

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 29, 2004, 6:30 PM
SPECIAL MEETING
TOWNS OF FALCON, GODWIN & WADE

PRESENT: Chairman Jeannette M. Council
Vice Chairman John T. Henley
Commissioner Talmage Baggett

Commissioner Breeden Blackwell
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner Billy King
Commissioner Ed Melvin
James Martin, County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Marsha Fogle, Clerk to the Board
Ann Hymes, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Mayor Huell Aekins – Town of Wade
Commissioner Ann C. Long – Town of Wade
Commissioner Ray Edwards – Town of Wade
Commissioner John C. Nunnery – Town of Wade
Commissioner Joe Dixon – Town of Wade
Commissioner Norman Tyndall – Town of Wade
Mayor Deborah Tew – Town of Godwin
Commissioner Bobby S. Johnson – Town of Godwin
Commissioner Mack Royal – Town of Godwin
Commissioner Donald McIntyre, Jr. – Town of Godwin
Commissioner Allen Hudson – Town of Falcon
OTHERS: County Staff

The purpose of this Special Meeting is to allow the Boards in Falcon, Godwin and Wade to discuss any governmental concerns with the Board of Commissioners.

Invocation: Commissioner Talmage Baggett

1. Chairman Council called the meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order. Mayor Aekins called the Town of Wade Board to order. Mayor Tew called the Town of Godwin Board to order. A quorum was not present for the Falcon Town Board.

Commissioner Baggett noted one correction to the agenda. Under item 2.F., Dawson Container should be replaced with Warren Container.

2.A. Consideration of Parks & Recreation and its effect on the small municipalities

Karen Brady, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation Department, provided an update on the consolidation of the County and City Parks & Recreation Departments. Five committees are working on the consolidation. They are reviewing the costs, revenues and what the losses may be for the County. There will be no loss of services to the rural areas. Whatever services are provided now, will continue to be provided. Plans are going forward with the Armstrong Recreation Center. Commissioner Edge said that Cumberland County will lose considerable revenue as a result of the upcoming annexation.

2.B. Status of privatizing ambulance services

Wally Ainsworth, Cumberland County Ambulance Service Director, stated that the bid for privatizing county ambulance services was higher than expected. One bid was received and it has been rejected. It is unlikely to be re-bid in the near future. They are in the process of purchasing and replacing several ambulances. During the daytime, an EMS truck is stationed in the Eastover area. Commissioner Baggett noted that the new road connecting I-95 and Ramsey Street will provide a faster way for emergency vehicles to get to this area once it is completed.

2.C. Consolidation of County and City of Fayetteville departments and its effect on the small municipalities

James Martin, County Manager, stated there is discussion about the possibility of a joint Planning Department and the expansion of the Joint Planning Board. Each organization would continue to control its own zoning decisions. Consolidation of the County and City Community Development Departments is also being considered. He does not foresee any negative impact on the municipalities. A question about merging the City and County law enforcement was asked. Mr. Martin indicated that issue has not been addressed. Discussion followed. Mr. Martin said that as a result of the upcoming annexation, he initially proposed the County reduce the Sheriff's budget about \$750,000, or 20 deputy positions. The Sheriff feels that is too much of a cut. Mr. Martin hopes they will be able to compromise. He was then asked if something could be worked out with the law enforcement officers who live in the area. Perhaps they could patrol the area before or after their normal work shifts. Mr. Martin replied that is something they could look into. Mayor Aekins remarked that an office for the officers would be needed. Perhaps when the new fire department is built, an area could be added for law enforcement. Commissioner Henley noted that after the annexation, it is estimated that the Sheriff's office will receive one-third less calls than before. The Sheriff will need to analyze the reassignment of deputies. Commissioner Blackwell suggested the three boards arrange a meeting with the Sheriff and discuss these issues.

2.E. Effect on the rural fire departments special fire tax fund due to annexation

Commissioner Baggett said the purpose of the tax assessment is for the benefit of small fire departments. One-half of one percent is put in a pool and given out to small fire departments. The pool will be getting smaller after annexation. Fire departments have to apply for the funds and the funds are prorated out to them. There was some discussion about consideration being given to fire departments that respond to accidents on the Interstate; and, why can't insurance companies be responsible for poles and other equipment damaged due to auto accidents. Commissioner Blackwell commented that he was not aware that any Cumberland County fire departments covered a portion of Sampson County. He said there should be some discussion with them about it. Mayor Aekins said he is hoping something can be worked out.

2.F. Illegal dumping taking place along Leitha Lane (formerly Dumpster Road) to Warren Container site

Robert Howard, Solid Waste Director, discussed the illegal dumping issue. He said a new compactor box has been placed in Wade. If it doesn't work, he asked that he be called and the box will be replaced. Mayor Aekins asked why Cumberland County can't put a box for mattress drop-off in Wade. He feels that if there was a box available in the area, people would use it. They will not drive to the Fayetteville landfill to dispose of them. Mr. Howard explained that a box will only hold 12 mattresses. Discussion continued to include open burning of trash regulations. The County Attorney will review the ordinances regarding burning trash in Cumberland County. Commissioner Blackwell noted that the whole community will see some very positive changes in the management of Solid Waste. The Commissioners have the utmost confidence in Mr. Howard.

The respective meetings were then adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:45 PM.

Ann Hymes, Deputy Clerk to the Board

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The purpose of this special meeting is to allow the residents in the Falcon, Godwin and Wade areas to discuss any concerns they may have with the Board of Commissioners.

Speakers

1. Donald McLaurin – Mr. McLaurin is a member of the Wade Community Fire Department. He said the fire department operates on \$85,000 per year. Half of the calls are emergency situations to include auto wrecks on I-95. While ambulance workers get paid, firefighters do not. He also noted that they will lose approximately \$16,000 because of the proposed annexation. He pointed out that their insurance payments are approximately \$16,000.
2. Mayor Huell Aekins – Mayor Aekins expressed concern about the Wade Wood area. He said it has become an eyesore and needs to be cleaned up. Commissioner Blackwell suggested a County Inspections Department representative inspect the area and order the owner to clean the area. However, there is no ordinance requiring minimum standards for industrial and commercial property, only for housing. He suggested the Wade Town Board and Denise Sykes, with the Cumberland County Planning and Inspections Department, meet and discuss the problem. Also, that Grainger Barrett, County Attorney, look at ordinances that may be helpful.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:05 PM.

Ann Hymes, Deputy Clerk