

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
AND  
FALCON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JOINT MEETING  
March 31, 2008, 7:00PM  
Falcon Town Hall

PRESENT: Chairman Breeden Blackwell  
Vice Chairman Jeannette Council  
Commissioner Kenneth Edge  
Commissioner John T. Henley, Jr.  
Commissioner Billy R. King  
Commissioner Ed Melvin  
Commissioner Diane Wheatley  
Mayor Clifton L. Turpin Jr.  
Commissioner Wiley Clark  
Commissioner John Gipson  
Commissioner Jerry Lucas  
Commissioner Nicholas Randall  
Belinda White, Falcon Town Clerk  
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney  
James Martin, County Manager  
Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager  
Sheriff Earl Butler  
Paul Hinson, Chief Deputy  
Tom Lloyd, Director, Planning/Inspections Department  
Tom Cooney, Public Utilities Director  
Kenny Currie, Director, Emergency Services  
Wally Ainsworth, Director, Ambulance Service  
Sara VanderClute, County PIO  
Marie Colgan, Deputy County Clerk  
Marsha Fogle, Clerk

The Mayor and Chairman of the Board called their meetings to order. The Invocation was provided by Commissioner Wiley T. Clark.

The Town of Falcon approved the agenda.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

- (1) NORCRESS - Mayor Turpin and other members of the Falcon Town Council shared some concerns about issues they felt needed to be corrected as a result of the NORCRESS project. Discussion ensued about the contractor for the project. The County Attorney noted that while the County can sue, the chances of receiving anything are slim because the company is essentially

bankrupt. No specific examples were mentioned regarding what needs to be corrected. Mr. Cooney said he believed all of the issues/concerns previously presented have been addressed. However, the Town will share with Mr. Tom Cooney other specific concerns in the next two weeks and Mr. Cooney will respond as appropriate. The cost of addressing any issues will come from the NORCRESS fund or the County's General Fund.

- (2) Highway 82 East Road Project – The Town of Falcon has had ongoing correspondence with NC Department of Transportation requesting improvements on Highway 82 to include the realignment of the road at the Golden Years Nursing Home since 1999. However, nothing has really been accomplished. The Town has asked NC DOT to replace a crossline under NC 82 at the Park. Mr. Tom Lloyd, County Planning/Inspections Director stated he had contacted NC DOT regarding the Hwy. 82 concerns which date back to the late 90's. NC DOT indicated, via e-mail, that funding is not available for replacement of the crossline. In addressing the realignment, the Department of Transportation indicated it would need some additional information from the Town regarding whether or not the realigned section should be three lanes to provide for a turning lane into the Nursing Home, but also advised there was currently no funding for a project.. Mr. Tom Lloyd will set up a meeting between NC DOT and the Town of Falcon to allow for discussion concerning all of the issues.
- (3) Police Protection – The Town of Falcon asked about the possibility of the Sheriff's office providing some part-time deputies in the Town. The Town would pay services according to affordability. The Sheriff indicated he would be happy to work with the town along these lines. He noted he has worked with the Town of Stedman to provide part-time deputies for it. In addition, the Town noted it will be building a new fire department and suggested that it could provide a satellite office for the Sheriff. The Town will need to know some particulars about what the Sheriff would need in a satellite office. The Sheriff will provide information.
- (4) EMS – First Responders and Ambulances – Mr. Wayne Lucas, Fire Chief, Godwin-Falcon Fire Department noted some instances in which the Town was not getting good response time from the ambulance service. Mr. Wally Ainsworth noted that response time is indeed not very good because of a limited number of ambulances available and because of distance an ambulance has to travel to get to Falcon. He indicated he would be meeting with the new CEO at Cape Fear Valley Health System regarding the needs of the ambulance service. He also noted that the calls are prioritized according to the severity of the problem. Mr. Lucas also noted that sometimes his firefighters, who are also EMT's and first responders, have to ride in the ambulance to the hospital, which takes that person out of service for a period of time in Falcon. He noted he then has to send someone from Falcon to the hospital to pick up the EMT, which actually takes two people away from

Falcon. Mr. Lucas said that 1/3 to 1/2 of the calls received by the Fire Department have nothing to do with fires. Following some discussion, regarding the lack of revenues for some of the smaller fire departments, the Board urged Mr. Lucas to urge the Fire Chief's Association to bring back to the Board of Commissioners some recommendations on how to provide an acceptable level of service to all of our citizens. The consensus was that this is an issue that has been talked about for years and it is now time for the Fire Chief's Association to make some recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

- (5) Quarter Cent Sales Tax – Chairman Breeden Blackwell reviewed the history of why the County is requesting a quarter cent sales tax referendum in May. He noted that because of the trade off with the State to provide Medicaid, the county lost some of its sales tax. It needs an additional quarter cent to address its top three priorities – new health department building, new library and new schools. Chairman Blackwell noted that the sales tax would bring in about \$8 million over a year's period of time. If the sales tax passes, the Board of Commissioners is committed to reducing the property tax by 2 cents. The Chairman urged the Falcon Town Board to adopt a Resolution supporting the sales tax.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:45PM