

Approved June 6, 2011

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the Union County Board of Commissioners
Monday, November 15, 2010

The Union County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Monday, November 15, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room, first floor, Union County Courthouse, 500 North Main Street, Monroe, North Carolina. The following were

PRESENT: Chairwoman Kim Rogers, Vice Chairwoman Tracy Kuehler, Commissioner Allan Baucom, Commissioner A. Parker Mills, Jr., and Commissioner Lanny Openshaw

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Cynthia A. Coto, County Manager; Lynn G. West, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners; Jeff Crook, Senior Staff Attorney; David Cannon, Chief Financial Officer; Wes Baker, members of the press, and interested citizens

OPENING OF MEETING:

At approximately 7:00 p.m., the Chairwoman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

- a. ***Invocation:*** Commissioner Openshaw offered the invocation.
- b. ***Pledge of Allegiance:*** Chairwoman Rogers led the body and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.
- c. ***Featured Community Benefit Organization – Hometown Heroes, Inc.:*** Mr. Donnie Dixon explained this group was started locally about 12 years ago when he was a police officer. He further explained how the group adopts families to support through medical crisis. He said over the last 12 years that Hometown Heroes has helped approximately 70 families of children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. Mr. Dixon said that of the 70 children with whom they have worked, 12 are now deceased. He said it is hard to accept the deaths of the children but it would have been harder to never have had the

opportunity to know them. He explained this organization is a 501C-3 organization that has raised money by selling Christmas trees, holding bake sales, and holding an annual motorcycle rally.

Mr. Dixon said the organization could use additional volunteers to give hands-on help to these families.

At the request of the Commissioners, he gave their website address: hometownherosonline.org. He said it is through this website that they receive applications as well as through their work with Presbyterian Hospital, CMC, and CMC-Union.

Mr. Dixon introduced Wendy Griffin and her son Spencer who was one of the first five children that Hometown Heroes adopted. He said he met Spencer when Spencer was 18 months old.

Mrs. Griffin explained the illness of her son, the progress he has made, the remissions that he has experienced, and the wonderful assistance she and her family have received from Hometown Heroes for the last ten years.

The Chairwoman thanked Mr. Dixon and Mrs. Griffin for sharing their stories.

d. Employee Recognition. The Chairwoman recognized the following employees for their service to Union County.

Five Years	Department
Karen Hare	Union County Public Library
Tarantino Rogers	Sheriff's Office
Robert Vaughn	Sheriff's Office
Rhonda McClanahan	Social Services

Ten Years	Department
Gloria Haney	Social Services
Karen Love	Social Services
Cheri Traywick	Social Services
Patricia Van Arsdale	Social Services

Fifteen Years	Department
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INFORMAL COMMENTS:

The Chairwoman stated the rules to be followed during the informal comments segment of the meeting.

She recognized Phillip Tarte, Health Director, who stated that he had with him tonight Jackie Morgan, a colleague of his at the Health Department. He reminded that three weeks ago, Mr. Baker mentioned the accreditation success of the Health Department. Mr. Tarte said he and his staff realized that three members of the Board will be leaving their positions tonight and his purpose is to thank the Board of Commissioners for its support. He said the accreditation will not be received until the end of December, but he had wanted to come tonight to thank the entire Board.

Liza Kravis, 1208 Glynwaller Road, thanked all Commissioners for their service for the last two years and thanked the three who are leaving office for their last four years of service. She said she realized that serving as a Commissioner is a tough job and although she might not agree with everyone all of the time, she thought the citizens of Union County do not realize how much personal time is consumed and the number of sacrifices made while serving as a Commissioner. Mrs. Kravis explained that the last ten years have been trying economic times, but that she thought that there has been real progress. She wished the incoming board success.

Brian Rogers, 2011 Triple Crown Drive, Indian Trail, thanked the outgoing Commissioners for their service and expressed his appreciation for the time expended by each individual. Mr. Rogers addressed his concern that a County Manager was hired less than 100 hours before an election when a new majority took place. He said he thought it was poor and shameful leadership to make such a decision, and he thought it was also not good that Mrs. Coto took the job under the circumstances of knowing there was an election. He said he was not privileged to the closed session minutes but when he did a Google search he found in less than five minutes several things of concern. He said it was reported in the *Sun Sentinel* that Mrs. Coto receives an \$84,000 a year pension payment. Mr. Rogers said that he also found online that Mrs. Coto had been a finalist for five previous jobs and several were in lesser counties than Union County. He said he was also concerned about Mrs. Coto's comment in the local papers about seeing a press release issued by the new majority. He said the fact is that when he asked each incoming Commissioner questions, he learned that Mrs. Coto called them prior to this Board's hiring her to fill the position of County Manager. But, he said what was not reported is that she had already signed the contract. Mr. Rogers said that to him that action shows a lack of leadership. He said to be a county leader requires trust and good character and, in his opinion, poor leadership has already been seen from the three who voted to employ Mrs. Coto. He

called on Mrs. Coto to do the right thing and resign her position to allow the newly elected majority to work with the other Commissioners to decide what is best for Union County.

