

Approved: 2/7/2011

Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of the
Union County Board of Commissioners of
Tuesday, January 4, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

The Union County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room, first floor, Union County Government Center, 500 North Main Street, Monroe, North Carolina. The following were

PRESENT: Chairman Jerry B. Simpson, Vice Chairman Todd Johnson, Commissioner Tracy Kuehler, Commissioner Kim Rogers, and Commissioner Jonathan Thomas

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Cynthia A. Coto, County Manager; Wes Baker, Interim Assistant Manager; Lynn G. West, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners; Jeff Crook, Senior Staff Attorney; H. Ligon Bundy, County Attorney; David Cannon, Finance Director; members of the press, and interested citizens

OPENING OF MEETING:

a. ***Invocation***

Dr. Steve Jirgal, Pastor of Lakeview Baptist Church, offered the invocation.

b. ***Pledge of Allegiance***

Chairman Simpson led the body in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

c. *Presentation of Plaque*

Chairman Simpson presented Commissioner Rogers with an engraved plaque and gavel thanking her for her dedicated and faithful service while serving as the Chairwoman of the Board of Commissioners from December 14, 2009, to December 6, 2010.

Commissioner Rogers recognized her daughter, Brittany Rogers, who was a member of the audience. Commissioner Rogers expressed her appreciation to Commissioner Kuehler and former Commissioner Lanny Openshaw for having given her the opportunity to serve as Chair. She also thanked all who had supported her and for all the kind words that she had received. She said that she hoped to always be able to maintain her professionalism. She asked her supporters to give Chairman Simpson a chance and to also support him.

INFORMAL COMMENTS:

Chairman Simpson stated that two persons had registered to speak tonight during the Informal Comments. He reminded everyone about the guidelines to be followed.

Butch Plyler, who resides at 5817 Weddington-Monroe Road, in Wesley Chapel, North Carolina, wished everyone a Happy New Year. He expressed appreciation to the Board for its action of December 20, 2010, regarding Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department. He gave background regarding the property where the new fire department is to be constructed. He said that the fire department had bought two lots which allowed it to sewer taps totaling 760 gallons per day. He stated that at the closing on the property it was found that the properties had been transferred into one property with only one tap. He said that the citizens of Wesley Chapel appreciate the Board's approval of the request, and hopefully the department will be occupying the new building by this time next year.

Todd Elmore, who resides at 320 Billy Howey Road, said that he is a neighbor of the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department. He expressed appreciation to the Board for its approval of the fire department's sewer allocation. Mr. Elmore said that as a neighbor of the fire department, it is a welcome sight to see construction beginning on the fire department. He also expressed appreciation to Butch Plyler and Chief John Rogers of

Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department for their diligence in pursuing the department's request for the sewer allocation.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Rogers asked to move Consent Agenda Item #1 – Entrance Fees and Minor Fee Revisions at County-Owned Parks and Consent Agenda #6 –Community Benefit Organizations to the Regular Agenda.

Commissioner Kuehler requested that Consent Agenda Item #6 – Community Benefit Organizations be moved to the Regular Agenda, but after realizing that this had been requested by Commissioner Rogers, withdrew her request.

Chairman Simpson stated that there were requests for the following additions:

1. Addition to Consent Agenda as Item 10 - **Schools' 2010 Facility Needs Survey**
2. Addition to Regular Agenda - **Appointment of Voting Delegate for North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' Legislative Goals Conference – January 20-21, 2011**

He stated that there was a request from staff to reflect a revision in the Action Requested for Item 5 – Jesse Helms Park Bridge. The Chairman said that a presentation is scheduled regarding this item, but staff has recommended tabling any action until a future meeting.

Vice Chairman Johnson requested to add an item to the agenda for clarification purposes. He said that at the December 20, 2010, meeting, the Board asked the Manager and staff to look at rewriting the Land Use Ordinance. He stated that he thought there might be some confusion between the Land Use Ordinance and the Land Use Plan, and he would like for either the Manager or staff to address this matter to clarify the action of the Board from the December 20th meeting.

Chairman Simpson asked Jeff Crook, Senior Staff Attorney, if a motion would be necessary to add the items requested. Mr. Crook responded that it did not appear that any of the requested additions were controversial in nature, and he did not believe it was necessary to vote individually on each requested item. He said that the Board

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Explanation: Appropriate additional federal funds for the DSS, Crisis Intervention LIHEAP (low income home energy assistance program)

DATE _____

APPROVED BY _____

Bd of Comm/County Manager
Lynn West/Clerk to the Board

FOR POSTING PURPOSES ONLY

DEBIT

CREDIT

| <u>Code</u> | <u>Account</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Code</u> | <u>Account</u> | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| <u>10553160-5399-1509</u> | <u>Public Assistance</u> | <u>21,534</u> | <u>10453160-4340-1509</u> | <u>Federal Funding</u> | <u>21,534</u> |
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Total 21,534

Total 21,534

Prepared By JLL

Posted By _____

Date _____

Number 14

3. **Tax Administrator:** a) Approved the Seventh Motor Vehicle Billing in the amount of \$1,096,692.79; b) Approved the Departmental Monthly Report for November 2010

4. **Budget Amendment #11 to Appropriate Additional Federal and State Funding – Health Department:** Adopted Budget Amendment #11 to appropriate additional Federal and State Funding in the amount of \$135,722.

BUDGET AMENDMENT

BUDGET Public Health REQUESTED BY Phillip Tarte

FISCAL YEAR FY2011 DATE January 04, 2010

INCREASE

DECREASE

Description

Description

Operating Expenses 135,722 _____

Federal Revenue 12,115 _____

State Revenue 123,607 _____

Explanation: Appropriate additional federal and state revenues for Health Department

DATE _____

APPROVED BY _____

FOR POSTING PURPOSES ONLY

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| <u>10551150-5260-1392</u> | <u>Printing & Office Supplies</u> | <u>607</u> | <u>10451154-4413-1392</u> | <u>Environmental Health - State</u> | <u>607</u> |
| <u>10551150-5239-1323</u> | <u>Medical Supplies</u> | <u>5,412</u> | <u>10451150-4413-1323</u> | <u>Breast & Cervical Cancer - State</u> | <u>5,412</u> |
| <u>10551150-5239-1324</u> | <u>Medical Supplies</u> | <u>12,115</u> | <u>10451150-4344-1324</u> | <u>Family Planning - Federal</u> | <u>12,115</u> |
| <u>10551101-5381-1300</u> | <u>Professional Services</u> | <u>117,588</u> | <u>10451101-4411-1300</u> | <u>Health Administration - State</u> | <u>117,588</u> |
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| Total | <u>135,722</u> | Total | <u>135,722</u> |
| Prepared By | <u>bl</u> | | |
| Posted By | <u> </u> | | |
| Date | <u> </u> | Number | <u>11</u> |

5. ***Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department:*** Adopted Budget Amendment #16 to adjust the appropriation on funding for Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department utility connection fees based on new information received from the Public Works Department. The cost has been reduced from \$30,632 to \$17,125.

