

February 4, 2008

The Union County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, February 4, 2008, at 7:00 o'clock p.m., in the Commissioners' Board Room on the first floor in the Union County Government Center, 500 North Main Street, Monroe, NC. The following were

PRESENT: Chairman Allan Baucom, Vice Chairman Kevin Pressley, Commissioner Roger Lane, Commissioner A. Parker Mills, Jr., and Commissioner Lanny Openshaw

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Richard Black, Interim County Manager, Lynn West, Clerk to the Board, Matthew Delk, Assistant County Manager, Jeff Crook, Senior Staff Attorney, Kai Nelson, Finance Director, interested citizens and members of the press

The Chairman convened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

OPENING OF MEETING:

Invocation: The Chairman introduced the Reverend Janet Tyson, pastor of Bethany Presbyterian Church, who presented the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Baucom recognized the officers of the Union County 4-H Teen Council, Whitley Allen, Ashley Price, Daniel Kennington, and Jordan Purser, to lead the Commissioners and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Informal Comments: Before recognizing the citizens who wished to address the Board during this period, Chairman Baucom asked the Clerk to read the policy on informal comments. At the conclusion of the reading of this policy, he first recognized Dudley Wass who wanted to address the body on the issue of water.

Mr. Wass introduced himself and urged the Commissioners to vote tonight to stop the issuance of building permits and to limit new water connections. He summarized that the peak water demand in 2005 was 15.3 million gallons and that by May of 2007 the peak was 22.4 million gallons, which was a 46 percent increase in two years. Mr. Wass noted that during this time water supply did not increase and demand exceeded the supply. He reminded that it was last May that the Board of Commissioners had to act to implement water restrictions. However, he stressed, the Board did not address the cause of the problem, and it is now eight months later. Mr. Wass said the root cause of the problem is not the drought, although the drought is serious, but it masks the real cause. He stated the real problem is that thousands of new houses are being connected to the water system without any added water. He said that since last June, water usage by many thousands of people has been restricted but the County has allowed building construction to continue and allowed the problem to worsen. He said that whether it is intentional or not, the Board's action effectively takes water away from existing home and business owners to provide it to developers. Mr. Wass said there is no evidence of water management, no real water plan, and no reserve capacity was set aside for contingencies such as drought or new businesses. He also reviewed that water commitments were not tracked and commitments were made without regard to available capacity and there was not, and still is not, any real commitment process and, even if there were one, there is no water to commit except to take it from many to give it to a few. He emphasized that if Public Works understood the crisis coming and communicated it to the Board, then the five Commissioners are negligent for not having acted already. However, he said if Public Works did not see the crisis coming, then the Board did not have the facts to act upon and that suggests both management and oversight problems. He emphasized that tonight the Board does have the facts and the facts show that the water demand exceeds supply and the facts require responsible action to be taken by the Board. Mr. Wass pointed out that several towns have recently instituted moratoriums so a moratorium might be something for the Board to consider, but he questioned what would be accomplished in 90 days. He also asked what unrestricted demand would be later in 2008. Mr. Wass said it would be at least 25 to 26 million gallons per day and by May of 2009, the demand would be 30 million gallons per day. He said that growth seems to be slowing, but that at the end of the moratorium there would not be a comprehensive plan nor would the county have any additional water. He again urged the Commissioners to vote yes and stated that a no vote would be irresponsible in view of the facts that currently show the water demand exceeds supply. He said it would be negligent, in view of an effective containment plan not being acted upon, and would be a breach of the public's trust in the Commissioners by its not governing in the best interest of the great majority of citizens.

The next person who registered to address the Board was Elizabeth Deal Propst on the issue of the pump station. Ms. Propst said she was speaking on a possible pump station for The Woods Development and how it would impact the sewer situation in the Mundy's Run Drainage Basin. She stated that when the Woods Development was originally proposed that her family met with Bob Davis, the engineer for the project, and Mayor Nancy Anderson. Ms. Propst explained that her family needed to know how the pump station would impact its adjoining 106 acres. She said that at that time Bob Davis assured that her family's property would have access to the pump station. She said they were also concerned about why a pump station would be built when the Master Plan for the Mundy's Run Drainage Basin calls for the area to be gravity sewer. She said her family also questioned how the pump station possibly could negatively affect the lake in Aero Plantation

and her family's lake front property. She also said they had wondered if the pump station would have a detrimental effect on the value and future sale of the adjoining 106 acres. Mrs. Propst said that since that meeting she has been told by Union County Public Works that although the property is adjoining the 106 acres, it would not have access to the pump station, which would serve only the upper basin that includes the Woods and specifically another property about one-half mile away on Cox Road that will have lots of seven-tenths of an acre. She said this property is already under contract with a developer. Mrs. Propst said that her family wants the Woods Development to be built as planned and believes it would be an asset to the community, but wants it built with gravity sewer provided for the entire Mundy's Run Drainage Basin or with a pump station that will serve the entire upper and lower basin. She pointed out that the western area of Union County pays a large portion of its tax base to Union County, but has fewer services. Mrs. Propst encouraged the County to move forward with the 2006 Capital Improvement Plan that calls for Mundy's Run Drainage Basin to be served by gravity. She stressed that all citizens deserve sewer not just a select few.

