

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING WITH THE TOWN BOARDS OF FALCON,
GODWIN AND WADE
JULY 29, 2002, 6:30 PM, DISTRICT 7 SCHOOL**

PRESENT: Chairman, Breeden Blackwell
Vice Chairman Talmage Baggett
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner John T. Henley
Commissioner Billy R. King
Commissioner Lee Warren
Mayor Wayne G. Lucas
Commissioner Nick Randell
Mayor Deborah L. Tew
Commissioner Bobby S. Johnson
Mayor Huell Aekins
Councilman Joe Dixon
Councilman Ray Edwards
Councilperson Grace Heath
Councilperson Ann Long
James Martin, County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Assistant County Manager
Amy H. Cannon, Assistant County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Tonya Harris-Council, Public Information Dir.
Tom Lloyd, Interim Planning Director
Larry Philpott, County Recreation Director
Charles Whittenton, Solid Waste Mgmt. Director
Nena Wilson, Community Development Director
Denise Sykes, Planning Department
Wally Ainsworth, Ambulance Service
Spring Lake Staff
Rhonda R. Britt, Deputy Clerk

ABSENT: Commissioner Jeannette Council

Chairman Blackwell, Mayor Lucas, Mayor Aekins and Mayor Tew called their respective boards to order.

1. Discuss Matters of Mutual Interest.

Mayors Aekins, Tew and Lucas each thanked the Board of Commissioners and County Staff for the work done on the sanitary sewer project. The boards are appreciative of the cooperation shown and for the positive ways the governing bodies have worked together on this project.

Councilman Dixon noted the continued need for a freestanding library in the area.

Chairman Blackwell stated that library funds had been cut over the past few years. Hours and services at all branches have been cut. He suggested that someone from the area appear before the Library Board of Trustees to make a request for these services.

Commissioner Warren noted the problem with building a free-standing library in the Godwin Area is the lack of funding. The County has cut services at existing facilities and this hasn't been a good time to expand services.

Councilman Ray Edwards noted the need for an annex for the Sheriff's Office and a rescue squad in the area. The response time for medical emergencies is not good. He asked if property could be purchased in the Wade, Godwin and Falcon areas in order to place a station where these services could be provided.

Mr. Blackwell noted Mr. Wally Ainsworth with the Ambulance Service was in attendance and could comment on the current situation of the Ambulance Service.

Mr. Ainsworth advised the service has added more staff to the Emergency Transport and EMS Divisions to improve response time. They are hopeful that response time will improve with the changes that have been made. They now have more ambulances available at peak times. He noted the Wade Fire Department is now on-line with a

defibrillator machine. He noted fire departments play a key role in assisting with emergency calls.

Mayor Lucas asked if the defibrillators could be placed in areas such as schools, auditoriums and businesses.

Mr. Ainsworth noted his concern about placing defibrillators in schools. He stated there are grants available to fire departments to get this type of training. The hospital would be glad to work with them. Trained personnel are needed to run these machines as well as perform CPR.

Councilman Edwards noted that traffic was also causing a problem in response time for emergency vehicles. That is why an annex is so important.

Mr. Ainsworth advised this situation further emphasized the need for local fire department involvement as they advise emergency personnel of alternate routes to emergency scenes. The completion of Highway 13 will also help to improve response time.

Sheriff Butler addressed the issue of satellite stations. He advised that space for the station in Eureka Springs was provided by a citizen at no cost to the County. Stedman also provides a space. If the citizens in this area could provide a space he could have officers in and out of the facility most of the time.

Mayor Aekins noted the conditions at a Nursing Home in the area. He asked who he would contact concerning the inspection of the facility.

Commissioner Baggett advised the Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee inspects these facilities and he would suggest contacting the agency that oversees this board. He noted Commissioner Long serves on the Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Baggett stated there will be big changes coming to this area once the DOT project is completed. He is not sure they are prepared for these changes. He asked the town boards to be cautious. Development needs to happen slowly and methodically. He asked each of the town board members to contact the Commissioners with any concern they may have over a development issue. Planning will be the key to good development of this area.

Councilman Dixon noted the need for a traffic light at the intersection in Wade that comes from I-95. Because of the road construction on I-95, this area has become heavily congested. He asked if there was anything the Commissioners could do.