BUDGET AMENDMENT

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|-------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| BUDGET | <u>Fire Services</u> | REQUESTED BY | <u>David Cannon</u> |
| FISCAL YEAR | <u>FY2011</u> | DATE | <u>January 04, 2011</u> |

| <u>INCREASE</u> | | <u>DECREASE</u> | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| <u>Description</u> | | <u>Description</u> | |
| <u>Contingency</u> | <u>13,507</u> | <u>Operating Expense</u> | <u>13,507</u> |

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Explanation: Adjust appropriation on funding for Wesley Chapel VFD utility connection fees(BA 15) based on new information received from the Public Works Dept. Cost has been reduced from \$30,632 to \$17,125.

DATE _____

APPROVED BY _____
 Bd of Comm/County Manager
 Lynn West/Clerk to the Board

FOR POSTING PURPOSES ONLY

| <u>DEBIT</u> | | | <u>CREDIT</u> | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| <u>Code</u> | <u>Account</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Code</u> | <u>Account</u> | |
| 10592000-5920 | Contingency | 13,507 | 10543400-5299 | Miscellaneous- Land & Improvements | 13,507 |
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7. ***Clarification of Appointment Term on Historic Preservation Commission:*** Appointed Crystal Crump to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term ending February 2015
8. ***Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee*** – Change School Representative Position from a Non-Voting Member to a voting member: Approved changing school board representative on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board from a non-voting member to a voting member.
9. ***Library Strategic Plan Steering Committee (Ratification of Appointments of Waxhaw and Weddington Representatives):*** Ratified appointments by the Towns of Waxhaw and Weddington as follows:
 - 1) Town of Waxhaw – Delegate: Commissioner Erin Kirkpatrick and Alternate: Commissioner Brett Diller
 - 2) Town of Weddington – Delegate: Mayor Nancy Anderson and Alternate: Council Member Werner Thomisser
10. ***Schools’ 2010 Facility Needs Survey:*** Authorized the Chairman and County Manager to certify that the Board of Commissioners has received and reviewed a copy of the UCPS Facility Needs Survey dated December 22, 2010, with the understanding that such certification does not constitute endorsement of or commitment to fund the Facility Needs Survey.

OLD BUSINESS:

JESSE HELMS PARK BRIDGE (from December 20, 2010, AGENDA):

Cynthia Coto, County Manager, reminded that the Board had discussed this item during the December 20, 2010, meeting and the Board’s direction at that time was for staff to work with the State regarding an extension as it related to the passive park area of Jesse Helms Park. Mrs. Coto stated that staff contacted the State and has received word this morning that at this time, the State does not desire a meeting with staff but would prefer that the County place its request in writing, and the request would be considered as it relates to the project’s status, etc. She said that in light of this information, staff will continue to work with the State regarding an overall extension to the passive park, which the bridge was intended to address. She stated that this item had been placed on tonight’s agenda for an update to the Board regarding the status of

discussions with the State as well as consideration of the work order. Mrs. Coto said that staff has requested that Myron George, President of CM&E, make a presentation to the Board as it relates to the project's status, provide some historical perspective, as well as to update the Board on the fix for the bridge, and describe what the work order would contemplate associated with the fix as it relates to the observation of that work and materials testing. She noted that staff has amended the recommended action for tonight's item to recommend that the Board not take action tonight and to accept the presentation from Mr. George, and this item will be presented to the Board at a future date. She introduced Mr. George for his presentation.

Mr. George said that he would cover three things in his presentation: 1) a brief history of the project; 2) review CM&E's role in the project; and 3) review the proposed remedial measures contemplated for the structure.

He stated that in the fall of 2008, CM&E was contacted by Union County to provide a review of work that had been prepared by Stewart Engineering, the design engineer for the Jesse Helms Park project. He said that the purpose of the review by CM&E was to look at the work that had been prepared and to assess if the work was consistent with the general concept and intent of the project. He explained that the work that had been performed by Stewart Engineering at that time included hydraulic work to size a stream crossing structure at Flag Creek. Mr. George stated that CM&E reviewed the document to ensure what had been proposed met the purpose of the project and that the recommendations made by Stewart Engineering were cost effective and addressed the usual environmental considerations.

He said that CM&E's review, which was done around October 2008, raised a number of questions which CM&E provided to Stewart through County staff. He said that those questions included: 1) whether the floodplain hydraulic analysis was complete and accurate; 2) whether the possible back water effects of the confluence of Flag Branch and Lynch's Creek were adequately addressed; 3) how the determination of the size of the structure was made; 4) what types of structures were considered; and 5) how the recommendation of the preferred alternative was reached. He explained that three different crossing structures were reviewed: a bridge structure, an arch culvert structure, and a cast-in-place box culvert structure and whether the cost estimates that they had prepared were legitimate based on the appropriate historical data.

Mr. George stated that CM&E's review was summarized in a memorandum provided to County staff which was subsequently passed on to Stewart Engineering. He said that CM&E thought this would be approximately three days of work. He said that this work started in October 2008, and, from that point forward, CM&E coordinated with County staff and Stewart Engineering to try to ensure that all issues noted in the review were adequately and properly addressed. He said that this effort took approximately five separate review cycles and approximately one year's time. He said that during that time CM&E assisted County staff and worked with Stewart and coordinated with the various regulatory agencies. He stated that during this same time the County decided it might be best to secure the services of CM&E to provide assistance with the bid

phase and construction oversight of the project. He stated that in the spring of 2009, an effort was made to complete documents. He said that Stewart had been working on the design for approximately two years. He stated that CM&E was asked to provide assistance with the bid phase. Mr. George explained that CM&E's role in the bid phase only included holding the pre-bid meetings, answering the contractor's questions, and analyzing the bids after they were received. He said that Stewart was responsible for preparation of the bid documents.

