

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING WITH THE LINDEN TOWN BOARD
OCTOBER 29, 2002, 6:30 PM, LINDEN TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: Chairman Breeden Blackwell
Vice Chairman, Talmage Baggett
Commissioner Jeannette Council
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner John T. Henley
Commissioner J. Lee Warren, Jr.
Mayor Leo Kelly
Mayor Pro Tem Barbara C. Denning
Commissioner Frances B. Collier
Commissioner Ronnie Manass
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Assistant County Manager
Amy H. Cannon, Assistant County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Larry Philpott, County Recreation Director
Bob Stanger, County Engineer
Denise Sykes, Planning Department
Charles Whittenton, Solid Waste Mgmt. Dir.
Thanena Wilson, Community Development Dir.
Sue Giles, Town Clerk
Rhonda R. Britt, Deputy Clerk

ABSENT: Commissioner Billy R. King

Chairman Warren and Mayor Kelly called their respective boards to order.

Invocation

Vice Chairman Tal Baggett delivered the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Discussion of Police Protection.

Mayor Kelly stated things were going well in Linden. There were no issues he felt compelled to bring to the Board of Commissioners. The water project is moving forward. He has no complaints about the police protection provided to the area.

Commissioner Manass stated he did not have any specific problems with the Sheriff's Office. He has some concerns with the response time for calls. If there are patrol cars already in the area, then the response time is much faster. He noted he would like to see more patrol cars in the area of Collier Chapel Church Road and Slocomb Road.

Mayor Kelly stated he has always found the response times for the Sheriff's Office to be reasonable.

Commissioner Warren noted 661 square miles is a lot of area to cover.

Vice Chairman Baggett stated he thinks Sheriff Butler does a good job with the limited resources he has. The Linden area is poised for growth. The growth of Fayetteville and the development of a water system will increase the growth in this area. Good planning is essential.

Mayor Kelly noted the board is aware that changes are coming and will deal with them when they come.

Commissioner Edge noted that Community Watch programs are valuable tools to deter crime and encouraged the Town Board to develop such programs or increase the number of programs in the area.

Commissioner Council noted the North Fayetteville Area plan which indicated where the growth may be located around Linden.

Vice Chairman Baggett stated that annexation by the City of Fayetteville has sent a call to other municipalities to plan their areas for future expansion.

Mayor Kelly noted the Town Board is looking into future areas for expansion by the Town.

2. Discussion of Water and Sewer District.

Mr. Stanger, County Engineer noted that it was agreed to begin the initial process to develop a water and sewer district for Linden as called for in the Rural Water Study. He has been working with the town engineer to develop the boundaries of the district. At its November 4th meeting, the County Commissioners will be asked to adopt the preliminary boundaries and a date for a public hearing. He noted the district lines will be in line with the precinct lines and voting district lines.

Grainger Barrett, County Attorney stated that the Town's engineer will need to address the issue of whether the Linden board wants the municipal limits of Linden to be included in the district. He noted the public hearing will be set for December 16, 2002. The Board of Commissioners may form the district after the public hearing. He noted informational meetings will be conducted in the community to answer questions citizens may have. These meetings will take place after the district is formed.

Vice Chairman Baggett commended the Town and Harnett County for working together on this project. He noted the importance of having a regional approach to the development of these rural water systems so that they could be connected at some point in the future.

3. Discussion of Other Matters of Mutual Interest.

Chairman Blackwell noted the improvements and changes made at the Animal Control Department. He noted the department is working for better customer service as well as relations. He is hopeful that the County will be able to provide more staffing for this department in the future.

Mayor Pro Tem Denning noted the service from Animal Control was much improved.

Mr. H. J. Marziano, project engineer for the Linden water and sewer project introduced his Office Manager Ms. Poole. He noted he had worked in Harnett County on its water projects. Linden had conversations with Harnett County and wanted to form a water and sewer district. This is the best way to have services. The biggest decision now is for Linden to decide if it wants to be part of the district or exerted out. The next phase is the public hearings. He noted funding from the USDA will be requested. If USDA funding is used, a bond referendum will have to be held. A public relations campaign will be needed to encourage people to vote. He noted a bond referendum could not be held until the fall of 2003. USDA funding would not be available until the next fiscal year.

Vice Chairman Baggett noted funds were available in the County's Water and Sewer fund if "seed money" was needed.

Mr. Marziano noted the Town of Linden would be paying for the "PR" now.