The Chairman next recognized Greg Williams who wanted to speak on the subject of water. Mr. Williams of Fairview addressed the body on the proposal to cease the issuance of building permits and spoke in opposition to that proposal. He said the question is not about giving water to developers; it is about building a county. He acknowledged that Union County has had a lot of growth in the last decade and has been fortunate in many ways for the number of jobs that it has created. Mr. Williams said that by the same token, the growth needs to be managed. He emphasized that managing growth does not mean stopping it. He reported that there are many people in the audience tonight who are construction workers whose livelihood, feeding their families, and paying their property taxes depend upon their jobs. Mr. Williams explained that if this Ordinance is adopted tonight, tomorrow when he walked into his office, he would have to layoff half of his 100 employees who work in the masonry business and home building business. He said that within another six months, he would have to layoff the remainder because he would have no business. Mr. Williams stated that Union County is his livelihood, and he is a taxpayer. He said that from statistics gathered from the Homebuilders Association that from every 100 homes built, there are 246 jobs created. Mr. Williams noted that in this time of economic downturn, Union County does not need to be looking at ways to take away people's opportunity for employment, but the county needs to be looking at ways to solve problems; and emphasized that stopping the issuance of building permits does not solve a problem. He said that solving the problem would be building greater capacity, managing that capacity, and allocating that capacity in a fair method. Mr. Williams said it is not about developers versus homeowners, east against west, but it is about working together to figure out solutions to solve the problem and not about creating divisiveness in the community. Mr. Williams said he was born in Union County 48 years ago and hoped he would be fortunate enough to die in Union County. He also pointed out that his Dad started their masonry business in Union County about 35 years ago, and he started his construction company about 22 years ago. He pointed out that during this time they had been taxpayers of Union County and encouraged the Commissioners to not adopt the Ordinance to stop issuance of building permits.

Chairman Baucom recognized Attorney Tom Caldwell who addressed the Board on The Woods Subdivision, which is Item 10 on the agenda tonight. He reminded that last week it was suggested that there are some facts that still need to be determined and discussed, and he thought that was still the case tonight. He asked the Board to defer this item until the next meeting.

Next recognized was Werner Thomisser who addressed the issue of water. He said that he read in yesterday's paper that Union County has no current plans to ease water restrictions. He said the current situation is that he and others in western Union County have lost anywhere from 15 to 25 percent of their lawns because of the water restrictions that were put into place last September. He said that he and these other residents could not aerate and seed and couldn't water for five minutes to keep the seeds wet to germinate. Mr. Thomisser said that here in late winter, the residents are faced with "should we aerate, should we seed, and pray for Mother Nature for the water?" He said he believed that some members of the Board of Commissioners are in denial. He said he did not believe the water situation is going to get any better and, if anything, he said he thought it would get worse. Mr. Thomisser reminded that the Commissioners recently approved \$10 million dollars to get three million gallons of water per day from Anson County; that is not instant water. He asked how long would it take for the infrastructure to get to Marshville so that the County's residents could get the water. He reminded that last September the Board developed a sewer allocation program, but the County still does not have in place a water allocation program. Mr. Thomisser stated that Commissioner Mills had said that a portion of the three million gallons would go to the poultry industrial plant in Marshville and to other economic development. He agreed that Union County needs the economic development but questioned who was going to get the rest of the water. He asked why should he, a person who had lived here for six years and paid taxes, have to end up with water restrictions and then pay two-cents a gallon more for the infrastructure but is still not getting the water. He said the answer is clear—develop a water allocation program and until the County adopts this program, it should stop issuance of water permits and building permits, because there is not sufficient water.

The next person who registered to speak was Tad Dunn. Mr. Dunn said he worked for the real estate and building industry coalition and wanted to address the issue of water. First, he quoted from *The Charlotte Observer* in December "Political infighting has hurt utility management; in particular, the county's political volubility and the frequent turnover on the Commissioners' board have affected the staff's ability to function. Voters have thrown out every incumbent commissioner for the past five years who has sought re-election." He pointed out that the only thing this agenda item does is to continue the vicious growth versus anti-growth that he has witnessed over the last year. He said that there is good news from the sense that the County stopped allocating water permits in June 2007 and that fact is sometimes missed. He said he also understood that Public Works will be presenting strategy to the Commissioners in the next few months and questioned why the Board would not wait until this is presented. Mr. Dunn said that he was also amazed to read in *The Enquirer-Journal* that this issue is being couched as developers versus the taxpayers. He said this comment does not resolve anything but continues the vicious debate that goes on in this County. Mr. Dunn said that this item is all about damaging the economy of Union County and, instead of stating that as an emotional statement, he reported that in 2000 John Connington, an economic development research expert, at UNC Charlotte looked at how many and

what types of jobs are created by residential development in the county and the comment was made earlier – that per every 100 homes, there are 246 jobs created, and it is important to note that of this 246 jobs, 82 of these have nothing to do with construction but are jobs that benefit from overall growth. He stressed this question is not about developers versus homeowners but it is about economic development for the future of Union County.

Jim Carpenter, President of the Union County Chamber of Commerce, was next recognized to speak on the water issue. He said that he represents 700 members and a workforce of over 25,000 people. First, he commended the Commissioners for taking on the role of trying to get enough water and sewer capacity to correct a problem that they inherited. Secondly, he said that the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce asked him to come forward tonight to express concerns about the motion before the board which is probably illegal and, secondly, would have tremendous negative impacts on the economy of this County and the jobs that are created. He said he would not reiterate the statistics quoted by Mr. Dunn but certainly there is a reverberation through the economy when construction is halted. Mr. Carpenter quoted Socrates “that people come together in cities for a better life.” He said Union County is an urban county and residents must share responsibility and respect for others and their desire to come together for a better life. He said that option must be weighed for people’s lives and their livelihood versus aeration of lawns.