He stated that the first bids were received in June 2009, and, after receipt of the bids, a directive was issued by one of the permitting agencies based on some new stormwater provisions that there would have to be additional stormwater control measures added to the project. He said that Stewart prepared the design for the additional measures and added those to the contract documents. Mr. George stated that the County decided to rebid the project to include the new measures because it was believed that the new measures could not be added by addendum. He said that the second bid was prepared in late 2009, but, at that point, the County decided it was best not to proceed with this bid because the FEMA permit had not been received. He said that once the FEMA permit was received, the project was rebid in February 2010. He noted that from the second set of bids, the County awarded the construction contract to Blythe Development and the notice to proceed was issued in May 2010. He stated the contract period was six months/180 days which yielded a final completion date of November 15, 2010.

Mr. George explained that during the construction period, CM&E's role was to provide intermittent oversight which consisted of a weekly project visit and administration of the weekly progress meetings as well as some review of the shop drawings submitted by the contractor. He said that the daily inspections of the work were performed by County staff. He said that the project progressed somewhat behind schedule but still on a pace that it would have been completed on time. He noted that the contractor submitted an updated schedule, as required, at the progress meetings and when submitting pay requests, and it was usually running behind schedule, but there was still sufficient time to finish the project by the deadline. He said that the backfill operations, which was one of the last operations that the contractor would do, and the construction of the modular retaining walls occurred simultaneously. He stated that over a weekend a member of the contractor's staff recognized that there was a problem with the structure. He said that on the following Monday morning, the contractor called and notified CM&E of the problem. He stated that a resolution to the problem has been developed pending final details of a review by CM&E of the contractor's repair recommendation.

Mr. George pointed out that CM&E's estimate of the time required to perform the repairs is approximately 25 work days. However, he said that the contractor believes the repairs can be performed in approximately three weeks. He explained that the repair effort is a fairly tedious process and described through the use of a photograph how the repair would be made. He said that the fix would be to anchor through an epoxy grouting process the rebar, drill the holes in the precast units, and then install the rebars. He stated that this would need to occur on the north side of the structure as well as the south side. He stressed that the repair is a fairly intricate process and stated that there are approximately 400 dowel holes that

would need to be prepared and cleaned out. He reviewed the steps required for the repair. He explained that the work is somewhat dependent on the weather, because some of the bonding agent and epoxy will not work properly in very cold temperatures.

Following Mr. George's synopsis of what had occurred on the project, the Board members asked questions of Mr. George, and he provided responses to those questions.

Commissioner Thomas asked if the problem was continuing to get worse as solutions are being considered. Mr. George said that his concern about waiting is when there is a lot of wet weather it adds additional point pressure to the structure. He said that to his knowledge there has been no additional movement of the precast sections. He reiterated his concern that if it waits, and there is a lot of heavy rain for days or weeks at a time, it could have a detrimental effect. He commented that he thought the sooner the repairs are made, the better it will be. He said that there is always the possibility there could be some additional movement in the walls until the time that the repairs are made.

Vice Chairman Johnson questioned if CM&E engineered the fix or was it recommended by the contractor. Mr. George responded that the fix was submitted by the contractor. He said that CM&E reviewed the fix as well as the County's independent engineer, H2L.

With there being no further questions, the Chairman thanked Mr. George for his presentation.

CLARIFICATION OF LAND USE PLAN AND LAND USE ORDINANCE (This item was added to the agenda at the request of Vice Chairman Johnson)

Cynthia Coto, County Manager, stated that in October 2010, the Board approved the County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan which is a 25-year plan. She described the plan as a road map or vision of what the County will look like between now and 2025 as it relates to development patterns, densities, intensities, etc. She explained that the Land Use Ordinance is the guiding document that is supposed to assist the County in achieving its vision contained in the comprehensive plan. She said that based upon her discussions with Richard Black, Planning Director, and Jeff Crook, Senior Staff Attorney, the Ordinance has been piecemealed over a 20-year period, and there has not been a comprehensive review of the Ordinance. She stressed that these are two very distinct documents. She noted that there were many stakeholder meetings conducted in connection with the Comprehensive Plan. She said that staff is in the process of developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to send out in connection with the rewrite of the Land Use Ordinance.

Vice Chairman Johnson explained that the reason he had requested the addition of this item to the agenda was that there had been some confusion about what the Board authorized on December 20, 2010. He said that he thought it was important for the citizens to know that it is not rehashing work that was already completed, but it is something that has not been done in the last 20 years.

Commissioner Thomas asked the Manager and Finance Director the financial status of this project. Mrs. Coto responded that at this time \$90,000 is budgeted in this year's budget for the project. She said that this project will probably take more than a one-year cycle and depending on the extensiveness of the outreach effort, it could take from 18 to 24 months, so if additional funds are needed, this could be addressed in next year's budget.

David Cannon, Finance Director, explained that the \$90,000 had been appropriated in prior years, but that amount has continued to be rolled forward in the budget and these dollars are still available.

No action was taken.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT ORGANIZATIONS: This item was moved to the Regular Agenda at the request of Commissioner Rogers.

Chairman Simpson moved to discontinue allotted time during the regular board meetings for presentations by Community Benefit Organizations.

Commissioner Rogers explained the reason she had asked that this item be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda was because she wanted to put forth to the Board that having the Community Benefit Organizations make presentations at the Board meetings has been very well received by the community. She agreed that five minutes does not really allow these organizations time to go into depth with their presentations, but she said more people watch the Board meetings than watch the Government Channel, Channel 16. She stated that by having the Community Benefit Organizations at Commissioners' meetings for at least five minutes, it gives exposure to the services provided by these organizations and to their needs. She said that they can at that point reference that for more information the citizens can watch Channel 16. She stated that she thought this was an important service to provide and is something that has been well received in the community.

Commissioner Kuehler said that she had the opportunity to address this issue at the December 20, 2010, meeting. She said that FY 2009 and 2010 were both tough budget years, and charitable organizations took a huge hit in general and a

reduction in contributions specifically in the County. She stated that she mirrored Commissioner Rogers' sentiment that airing a Public Service Announcement on Channel 16 is comparable to trying to catch your favorite commercial while channel surfing. She referred to an article from *The Enquirer Journal* that she had read over the weekend entitled "Union We Stand – Touched by their Stories" which was written on the 29th of December. She said that the reporter had said that it was a weekly column that she began writing on July 8 as a way to publicize non-profit and charity efforts around the County and she chooses one person or subject per week to write about. She said the reporter stated in the article that the column has become her favorite thing to do. She stated that the reporter concluded the article by saying that the people that had been featured in the articles are those she otherwise would not have met in situations and ones she would not have otherwise given a second thought. Further, she said that the reporter states that the column might not impact the taxes or warn of a breaking crime spree, but she hoped that the articles give others a glimpse into her weekly high—the human connection that she has the fortune to make. Commissioner Kuehler said that anyone who watches the Board meetings with any regularity knows that there have been some awesome stories. She stated that she understood that this is a meeting and business needs to get done, but for those five minutes, she did not think that could be replaced with any contribution. She said that she thought the presentations by the Community Benefit Organizations are a great way to start the Board meetings.

