be necessary.

Commissioner Tyson asked if the Town had approached PWC with this request. Mayor Tew said they had, but to no avail.

Mayor Lucas said Falcon does not want to operate a water/sewer system; they will put in the lines and would turn it over to someone else to operate.

Commissioner Baggett noted the lack of action in the 1970's when money was available for water systems. He pointed out that Harnett, Sampson, Robeson and Hoke are doing a much better job of providing water to its citizens than Cumberland County. He also pointed out that the east side of the river has suffered the most. He commended the three Boards for their spirit of cooperation. He also noted that the Eastover water project may help the Wade area. As far as sewer is concerned, Commissioner Baggett said that would have to be done on a regional basis, noting the high price of running a sewer system. He said this Board is committed to helping the municipalities with the water and sewer issue.

Commissioner Warren noted that Cumberland County is 661 square miles with 50% of the land mass east of the river. He said he was frustrated that county residents have been overlooked while PWC is providing water to a neighboring county. Commissioner Warren said that the State says PWC is the water/sewer provider for Cumberland County, yet the folks in the eastern part of the county are still coming up short. Mr. Warren pledged to work with the municipalities in this effort.

Commissioner Blackwell pledged his support and noted the importance of unification in this effort.

MOTION: Commissioner Baggett moved to refer the request made to the commissioners regarding help with the extension of water and sewer to a committee made of up commissioners and Fayetteville Council members and urge them to do all they can to expedite the extension of water and sewer into this region of the county.

SECOND: Commissioner Warren

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

2. DISCUSSION: Centrally located Sheriff/ Medic/Rescue Annex.

Mayor Lucas pointed out the need for a centrally located sheriff/medic/rescue annex in the area. He said the response time could be better if these units are located in this region. He noted the fire department provides a bay for the rescue unit and they are providing a good service. However, response time by a medic unit is longer than the area deserves. The closest medic unit is at the Eastover Fire Department.

Sheriff Butler noted there are deputies in the area; however he said the response time to a call may not always be what it should, as a result of prioritizing the calls. He said his office is looking at integrating some of its people from community policing into the overall operation, hopefully making them more effective. As far as having a centrally located annex in this area of the county, he said there needs to be an area/facility his department can work out of. Walt Rose, speaking for the Ambulance Service, also said there would need to be a place provided for a medic unit. He also noted that population is a key factor in determining the placement of these units. Mr. Rose indicated they will continue to use their quick response vehicles to answer calls.

MOTION: Commissioner Baggett moved to ask the hospital and sheriff's department to work with the county in doing a feasibility study for this area to see if it can support a multi-purpose type building to house an annex for the Sheriff's Department and Ambulance Service and other county services.

SECOND: Commissioner King

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Warren said the study should encompass health, mental health, DSS, senior citizen and animal control services to be housed at the annex. Chairman Bacote said staff would work with the officials in Wade, Godwin and Falcon to determine an appropriate site. He suggested this multi-purpose center could be similar to the Resource Center in Spring Lake. Commissioner Tyson inquired as to whether the municipalities would be able to assist the county in funding such a venture. They noted they would help all they could, but their tax base will not allow them to help very much monetarily. The Mayor of Godwin noted there are only 77 people in the town limits.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

3. Discussion: County assistance with town parks and the establishment of a centrally located county park facility.

Godwin Mayor, Deborah Tew, noted the lack of county park facilities in the area. Mayor Tew stated the three municipalities pay \$12,500 recreation tax and receive no benefits.

Mr. Larry Philpott, County Recreation Department Director, noted the ten year plan for the parks and recreation department calls for a regional park in the northeastern part of the county. At this time land has not been identified for a park in this area but that a possible site would be

somewhere north of Eastover Central School. Mr. Philpott noted the county did sponsor a summer playground program for children in this area (held at District 7 School).

In addition, there are several senior citizens clubs that are active in the area. Mr. Philpott urged the residents in the area to contact his office with suggestions about recreational activities for the area. He said his staff would be willing to work with them.

It was suggested that perhaps the park facility could be included in the multi-purpose center feasibility study.

4. Discussion: Animal Control

Mayor Lucas expressed concern and frustration about the County's Animal Control program and asked what can be done to make it more responsive.