Mr. Gus Moore addressed the Board on the issue of The Woods subdivision. He said he thought the engineering and design of The Woods project are to be complimented but pointed out that this is a typical example of the County being expected to change the rules that the rest of the citizens are expected to follow. Mr. Moore said that if this project is approved, there should be a large holding pond down stream to hold any spillage of sewage in case of pump failure.

The Chairman recognized Dan Kelly who had registered to speak on the subject of water. Mr. Kelly, a resident of Stallings, said he had planned to defer his comments but since that is not allowed under the Board’s rule, he does not have much to say. He said he agreed that the Board took on a tough job and tried to do the best it could. Mr. Kelly said he was a people person and looks at the half-full size of the glass. He said he attends meetings because he does care although he also sees the surliness. He said he recognizes that all here care about what happens or no one would be present. Mr. Kelly said that Mr. Williams is the only person he had heard talk about a business that happens to be his and spoke about how the proposed Ordinance would impact his employees and community. Mr. Kelly said that everyone needs to work together and the Board will need to act on what is right for everyone.

Cody Helms next spoke on the subject of water. Mr. Helms asked the Board to delete Item 7 – Cessation of issuance of new residential building permits and new connections to the UCPW Water System except where construction has started or developer has signed contract in hand. He said there are several reasons Union County does not need this: (1) the 30 – 40 percent of the population in the construction industry

spend their money in Union County so that is good for two sides and (2) this proposal would really increase the unemployment rate in Union County. He pointed out that building permits in 2007 were down compared to 2006, and the tax base is up by millions of dollars. Mr. Helms also noted that with the revaluation the Commissioners will adjust the value of the property, and if building permits are stopped, questioned if the Board could justify the increase. He said in his opinion the person who thought this item up had no consideration for his fellow citizens of this county and reminded that the Commissioners took an oath for the betterment of Union County—not to degrade Union County. He said it was his opinion this would be a hindrance to the county and to the growth. He asked if it would not be bad to live in a county where no one wants to live. Mr. Helms said he had been here 71 years and that he planned on staying here. Mr. Helms said he did not have to water his lawn, because if it dies or goes dormant, it will come back – and it did this year.

The Chairman recognized Randy Tucker who wanted to speak on water issues. Mr. Tucker stated that he lived at 5819 Little Staton Road in the New Salem community and also stated that he was proud to live in Union County and be a builder and small-time developer in this County. He agreed that water is an issue in some aspects, but pointed out jobs is a greater issue. He said the development company that he has is a small family-based business. Mr. Tucker said his entire family is involved in that business and if his development company is required to stop, it will devastate his family and the families of his employees as well as subcontractors and suppliers. He said he saw no point in stopping construction. Mr. Tucker pointed out that much of the areas that are being developed do not use county water but use wells and septic systems and are not affecting the core system. He stated that he does not believe that permits for lots that are recorded and/or those lots not using the county's resources should be stopped from proceeding. He encouraged the Commissioners not to approve the cessation of building permits and water permits.

Ric Atwell, 3507 Savannah Way Drive, Monroe, said he was a superintendent in the construction business for Mr. Williams. He stressed that he was a local person and that about six years ago he began watching the Commissioners' meetings. Mr. Atwell said he started hearing a common theme throughout the meetings and what bothered him is that it should not be a pro-growth and anti-growth situation. He asked who was going to be hurt if the item is approved – the big bad developer who is pictured as the guy who comes in and throws 600 houses down on 40 acres and is gone by the time the first hurricane comes through. He said that is not the way the firm he works for builds home, but the point is, if the Ordinance is adopted, it won't be the developers who will be hurt because they are diversified, but it will be the people like him who go from paycheck to paycheck. He stressed that he was diversified – he diverts one bill to the next month or whatever. Mr. Atwell spoke of the gentleman who talked about his lawn and some others spoke about their lawns by stating that these individuals' parents and grandparents were not here paying taxes like he and his families had been. He said he knew that fact did not give them any less right to the same amount of water that he gets, but everyone must be considerate. He said he had moved into a new home in June and his lawn was dead. Mr. Atwell said that this ordinance would hurt him and people like him. Mr. Atwell said that instead of getting the train to stop, the County should get more people laying the track. He said he did not think that anyone in the room, who is from this area, would not be willing to step

forward and put forth an effort to get the water that the county citizens' need. He pointed out that the developments in the Weddington and Marvin areas were built on the backs of the others.

The Chairman recognized Dale Furlong, a resident of Wesley Chapel, who said that he too was a construction worker who would be unemployed if this Ordinance is adopted. He said that he had lived in the area for 13 years with his wife and two children. Mr. Furlong said that what he hears is that "everybody wants our jobs so they can water their yards." He said it seems ridiculous that a person is willing to trade off green grass for a large portion of this county's employment, but pointed out that he could not go to Wal-Mart, grocery stores, etc., without seeing people he works with. He pointed out that these individuals are spending their money in Monroe and Union County and, if this action is taken and they lose their jobs, the purchasing power of these individuals is gone.