Chairman Simpson said that through his experience in Cooperative Extension, that he has worked with a tremendous number of non-profits. He said that he too reads the articles in *The Enquirer Journal*. He stated that there are a tremendous number of valuable community organizations that go above and beyond the call of duty, and then explained the intent of his motion.

Commissioner Kuehler asked if there has been any contact with the Community Benefit Organizations to inform them that the presentations might be discontinued. Chairman Simpson responded that to his knowledge no contact has been made with the organizations.

Commissioner Thomas questioned if there is a pending list of organizations to make future presentations. Mrs. Coto responded that her understanding was that Matthew Delk, Assistant County Manager, before his deployment was primarily responsible for establishing the list of agencies to make presentations. She said that in reviewing the schedule, all of the organizations that had been identified have made presentations. She apologized for not having a historical perspective as to how those agencies were identified from among all the non-profit organizations in Union County. She noted that the list of organizations that had been identified was not inclusive of all the non-profits in Union County. She said that at this time there are no other agencies identified that have not made presentations to the Board. She stated that if tonight's action by the Board is to continue with the presentations, staff would need to develop a process of identifying some new agencies and determining if those agencies had an interest in making presentations to the Board.

Chairman Simpson restated his motion and called for a vote. The motion passed by a vote of three to two. Chairman Simpson, Vice Chairman Johnson, and Commissioner Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Kuehler and Commissioner Rogers voted against the motion.

ENTRANCE FEES AND MINOR FEE REVISIONS AT COUNTY-OWNED PARKS (This item was moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda at the request of Commissioner Rogers):

Chairman Simpson moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee recommendations pertaining to entrance and minor fee revisions at all County-owned parks and approval of “Complimentary Permits” for Jesse Helms Park to continue through June 30, 2011.

Commissioner Rogers stated that her question regarding this item related to the discussion in connection with the amount of discount to be given to veterans. She said that she would like to see the amount of discount for veterans increased.

Bill Whitley, Parks and Recreation Director, shared that he had received a call from a gentleman regarding the veterans’ discount for camping. He explained that currently there is not a discount offered to veterans for camping; however, he said that there is a 25 percent discount for Union County residents. He said that the gentleman who made the request, which was presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, has moved outside the County. Mr. Whitley stated that the Advisory Committee discussed the request, and as a veteran himself, he explained that he thought it would be appropriate to match what many of the local box stores offer to veterans. He said for Union County’s veterans, they would not use the veterans’ discount of ten percent but would use a 25 percent discount.

Mr. Whitley stated that the ten percent veterans’ discount is being offered to those who live outside the County, because they are not eligible for the 25 percent discount given to Union County residents. He explained that usually merchants will only allow one discount to apply per purchase.

Commissioner Rogers said that in looking at the fees presented, the ten percent discount for veterans is not accurate in that if it is a Union County veteran, he/she would receive a 25 percent discount and veterans outside Union County would receive ten percent. Mr. Whitley clarified that visitors to the parks can choose which discount applies, either the ten percent discount as a veteran or the 25 percent discount for Union County residents.

Mr. Whitley said that on the day-use side, there is a discount for veterans. Commissioner Rogers suggested that perhaps there needed to be some rewording to clarify the discounts. Mr. Whitley stated that when visitors to the parks register, the park staff knows if they are Union County residents and, if so, automatically give the 25 percent discount.

Commissioner Thomas suggested for clarification purposes that the fee schedule state “Union County veteran – 25 percent and all other veterans – 10 percent.” Mr. Whitley said that the wording would clarify that only one discount would apply.

Chairman Simpson repeated the motion as amended with the suggested rewording to clarify the veterans’ discount.

Vice Chairman Johnson asked if the 25 percent discount applied only to camping. Mr. Whitley responded that the discount applied only to camping.

The motion as amended passed unanimously. The user fee chart is recorded below.

| | Passive Area Parks (Picnic Areas, Trails, Playgrounds, Etc.) | | | Active Area Parks (Athletic Fields) | | |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------------|---------|--|--------------------------|--------|
| | CCP | JHP Passive Area | Fees | FKP | JHP Soccer Complex | Fees |
| Vehicular Entrance Fee | • | • | \$4.00 | • | • | \$1.00 |
| Pedestrian Entrance Fee | • | • | \$1.00 | • | • | \$1.00 |
| Van Entrance Fee (16 passenger) | • | • | \$15.00 | • | • | \$1.00 |
| Bike Entrance | • | • | \$1.00 | • | • | \$1.00 |

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| Bus Entrance Fee | • | • | \$20.00 | • | • | \$1.00 |
| County-Wide Annual Entrance Permit*** | • | • | \$40/\$60 | • | • | \$40/\$60 |
| County-Wide Seasonal Athletic Permit | • | | \$10.00 | • | • | \$10.00 |
| Boat Access | • | | \$4.00 | | | n/a |
| Walking Trails | • | • | no cost | • | • | no cost |
| Equestrian Trails | • | • | \$3.00 | | | n/a |
| Bike Trails | • | • | \$3.00 | | | n/a |
| Fishing | • | | \$2.00 | | | n/a |
| Swimming (Kids 2-5) | • | | \$2.00 | | | n/a |
| Swimming (Adults 6-older) | • | | \$4.00 | | | n/a |
| Rowboat/Canoe Rental | • | | hourly | | | n/a |
| Pedalboats | • | | \$4.00 | | | n/a |
| Pontoon Boat Ride | • | | \$2.00 | | | n/a |
| Playground | • | • | no cost | • | • | no cost |
| Game Court Reservation* | • | | \$15/Hr | | | n/a |
| Volleyball Court Reservation* | • | • | \$13/Hr | | | n/a |
| Horseshoe Court Reservation* | • | • | \$8/Hr | | | n/a |
| Equipment Rental (Lifejackets and paddles)** | • | | | | | n/a |
| Miniature Golf (Per Game) | • | | \$2.00 | | | n/a |
| Senior Permit (65 and Older) | • | • | \$5.00 | • | • | n/a |
| County-Wide Individual Annual Permit | • | • | \$150.00 | • | • | \$150 |
| County-Wide Family Annual Permit | • | • | \$225.00 | • | • | \$225 |
| County-Wide Non-Res. Individual Permit | • | • | \$225.00 | • | • | \$225 |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---------------|---|---|--------------|
| County-Wide Non-Res. Family Permit | • | • | \$300.00 | • | • | \$300 |
| Replacement Permit | • | • | \$5.00 | • | • | \$5.00 |
| Day Pass (Ages 2 and Up) | • | | \$10.00 | | | n/a |
| Late Departure Fee | • | • | \$40.00 | | | \$40.00 |
| Administrative/Reservation Fee | • | • | \$4.00 | • | • | \$4.00 |
| Copies (Black and White or Colored) | • | | \$0.25 | | | |
| Shelter Rental (Reservation for Full-Day) | | | | | | |
| (Small / Gazebo) | • | | See Chart | • | | See Chart |
| Medium | • | | See Chart | | • | See Chart |
| Large | • | • | See Chart | | | n/a |
| Ampitheater Rental | • | • | See Worksheet | | | n/a |
| Festival Field Rental | • | • | See Worksheet | | | n/a |
| Softball/Baseball Field Rental | • | | See Worksheet | • | | Rental Sheet |
| Soccer Field Rental | • | | See Worksheet | • | • | Rental Sheet |
| Camping Fees | • | | See Chart | | | n/a |