Commissioner Blackwell noted there are changes underway and he expected there to be substantial improvements in that department in the near future. Cliff Strassenburg, County Manager, stated the County is in the process of revamping the program and recognizes the need to upgrade the service. The Animal Control Board and the Animal Control Department have been directed to come up with a new set of objectives, staffing plan and a better response plan. In reply to a question, he noted the new program would have animal control officers available on call days a week, with some extended hours in the evening at the Animal Control Shelter to allow people to adopt and/or check to see if their pets have been picked up. There was mention that perhaps the Animal Control Department could also provide service out of the multi-purpose center previously mentioned.

Commissioner Warren noted there is no limit to what can be considered as part of a multi-purpose center for this area.

The County Manager noted that he would ask the County Planning Staff to help us look for some rural development funding for this project. He also asked the municipalities to help the county find land suitable for such a project. The County Planning staff will help to coordinate all of these efforts.

5. Discussion: Senior Citizens Center

The space for senior programs will be taken into consideration as a part of the feasibility study.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:30PM

Clerk to the Board

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TOWN HALL MEETING (GODWIN, EASTOVER, WADE
AND FALCON AREA RESIDENTS)
AUGUST 30, 1999, 7:30PM
DISTRICT 7 SCHOOL

PRESENT: Chairman Thomas B. Bacote
Vice Chairman Ed Melvin
Commissioner Talmage Baggett
Commissioner Breeden Blackwell
Commissioner Billy R. King
Commissioner H Mac Tyson II
Commissioner J. Lee Warren, Jr.
Cliff Strassenburg, County Manager
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Larry Philpott, Recreation Department Director
Tonya Harris-Council, Public Information Officer
Marsha Fogle, Clerk

Chairman Bacote called the meeting to order and asked elected officials in the audience to identify themselves. He then introduced County Staff present at the meeting. Sylvia Wilkins, Principal of District 7 School, welcomed everyone to the school. Chairman Bacote noted the purpose of this Town Hall meeting is to allow the citizens to share their concerns with the Board of Commissioners.

SPEAKERS

1. Morgan Johnson (Wade area): Mr. Johnson noted that the extension of Highway 13 will cause additional traffic on River Road and other feeder roads. He noted the roads were not built for heavy traffic and large tractor trailers. He asked if there is a long range plan to upgrade these roads when Highway 13 is extended. In addition he noted concerns about the gravel pit near Cargill Company.

Commissioner Warren said he was a resident on River Road and shared these same concerns. He noted that River Road from Cargill to Wade is too narrow for the big trucks, does not have a good subservice base and is dangerous because of these inadequacies. Commissioner Warren noted that the gravel pit was used earlier this year and that because it has a ten-year permit, it can be used anytime during the ten years. Mr. Warren pointed out that upgrading the roads would be done by NCDOT. He urged the citizens to make contact and encourage the DOT to take a look at this project.

Commissioner Baggett reiterated Commissioner Warren's comments and offered the following motion:

MOTION: Commissioner Baggett moved that the Board of Commissioners contact Lyndo Tippet, NCDOT Board member from this area, and ask him to look into upgrading River Road and other feeder roads as Highway 13 is extended.

SECOND: Commissioner Warren

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

2. Linda Collier (lives 2 miles north of Godwin): She would like to have access to a public water supply. Water in the area is bad.

Commissioner Baggett noted the Board of Commissioners took action at the earlier meeting with the town boards to address this issue (Joint Committee will be asked to expedite as quickly as possible a course of action to extend water to this area).

3. Marilyn Johnson: Concerned there are no speed limit signs from Middle Road to Beard Road.

4. Martha ? : The sides of the road need cutting and the ditch banks need to be cleaned out. In addition, there are a lot stray dogs running loose in the area.

5. Irene Hall (Smithfield Road): Public water is needed in the area.

6. Winifred Corpus (Godwin): Concerned about speed on HWY 82, 301 and Burnette Road. Also concerned about annexation and that there are only 2 minorities living in the Town of Godwin.

7. Jimmy Page (Smithfield Road): Public water is needed.

8. Doug Elliott (Wade): Concerned that there are no activities for children in the area. Would like to see a recreational facility placed in this area.

Larry Philpott, Director of Parks and Recreation for the County, noted some of the Recreation Department sponsored activities such as senior citizens activities and a playground program held at District 7 School. Mr. Philpott encouraged the residents to contact him in a unified manner to explore the possibility of programs and activities for children. Mr. Philpott noted the limited staff at the Recreation Department and urged residents to volunteer to help with programs.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:30PM

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Page last updated 4/22/00