Chairman Baucom recognized Dave Ballard to address Twelve Oaks. Mr. Ballard stated that he lives in Weddington and owns D. Ballard Construction on Independence Boulevard in Monroe. He said he was here to oppose the cessation of issuance of permits on behalf of his employees, subcontractors, etc. He said he wanted to counter one of the first things he heard was that this Board favors developers over ordinary citizens. Mr. Ballard said that for the first time he saw the split that had been talked about and the contrast between growth and anti-growth. He said he considered himself an ordinary citizen who works in this county, pays his taxes in this county, and loves this county as well, and noted that he took offense to the statement. He said he did not see this Board favoring him over someone else – he said he thought he was someone else. Mr. Ballard said that with the approval of all the appropriate agencies, he had purchased a piece of land for his company's needs to build houses. He said he guessed he was a developer because that was his profession, but he worked like every other ordinary citizen. He said this is the job he does, and it comes with a cost. He said he did not buy the land until he knew that he would receive all the necessary permits – that's called due diligence. He said he built four homes and advertised in MLS and pays the bank \$20,000 a month for the cost of that land. Mr. Ballard said he wanted to make sure that if the cost of getting water is the cost that he was going to have to pay for not having access to the land that he thought was already approved, he would request that he be reimbursed for that cost. However, he said he would prefer to see the county invest in getting water. He reiterated that it would be the employees and subcontractors and this business that have been in Union County for ten years that will suffer.

Robert Dow was recognized to speak. Mr. Dow of 6720 Matthews-Weddington Road stated he was commenting on the pump station. He said he had been a member of the Weddington Planning Board for over ten years and Chairman of the Board of Arbitration, but stressed that tonight he is speaking as a citizen. He said that he and his family have owned a 72 acre farm in Union County for over 30 years. Mr. Dow noted that Union County currently has a no-pump station policy for several great reasons. He said that obviously does not mean that there are not situations when some are required and that is why there are about 60 in the county. Mr. Dow stated that the Woods Subdivision has been approved by the Town of Weddington and that plan is with septic fields and septic tanks. He said that should they get a pump station, the

developer would have to come back to the Town of Weddington for approval of a different plan. He explained that the developer's own engineering firm, McKim and Creed, developed a sewer system in the Twelve-Mile Basin in the Mundy's Creek Run and in that study showed them that Union County had a no-pump station policy and developed another route. He said the October 5th letter from Charlie O'Cain was not an approval letter that is the Commissioners' job, which the letter states very clearly, to deem relief from the no-pump station policy, The Woods would have to have a peculiar situation and they could not make reasonable use of the land without relief from the policy. He said The Woods is not any different than any other tract in Mundy's Run. He said The Woods does have a reasonable use in that it has been approved with a county-approved septic field and septic tanks. He encouraged the Board to seek long-term solutions to the problem.

Chairman Baucom recognized Rusty Tanner to address the subject of water. Mr. Tanner expressed appreciation to the Commissioners for their hard work and spoke on behalf of the Home Builders Association. He emphasized that most of the people present are in clear support of denying the motion for the cessation of water and building permits. He reiterated that people present tonight are here to see these issues denied and are not present to make a scene but to see that the right thing is done by the Board tonight. He said he hoped the Board realizes that stopping building and water permits in Union County is the worst thing that the Board of Commissioners could do. He said he thought it is illegal and there would be many lawsuits brought against the county. Mr. Tanner said this action would result in bad things for the residents of Union County and questioned if there were an ulterior motive for this agenda item even being brought before the Board. He further said that it's time to grow up and work together instead of playing games before the Board.

The next person to speak was Mike Reese, Executive Director of Union County Habitat for Humanity. He stated that he was present to speak to the Board about families. He said that they have scheduled seven Habitat homes to be built in the next year, and if the Board votes to stop building permits, it will also be affecting families who will never have an opportunity to own a safe, affordable home. Mr. Reese said that if the County stops building permits for the home builders and the people who consistently give back to the community, the Board will be affecting every non-profit organization in Union County. He commented that if they are not able to make a living here, they are not able to support organizations such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, or Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Reese stressed this is more than just about houses and not houses but it is about working together and finding solutions so that everyone is employed and able to give back to the community. He explained, to put the issue in perspective, that he and his wife spent 10 years in West Africa and it has a water problem. He said there is truly a water problem when you walk 20 miles each day round trip to get contaminated, dirty water out of a dry riverbed so that you can drink water. He said that what Union County needs to do is to find solutions and Habitat is working on that. He said that they were contacting and are providing a piece of land on the Anson county line for a water pumping station. Mr. Reese encouraged everyone to work together to provide housing for everyone and for supporting the economy.

The Chairman next recognized Karen Carroll of Aero Plantation. Ms. Carroll said that she lives in Aero Plantation, the neighborhood that is expected to bare all the burden of The Woods’ sewer designers. She noted that Mr. Moore suggested that a pond should be built downstream for spillage. Ms. Carroll stated that is exactly what the problem is – spillage. She said there are already ponds downstream for that spillage – those ponds, she stated, are the lakes of Aero Plantation. She said those lakes are where her children swim, fish and play. Ms. Carroll emphasized that the residents of Aero Plantation do not want sewer lines coming through their neighborhoods; it’s a wildlife sanctuary. She noted that action would leave a forty-foot wide swath of area where all the trees would need to be removed, not to mention the noise and interruption caused by this process. She reported that the proposal of The Woods has a sewer line going through her backyard, and emphasized that there is no one in the room who would welcome a sewer line going through their backyard. She also reported that the residents of Aero Plantation do not want a pump station placed at the headwaters of their lake; it’s not a matter of “if” but “when” the pump station is going to fail and dump waste into the lakes. She explained that she anticipated there would be a great effect on the lake water from the development that is going to be occurring upstream not only due to muddy water and debris coming from the stream but also due to greater runoff because of the number of trees and undergrowth being removed to build the homes, driveways, and roads for all of these developments. She pleaded with the Commissioners to not add to this burden by placing a pump station that will sooner or later pump effluent into the lakes. Mrs. Carroll noted that their development depends on well water and that the residents are not sure that the quality of their well water would not be affected by the pump station. She said that she understands that the development has already received septic approval for the homes that he plans to build in The Woods in Weddington and questioned why a pump station is being pushed when it appears that The Woods is going to be built with or without sewer available to it. She said that hopefully it is not because there are property owners who have land in the basin that would be served by the pump station and gain greater profit from their land if it has sewer access to the detriment of the landowners in Aero Plantation. She also questioned why the Commissioners are even considering this proposal when Union County’s policy is no pump stations and Union County is in the mess that it is now in respect to water and sewer due to past Commissioners and County Managers ignoring this policy and granting pump stations to developers in the past. Mrs. Carroll reiterated that the pump station proposal being considered tonight for The Woods should be denied.