Rick Becker, Mayor of Mineral Springs, welcomed Manager Coto and said the previous speaker must have had a different Google than he had on his browser. Mayor Becker asserted that he was proud to have someone of Mrs. Coto's qualification to serve Union County. He thanked Commissioner Openshaw for Agenda Item #8 and said that he was looking to add the 3,000 foot long sewer main to serve the downtown area of the Town of Mineral Springs to the Master Plan. He distributed a brief recap of the history of the Mineral Springs sewer requests since 2005. The Mayor said it is not on the Master Plan yet but that it is a testimony to the hard work of Commissioner Openshaw on behalf of some of the municipalities that it is on the agenda and the towns are looking to get this request on the plan. He noted that capacity might be an issue for another time but the history of the line is timely. He said that a very short line could serve a lot of present residents and business owners of the Town of Mineral Springs who are suffering now due to lack of capacity and access to capacity that the town did have. He urged the Board to consider Commissioner Openshaw's suggestion and look at putting that line onto the Master Plan.

He also thanked the three outgoing members of this Board but said he wanted to single out Commissioner Openshaw for his type of leadership as Chair and for his responsiveness to Mineral Springs and to the citizens throughout the County.

Commissioner Mills asked the location of the existing interceptor on Hwy. 75. Mayor Becker said it is called the "Little Twelve Mile Creek" line and it runs from Stonebridge Country Club to the Shannon Vista subdivision where it picks up the Twelve Mile Creek line at Waxhaw-Indian Trail Road. He said it is roughly 3,000 feet from the Mineral Springs Volunteer Fire Department to the connector.

The next speaker was Mayor Linda Paxton of Stallings who thanked the outgoing Commissioners and welcomed Mrs. Coto to Union County. Mayor Paxton asked for support of Agenda Item 8 relating to upgrading the sewer lines for the downtown cores of Waxhaw, Stallings and Indian Trail for future commercial development. She said she had talked with Mr. Goscicki and several of the Commissioners about the unique and antiquated sewer system existing in the downtown service district of Stallings. She explained it is a modification of a septic tank and described its size and operation. Mayor Paxton said there are about 750 parcels on the system and stated it is impossible to develop commercial property on a sewer system.

Mayor Duane Gardner of the Town of Waxhaw gave her address of 209 McKibben Street, Waxhaw. She said her purpose tonight is to speak also on Item 8 on the agenda and to request the Commissioners to consider prioritizing the upgrading of the sewer

lines for the downtown cores of Waxhaw, Stallings, and Indian Trail. She said that during the last couple of years that she and Commissioner Openshaw had held several conversations about infrastructure and its importance for future growth and development in Union County. She said it seems that most of the focus of the discussions about sewer and water capacity is focused on how new growth can be serviced. She pointed out that Waxhaw probably has one of the oldest infrastructure systems in the downtown area and the way that infrastructure was put in place would be considered somewhat haphazard. Mayor Gardner said at this point it is failing and is inadequate to support not only what is on the ground today but also certainly none of the infill and smart growth development that Waxhaw is wanting to attract in the future. She encouraged the Commissioners to consider very closely this request and as the Mayor of Waxhaw she sees this as a very vital step in working together with the County to improve the future of Waxhaw.

She said that during the last couple months her Board has been discussing, particularly as it relates to the library, what would be the appropriate role for the Waxhaw Town Commissioners to play in cooperation with the Board of Commissioners and the County. Mayor Gardner said she saw this item as an opportunity to build a better relationship in terms of working together on some of the specific issues that can be carried over into other discussions.

Mayor Gardner encouraged the Board's support of prioritization of the infrastructure as scheduled for discussion tonight by the Board of County Commissioners.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND/OR ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

The Chairwoman stated the next item and requested to add to the Consent Agenda the approval of the contract to purchase property for the Sheriff's Training Facility and authorization for the County Manager to approve same.

Vice Chairwoman Kuehler requested to remove Item 5 – County Website Policy – from the agenda.

Motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Kuehler that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Mills that the items listed on the Consent Agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Contracts and Purchase Orders Over \$20,000: Authorized the County Manager to approve the following items, pending legal review by the Staff Attorney

- a. Personnel Department: Pharmacy Benefit Management Services Agreement to authorize the County Manager or his appointed representative to execute the Pharmacy Benefit Agreement with Catalyst Health Solutions, Inc. dba Catalyst RX, after legal review is completed
- b. Tax Administration: Lease Agreement with MailFinance for IM480 Mail Machine with Electronic Certified Return Receipt Software and LTFYC116 Meter
- c. Tax Administration: Maintenance Agreement with Lineage for IM480 Mail Machine with Electronic Certified Return Receipt Software & TFYC116 Meter

Minutes: Approved minutes of special meeting of October 29, 2010

Resolution to Revise the Regular Meeting Schedule of the Board of County Commissioners: Adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION TO REVISE THE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2010 OF THE
UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, by resolution adopted on January 19, 2010, the Union County Board of Commissioners established the regular meeting schedule of the Board for 2010 which included a regular works session to be held on Wednesday, December 8; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to cancel the regular work session scheduled for Wednesday, December 8.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Union County Board of Commissioners as follows:

The Board does hereby revise its regular meeting schedule for 2010 to delete from that schedule the regular work session of Wednesday, December 8. Except as herein amended, the regular meeting schedule for 2010 shall remain in full force and effect.

Adopted this the 15th day of November, 2010.

ATTEST:

Lynn G. West, Clerk to the Board

Kim Rogers, Chairwoman

Board of Elections – Acceptance of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Funding: Accepted Grant and adopted Budget Amendment #10 which is recorded below:

BUDGET AMENDMENT

BUDGET	<u>Board of Elections</u>	REQUESTED BY	<u>John Whitley</u>
FISCAL YEAR	<u>FY2011</u>	DATE	<u>November 15, 2010</u>

INCREASE

Description

<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>52,326</u>
<u>Federal Revenue</u>	<u>52,326</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

DECREASE

Description

<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Explanation: Appropriate federal HAVA grant funds for 57, four station ADA compliant voting booth/tables.

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>	
10541700-5260	Printing & Office Supplies	52,326	10441700-4308	Fed Grant - HAVA	52,326
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Total 52,326

Total 52,326

Prepared By JLL

Posted By _____

Date _____

Number 10

Health Department: Approved increasing an 80 percent Processing Assistant III position to a full time (100 percent) Processing Assistant III position with the \$7,767 required for the remainder of this fiscal year transferred from contracted services to the personnel line.

Union County Transportation Advisory Board Appointments for Transit System: Appointed recommended agency positions or people to serve as community representatives to Advisory Board for Transit System:

- Director of Union County Health Department
- Director of Union County Social Services
- Union County DSS – Work First Supervisor
- Director of the ARC (Union County)
- Director of Union Diversified Industries
- Director of Union County Veterans Services
- Union County DSS – Adult Services Supervisor
- Director of Anson County Transportation
- Union County DSS – Transportation Coordinator

Venessa Thomas – Human Relations Manager (Piedmont Behavioral Health Care (SPCC))
Mary Wall – Unit Manager – Vocational Rehabilitation
Lorey White – Retired Citizen
Bobby Campbell- Disabled Citizen and Transit Passenger
Rose Thomas – Senior Citizen and Transit Passenger

Tax Administrator: Approved the Departmental Monthly Report for the Tax Administrator for October 2010

Budget Transfer Report: Approved the Budget Transfer Report for October 2010.

Sheriff: Authorized the Manager to approve a contract to purchase property owned by H & T, LLC located at 1320 Mills Harris Road, Wingate, NC, tax map number 02-202-008 and 02-205-006D for the Sheriff's Training Facility, pending legal review.

WATER AND SEWER CPO FUND-ANSON INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT AND CRWTP RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT:

The Chairwoman recognized Mrs. Coto who in turn requested Wes Baker and David Cannon to provide an update to the Board.

Mr. Baker explained that this item goes back to the November 1st meeting when the Board approved a thirty-year extension to the Water Agreement with Anson County and also a prior agreement in which the County agreed to expand the reservoir for the Catawba River Water Treatment Project. He said at that time the Board approved purchase of some mitigation credits. He said the staff came back to the Board on three separate occasions because the County did not have a Capital Project Ordinance [CPO] in place to cover the entire costs of the projects. Mr. Baker said the purpose of this item is to request that the Board adopt a CPO to cover all the money that would be required for these approved projects. He assured that the funding is available and no additional money is being requested but it has not been placed into the Capital Project Ordinance.

In response to a question from the Chairwoman, Mr. Cannon explained that in order to be able to audit the contract, the County must have the full amount allocated for these projects. He said the Capital Project Ordinance includes funds for both projects.

