
Minutes
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners
April 30, 2001, 6:30 p.m.
Special Meeting with Spring Lake Town Board
Spring Lake Town Hall

PRESENT: **Chairman J. Lee Warren, Jr.**
 Vice Chairman, Breeden Blackwell
 Commissioner Talmage Baggett
 Commissioner Jeannette Council
 Commissioner Kenneth Edge
 Commissioner John T. Henley
 Commissioner Billy R. King
 Mayor B. Ray Adcock
 Alderman Ethel T. Clark
 Alderman Richard P. Higgins
 Alderman Napoleon Hogans
 Alderman James E. Wall
 James Martin, County Manager
 Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
 Cliff Spiller, Assistant County Manager
 Amy H. Cannon, Assistant County Manager
 Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
 Barry Warren, Planning Director
 Thanena Wilson, Community Dev. Director
 Sonya Green, Community Development
 Spring Lake Staff
 Rhonda C. Raynor, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION: **Alderman James E. Wall**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Warren and Mayor Adcock called their respective Boards to order.

Mayor Adcock thanked the Board of Commissioners for the joint meeting.

1. Discussion of use of some of the County Entitlement money to build a complete recreation center.

Alderman Higgins asked that this item be placed on the agenda. He noted the Town of Spring Lake has provided recreation for this portion of the county for some time. He noted the County does provide funding by way of reimbursement of the recreation tax which is approximately \$30,000 per year. Spring Lake does not have a recreation facility

other than outdoor areas. The town has one senior center. There is a real need for a recreation center such as the ones in the City of Fayetteville. Spring Lake cannot provide a center on its own. Coordination could help provide one. Revitalization funds and grants could be used.

Vice Chairman Blackwell asked if the local middle school was being utilized.

Alderman Higgins stated it was being used for recreation.

Vice Chairman Blackwell noted the County's involvement in recreation facilities is much different than the City of Fayetteville. The County provides most of its recreation programs through the schools.

Chairman Warren noted the County has two parks, Arnette Park and Lake Rim Park. The County does not have a freestanding recreation facility.

Vice Chairman Blackwell noted most of the schools throughout the County are being used for recreation purposes. The County's philosophy has not been to build freestanding recreation centers.

Commissioner Edge stated he spoke with the County Recreation Director and the Community Development Director. There are funds available that Spring Lake can apply for to fund a recreation center.

Thanena Wilson, Community Development Director stated the amount of funds Spring Lake could apply for is limited. The funds are part of the entitlement funds received by the County.

Commissioner Edge noted Spring Lake could more easily qualify for these funds than the County.

Ms. Wilson noted no funds would be available until the next budget year and funding could not be guaranteed. The City of Fayetteville has taken a great deal of the funding. She noted the process to apply for the funds begins with a newspaper advertisement noting where funding orientations would be held. Applicants are given 30 days to complete and submit an application. A selection committee makes the decision and funding is provided the following July.

2. Discussion of Regional Transportation Plans.

Clenton Smith, Assistant Town Manager noted discussions that had recently taken place concerning the outer loop and its connection to Highway 13 across the Cape Fear River. He noted a plan is being developed that will look at internal routes that may be more desirable. There are efforts underway to get these plans moving along so that they can be submitted to the state for action. Support from the County is needed to make this plan work. Studies will need to be conducted and support from the County could speed up the process.

Chairman Warren noted the County would be supportive of this plan.

Barry Warren, County Planning Director advised a meeting was held recently on this matter. The Department of Transportation provided assistance to help develop an alternative plan. The TCC approved the funding for the TIP to help this plan proceed. The TAC has also approved it so it can move forward.

3. Discussion of future of the Family Resource Center and Library in Spring Lake.

Alderman Ethel Clark stated asked if there were any plans to close these facilities due to budget constraints.

Commissioner Blackwell advised that the Library Director would soon present a plan to the Library Board of Trustees for the operation of county libraries. The Board of Trustees has instructed him to develop a plan that would allow the main branch to remain open seven days a week. If cuts in hours were to be made at other branches, the Board of Trustees asked that Mr. Thrasher develop a plan that would close a branch on the same day or the same time each week. The proposal has not yet been submitted. The Board of Trustees felt it would be easier for citizens to plan a visit to the library if they knew that a branch would be closed on a certain day each week. They could go to another branch that is open or go to the main branch. He would like not to have to cut back any of the hours for the libraries but that probably won't be the case. Staff will need to shift between branches that are open. There are no plans to totally close any library. He noted Library Board meetings are open to the public. He also noted Alderman Higgins is a member of the Library Board of Trustees.

Alderman Higgins noted the importance of the library in Spring Lake. The Spring Lake library has approximately 300 people visit it each day.

Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager advised the Family Resource Center was placed in Spring Lake to meet specific needs in this area. Some of the services may be cut due to budget constraints, but there are no intentions to close the center.

4. Discussion of Ambulance Service.

Chairman Warren noted all the Commissioners serve on the Cape Fear Valley Health System Board of Trustees. The ambulance service is an entity of the hospital. They support the ambulance service and will try to extend it as much as possible.

