

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 7, 2003, 6:30pm
SPECIAL MEETING WITH SPRING LAKE TOWN BOARD

PRESENT: Chairman Talmage Baggett
 Vice Chairman Jeannette Council (arrived at 6:50pm)
 Commissioner J. Breeden Blackwell
 Commissioner Kenneth Edge
 Commissioner John Henley
 Commissioner Billy King
 Commissioner Edward Melvin
 James Martin, County Manager
 Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
 Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager
 Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
 Ann Hymes, Deputy Clerk to the Board
 Marsha Fogle, Clerk to the Board
 County Staff
 Mayor Ethel Clark, Town of Spring Lake
 Mayor Pro Tem James O'Garra
 Alderman James Wall
 Alderman Richard Higgins
 Alderman Maggie Corgan
 Alderman Napolen Hogans
 Cora Nunes, Clerk to the Board, Spring Lake
 John Jackson, Attorney for Spring Lake

INVOCATION: Commissioner Breeden Blackwell

Chairman Baggett and Mayor Clark called their respective Boards into session.

Chairman Baggett recognized Marvin Lucas from the NC House of Representatives.

1. Discussion: Sales Tax Distribution

Chairman Baggett reviewed the history of this issue and noted that a mediator has been hired to assist the county and municipalities in working out a formula that will be as fair and equitable as possible to everyone. It is anticipated this issue will be resolved by October 31, 2003.

James Martin, County Manager, reviewed losses sustained by the county and municipalities as a result of annexation by the City of Fayetteville that occurred since June, 1994. The annual loss for Spring Lake exceeds \$111,224.00. Future annexations by the City of Fayetteville from June, 2004 to June, 2010 will amount to an additional \$56,933. These future annexations may take place over a 6 year period or could happen much sooner if Fayetteville decides to do a large annexation at one time.

COMMISSIONER JEANNETTE COUNCIL ARRIVED AT THE MEETING.

Alderman Wall inquired about the loss of sales tax revenues if the ad valorem method is used instead of the population method. No figures were available.

In discussion, it was noted that a 1 cent on the tax rate in Spring Lake equates to about \$22,000.

Alderman Corgan inquired about services that the county would not be required to provide when annexations occur. The Chairman noted that those services would include a reduction in area that the Sheriff's office would have to patrol and perhaps some services provided by the County's Planning and Inspections Department.

2. Discussion: Ambulance Service

Wally Ainsworth, Ambulance Service, noted that Cape Fear Valley Hospital has hired a consultant to help them address the issue of whether or not to privatize the ambulance service. He noted that the hospital currently loses \$2.7 million annually on the ambulance service. The hospital would have to subsidize any private company in the amount of \$2.7 million if the service is privatized.

The Fire Departments are currently discussing whether or not they might like to take over the service. However, the complexity of the task and lack of trained and

certified EMT's, as well as the task of collections may cause them to back away from submitting a proposal.

Alderman James Wall noted the response time in Spring Lake is not good. He suggested that if a private company takes over the service it may be worse.

Commissioner John Henley assured that if the service is privatized, the service will meet or exceed the service currently provided.

Commissioner Blackwell noted that if the decision is made to privatize, the whole operation will be privatized, to include collections.

Commissioner Blackwell noted that the rate of collection of accounts for the private companies is \$.50 on the dollar. Cape Fear Valley is currently collecting \$.26 on the dollar.

At this point no decision has been made either way.

3. Discussion: Merger of Parks and Recreation Departments

The County Manager noted that talks are currently underway regarding this issue. It has been determined that the preferred method of a "Recreation Authority" may not be possible as there is no North Carolina law that allows for this form of governance. Instead, the county and municipalities would have to approve interlocal agreements to accomplish the merger/consolidation.

The County Attorney noted that at this point there are many issues that will have to be resolved to accomplish this task. He will circulate among the municipalities and the county a checklist of issues that will have to be addressed. In the meantime, the committee is looking at steps that can be taken to lead up to merger/consolidation, i.e., co-location of staff and consolidating athletic operations.

The County Attorney said this will not be a process that can be done in a couple of months.

It was noted that Spring Lake has 8 employees in its Recreation Department and a budget of \$260,000.

4. Other matters

Representative Marvin Lucas thanked the two Boards for coming together to discuss in a positive way mutual concerns of the community of Spring Lake and the County.

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to adjourn.

SECOND: Commissioner King

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

A motion was made and duly seconded to adjourn the meeting of the Spring Lake Board of Alderman.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:44PM.

Marsha Fogle, Clerk to the Board

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 7, 2003, 7:45PM
TOWN HALL MEETING IN SPRING LAKE

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Commissioner Kenneth Edge
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Ann Hymes, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Marsha Fogle, Clerk to the Board
County Staff

Chairman Baggett called the Town Hall meeting to order.

There were no speakers.

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to adjourn.
SECOND: Commissioner Edge
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:50PM

Marsha Fogle, Clerk to the Board