Chairman Blackwell suggested that the Wade Town Board write a letter to the DOT Division Engineer requesting that DOT review this matter. The board could also pass a resolution concerning this matter and forward it to the Division Engineer. He advised Mack Campbell is the DOT representative for this area. If the town boards will take action, it would facilitate the issue. It was also suggested that the concern be addressed to Ray Golf, the District Engineer.

Commissioner Henley reiterated the need for good planning as this area grows. He noted the issues with Newport Generation had been resolved. The progress of this project will help to speed up the NORCRESS project. The towns also need to look at what they want to develop around the towns. They need to make sure development fits in with the communities in the area. He also noted that having defibrillators at various locations will not be beneficial if there aren't people at the locations who know how to use the machines. It is more advantageous to have these machines at fire departments.

Mayor Tew asked if there were grants available to help train people to use defibrillators.

Commissioner Henley suggested the fire departments or towns make a request to the Cumberland Community Foundation or the Rogers Trust. He feels this would be the sort of project that these agencies would want to fund.

No other matters were raised.

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING: TOWN HALL MEETING FOR RESIDENTS
OF FALCON, GODWIN AND WADE
JULY 29, 2002, 7:30 PM, DISTRICT 7 SCHOOL**

PRESENT: Chairman, Breeden Blackwell
Vice Chairman Talmage Baggett
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner John T. Henley
Commissioner Billy R. King
Commissioner Lee Warren
James Martin, County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Assistant County Manager
Amy H. Cannon, Assistant County Manager
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Larry Philpott, County Recreation Director
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Nena Wilson, Community Development Director
Denise Sykes, Planning Department
Wally Ainsworth, Ambulance Service
Rhonda R. Britt, Deputy Clerk

ABSENT: Commissioner Jeannette Council

Chairman Blackwell called the public hearing to order. He asked that each speaker identify himself or herself when coming to the podium to address the board.

SPEAKERS:

1. Mary Emily Royal: Welcomed everyone on behalf of the Board of Education to District 7 School.
2. Marjorie Daniels: She asked if there were any plans by the Department of Transportation to install a traffic light at the intersection of Hwy 87 and Hwy 301.

Chairman Blackwell advised this matter had been discussed during the joint meeting with the town boards and suggested that they draft a letter to DOT officials and area DOT representatives.

3. Frank Daniels: He asked the Commissioners to address the major concerns that citizens should be aware of to assist them in better interfacing with the Board of Commissioners and what citizens could do to contribute to the greater good of the County.

Chairman Blackwell noted the following items: 1) the withholding of reimbursements by the state has put the County in a financial crunch, 2) planning for the future of the area (zoning and rezoning), 3) he noted the changes being made to improve the services provided by the County's Animal Control Department and 4) he noted the County is currently involved in four (4) major water and sewer projects.

Commissioner Henley noted the need for good planning. This will help lower the tax base and provide funds for much needed services.

Commissioner Warren advised the concentration of development at the I-95 and I-40 corridor will provide a great opportunity for the County.

Commissioner Edge stated that any time a County grows; the need is created for more services. These services cost money. Services can only be funded adequately by growing the tax base. People need to be sent to Raleigh who want to do more for this area. Annexation by the City of Fayetteville has had a tremendous impact on the County's revenue. He noted the recent cuts by the County have left staffing very thin. They need people in office in Raleigh who are concerned with Cumberland County.

Commissioner King stated there needs to be concern about economic development. Good jobs and good industry are needed. This will take the tax burden off the citizens.

A first class community and having all the good things we want costs money. A lot of "catch up" has been done in the past. Government services are not cheap. A lot of requests have been made during these meetings. These requests cannot be filled by making cuts. Government must also be prudent in its spending.

Mr. Martin then gave an update on the additional one-half cent sales tax issue. He noted the County made major cuts last year and for several years prior to that. County government is now operating at 1997 budget levels and some are lower than that. The County's budget that was adopted included the \$5.2 million in reimbursements from the state. If the sales tax is approved, it would replace \$2.7 million of those funds. The County would need to make up the rest of the shortfall. That may be done by taking the difference from the County's fund balance. The additional sales tax is critical to the County.

Chairman Blackwell noted citizens can assist their government by participating in these types of meetings and by voting. Citizens can also watch the Commissioners meetings on Cable TV to stay informed. Citizens should stay active and hold the Board of Commissioners accountable for what they do.

Commissioner Baggett also suggested that citizens may assist the County by serving on appointed boards and committees.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Deputy Clerk