

**Approved 2/1/2010**

**January 12, 2010  
Board of Commissioners Special Meeting**

The Union County Board of Commissioners called a special meeting and met at the Waxhaw Volunteer Fire Department at the Waxhaw Board of Commissioners regular January meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2010. The meeting was noticed to begin at 6:30 p.m.; however a quorum of the Board of County Commissioners was not present until 8:10 p.m. at which time the meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Tracy Kuehler. The following were

**PRESENT:** Tracy Kuehler, Lanny Openshaw, and Parker Mills

**ABSENT:** Kim Rogers and Allan Baucom

**ALSO PRESENT:** Daune Gardner, Erin Kirkpatrick, Brett Diller, Joyce Blythe, Martin Lane, Brian Haug, Mike McLaurin, and Chaplin Spencer(Waxhaw’s Board of Commissioners, Town Manager, and Attorney)

**OPENING OF MEETING:**

The meeting was called to order. The Waxhaw Board of Commissioners called for public comment at which time Nancy Anderson spoke as a member of the Community Trustee Board for CMC-Union and stated that the CTC was in favor of negotiating an extension of the lease with CMC-Union versus a sale. She also supported the hiring of Kaufman Hall for representation of the county in that process. She stated that the CTC was a “watch-dog” for the county and had the best interests of the citizens as their goal.

A recess was called at approximately 8:30 p.m. and reconvened at 8:40 p.m. The Waxhaw Board of Commissioners stated their desire to hear from the Commissioners in attendance as to the situation with the hospital, as well as other interested parties.

Vice-Chair Kuehler spoke about the events leading up to the current situation. She stated that there were problems with the last lease negotiations and that CMC-Union nor CHS had offered any other terms, which put the county in a position of re-evaluating its

financial and healthcare concerns for the next ten years due to a the short-term nature of the remainder of the lease and any further capital investment into healthcare services in Union County. She also stated that the CTC, the members of which are nominated by CMC-Union, endorsed the failed lease renegotiation without even seeing the terms.

Commissioner Mills stated that he was not in favor of selling the hospital; at least not at this time, due to the economy. He stated that ten years on a lease would be an issue moving forward with a sale and stated that most of the debt held by the county could not be paid off due to penalties and suggested that defeasance was not an appropriate use of money. He also spoke highly of the quality of healthcare delivered by CMC-Union over the term of the lease and commended them on their contributions to the county.

Sally Ormond, a member of the CTC, spoke about the UPN (United Physicians Network). She stated that a few years earlier that CTC had worked consultants as to strategic planning and healthcare services for Union County and didn't want to see that work go to waste. She also stated her desire to be more involved in discussions with the county concerning the hospital

Commissioner Openshaw stated that he wanted to make sure that everyone was differentiating between CMC-Union and CHS, explaining this was not about the doctors or the quality of healthcare that this was about business dealings and negotiations with CHS...a Charlotte corporation and the third largest of its kind in the United States. He stated that the county was merely weighing all of its options in light of a failed lease renegotiation, statements that CMC/CHS were not interested in pursuing any terms different than those presented in 2008, a real possibility of a lack of any investment in the healthcare system in Union County over the next ten years, and the financial status of the county as well as its asset. He stated that no decisions as to a sale or renegotiation had been made because all the information was not yet available.

Mayor Gardner presented a sample resolution from Monroe and stated that the Board had three choices: to adopt the example as written, do nothing, or create a resolution of their own to address the points presented that evening. She added that she would ask to have her name and signature removed from the proposed resolution from Monroe, if that is the direction the Board went.

Commissioner Lane said that he didn't pretend to understand the issue and thought the Town of Waxhaw should stay out of it, as it was a county issue and not a local one.

Commissioner Blythe stated that she didn't think selling the hospital now was a good idea, characterizing it as the crown jewel of the county.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick said she didn't want to see healthcare service suffer, but that she trusted the county to make the decisions in the best interest of the citizens for continued excellence in healthcare.

Commissioner Diller said it was his understanding that a sale and renegotiation of the lease were both possibilities. He stated he, too, was concerned about the quality of healthcare, but did not think it was Waxhaw's place to weigh in.

Commissioner Haug stated that the Board had made the decision at their last meeting that they were not getting involved in this issue, but that here they were again and that he was not happy to see this on the agenda after it was made clear that it was not a Waxhaw issue. He said that he resented being dragged into it and did not like being asked to pass a resolution against the sale of the hospital. He stated that he had no knowledge as to the lease, the issues, or any information being weighed to make the decision and, as such, should not be involved, nor should any other municipality be involved.

No motions on the issue were presented, thus no action on the item was taken.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Commissioner Mills made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 p.m., which passed unanimously.

[Vice Chairwoman Kuehler took minutes for this meeting.]