Notes:

* If not reserved, then no fee required and is shared use.

** As specified on Equipment Rental Form

***\$40 for Union County residents, \$60 for Non-Union County Residents

**** Day Pass includes unlimited miniature golf, pedal boats, and beach access. Must be purchased at the Operation's Center only. NO REFUNDS, rain checks issued if beach closes for the day within 2 hours of purchase.

Designations:

Passive Area Parks: Cane Creek Park (CCP) and Jesse Helms Park Passive Area

Active Area Parks: Fred Kirby Park and Jesse Helms Park Soccer Complex

Discounts:

- (1) Union County residents, with approved proof of residency, may receive a 25% discount on camping fees.
Approved proof of residency includes camper's NC Drivers License and/or camper's vehicle registration.
- (2) Veteran's, with an Honorable Status, may receive a 50% discount for "Day-Use activities", not to include athletic field rentals, with proper identification (see note below).
- (3) Veterans, with an Honorable Status, may receive a discount off camping fees as follows:
Union County Resident = 25% Non-Union County Resident = 10%

Note 1: Purchaser must provide appropriate documentation for discount prior to payment.

Accepted documentation is limited to: Military ID, DD-214, Office Veterans Card, or Letter from Office of Veterans Affairs on letterhead.

Note 2: Only one discount, when authorized, can be applied to any of the above mentioned fees.

Charts / Rental Packets: Please refer to the applicable worksheet shown on the website for more information.

As per Worksheets: Please call 704-843-3919 to schedule an appointment to discuss appropriate fees as per worksheet.

KAUFMAN, HALL & ASSOCIATES, INC.:

Chairman Simpson moved to authorize the County Manager to approve the revised Scope of Services with Kaufman, Hall & Associates, Inc., pending legal review.

With there being no discussion, the Chairman called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Chairman Simpson explained that there were some crossovers and conflicts with schedules relative to appointments of Commissioners to boards and committees. He moved to remove Commissioner Kuehler from the Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare (PBH) Board and Vice Chairman Johnson as the delegate to the Rocky River Rural Planning Organization and from the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB).

He suggested that relative to the Rocky River Rural Planning Organization Advisory Committee, that if Commissioner Thomas would accept the delegate slot, he would serve as the alternate.

Chairman Simpson opened the floor for volunteers to serve on the Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare Board.

Commissioner Kuehler said that based on the information she received from this board, it makes a lot of sense if the ones involved in the healthcare boards for the County also serve on the Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare Board, because they are all tied in with each other.

Commissioner Thomas indicated his willingness to serve on that board, but noted that he also has a conflict with most of the meeting dates. Chairman Simpson asked if Commissioner Thomas would consider accepting that appointment and work with the Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare to clarify his role and possibly bringing some other county employees in so the County could have fair representation on that board. Commissioner Thomas agreed to this suggestion and asked Commissioner Rogers if she would be willing to assist in serving on this board. Commissioner Rogers indicated that she was not interested in serving on this board. Commissioner Thomas agreed to accept the appointment.

Chairman Simpson repeated his motion with the addition of Commissioner Thomas moving to the delegate slot on the Rocky River Rural Planning Organization, Chairman Simpson serving as the alternate on that board, and Commissioner Thomas serving as the representative on the Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare Board. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION TO REQUEST REPEAL OF THE SUNSET PROVISION THAT CAUSES EXPIRATION OF UNION COUNTY'S AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE FIRE FEES:

Chairman Simpson moved adoption of the Resolution to Request Repeal by the General Assembly of the Sunset Provision that Causes Expiration of Union County's Authorization to Charge Fire Fees.

Commissioner Rogers asked the overall purpose of the proposed resolution. She said that she understood that the desire is to eliminate the sunset clause in order to have the ability to have the fire fees beyond the two years granted by the General Assembly. She asked if that was because the Board would not be able to make a decision in regards to the fire study and whether to do fire fees versus fire taxes. She said she was trying to understand why this resolution was on this agenda at this time.

Vice Chairman Johnson responded that he was pleased to see this item on the agenda, because when handling a situation as delicate as the fire tax/fee, the Board needs to be able to have every option in the arsenal. He said that the proposed resolution would give the option of implementing a fire fee or a fire tax. He stated that he thought there needs to be options and the County should not be held to one specific method of funding.

Commissioner Rogers stated that she did not disagree with Vice Chairman Johnson but noted that this is a discussion that has occurred for years and years with no action taken. She said she did not want to see the County go the way that it has been conducting business because the fire fees as they are now do not cover the fire departments' budgets and require County subsidies. She said that the subsidies come from all taxpayers in the County and not just from a specific area. She stated that while she agreed with Vice Chairman Johnson, she did not want to cut off any options and was hesitant because people work better with a deadline. She said that the resolution was removing the deadline, and she was concerned that it would be business as usual, which would not be good for the fire departments or the taxpayers.

Vice Chairman Johnson pointed out that in terms of the subsidy, he thought it was important to note that all citizens of Union County are served by all fire departments, because when traveling anywhere outside one's fire district, one of the primary goals of fire departments is to provide emergency services. He said that he thought the majority of the fire departments' calls are emergency services. He stated that very rarely does one fire department go to a specific house without support from other fire departments.