The Chairwoman clarified that the request does not mean that if the County puts the money into the CPO, the decision has been made to expend the funds. Motion was made by Commissioner Mills that CPO #140 as recorded below be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT							
BUDGET	Water and Sewer CPO Fund			REQUESTED BY	David Cannon		
FISCAL YEAR	FY 2010-2011			DATE	November 15, 2010		
PROJECT SOURCES				PROJECT USES			
Source Description and Code	Project To Date	Requested Amendment	Revised Project	Project Description and Code	Project To Date	Requested Amendment	Revised Project
WP003- Catawba River Reservoir Expansion				WP003- Catawba River Reservoir Expansion			
IFT from W&S Oper Fd	3,411,874	768,944	4,180,818	Capital, Legal Land Easements	-	2,500,000	2,500,000
Capital Contributions	296,389	-	296,389	Architectural & Engineering	1,977,207	-	1,977,207
				Construction	1,731,056	(1,731,056)	-
WT052 - Anson Infrastructure (6MGD)				WT052 - Anson Infrastructure (6MGD)			
IFT from W&S Oper Fd	-	2,046,000	2,046,000	Capital, Legal Land Easements	-	2,046,000	2,046,000
Other Water & Sewer Projects				Other Water & Sewer Projects			
IFT from W&S Oper Fund	59,588,420	-	59,588,420	All Other W&S Capital Projs	103,296,986	-	103,296,986
Self Help Projs-Variou Sources	1,318,725	-	1,318,725				
Debt Proceeds	37,380,847	-	37,380,847				
Other Revenue Sources	5,008,994	-	5,008,994				
	107,005,249	2,814,944	109,820,193		107,005,249	2,814,944	109,820,193
EXPLANATION:	Appropriate funding from unallocated funds previously transferred from Water & Sewer Operating Fund to the Water & Sewer CPO Fund for the Catawba River Water Reservoir Expansion and Anson County Water Infrastructure projects.						
	At the completion of these capital projects, any excess appropriation will be reallocated to the "unallocated / unassigned account" and these Capital Project Ordinance projects will be closed.						
DATE:				APPROVED BY:	Bd of Comm/County Manager Lynn West/Clerk to the Board		
FOR FINANCE POSTING PURPOSES ONLY							
PROJECT SOURCES				PROJECT USES			
Source Description and Code	Project To Date	Requested Amendment	Revised Project	Project Description and Code	Project To Date	Requested Amendment	Revised Project
WP003- Catawba River Reservoir Expansion				WP003- Catawba River Reservoir Expansion			
IFT from W&S Oper Fd	3,411,874	768,944	4,180,818	Capital, Legal Land Easements	-	2,500,000	2,500,000
64471400-4061				64571400-5592-WP003			
Capital Contributions	296,389	-	296,389	Architectural & Engineering	1,977,207	-	1,977,207
64471400-4845-WP003				64571400-5594-WP003			
				Construction	1,731,056	(1,731,056)	-
				64571400-5595-WP003			
WT052 - Anson Infrastructure (6MGD)				WT052 - Anson Infrastructure (6MGD)			
IFT from W&S Oper Fd	-	2,046,000	2,046,000	Capital, Legal Land Easements	-	2,046,000	2,046,000
64471400-4061				64571400-5592-WT052			
		2,814,944				2,814,944	
Prepared By	bl						
Posted By							
Date				Number	CPO - 140		

Commissioner Mills stated that he hoped that Mr. Goscicki would set up an orientation and tour of the Catawba River Plant for Mrs. Coto, the three newly elected Commissioners prior to their taking their oaths of office, and any Mayor that wishes to go. He assured it would be worthwhile for them to tour the facility.

JESSE HELMS PARK ENTRANCE BRIDGE STRUCTURAL PROBLEM ENGINEERING FEES (CM&E):

The Chairwoman stated the item and recognized Manager Coto to present the information.

Mrs. Coto stated that the Board is aware that the County has had an issue as it relates to structural problems to the entrance bridge at this park. She said there was \$500,000 in grant funds received for this project and in order to be able to use the grant funds the access bridge is necessary for the park. Mrs. Coto explained this is a request for an amount not to exceed \$10,000 to cover some anticipated work hours associated with coming up with a solution to that particular situation. She said that she and staff have talked and she and legal are having a conference call tomorrow with the engineering firm on some of the solutions and issues as they relate to this project.

Vice Chairwoman Kuehler stated that she thought on Wednesday the County had agreed to appropriate \$12,500 for a third-party to review the whole process. She said she was quite concerned and a little confused that within five days of that action the County is requested to appropriate an additional \$10,000. She questioned why the County is not accepting the statement of the third party as to what they see as the structural problems of the bridge.

County Attorney Merritt stated that some of the issues raised by the Vice Chairwoman would require legal answers and if the Board wants to go into closed session that those issues could be discussed. He said it was his understanding that what the County is looking at for this particular request is the current contractor operating under the engineer has basically expended all the funds under that contract. He explained that there was a third-party engineering firm that has looked at the project and is reviewing possible fixes and will advise the County on options to the problem. He said it was his understanding that the \$10,000 would pay for additional costs for fixes as the current contract is out of funds.

After discussion, Mr. Merritt said that he had not reviewed CM&E's contract to determine if this is within the scope of the contract's work, but the \$10,000 requested tonight is an "up-to" figure and the expectation is that the work will not require all the funds to be expended in total.

With there being additional questions, summarizations, and discussion, the Chairwoman moved at 7:50 p.m., that the Board go into closed session in accordance with G. S. 143-318.11 (a) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by a public body, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board members moved to the first floor Conference Room, and the Chairwoman convened the closed session.