Commissioner Collier thanked the Commissioners for coming to the meeting.

Thanena Wilson, Community Development Director advised that Cumberland County will be re-designated as an Urban Entitlement County. Her office did not have an interlocal agreement with the Town of Linden in 1995 when the County first received designation. As an Urban Entitlement County, the county will receive money for low and moderate income people for home improvements, first time homeowners, etc. She asked that she and her staff be allowed to make a presentation to the Linden Town Board at one of its meetings to give information on the programs offered by Community development and how these programs could help the Town of Linden. She advised an invitation letter will be forwarded to the Town inviting it to be a participant in the interlocal agreement. She would like to meet with the Board before March, 2003.

Mayor Kelly noted the town had received a block grant in the past and all of the homes were repaired at that time.

Ms. Wilson advised the funds could also be used for public facilities to include the town's community building.

No other issues were raised.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Deputy Clerk

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING: TOWN HALL MEETING FOR
RESIDENTS IN THE TOWN OF LINDEN
OCTOBER 29, 2002, 7:30 PM
LINDEN COMMUNITY BUILDING**

PRESENT: Chairman Breeden Blackwell
Vice Chairman, Talmage Baggett
Commissioner Jeannette Council
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner John T. Henley
Commissioner J. Lee Warren, Jr.
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Assistant County Manager
Amy H. Cannon, Assistant Co. Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Larry Philpott, Co. Recreation Director
Denise Sykes, Planning Department
Charles Whittenton,
Solid Waste Management Director
Thanena Wilson, Community Dev. Dir.
Rhonda R. Britt, Deputy Clerk

ABSENT: Commissioner Billy R. King

Chairman Blackwell called the public hearing to order. He noted the purpose of the public hearing was for the Board of Commissioners to receive comment from citizens in the town of Linden about any issue or concern they wished to bring to the attention of the Board. He asked that all speakers stated their name and give their address.

Speakers:

1. Terry Samperton – Address: 9525 Big Bay Road, Linden. There is a flea market and auction located next to his subdivision off of Hwy. 401. He advised there have been several near misses on this portion of the highway. Large trucks have overturned in this area and people are afraid to stop and turn due to the high rate of speed on this road. He suggested that a turn lane be put at this location. Someone is going to be hurt or killed if something isn't done.

Commissioner Warren stated he had been to the area about one year ago with the Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Lyndo Tippett. He stated that a lower speed limit was discussed. Mr. Tippett is working with the Department of Transportation engineer to help alleviate the problem.

Chairman Blackwell stated he will draft a letter to the DOT Division Engineer asking for assistance and will forward Mr. Samperton a copy.

Commissioner Edge advised Mr. Samperton that he may want to send a letter to Mr. Ray Goff with the local DOT office. The County does not have any control over roads or traffic situations. Mr. Samperton and some of his neighbors need to meet with DOT representatives. He feels this will help to move the process along.

2. Bill Tew – He had not planned to speak but wanted to reiterate Mr. Samperton's concern about this portion of Hwy. 401. It is a serious situation and asked that Commissioner Warren help to put pressure where it is needed to get some action in this matter.
3. Flora Dunham – Address: 9481 Giles Road, Linden. She is concerned about the rezoning of property near Giles Road. The petitioner is asking to have the property zoned industrial. The Planning Board has denied the request and the Commissioners have heard the case and asked that it go back to the Planning Board. She wanted to know the status of this rezoning request.

Vice Chairman Baggett stated the Commissioners asked the petitioner to offer a plan for a conditional use overlay.

Mr. Barrett noted a conditional use overlay is a quasi-judicial matter and there are, by NC Law, certain limitations on the discussion of this case by the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners is restricted from discussing this case outside of a formal zoning hearing.

Ms. Dunham asked if citizens will get information so that they can be better informed.

Chairman Blackwell asked Ms. Sykes to advise Ms. Dunham when this case will be heard again.

4. Calvin Connely – He has lived in Linden off and on since 1954. He is concerned about the implementation of a public sewer system in the area. There is a need for it.

Vice Chairman Baggett noted the development of a water and sewer district by the Town that was currently under way. He noted public water will be the first issue dealt with. Sewer systems are much more complicated than water systems. He feels public sewer will be available to the area within 8-12 years. Public water will be available in 3-5 years. He noted the availability of public water in an area makes it easier for septic tanks to operate because there is no concern with the distance between a septic tank and well. More drainage lines can be used for septic tanks in such instances.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Deputy Clerk