Commissioner Rogers responded that she did not disagree with Vice Chairman Johnson, but when looking at the fire study, there are fire departments providing services that perhaps the hospital or the emergency medical services should be performing. She said that these issues will come up for discussion when the fire study is discussed. She stated that as far as traveling to other parts of the County, if looking historically at the data, the cross travel is not seen much. However, she said that what she hears from residents in fire tax districts is that they fully support the fire department within that tax district, and they are also supporting the fire departments because of the County subsidy. She said that is why she is concerned about

removing the deadline. She stated that she liked having the option, and she is not saying that a fire tax is better than a fire fee. She stressed that whatever the Board does it should not be double taxation. She said that the Board needs to look at the services being provided by the fire departments versus emergency medical services, which will probably be a part of the discussions relative to the hospital lease.

Vice Chairman Johnson said that he understood what Commissioner Rogers was saying about not knowing between the fire tax and fire fee, but stressed that without the option, there is no choice in making a decision on which one is better.

Commissioner Thomas commented that he thought it was a great point about the deadline, but said the only problem is he did not think that the Board needs to rush something as delicate as this due to a deadline that can be put off. He agreed there needs to be options but the Board does not need to be put on a deadline. He said that the Board would tackle this issue and come up with the most viable solution.

Commissioner Rogers moved that the Board adopt a resolution requesting another year's extension.

Chairman Simpson asked for clarification whether Commissioner Rogers was offering an amendment to the motion. Commissioner Rogers stated that she had not heard that a motion had been made. Chairman Simpson stated that he had made the motion. Commissioner Rogers asked that the Clerk restate the motion.

Mrs. West stated that she thought the Chairman had stated his motion was to adopt a Resolution to Request Repeal by the General Assembly of the Sunset Provision that Causes Expiration of Union County's Authorization to Charge Fire Fees.

Commissioner Rogers asked as a point of clarification was she to assume that when Chairman Simpson was reading the action requested on the agenda that he was making the motion. She said that she did not hear the Chairman make a motion but heard him read the agenda action.

Chairman Simpson said that he made the recommended action in the form of a motion.

Commissioner Rogers stated that she was offering an amendment to the motion.

Commissioner Kuehler said that during budget time, this is a topic that comes up most often with the most viewpoints. She said that she had found information from the former Finance Director, Kai Nelson, from the FY 2009 budget which stated "That the funding of the fire services in Union County, the increasing inadequacy of the current system, and the impact of new and expanded fire taxes on the General Fund requires a comprehensive solution." She said that this was

several budgets ago, and the Board still has not moved. She stated that removing the deadline tends to slow down the process. She said that the Board has been warned for years that this is an issue. She read further from information provided by Mr. Nelson “For instance the five fire tax districts are projected to divert over \$800,000 in sales tax from the County’s General Fund, a sizeable amount that could be available for law enforcement, education of school children, or funding of the fire fee districts that are in financial distress.” Further, she said that Mr. Nelson had stated “that the Commission may wish to consider eliminating, in whole or in part, the sales tax transfer, setting the tax rates accordingly for the five districts, and using the sales tax proceeds to fund the financially distressed fee volunteer fire districts or departments.” She said that the problem with that becomes when the tax funds are not given to the fire departments with fire districts, then they have to charge the residents in their districts more on the rate because they are not receiving the money within the tax district. She stated that this has been an ongoing debate, which changes every year. She emphasized that what funding plan the County has isn’t working. Commissioner Kuehler said that there are still tough budget years ahead, and she would even go so far as to say that she did not think that fire fees are an option anymore. She said that the majority of the reasons for the need for fire departments happen at home or within a mile of the home and the off chance of driving into someone else’s fire district and using that service does not warrant paying for that service 365 days per year.

Commissioner Kuehler commented that almost everyone is paying twice, and if residents are in municipalities that support its fire station, then residents are paying three times. She stated that she would support an extension to be able to get a handle on the issue, but she thought the deadline was a good idea.

Chairman Simpson asked Mrs. West to restate the motion as amended. Mrs. West stated that the motion as amended was to adopt the resolution requesting another year’s extension. The Chairman asked Commissioner Rogers to clarify her amendment. He said that his understanding was to adopt a resolution extending the fire fees one more year. Commissioner Rogers stated that this was correct.

The amendment failed by a vote of two to three. Commissioner Kuehler and Commissioner Rogers voted in favor of the amendment. Chairman Simpson, Vice Chairman Johnson, and Commissioner Thomas voted against the amendment.

Chairman Simpson called for a vote on the original motion to adopt the Resolution to Request Repeal by the General Assembly of the Sunset Provision that Causes Expiration of Union County’s Authorization to Charge Fees as recorded below. The motion passed by a vote of three to two. Chairman Simpson, Vice Chairman Johnson, and Commissioner Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Kuehler and Commissioner Rogers voted against the motion.

A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST REPEAL OF THE SUNSET PROVISION

THAT CAUSES EXPIRATION OF UNION COUNTY'S AUTHORIZATION
TO CHARGE FIRE FEES

WHEREAS, G.S. 153A-236(c), as it applies to Union County pursuant to Chapter 883 of the 1991 Session Laws, as amended by S.L. 1995-61, S.L. 1999-39, and Section 1 of S.L. 2010-84 (the "Fire Fee Legislation"), authorizes the establishment of fee-supported fire districts and the imposition of annual fees for the provision of fire protection services within such districts; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Fee Legislation has been utilized by Union County since its inception as a critical funding source for fire protection services within Union County; and

WHEREAS, although Union County was authorized pursuant to S.L. 2010-84 to increase the fire fees by an amount not exceeding twice the amount originally provided, this legislation also provided in Section 2 that "G.S. 153A-236, as it applies to Union County pursuant to Chapter 883 of the 1991 Session Laws, as amended by S.L. 1995-61, S.L. 1999-39 and this act [S.L. 2010-84], expires July 1, 2012" (the "Sunset Provision") such that the County's authority to charge all fire fees will expire on July 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Sunset Provision will have the effect of limiting Union County's flexibility in funding fire protection services and causing additional strain on property tax payers through the imposition of ad valorem taxes as the only alternative revenue source for funding fire protection services.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Union County Board of Commissioners that the General Assembly is hereby requested to repeal the Sunset Provision (Section 2 of S.L. 2010-84) thus enabling Union County to continue to charge fire fees in an amount not exceeding twice the amount originally authorized for each class of property by including the increase in the budget ordinance adopted under Article 3 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes.