Vice Chairman Blackwell noted the ambulance service has a \$5 million deficit each year. He is not sure many people know that. He advised that representatives from the ambulance service are in attendance.

Mayor Adcock stated that when the boards met a few years ago, it was stated that this issue would be checked into and an ambulance would be placed in this area. Currently,

residents must wait for an ambulance to come from Rosehill Road. They have mutual aid with the fire departments, why can't they have it with ambulance service. He does not understand why an ambulance cannot cross boundary lines.

Alderman Wall stated that Spring Lake could provide the facilities for an ambulance and attendants. The response time for an ambulance must be decreased.

Bill Belanger, Senior Vice President, Network Services for Cape Fear Valley Health System stated that the rule regarding an ambulance crossing county lines is a state regulation. A paramedic certified in Cumberland County would not be certified in another county. There is a funding issue involved. A first responder is available in Spring Lake seven days a week. If an ambulance were located in the town, it would go to the hospital when an incident occurred and the town would not be covered until that ambulance and crew returned. A first responder would respond to a call and then call for an ambulance if needed. The first responder would remain in the area while the ambulance would take a person to the hospital. He noted an outside consultant had been hired to review ambulance placement and the current operation deficit. The consultant will look at total needs throughout the County.

Mayor Adcock stated that fireman are certified at the state level. EMS personnel should also be certified at the state level rather than at the County level. They should try to change this particular rule.

Wally Ainsworth, Director of EMS advised the State should address the certification of local EMTs.

5. Discussion of the County's role with FAEDC.

Mr. Smith stated he is concerned with the discussions concerning merger of the FAEDC, Chamber of Commerce and others. He feels FAEDC's program will be in jeopardy if the County's role is diminished in any way. Industrial development needs to be a countywide program.

Chairman Warren noted the Board of Commissioners has been supportive of and is committed to economic development. Personally, he is not ready to merge FAEDC with any other agency.

Commissioner Henley advised he would be appointed to the FAEDC Board in May as the County representative. He also sits on the Chamber Board of Directors. He noted the FAEDC would wait to search for a new director until the Fayetteville Futures report is out. He does not think there is a move by the Chamber to incorporate these entities. FAEDC should work countywide. The Chamber of Commerce focus is to have these entities working together and in the same building so that communications can be better. He noted FAEDC would submit a budget request to the County that is \$50,000 less than last year's request. The reduction in the budget request is due to current economic issues and because of the fact that they can now do things more economically.

Commissioner Baggett stated that the Board of Commissioners has strong feelings for industrial development. They are proud of the new park in cedar creek and that Spring Lake will soon be dedicating one.

Commissioner Henley noted the FAEDC should be pushing Spring Lake just as much as other areas of the County.

6. Discussion of Phase II Stormwater Requirements for Municipalities.

Mr. Smith stated that Spring Lake and Hope Mills would be part of Phase II of the Storm Water Plan. The County became involved a few years ago. Spring Lake was hoping to work in a joint manner with Hope Mills, the City of Fayetteville and the County to have one program.

Mr. Martin stated that the Storm Water Management Director had met with Mr. Smith and the town of Hope Mills about becoming part of the regional storm water authority. Hope Mills may be planning to develop their own authority. He feels there is a possibility for Spring Lake to be part of the City of Fayetteville and County authority.

Grainger Barrett, County Attorney stated Spring Lake would only have to adopt the county's storm water ordinance in order to be able to become a part of the authority.

7. Discussion of Extra Territorial Jurisdiction vs. Municipal Influence Area.

Alderman Higgins stated that Spring Lake wanted to get ETJ some years ago, but the previous County Manager was not agreeable.

Mr. Martin stated that if the County does not have zoning in the adjacent municipal boundaries then cities and municipalities could ask to exercise their authority. With the exception of one area, the County has zoned all areas contiguous to municipal boundaries. He would suggest that the Municipal Influence Area should be the prevailing authority rather than municipalities.

Mr. Garrett stated that the purpose of the MIA is to recognize and accommodate the standards of a municipality over long term planning.

Alderman Higgins stated that he is not sure there has been any dialogue between Spring Lake and the County about these areas. Since the Town is getting water from Harnett County, the Town felt it should have a little more influence about what will happen in the areas they have to provide services to. The only direction Spring Lake can expand to is up Highway 210.

Mr. Martin noted the MIA gives municipalities an opportunity to have some say-so in these areas. In order for ETJ to be exercised by Spring Lake, the County would have to abolish all zoning in those areas. He feels the County should have some say-so in the MIA.

8. Discussion of annexation of Pope AFB and Fort Bragg by Spring Lake.

Mr. Smith stated he feels the County is losing a large amount of money by not having these areas annexed. He feels this money should be shared between the municipalities and the County. Currently all the money is going to the State. He hopes this could be changed in the future.

Mr. Barrett stated that Fayetteville wanted to annex these areas and applied to do so. Spring Lake then applied to annex them approximately ten days later. After going to court over the matter, it was ruled that neither Spring Lake nor Fayetteville would annex these areas unless they could agree. Fayetteville would then have a ten-day lead. The County does not have any authority in this area.