At the conclusion of the closed session, at approximately 7:59 p.m., Commissioner Mills moved to adjourn the closed session and to reconvene the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board members moved to the Board Room, and Chairwoman Rogers reconvened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. stating the Board would continue discussion of the item concerning the Jesse Helms Park Bridge.

Commissioner Mills moved to approve the necessary engineering fees for CM&E related directly to resolving the current structural problem with the Jesse Helms Park Bridge with an appropriation of a not-to-exceed figure of \$10,000, to approve CPO-142 as recorded below, and to authorize the County Manager to approve the Task Order with CM&E after legal review. The motion passed unanimously.

CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

BUDGET General Capital Project Ordinance Fund REQUESTED BY David Cannon and Bill Whitley

FISCAL YEAR FY 2010-11 DATE November 15, 2010

PROJECT SOURCES

PROJECT USES

<u>Source Description and Code</u>	<u>Project To Date</u>	<u>Requested Amendment</u>	<u>Revised Project</u>	<u>Project Description and Code</u>	<u>Project To Date</u>	<u>Requested Amendment</u>	<u>Revised Project</u>
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PR041 - Jesse Helms Park Bridge

IFT From General Fund	658,720	10,000	668,720	Land and Improvements	658,720	10,000	668,720
	658,720	10,000	668,720		658,720	10,000	668,720

EXPLANATION: Appropriate funds from unallocated funds previously transferred from the General Fund to the General CPO Fund to adjust the CPO for the JHP Bridge project.
At the completion of this capital project, all excess funds will be remitted to the "unallocated funds previously transferred from the General Fund" account and this Capital Project Ordinance project will be closed.

DATE: _____

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

FOR FINANCE POSTING PURPOSES ONLY

PROJECT SOURCES

PROJECT USES

<u>Source Description and Code</u>	<u>Project To Date</u>	<u>Requested Amendment</u>	<u>Revised Project</u>	<u>Project Description and Code</u>	<u>Project To Date</u>	<u>Requested Amendment</u>	<u>Revised Project</u>
PR041 - Jesse Helms Park Bridge							
IFT From General Fund	658,720	10,000	668,720	Land and Improvements	658,720	10,000	668,720
40461374-4010-PR041				40561374-5570-PR041			
	658,720	10,000	668,720		658,720	10,000	668,720

Prepared By aar
 Posted By
 Date

Number CPO - 142

STAFF IS REQUESTED TO ASK THE IN-COMING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO CONSIDER PRIORITIZING THE UPGRADING OF THE SEWER LINES FOR THE DOWNTOWN CORE OF WAXHAW, STALLINGS, AND INDIAN TRAIL FOR FUTURE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT:

In response to a question by the Chairwoman, Mrs. Coto stated that the staff defers this item to Commissioner Openshaw who requested it be included on the agenda.

Commissioner Openshaw reported that he asked to have this item placed on the agenda to request the in-coming County Commissioners to consider prioritizing the upgrading and renovation of the sewer lines for the downtown cores of Waxhaw, Stallings, and Indian Trail in order to promote future commercial development. He said he read in the paper last week that the Indian Trail Town Council has been promoting that stance and trying to find ways to encourage business. Commissioner Openshaw cited a few examples. He stressed that now is the time to take this action while times are slow as opposed to waiting until things pick up and there is not an opportunity to make these renovations because businesses are wanting to move into the area.. He said it is his understanding from talking with the mayors of Waxhaw, Stallings, and Indian Trail and the Public Works Director that each of the towns has issues that need to be addressed. Commissioner Openshaw said this Board has said that it wants commercial development and the sewer upgrades to the core of these towns could make that happen.

With there being no questions or comments, the Chairwoman announced the next item and recognized the County Manager for comments.

CONSIDERATION OF ADDING PROSPECTIVE MINERAL SPRINGS AND FAIRVIEW SEWER LINES TO THE MASTER PLAN WITHOUT ALLOCATING FUNDING-STAFF IS TO CHECK WITH UNIONVILLE TO DETERMINE NEEDS:

Again, the County Manager deferred to Commissioner Openshaw for this item.

Commissioner Openshaw explained that this is an item that he has been working on for some time and had brought it before the Board six months to a year ago. He said the mayors of Mineral Springs, Stallings, and Fairview worked on an allocation formula that was hoped could be done with the municipalities. He explained that basically Mineral Springs was asked by the County almost five years ago if it would be interested in being included in the Sewer Master Plan and the Council responded. He said the Board's reasoning during the allocation process was that Mineral Springs is not on the Master Plan. Commissioner Openshaw stressed that he wanted to include the municipality on the Master Plan but emphasized that he was not recommending the plan including the town's sewer allocation be funded right away. He said that when the new sewer extension policy is being studied and developed, it could provide an opportunity to fund that line. Commissioner Openshaw mentioned that he had talked with four property owners there, all of whom have said that they are very interested in talking with the County about possibly providing a capital contribution to make this

line happen. He reported that the Fire Department in Mineral Springs currently pays \$200 per month for pump and haul because its septic tank does not work and there are no sewer lines in the area. He calculated that \$200 per month amortized for a 20-year loan, which is fairly normal for a public works project, at three percent interest, finances \$36,000 of principal and interest. He assured that the four property owners he had spoken with all expressed a strong interest in revitalizing their downtown area.