Adopted this the 4th day of January, 2011

ATTEST:

s/Lynn G. West, Clerk to the Board

s/Jerry Simpson, Chairman of the Union County Board of Commissioners

FY 2010 AUDIT PRESENTATION:

Cynthia Coto, County Manager, introduced Mr. John Kapelar, partner in the audit firm of Potter & Company, who presented the County's audit report.

Mr. Kapelar expressed appreciation to the Board for allowing Potter & Company to provide the audit services for FY 2010 to the County. He commended the work of the County's Finance Department and recognized David Cannon, Finance Director, Andrea Robinson, Assistant Finance Director, Kai Nelson, Former Finance Director, and all the Finance Department for the work that went into the audit.

He referred to the independent auditor's report which issued an unqualified opinion on Union County's financial statements on June 30, 2010. He explained that an unqualified opinion is the highest level of assurance that can be given that the County's financial statements and all material aspects are presented fairly at June 30, 2010. He said that it is commonly referred to as a "clean opinion." He stated that in addition to the independent auditor's report they have also issued a group of reports on the County's compliance. He explained that these reports are relative to the County's compliance with governmental auditing standards in addition to its compliance with federal and state programs and the various federal and state laws and regulations associated therewith. Mr. Kapelar said that his firm identified no material weaknesses or reportable conditions in connection with the applicable statutes and regulations of the federal and state programs that they tested.

He noted the performance of the County's General Fund during FY 2010. He said that in the final budget numbers for the year, the County had appropriated \$11.271 million of its Fund Balance. He stated that it should be noted that the County did not have to dip into its General Fund Reserves as much as planned during the year. He said that the County's General Fund had an excess of expenditures over revenues of \$4.3 million for the year. Mr. Kapelar stressed it should be noted that these expenditures did include \$11.587 million in transfers to other funds during the year. He said that on June 30, 2010, the County's total General Fund balance was \$51.9 million and of that amount \$37.9 million (73.06 percent) of the County's Fund Balance was undesignated or unreserved for any additional purpose at June 30, 2010.

At the conclusion of the report, Mr. Kapelar offered to answer any questions that the Board might have regarding the report.

Commissioner Kuehler said that her recollection in the last budget year was that there was an excess amount going into the County's Capital Improvement Plan of approximately nine million dollars and now she was hearing seven million. She asked that Mr. Cannon offer clarification for her.

Mr. Cannon stated that Commissioner Kuehler was correct and at year's end \$9.2 million was transferred from the General Fund to the Capital Projects budget. He said that he believed the seven million mentioned by Mr. Kapelar were the revenues over the expenditures, and this did not impact the amount transferred to the Capital Projects fund. He stated that Mr. Nelson had calculated what amount was needed to reach the 16 percent carryover which has been the Board's target, so that was the reason for the \$9.2 million.

Commissioner Kuehler asked if the seven million dollar number was included the 16.9 percent. Mr. Cannon responded that it leads to the 16 percent because where the County started the year with its Fund Balance and adding the seven million dollars of revenues over expenditures helps to determine how much cash is available in the Fund Balance. He said that to leave the 16 percent, the difference is moved to the Capital Projects fund. He stated that while it leads to that, the seven million is not tied specifically to that transfer.

Commissioner Kuehler said that when people hear that there were revenues over expenses, meaning more monies were taken in than paid out, she could hear the question "where's my tax cut" plus \$9.2 million was put into the County's savings account. Mr. Cannon responded that he thought there were a couple of reasons for this: 1) the departments are very frugal in terms of how they spend money; and 2) there were additional encumbrances that were not spent prior to year end that will be carried forward to this year, so that reduces the amount of unspent appropriations. He stated that he thought these two reasons combined with planning for a rainy day is important. He said that the County knows there are capital needs, and he thought setting aside funds for those purposes by transferring the excess funds was good planning for those capital projects.

Following the discussion, Chairman Simpson moved to accept the FY 2010 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCIES ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Chairman Simpson announced vacancies on the following boards and committees:

- a. Adult Care Home Advisory Committee (at Least Two Vacancies)
- b. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council:
 - 1. Substance Abuse Professional
 - 2. Two Members under the Age of 18
 - 3. One Member of Business Community
 - 4. One Member Representing United Way or Other Non-Profit
 - 5. One Commissioner Appointee
- c. Nursing Home Advisory Committee (at Least Four Vacancies)
- d. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (Five Vacancies with Terms Ending February 2011 and one vacancy for a member with physical disability)
- e. Library Board of Trustees - Four Vacancies as follows as of January 2011
 - 1. Marshville Region (One Vacancy)
 - 2. Weddington Region (One Vacancy)
 - 3. Waxhaw Region (One Vacancy)
 - 4. One Member at Large
- f. Union County Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee (Five vacancies for community representatives as of December 2010).
- g. Board of Equalization and Review (Two Vacancies as of February 2011)
- h. Fire Commission (Three Vacancies as of February 2011)
- i. Board of Health - Three Vacancies as of January 2011 as follows:
 - a. Dentist
 - b. Pharmacist
 - c. Veterinarian
- j. Historic Preservation Commission (One Vacancy for Term Ending February 2011)

Chairman Simpson encouraged the County residents to apply for these vacancies.

APPOINTMENT OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' LEGISLATIVE GOALS CONFERENCE – JANUARY 20-21, 2011 (This Item was Added to the Agenda):

Chairman Simpson stated that this item had been added to the agenda tonight as Item 9a. He asked if anyone wished to volunteer to attend this conference. He stated he would be in Raleigh on January 19, and he would do his best to serve as the delegate.

Commissioner Thomas nominated Chairman Simpson to be the voting delegate to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' Legislative Goals Conference on January 20-21, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Chairman Simpson stated that the Board is being requested to consider appointments to the Library Board of Trustees.

Vice Chairman Johnson stated that he serves as the Commissioner Representative on the Library Board of Trustees, and there has only been one meeting of this board since he was appointed. He said that he has not had an opportunity to get to know the members of that board. He moved to defer the appointments to the Library Board of Trustees to the January 18, 2011, meeting. He said that he would do his best to have some potential appointments for consideration at that meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

Cynthia Coto, County Manager, said that she hoped everyone continues to have a prosperous, healthy, and successful 2011.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Rogers said that she hoped everyone had a Merry Christmas. She stated that she was continuing to celebrate because her daughter was still home from college.