With there being no one else who had registered to speak, the Chairman thanked everyone for their comments and attention.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AND/OR ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

Vice Chairman Pressley asked to add an item to the agenda: the release of WCWAA grant funds. He said there is also an item on the consent agenda that needs to be discussed without it being moved to the regular agenda.

The Clerk reported that it has been requested that Item 5 – Text Amendment to Article XII, Section 187(g) of the Union County Land Use Ordinance – Setback Requirement for Cluster Developments be removed from tonight’s agenda. The chairman stated that it had also been requested that Item 10 – The Woods Development be removed from tonight’s agenda. The Staff Attorney requested to remove from tonight’s agenda Item 12 – Sewer Allocation Policy Amendment – as he would request additional time to work on the amendment.

Commissioner Openshaw questioned if the Vice Chairman had a second item along with the addition of the release of WCWAA grant funds.

Vice Chairman Pressley replied that he would make that comment at the time of consent agenda discussion.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Pressley that the agenda be adopted as modified. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Vice Chairman stated that as noted by the Clerk there was a closed session within the regular meeting of January 22, 2008, and that information needs to be included in the minutes as a change to the minutes to be approved. Commissioner Openshaw stated that he had not completed reading the minutes and could not vote on that item. The Chairman reminded that the minutes are a part of the consent agenda.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Pressley that the items on the consent agenda, as amended, be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Contracts Over \$5000: Authorized the County Manager to approve and execute the following agreements:

- a. Lyles Data Systems, Inc. – Software License, Customization and Support Agreement for a Web-Based Tax Payment Module and a Web Based Property Card Mudule in the amount of \$73,916 for one year
- b. Pitney Bowes, Inc. – Postage Meter Rental Agreement in the amount of \$24,780 – five-year agreement
- c. Tele-Works, Inc. – Interactive Voice Response System (I) Product Support and Maintenance Agreement for Utility Customers’ payment and bill inquiries at the cost of \$10,875
- d. BAE Systems - Tensylon High Performance Materials, Inc. for the purpose of One-North Carolina Fund performance agreement providing grant from the north Carolina Department of Commerce to BAE systems at the cost of a lump sum grant amount of \$40,000

- e. Museums of the Waxhaw – Agreement to define scope of expenditure of funds in connection with the Museum’s outdoor living history area in a lump sum payment of \$50,000

Register of Deeds: Authorized the County Manager to approve and execute the following agreements:

- a. Amendment to contract with Logan Systems to reduce monthly service fee to reflect payment to Time Warner for IP Static Address in the amount of \$159.95 monthly
- b. Agreement with Time Warner for IP Static Address to allow Logan Systems to have remote access to the Logan Systems indexing system used by the Register of Deeds Office.

Government Center Phase IV Renovations: It was noted that this phase of the project covers the renovation and addition to the former Public Works building to accommodate the Union County Public Schools’ Administration that current occupies the sixth and seventh floors of the government center. Information was also provided that the funds to cover the cost of this renovation are included in the 2006 CIP.

- a. Accepted the bids for Phase IV of office renovations for the Union County Government Center as follows:

<i>Company</i>	<i>Base</i>	<i>Alt.1</i>	<i>Alt.2</i>	<i>Alt. 3</i>	<i>Alt. 4</i>
1. Dave’s construction Company -	\$2,417,000	-0-	\$2,500	\$56,000	\$48,000
2. Godfrey Construction Co.	1,966,800	\$33,700	-0-	\$47,200	\$55,300
3. Maxco, Inc.	2,149,800	\$45,520	-0-	\$46,000	\$50,700
4. Morlando-Holden Const. Co.	2,053,000	\$50,000	-0-	\$49,000	\$56,000
5. Murray Construction Co.	2,010,570	\$45,800	-0-	\$46,513	\$51,289
6. H. C. Rummage, Inc.	2,099,550	\$34,100	-0-	\$45,644	\$52,955

- b. Awarded the contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Godfrey Construction Company in the amount of \$2,000,500, which is the base bid plus Alternate #1 in the amount of \$33,700; and
- c. Authorized the County Manager to approve contract with Godfrey Construction Company, Inc.

Homeland Security – FY07 Homeland Security Grant for Training and Exercise: Authorized the Interim County Manager to approve and submit grant application to North Carolina Emergency Management with no matching funds required by the County for use of FY07 HLS training and exercise.

Health Department: Reduced hours in part-time Health Educator Position from 20 hours per week to 15 hours per week

Emergency Management: Amended the County’s Pay Plan to add an Emergency Management Assistant Position Pay Grade 58 and to delete a Hazmat/Grant Coordinator Position, Pay Grade 58

Communications: Ratified resolution approving Interlocal Agreement and authorized the Interim County Manager to make minor modifications, if necessary, pending final approval by the City of Charlotte.