He also read an email that he received today from the Mayor of Fairview, Elizabeth B. Long, as follows:

In January of this past year, I approached the Board expressing Fairview's desire for equitable distribution of sewer allotment. The need for sewer is still there. Our population has now passed the 5,000 mark and the desire for more commercial development in our area is great. A Dollar General Store has opened since I approached the Board and is doing a thriving business, but it is quite evident that more development is desired by our residents.

Even though the Monroe Bypass construction is now scheduled to start, it is again tied up in controversy due to environmental concerns. All the while, the 218 corridor through Fairview is becoming the Bypass. We have direct access to I-485 and with sewer expansion to Fairview, we will be in a position to handle commercial growth that is sure to come. Fairview is and will continue to be an asset to Union County; therefore, I respectfully request that the Board put sewer lines for Fairview in the Master Plan.

Commissioner Openshaw moved that the County add to the Master Plan prospective sewer lines for these two municipalities without allocation of funds. He explained that funding could be discussed in the future but that this action gets the two towns on the Master Plan.

Commissioner Baucom asked if the Town of Unionville had been contacted.

Commissioner Openshaw apologized and said that as part of his motion he had wanted to include that Mr. Goscicki be directed to contact Unionville to determine its needs. Commissioner Openshaw agreed to add this to his motion and thanked Commissioner Baucom for bringing out this point.

The Chairwoman restated that the motion on the floor is to add both the Mineral Springs and the Fairview sewer line projects to the Master Plan, unfunded at this time, and that the Public Works Director be directed to speak with the town of Unionville to determine its sewer line needs.

With there being no additional discussion on the motion as restated, it passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCIES ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

The Chairwoman read the following vacancies on boards and committees:

- a. Adult Care Home Advisory Committee (at least five vacancies)
- b. Agricultural Advisory Board (1 vacancy expired June 2010)
- c. 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
- d. Nursing Home Advisory Committee (at least four members)
- e. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (one vacancy for member with physical disability)
- f. Planning Board (Four vacancies as follows: one unexpired term for regular member ending 4/20/2011; two unexpired terms for regular members ending 4/20/2012; and one unexpired term for regular member ending 4/20/2013)
- g. Library Board of Trustees – Five vacancies as follows
 - (1) Two (2) at-large representatives
 - (2) One (1) vacancy representing the Monroe Region (City of Monroe and Central Union County)
 - (3) One (1) vacancy at Union West Region – Indian Trail, Stallings, Lake Park, Hemby Bridge
 - (4) One (1) Fairview Region – including Unionville and northwestern Union County
- h. Historic Preservation Commission – (one vacancy due to a resignation with the term ending February 2011)
- i. Animal Care Committee
 - (1) Four members at large
 - (2) One representative from 501c 3 Rescue Group
 - (3) One veterinarian

- (4) One representative from the County Animal Shelter
- j. Farmers Market Committee (one member at large as of December 2010)
- k. Union County Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee (five vacancies for community representatives as of December 2010)
- l. Social Services Board (one vacancy due to a resignation – term expires June 2013).

COUNTY MANAGER’S COMMENTS:

Mrs. Cynthia Coto was recognized, and she thanked the Board for the privilege of being the County Manager for Union County and said that she looked forward to working with the existing board as well as the incoming board. She said that this is her first day on the job and she had been very impressed by the staff that she had interacted with and the community as a whole. Mrs. Coto said she thought that in cooperation and partnership the County can move forward and much can be accomplished. Mrs. Coto said she was very pleased to be a part of that progress.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUES AND COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS:

The Chairwoman recognized Wes Baker and the County Manager to make the presentations to the out-going Commissioners.

Mr. Baker presented a plaque to Allan Baucom who served as a Commissioner from December 2006 until present, Chairman from December 2007 until December 2008, and Vice Chairman from December 2006 to 2007. He said he was sure that Commissioner Baucom had attended lots of meeting when he may have preferred to have been elsewhere. Mr. Baker pointed out that many people do not run for office because of the time commitment. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Baucom for his service and all that he has done while serving.

Mr. Baker next recognized Commissioner Mills who served as Commissioner from December 2006 until now. He expressed his and the citizens’ appreciation to Commissioner Mills for being willing to run for office and serving in the capacity and completing the duties required.

