

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING WITH THE SPRING LAKE TOWN BOARD
MAY 30, 2002, 6:30 PM
SPRING LAKE TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: Chairman, Breeden Blackwell
Vice Chairman Talmage Baggett
Commissioner Jeannette Council
Commissioner John T. Henley
Commissioner Billy R. King
Mayor Ethel T. Clark
Alderman Richard P. Higgins
Alderman Napoleon Hogans
Alderman James P. O'Garra
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
Tom Lloyd, Interim Planning Director
Larry Philpott, County Recreation Director
Charles Whittenton, Solid Waste Mgmt. Director
Spring Lake Staff
Rhonda R. Britt, Deputy Clerk

ABSENT: Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner Lee Warren

INVOCATION: Alderman James E. Wall

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

1. Discussion of Ambulance Service.

Alderman Wall noted the proposal from Cumberland County EMS that an ambulance be placed in the town with the salary of the driver to be paid by the town. He believes the County should pay for the driver as this is a function of the County. The citizens in Spring Lake should be provided the same services as other citizens in the County.

Chairman Blackwell noted that the communities of Wade, Godwin, Falcon and Stedman do not have an ambulance located in the area. He noted the ambulance service lost \$5 million last year.

Mr. Scott Blecke with Cumberland County EMS noted CCEMS received over 32,000 calls in 2001 and will exceed that number this year. He noted the placement of additional ambulances in the County has been an ongoing struggle due to fixed resources. He advised a Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) is currently at the fire department in Spring Lake. This joint venture was proposed as part of an ongoing effort to improve the time of transport to the hospital. An ambulance must be staffed by two people. The QRV has one person that is paid for by CCEMS. The joint venture would have the Town pay for the second person. This joint venture is the first one proposed in the County. He noted the results of a study done in 2001 which identified peak load coverage and staffing as well as joint ventures that would improve service.

Alderman Wall noted that Cape Fear Valley Hospital made money last year and he feels the County should provide this service.

Commissioner King asked for the cost of the additional person.

Mr. Davis, Town Manager advised the cost to staff the ambulance full time would be \$52,598.

Commissioner Baggett again noted the amount of funds lost by CCEMS last year and advised the hospital and Commissioners are sensitive to the needs in the Spring Lake area.

Alderman Higgins asked if the ambulance would only cover the Spring Lake area.

Mr. Blecke stated it would cover the Spring Lake area. However, if there was a disaster, it would be sent to the disaster area. He noted the area would cover the Manchester area, but would not be used for routine transfers or out-of-town transports.

Mayor Clark stated the Town's position is that they are taxpaying citizens and that these services are paid for in other areas. Spring Lake can house the ambulance and provide some staffing.

Chairman Blackwell again noted that every municipality does not have an ambulance in the area.

Commissioner Henley noted the Commissioners sit on a 20-member hospital board, so they do not have direct control over the hospital or EMS. He then asked questions about the number of QRV's and the recent study of response times, calls and the location of ambulances and QRV's in the County.

Commissioner King stated he is willing to look at some relief with the costs for the Town. He does not believe the issue can be resolved at this meeting. He would like to continue the discussion in another setting and help with some funding if possible.

MOTION: Commissioner Henley offered a motion that the County submit a request to the Cape Fear Valley Health System Board of Trustees to determine if funds can be made available for an ambulance in Spring Lake.

SECOND: Commissioner King

DISCUSSION: Chairman Blackwell noted the County will also have to deal with other areas of the County currently without this service.

Mr. Martin stated there is a study being done at the State Office of EMS requesting that all 100 counties prepare an EMS plan. The hospital has taken the lead to prepare that plan. He wanted to make sure Spring Lake was aware of the study and involved.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Commissioner Henley then asked what percentage of transports by ambulance in this area that goes to Womack Army Hospital.

Mr. Blecke advised that approximately 50% of transports go to Womack.

Commissioner Henley asked that Mr. Blecke forward the information to the Spring Lake Town Board on the number of calls received in Spring Lake last year and how many of the transports went to Womack Army Hospital.

2. Discussion of Sales Tax.

Mr. Davis stated he would like the Commissioners to inform the Town Board where the County is with regard to the distribution formula for sales tax.

Chairman Blackwell stated no formal decision has been made. The Board has agreed to wait until next year to make a decision on the matter.

Mr. Martin stated he was not in a position to say what he may have to recommend to the Commissioners next year until he sees what impact the state budget will have on the County.

Commissioner King also noted the Board had discussed the matter but does not have a firm position. The state budget will have a major impact.

Chairman Blackwell noted any discussion will involve the municipalities.

Mr. Martin noted this issue was referred to the Comprehensive Planning Committee so that all parties will be involved in the discussion.

Chairman Blackwell noted the problems in trying to schedule a meeting of the Comprehensive Planning Committee and encouraged everyone to work to make themselves available to meet.

Alderman Higgins stated a decision to change the distribution would have a negative impact on the relationships between the governing bodies.

Commissioner Henley noted this issue came up because the County is not growing and annexation is negatively impacting the County. He noted that even if the method of distribution is changed it could be done in a way that would not leave a severe void in the budgets of affected municipalities. He noted the need to look at cooperation on many issues. If the change is done, it will be done with great sensitivity to budgets.

Commissioner Council asked the Spring Lake Board to encourage its citizens to apply for appointment to county boards and commissions and noted applications could be completed on-line at the County's web site or citizens could contact the Commissioners office for information and applications.

3. Other Matters of Mutual Interest.

No other matters were raised.

Deputy Clerk

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING: TOWN HALL MEETING FOR
RESIDENTS IN THE TOWN OF SPRING LAKE
MAY 30, 2002, 7:30 PM
SPRING LAKE TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: Chairman, Breeden Blackwell
Vice Chairman Talmage Baggett
Commissioner Jeannette Council
Commissioner John T. Henley
Commissioner Billy R. King
James Martin, County Manager
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ABSENT: Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner Lee Warren

Chairman Blackwell 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. Peggy Moore: She noted the ambulance service has always been very good in Spring Lake and appreciated the service from them as well as from the Fire Department and Police Department. She stated an old metal building is in her neighborhood and the County Inspections Office has inspected it. She would like to know the status of this building. She advised there are other properties in her neighborhood with lots of trash in the yards. She also noted an abandoned trailer park in the area and asked what could be done about it.

Chairman Blackwell noted that she could give all the pertinent information to the Interim Planning Director and that he would look into any areas that are located outside the town limits of Spring Lake. He noted the County has no jurisdiction within the Town.

2. Margot Baker: She noted that she has the same problems in her neighborhood and there are dilapidated trailers in the area. She advised where the properties were located.

Mr. Davis advised the areas noted by Ms. Baker are in Spring Lake and asked that Ms. Baker give the information to the Deputy Clerk and the appropriate staff would be contacted and would investigate the situations and contact her.

Chairman Blackwell thanked the Spring Lake Town Board for hosting the joint meeting and the citizens attending the public hearing.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Deputy Clerk