RESOLUTION TO RATIFY INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, pursuant to G. S. 160A-461, local governments may enter into contracts or agreements with each other in order to execute any undertaking; and

WHEREAS, Union County, the City of Charlotte, and Mecklenburg County desire to enter into an interlocal agreement to address operation, funding, and future development of an emergency radio system, and to consolidate operation and management of the radio system under the City; and

WHEREAS, such contracts must be “ratified by resolution of the governing board of each unit spread upon its minutes.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS that the attached agreement with City of Charlotte/Mecklenburg County is hereby approved and ratified.

[ATTACH AGREEMENT]

Library: Authorized Interim County Manager to execute and submit grant application, as part of the in-kind contribution, the Library would pay \$3,868 in education expenses from the regular library budget and offer in-kind services including staff time and use of library space. The library would receive up to \$147,035 in Smart Start funds in FY 2009 budget.

Department of Social Services: Adopted Budget Amendment #29 to increase the Social Services – Child Care Services Operating Budget by \$73,820 received from State Revenue

Minutes: Approved the minutes of April 20, 2007 and the minutes of January 22, 2008, as amended to reflect a closed session.

Tax Administrator: Approved the following items as recommended by the Tax Administration:

- a. Departmental Collector's Monthly Report for the period ending December 31, 2007, reflecting a total collection percentage of 73.64 for the year.
- b. Refunds for January 2008 in the grand total amount of \$2,700.40

REFUNDS JANUARY 2008

Acct #	Name	Rel #	Total
2007			
07130013	JUNGE ELLEN T & GLORIA L LALLY	3758	425.93
50096985	NJN ASSOCIATES CORP	3772	511.35
08201056	CASKEY PERRY DANIEL JR & WF AMY	3782	114.27
07147495	BAUCOM RANDALL SCOTT & LISA M	3788	93.58
07147495	GRIFFITH DAVID L & JOSEPHINE	3790	157.56
07021197	WILLIAMS JAMES S & ANNETTE	3791	230.34
09012005B	HORNE TRINA R & HUSBAND ROBERT M	3794	238.43
03156024	COLLINS THOMAS A	3797	155.31
TOTALS - 2007			1,926.77
2006			
08201056	CASKEY PERRY DANIEL JR & WF AMY	3783	102.32
01177004Q	FOSTER WILLIAM R JR & STEVE NASH	3789	83.79
07021197	WILLIAMS JAMES S & ANNETTE E	3792	210.12
TOTALS - 2006			396.23
2005			
08201056	CASKEY PERRY DANIEL JR & WF AMY	3784	101.24
			-

TOTALS - 2005			101.24
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2004			
08201056	CASKEY PERRY DANIEL JR & WF AMY	3785	95.62
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TOTALS - 2004			95.62
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2003			
08201056	CASKEY PERRY DANIEL JR & WF AMY	3786	94.98
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TOTALS - 2003			94.98
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2002			
08201056	CASKEY PERRY DANIEL JR & WF AMY	3787	85.56
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TOTALS - 2002			85.56
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GRAND TOTALS - ALL YEARS			2,700.40
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c. Releases for January 2008 in the grand total amount of \$46,238.37

RELEASES JANUARY 2008

Acct #	Name	Rel.#	Total
2007			
09402011A	SECRET INVESTMENTS LLC	3763	9,361.56
08237012	ALADAL LLC	3753	3,655.34
07078226	FAIRHAVEN HOMEWONERS ASSOCIATION II INC	3754	9.36
07078230	FAIRHAVEN HOMEWONERS ASSOCIATION II INC	3755	9.58
07078228	FAIRHAVEN HOMEWONERS ASSOCIATION II INC	3756	17.90
06150003	PLAKAS EKATERINI	3757	275.56
09131001	MILLS LARRY T	3759	683.21
50095500	EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY	3760	1,320.87
50032057	CENTRAL SERVICE PRINTING LTD	3761	35.83
50080248	WEBER BRUCE WILLIAM & SHARON KAY	3762	61.86
50093643	HI-PER IMPORTS	3767	200.16
50069588	CASTILLO JOSE SOTO	3770	145.41
50094024	NC COLLECTIBLES	3771	195.56
50098273	STACK GARY	3773	111.54
07147419	BROOKWOOD HOMES BUILDERS INC	3774	1,745.49
07123194	JENKINS ROBERT J & MARY	3775	235.81
50087824	CITICORP VENDOR FINANCE INC	3776	33.25
50094777	GLOBAL SUPPLY & LOGISTICS INC	3777	230.16
50064901	DISCOUNT TIRE & AUTO INC	3778	16.56
50074580	T E Q LLC	3779	1,080.87
50082431	COCHRANE STEEL INDUSTRIES INC	3780	260.58
50082431	COCHRANE STEEL INDUSTRIES INC	3781	260.58
0433008E	BEAVER BILLY GRIGGS & WIFE DORIS C	3793	70.11
03081007	EASTER CONRAD C & MARY VAUGHN	3795	689.85
			-
Totals			20,707.00

2006

09402011A	SECRET INVESTMENTS LLC	3764	8,382.09
50092402	AMAZING AUTOS INC	3768	215.41
50092402	AMAZING AUTOS INC	3769	183.98
03081007	EASTER CONRAD C & MARY VAUGHN	3796	622.90
Totals			9,404.38
2005			
09402011A	SECRET INVESTMENTS LLC	3765	8,293.88
Totals			8,293.88
2004			
09402011A	SECRET INVESTMENTS LLC	3766	7,833.11
Totals			7,833.11
GRAND TOTALS			46,238.37