Mr. Baker next recognized Commissioner Openshaw who has served as Commissioner since December 2006 and served as Chairman from December 2008 until December 2009.

Mr. Baker pointed out that being a Commissioner is not an easy job since people do not always agree with each other. He stressed that it is necessary for the Commissioners individually to do what each thinks is best and that he thought that the decisions have been made with the County's best interest at heart. He expressed his sentiment as a citizen of the county, not an employee, that he truly appreciated the time and service of the outgoing commissioners.

Mr. Baker announced that last week Mr. John Petoskey, Tax Administrator for Union County, was honored and named as Tax Assessor of the Year.

The Chairwoman recognized Commissioner Baucom for comments.

Commissioner Baucom stated that starting last Friday he attended the funerals of Andy Boggs, and then traveled to Indiana to attend the funeral of a dear friend. He said that he is part of a group of six couples from across the United States that meet several times a year and out of the five couples remaining four couples were able to be there and attend the services. He said he returned on Monday and attended the funeral of Wilson Morgan, a five-generation landowner and farmer in Union County, and then Thursday of that same week the funeral was held for John Munn, former County Manager of Union County and town manager for Indian Trail and Marshville. He pointed out that John Munn did lots of good work not just politically but for the community. He described the last week as being very trying and stressed that one does not know what he has to be thankful for until he hears from Hometown Heroes and Spencer Griffin as the Board did tonight.

He said that tonight is the last regular meeting of his term of office, and he read the following statement into the record:

Almost any adjective one can name could be used to describe his feelings during the past four years.

My objectives during my term have been to work for the citizens of Union County to preserve and improve the opportunities and quality of life for all, to represent all the citizens of Union County, and to be fiscally responsible to the citizens with Union County's assets, especially their money.

I am not going to name accomplishments, or lack of, during the past four years. Each of you can, and maybe should, do that. What I can say is that a lot of people were shocked when I opted to run for this office over four years ago. I have never considered myself to be a "politician". However, I do

believe we are allowed to be in situations for a reason. I hope I have fulfilled my obligations and your expectations.

Some things I look forward to:

- *I look forward to the Monroe Bypass or “Union Parkway” or, whatever the name, being started and completed and I look forward to driving on it.*
- *I look forward to December 6th when a new Board of Commissioners’ majority will be sworn into office and the quality of leadership this will bring to Union County.*
- *I look forward to my continued relationships with citizens of this county.*
- *I look forward to “Legacy Park” near Marshville becoming a reality and the opportunities it will bring to this county and region.*
- *I look forward to all areas of Union County having access to affordable high-speed internet.*
- *I look forward to the opening of the Waxhaw Emergency facility.*
- *I look forward to long-term solutions to our water and, subsequent, sewer changes.*
- *I look forward to Union County reestablishing quality relationships with our neighbors to the north, south, east, and west, and working collaboratively to find regional solutions to issues facing all of us.*
- *I look forward to Union County establishing and re-establishing quality relationships within its borders.*
- *I look forward to the County’s property, adjacent to Lake Tonawanda, again being used by citizens as part of the park.*
- *I look forward to the continued protection and preservation of property rights.*
- *I look forward to continuing being a citizen of Union County for the rest of my life, and I want Union County to be the best possible place to live that it can be.*

I want to thank Union County department heads and staff for all they do. We are truly fortunate to have such a wonderful and committed group of individuals working for us. These folks genuinely deserve our appreciation.

I want to especially thank Wes Baker, Dick Black, Jeff Crook, and Mark Watson. I really appreciate each of you for your insight, your intellect, your knowledge, your expertise, your honesty, but most for your willingness to go beyond expectations and always with the best interest of Union County at the forefront. Thank you very much.

Lynn West, I did not forget you, nor could I forget you. Any accolade that I have said about anybody else goes for you. Any accolade that has ever been given to you, you genuinely deserve. You have become a dear friend and a confidante. I am going to miss our interaction. Thank you

I thank my wife, Marie, for her understanding and her perseverance during these four years. Marie has never once complained to me about the office. She may have complained to herself and to others, but, never to me. I really appreciate that and I love her.

And, finally, I want to thank the citizens of Union County for granting me this opportunity.

It has been a privilege and it has been an honor to serve as your commissioner.

May God bless Union County. Thank you.

Commissioner Mills was next recognized. He said that Union County's citizens have a lot to be thankful for and one of these is the air show that was sponsored with the City of Monroe and the Veterans Council. He noted that this Board has had a large part in funding the air show, and he hoped the new Board would continue funding that event. Commissioner Mills personally thanked Ron Fowler, Monroe's Fire Chief, and Deborah Duncan, Monroe Police Chief. He pointed out that over 80,000 people came to the air show over a two-day period.

He said during the eight years that he has been a commissioner that it has been a privilege to work with the men and women of volunteer fire departments who put themselves on the line: when things are at the worst, they have to be at their best. He stressed that volunteers, not just emergency personnel, but volunteers in general are the backbone of this county and go a long way.