She stated that the Board members are not always going to agree and probably not always going to get along, but she had high hopes that the things that were said during the campaign and the promises made would

come to fruition and that there would be more communication and openness. She said that the way the Planning Board appointments were handled tonight was disappointing to say the least. She said that it was obvious that the appointments had been discussed and decided by certain members of the Board prior to tonight's meeting. She stated that she would have liked to be part of that discussion and would like to have been able to convey her concerns certainly from an area that she lives very close to.

Commissioner Rogers said that she knew from her experience of serving on the Board of Education that it is difficult when you do not live in an area to understand the pressures and the responses of those community members and unless you visit those areas, it is difficult. She stated that she hoped that this could be a lesson learned and something that the Board could walk away from. She said that she was asking for the Board's communication and to include her on decisions.

She stated that she had read some e-mails regarding meeting times for special meetings. She said that she is a stay-at-home mom and housewife and does not work the same hours as a nine-to-five job. She stated there was a reason that she left her eight-to-five/nine-to-five job; it was so she could do a very important job of raising her children. She said that her children do come first and she participates in a car pool and has responsibilities of getting her children to and from school. She asked that this be respected when meetings are scheduled. She said that she thought all the Board members need to be able to give. Commissioner Rogers stated that she sincerely hoped that the new Board members would do what they had said and really try to bring her and Commissioner Kuehler in on discussions.

Lastly, she said that comments were made earlier about how all the Commissioners were linked to developers and builders. She stated that she was not. She said it is very well known throughout the history of the County there have been concerns about political payback and campaign contributions, paybacks, appointments of buddies, etc. She said that promises were made during the campaign that the new Board members were not going to follow that lead. She stated she was not saying that was done tonight with the Planning Board appointments, but she was saying that impropriety and the appearance of impropriety are very closely linked and are something that the Board members might want to consider going forward.

Commissioner Thomas said he appreciated Commissioner Rogers' comments and welcomed her back to town. He stated that he looked forward to working with her, and assured that his e-mails were available to her and

to anyone. He said that he welcomed her input, and tonight he had wanted her help in serving on the Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare Board, but she had refused.

He stated that there were a couple of comments made that he thought warranted a response. First, he addressed the comments about the meeting times. He said that he dropped off his son at kindergarten this morning at 7:05 p.m. and attended a 7:30 a.m. meeting and had worked all day. He stated that was what the Board members were expected to do as leaders to establish expectations not only for their families but also for the community and organizations with which they are associated. He said that staff is expected to be at work at a certain time, and he thought as a part-time position of Commissioner, his day starts before 8:00 a.m. He said there is a way if one is looking for an opportunity to juggle those responsibilities, and he looked forward to setting the example of what this Board needs to be.

Commissioner Thomas said that he takes offense to the fact that he has been linked to contractors, builders, and developers. He stated that he is a nursing home administrator, and he does not receive one dime whether one home is built or 100,000 homes are built in the community, and it does not affect his paycheck or his stability. He said it does affect the community around him, and he understands that impact.

He stated that he looks forward to 2011, and there are some unique challenges in Union County. He said that he had said it many times on the campaign trail that Union County is a great place to call home, and it is home for him and always has been. He stated that he looked forward to living by the decisions that the Board makes. Commissioner Thomas said that there are issues coming up that the Board will be working hard on such as the hospital, keeping the taxes low, and stated that the County has great schools, which are faced with some unique challenges ahead, and he looked forward to finding some viable solutions with the schools and to working with the municipalities and rebuilding some of those relationships. He said that while 2011 presents many challenges, it also provides a lot of great opportunities in the County.

Commissioner Kuehler thanked Commissioner Rogers for her comments regarding the meeting times. She said that she had looked back and could not find any time when there was a special meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. She stated that everyone has different work schedules. She said that she could not quit her other job nor would she ever want to quit being a mother to her children or a wife to her husband. She stated that her children go to school, and there are certain times they have to be there and her priority is putting her children on the school bus safely, and

making sure they have everything they need. She said if she could not get some consideration to push a meeting back an hour, she was not sure where to go with that. She said she was not saying all meetings have to be moved up past 8:00 a.m. or whatever, and she would make concessions to attend, but she would not make concessions every time. She stated that she would not make her family pay any more for her having this position than they already do, and that is one thing she would not give up. She said that she thought the other Board members should work with her and Commissioner Rogers knowing that they are moms and are responsible for being moms and give some deference in creating available times for them to attend meetings.

Commissioner Kuehler said that although she was originally from up north, she had never seen a white Christmas, because most of her Christmases were spent in Florida, and this was her first white Christmas ever, and it was beautiful and she hoped it sets the tone for the rest of the year.

Vice Chairman Johnson addressed the comments about meeting times and said that he welcomed input from all the Board members. He said that one thing he liked about 8:00 a.m. meetings was that those who have to be at work at 9:00 a.m. have an opportunity to attend special meetings of the Board. He stated that traditionally the special meetings have been at 10:00 a.m. and at that time people are at work and do not have an opportunity to attend the meetings. He said that since the special meetings are not televised, citizens have to rely on what the media says. He stated that he would like to see an 8:00 a.m. meeting and continue to have people attend the meetings if possible. Vice Chairman Johnson addressed accusations that he thought had been made tonight and encouraged that those accusations be validated, and if those statements could not be validated, that the statements be retracted.

He expressed appreciation to Dr. Steve Jirgal who offered the invocation tonight. He also thanked the two speakers who commented during the informal comments. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Chairman Simpson expressed condolences to the family of Gary Smoak, a former County Manager in Union County. He said Mr. Smoak passed away this week, and described him as a fine County Manager. He stated that as a department head, he had several opportunities during budgets to meet with Mr. Smoak, and the answer was always “no” but he smiled when he said it. He said that Mr. Smoak was a great Rotarian and was a minister who turned County Manager.

The Chairman said that he had an opportunity to meet with Mark Watson, Personnel Director, and the County Manager to discuss beginning the process of working with David Cannon to review the County's primary budget needs and develop a strategic plan with goals and objectives moving forward. He said that Commissioner Thomas stated earlier that Union County is a great county, and he agreed. He said that Mrs. Coto is an extremely bright manager, and even though the Board might differ in terms of the direction and some of the issues, he thought the County has a bright and intelligent Board that is committed to this County and to working together. He said that the County has a highly qualified staff and people who are committed to Union County, and he thought it was going to be a fantastic 2011. He wished everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

He reminded the Board that the next regular meeting would be on Tuesday again, January 18, due to the Dr. Martin Luther King holiday.

With there being no further comments or discussion, at approximately 8:45 p.m., the Chairman moved to adjourn the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.