The Chairman stated that the Wesley Chapel-Weddington Athletic Association would replace Item #12 that was removed from tonight's agenda. He next recognized Jerry Simpson, Cooperative Extension Director.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION:

a. Union County 4-H Foundation: Mr. Simpson stated he would take only a quick moment to bring the Board up-to-date on the Union County 4-H Foundation but first wanted to show the commemorative rifle that is going to be raffled on February 16th at the Wild Turkey Federation. He reminded the Board that it was about ten years ago that the County Commissioners assisted Cooperative Extension with financial support to develop a 4-H and Youth Development Foundation. He said it was chartered as a 501c-3 organization, operated through a 12-person Board of Trustees, and it intends to endow \$300,000 to support youth development programs in Union County into perpetuity. Mr. Simpson said that as of this time, it has raised a little over \$110,000 through contributions from the people in this community. He explained

why this organization believes that it is alright to associate youth with a shooting program and guns. He further stated that guns remind people of their Constitution and Bill of Rights. Mr. Simpson described the gun to be raffled as having an engraved picture of the old Courthouse on it, an emblem of equality and Justice, engraved pictures of Andrew Jackson, who stood up for the common man, Seaboard Railroad Station, where many gallant men and women board trains and took arms to serve our nation in times of war. It was noted that the Union County Limited Edition Rifle is a Collector's Grade Henry "Big Boy" rifle in a .44 caliber overlaid in 24-karat gold, with highly engraved artwork defined with jewelry grade nickel.

Chairman Baucom stated there were only ten of these guns in the world and when they are sold, there will be do more.

Commissioner Mills said that his good friend, the late Dennis McCollum, set it up for the manufacturer of the gun to come to Union County and when he passed away, the responsibility of touring with the manufacturer became his responsibility and privilege. He said that normally the man spends three-weeks in a county, but in Union County, he sold those guns within three days. Commissioner Mills said many were disappointed that they did not get an opportunity to purchase a gun because they sold so quickly, but there will be a hand-gun coming out in the future.

d. Urban Forestry Grant: Mr. Simpson asked David Grant to join him at the podium. He briefly updated the Commissioners on a program of the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources (NCDFR) in partnership with the USDA Forest Service. He explained the purposes of the program and explained that the position is jointly funded by the Division of Forest Resources and the Union County Board of Commissioners. He reported that through this partnership Mr. Grant was hired as an Urban Forester. Mr. Simpson praised Mr. Grant's qualities and dedication to the program.

Mr. Grant reviewed with the Commissioners and audience some of the projects that he has been involved with and assured that although some believe that Urban Forestry is anti-growth, it is not, but it is intelligent growth and growth that addresses environmental impacts. He did note that urban forestry is different from traditional forest management but stressed that all rapidly growing counties are facing the same situations as is Union County. He said that he has started an I-Tree program in Union County focusing on the dollar value that trees give back to the county and closed with a quote from President Abraham Lincoln.

The Vice Chairman asked Mr. Grant what Urban Development thought about rain gardens. Mr. Grant responded that he liked it very much and it is a growing trend. He said it has not been studied as much as it should, but it is absolutely beneficial because the trees will be put to work.

The Vice Chairman stated that he thought this would get rid of some irrigation and would allow for gardens inside and do some plantings in the more common open space areas.

Commissioner Lane asked what I in I-Tree represented. Mr. Grant said it was Information Tree; it is a data base to take real time, air quality and measurements and the information goes to a data base in Syracuse, NY, and they come back with real time to the dollar and to the tree how much benefit the county received from a stand of trees in air quality, shade, storm water, and energy conservation. He said it is an amazing tool.

CESSATION OF i) ISSUANCE OF NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS AND ii) NEW CONNECTIONS TO UCPW WATER SYSTEM EXCEPT WHERE CONSTRUCTION HAS STARTED OR DEVELOPER HAS SIGNED CONTRACT IN HAND:

The Chairman read the agenda item and recognized Commissioner Lanny Openshaw who had added this item to the agenda. Commissioner Openshaw presented the Board with written documentation which outlined his power point presentation.

Commissioner Openshaw stated that he had a power point presentation to support his position. He thanked the citizens for attending the meeting and stated that the home builders' industry has always been well represented in Union County and on this Board of Commissioners. However, he said that tonight he had heard about trees, water, sewer, schools, and roads. He explained that it was not people like him who had made the decision to put the County in this current situation. Commissioner Openshaw said the building community has had tremendous power in this community and has not been proactive. He said that for years he had been hearing from the building community that it was going to step up and do certain things, but it has not happened. Commissioner Openshaw said now there is this proposal on the table; although, he had hoped that he and the construction industry could work together, and pointed out that he has advocated proactively for reclaimed water. He noted that he had talked to all the other board members about how to make the sewer policy more financially viable for the construction industry. Commissioner Openshaw said his career is in real estate and it has been very good to him and his builder was his partner with his boat. He said to sit here and be in the situation that he is in now is kind of contrary; however, Union County is out of water. During his power point presentation, he outlined the following:

He explained that the 22 million gallons per day includes the three million gallons that were approved at the last meeting through the Anson County contract. Really there are 19 million gallons – one million gallons on the east side and 18 millions on the west side from the Lancaster plant. He pointed out that the key number is 22.3 million gallons a day. Commissioner Openshaw said that it has exceeded the County's ability for its infrastructure to carry this water. He noted that when the County went into this water restriction before the drought, it

was because of low water pressure on the north and northeast areas of Union County. Yet, he explained, the drought made the situation worse and definitely impacted the industries of landscaping and nurseries but so did the water restrictions. He pointed out that each person here has his job and the right to defend it, and he is not opposed to the construction industry; however, what about the landscapers. Commissioner Openshaw said he had not heard anyone mention that industry other than people who talked about their lawns. He pointed out that no one talked about the many thousands of dollars of investment by the people in their landscaping of their homes – the homes they purchased from the construction industry.