8. Discussion of countywide revaluation.

Mr. Smith stated he has lived in many counties and Cumberland County is the only one that has an eight-year revaluation cycle. Would the County consider a more frequent cycle after the next revaluation is done?

Chairman Warren stated the County had a revaluation in 1988, 1992 and 1996. The County was on a four-year cycle until the tax department was restructured and a Tax Administrator hired. Some changes have been made to the department and the Tax Administrator recommended delaying the revaluation because the staff wasn't ready.

The County Manager stated the revaluation was extended to 2003. The Tax Administrator has advised that if proposed budget cuts are made he would recommend that the revaluation be extended to 2004. In previous years, not doing a revaluation may have been to the detriment of the County, but since 1996 property values have not increased more than 4.5%. Once the next revaluation cycle is completed, the Tax Administrator will recommend a four-year revaluation cycle.

Commissioner Baggett noted real estate values have been flat for a few years. Revaluations are also expensive to perform.

Chairman Warren stated it would be cost prohibitive to do a revaluation on a cycle of less than four years.

9. Update on discussions with the Institute of Government and their assistance in conducting a feasibility study of countywide comprehensive planning.

Chairman Warren noted the Commissioners met with the Fayetteville City Council last week. They have discussed this study and want Spring Lake to know that the Institute of Government is interested in speaking to all the municipalities involved. The IOG will be contacting them so that they can be a part of this comprehensive plan. The Board of Commissioners wants Spring Lake to be a "player" in this project.

10. Other Matters of Concern.

Alderman Higgins noted there have been positive results from previous meetings of these two bodies. He appreciates the Commissioners' attentiveness to the needs of Spring Lake.

Chairman Warren noted it was important that the Commissioners know the needs of this area and be able to assist them whenever they can.

Alderman Wall noted his concerns about fire protection for the Manchester area.

The Spring Lake Fire Chief stated he needs more personnel to respond to the needs of that area. They are responding out of one station. When they respond to a call in that area it leaves the Town unprotected.

Commissioner Baggett noted there is a provision that will allow an increase in the fire tax in the area if what is being collected is not enough to adequately cover costs. They may want to consider a small rate change.

The Fire Chief stated that not enough money is currently being generated to cover costs.

Deputy Clerk

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING: TOWN HALL MEETING FOR
RESIDENTS IN THE TOWN OF SPRING LAKE
APRIL 30, 2001, 7:30 PM
SPRING LAKE TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: Chairman J. Lee Warren, Jr.
Vice Chairman, Breeden Blackwell
Commissioner Talmage Baggett
Commissioner Jeannette Council
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner John T. Henley
Commissioner Billy R. King
James Martin, County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Assistant County Manager

Amy H. Cannon, Asst. County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Barry Warren, Planning Director
Thanena Wilson, Community Dev. Dir.
Sonya Green, Community Development
Rhonda C. Raynor, Deputy Clerk

Chairman Warren reconvened the meeting to begin the Public Hearing. He noted the purpose of the public hearing was for the Board of Commissioners to receive comment from citizens in the Spring Lake and Manchester areas about any issue or concern they wish to bring to the attention of the Board.

SPEAKERS:

1. Terrance Sadler: He is concerned with the bus situation (Route 40). He understands the decision to discontinue this route was for economic reasons. He believes a plan to run vans would be a viable alternative. The route could be expanded to encompass a greater area in Spring Lake. Vans are more economical and would better accommodate the residents. He and others plan to produce a financial package and present it to the County and Spring Lake. He wanted to introduce the idea and answer any questions.
2. Alex Hall: He is a seven-year old student. He checks out many books from the local library and wants it to remain open as much as possible. He enjoys the local library. It helps students of all ages.
3. SuEllen Visscher: She is concerned with any possible reductions in the services provided by the Health Department at the Family Resource Center and the continuation of bus service to the area. These two services are very much needed in this area. She does not have a car and could not get to the Health Department downtown. She uses the services provided at the Family Resource Center. She presented a petition supporting the bus service and the Health Department services provided at the Family Resource Center.
4. Billy Wilson: He is concerned with the continuation of bus service in this area. Spring Lake cannot afford the costs to continue the bus route. He would like the Commissioners and the Town Alderman to get the problem resolved. They need to push the transportation issue. People need affordable transportation. He noted the possibility of another grant as well as fare increases to pay for continued bus service.

Commissioner Council noted that the school system would be starting a new program for pre-kindergarten children at the W.T. Brown Elementary School. Open registration will be held on May 25, 2001. This will be a year-round star-rated program for pre-kindergarten children. This is a pilot program and \$300,000 will be spent to develop it.

Commissioner King noted the bill presented by Representative Hurley to create a transit authority in Cumberland County. He asked staff to comment on it.

Mr. Barrett noted the bill is a result of a presentation made by former Manager Cliff Strassenburg. Staff level meetings have been held and the City and County Attorneys have drafted language that is pending to have a regional transit authority created. Financing for transportation will always be a problem. The Authority would have much representation from the municipalities.

Chairman Warren thanked the Spring Lake Town Board for hosting the joint meeting and the public hearing.

Mayor Adcock noted his appreciation to the Board of Commissioners for requesting the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Deputy Clerk