Commissioner Mills said that he was the first Eagle Scout under Andy Boggs, who was one of his dear friends. He pointed out that Mr. Boggs had given financial donations to organizations but he had also given time to organizations such as the Boy Scouts.

Going forth from here he said that serving citizens of Union County is a tremendous honor that is bestowed, and he has joked that everyone should run for public office; it's a very humbling experience. It forces one to talk to people that otherwise one may not have talked to or wanted to talk to. He emphasized that the Board of Commissioners does not represent Republicans or Democrats but

represents every citizen of this county – those that don't vote and those that are homeless. Commissioner Mills said that serving the citizens of Union County is something that he has really enjoyed but the service to humanity is one of the greatest gifts of life. He challenged everyone to step up and help and serve on boards and committees. He asked the in-coming Commissioners to put faith in the staff as it is wonderful group.

He mentioned his friendships with the late John Munn, Wes Baker, Jeff Crook, and Lynn West. He addressed County Attorney Keith Merritt and told him that although he did not vote to appoint him, and he knew the reason why, that he thought he had done an exceptional job and had proven himself to be very straight forward. He said that he has come to respect him and the work that he has done for the County.

Commissioner Openshaw welcomed County Manager Coto to Union County and told her that he thought she would find the people of Union County to be much more gracious than the introduction that she was given. He said that during the interview the Commissioners asked many of the questions brought up during informal comments by Mr. Rogers and that he received a comfort level from her responses.

He echoed the sentiments of Commissioners Baucom and Mills in order to save some time. He said the staff is essential to serve the County well and the citizens do not realize the pressure that these individual are under, particularly with the budget cuts, and with the work that they must generate daily to stay even with the workload.

Commissioner Openshaw stated that it has been an honor to serve the citizens of Union County and noted that he had never thought that he would be doing this. He expressed appreciation for the support he received and stated that during this time he had made lots of good friends. He addressed Chairwoman Rogers and Vice Chairwoman Kuehler and told them that he appreciated their unparalleled time and commitment that each put into this job. He said that the citizens do not know the time required to do the job of County Commissioner.

Lastly, he quoted James Madison: Conscience is the most sacred of all property rights. He stated that he is pleased to be able to say that he made it through four years with a clear conscience and did the best job he could although it was not always perfect. He wished good luck to the new commissioners and to the people of Union County.

Vice Chairwoman Kuehler stated that she too would mirror some of the negative comments that were made tonight and said that she hoped that those did not reflect the attitude of the new leadership moving forward. She said because someone stands at the

microphone and makes a statement does not make the statement true. She said she had spoken with each of the commissioners-elect on the phone and in person and reported that she has been assured that they are not interested in an agenda to even scores but are focused on what is best for Union County. The Vice Chairwoman said she honestly believes that the commissioners-elect intend to do that.

She thanked the out-going commissioners for their time and effort and stated that she looked forward to working with the new commissioners starting in December. The Vice Chairwoman gave as an example a conversation that she had with her son and encouraged people, if they can, to spend time with their families because that is what is important. She wished everyone a great Thanksgiving and a good holiday.

Chairwoman Rogers congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Henry Tyson who will be celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary on November 23rd.

She also thanked Wes Baker for stepping in at a critical time and said that his professionalism and his level of ethics and integrity are bar none. She said it had been a tremendous pleasure working with him and hoped that the Board will continue to work with him in some management capacity because he is an asset to this County. The Chair noted that with five sitting commissioners all saying the same, it is definitely a good thing.

Chairwoman Rogers welcomed Mrs. Coto and stated that the County is fortunate to have her in this County and explained that one of the things on Mrs. Coto's resume that impressed her was the fact that she had worked from the ground up during her 36 years of experience. She said that this was a unique quality and nothing that she saw in any of the other candidates. Chair Rogers said she was also impressed that not only had Mrs. Coto read about Union County on-line but also she had visited many areas in the County prior to her interview with the Board. She said that it was apparent that Mrs. Coto came to Union County because she thought it would be a good fit for her and agreed that she too thought it would be a good fit.

She next addressed Commissioner Openshaw by stating that she met him when she first moved to this County and remembered it clearly because he called her and asked her who she was and why was she running for school board. She said they met and that began the relationship that has lasted through the years. She stated that he was a man of integrity, extreme intelligence, one who likes to talk (but that's okay) and that she feels the citizens do not realize how lucky they were to have him on this Board. She also addressed the amount of work that he did while he served and the many contacts and conversations that he had during these four years. She said his decisions were based on facts and information received and not politics. The Chairwoman told him he was a man of high

character, high morals, and high ethics and if she had a nickel for every time she was asked why his name was not on the ballot that she could retire and have her horses. She said she looked forward to his calling her and expressing his opinion on future agenda items.

At 8:45 p.m., motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Kuehler that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.