Commissioner Openshaw stated that people have come up to the podium and addressed how they have businesses that are dependant upon water, and they cannot expand their businesses. He emphasized that Union County does not have a water allocation plan.

Again, he noted that every new home raises the bar on peak user demand. He pointed out that each time a new house comes on line, there is less water available to every existing customer including the customers of the construction industry who have purchased homes.

Commissioner Openshaw stated that a number of people have said that what he is proposing is probably illegal and the County's attorneys will probably support that statement and that is fine. He stressed that the County must start somewhere, but the first thing the County must do is to define what is an acceptable level of service to the existing customers of the water and sewer enterprise funds; the ones who pay the large majority of the water and sewer infrastructure fund that will provide for further growth. He noted that at this time Union County is in a situation where people are going to be charged more for their services to fund a fund that will lead to more growth that will in turn lead to less water for the existing customers. He said that was his perspective, and the County needs to determine what would be an acceptable level of service. He asked if as long as there is this much water, should the County continue to issue new permits and allow growth to continue. He said as most present know, the State demands that the water infrastructure needs to be sized to meet that peak demand. Commissioner Openshaw stressed that Union County had exceeded that peak demand. He said a proactive solution is to create a discount plan for consumers who conserve. He emphasized that he had conserved, and he knew a lot of other people who have conserved and that is the reasons the numbers are down. However, he said those who conserve are rewarded by new water permits being issued, which means less water for them. He pointed out that even without a drought that if all building permits are issued, and there are eight to ten thousand permits out there, that about two million gallons more of water will be required. He noted that not all homes will be built at once, but by this action, the County is basically ensuring that a drought will occur sooner for those customers; the restrictions will occur sooner for those individuals. He said during the Visioning Conference, the Board met with the legislative aide for the North Carolina County Commissioners and requested that he go to the State and ask them to look at reclaim water rules to see if there is not some way to loosen the rules so Union County can get this accomplished faster.

Commissioner Openshaw reiterated what he put forth in his recommendation to stop the issuance of any new residential building permits and to stop any new connections being made to the Public Works water system of already approved permits except where (1) construction has actually started, i.e., foundations have started to be laid or (2) the developer has a signed contract in hand with a paying customer, (3) new business construction, medical facilities, essential public facilities and services.

He also said that restrictions of new water permits should remain in place until the County upgrades its system to meet existing and near-term demand. Commissioner Openshaw stressed that existing customers deserve better.

Commissioner Openshaw stated that he had laid it out on the table and put on an extreme scenario and stated that he is waiting to hear for solutions from the other commissioners as well as the developers and contractors.

To allow for further discussion, the Chairman asked for a motion. Commissioner Openshaw moved to stop the issuance of any new residential building permits and to stop any new connections being made to the Public Works water system of already approved permits except where (1) construction has actually started, i.e., foundations have started to be laid or (2) the developer has a signed contract in hand with a paying customer until a proper comprehensive water plan is prepared and is officially approved by the Board of Commissioners that provides actual, additional water supply capacity which is available to commit to new customers without having to restrict usage by existing customers except during drought and an effective commitment process is in use such that water will not be promised or committed without supply capacity actually being available.

Commissioner Lane said that he would like to add to the exceptions already mentioned. He said that there were lots of people who were concerned that their small operations of five homes or fewer or those who build 20 or less, he said he believed that is the average quoted for the local builders in Union County. He stated that he thought those who have applied to the Self-Help Program or anyone who is going to build a home for himself on his own lot should also be exempted. He further explained that he felt that those who have septic and well lots should not be restricted for new home permits. Commissioner Lane said that this policy refers to new building permits and does not apply to the ones in the pipe line now which are between eight to ten thousand new permitted homes.

Vice Chairman Pressley stated that first of all he had a problem with a Commissioner bringing something to the Board that is known to be illegal and especially something that is as ridiculous as is this proposal. He said he knew three commissioners who had met with representatives of Anson County and asked Commissioner Openshaw how many times that he had been to Anson County requesting water. The Vice Chairman said he thought this Board should put forth its efforts in asking for water instead of making such a ridiculous proposal. He requested Ms. Putnam, the Public Works Director, to come forward.

The Vice Chairman noted that the sewer allocation policy and thousand of homes will be coming on and questioned if part of that is not related to the diversion line. She agreed that was correct. He said that the County is looking at several hundred or thousands that have to do with a million gallon diversion line that is going to be a year or so off for construction completion.

She agreed it would be a year or so depending upon the permitting process.

Vice Chairman Pressley reported that Union County is now working with Lancaster County about borrowing water because Lancaster County uses only about 10 million gallons of its 18 million gallons per day. He said a plant expansion is also being worked on and asked what level that would bring Union County to within a three to five year period.

Ms. Putnam replied that as part of the Task Order the Board approved previously was to approve a recalculation of Union County's demand projections and the goal is to expand the Catawba plant this time to meet the ultimate Catawba basin need. In response to another question, she said this would be an additional 12 million gallons per day and agreed that if all permitting goes well, it will be completed in a three to five year window of time. She also replied to a question from Commissioner Mills that the additional twelve million gallons is for Union County only and Lancaster County is reviewing its own need plan.

The Vice Chairman pointed out that there is also an additional three million gallons coming in from Anson County, and Union County is still reviewing possibilities of other avenues and alternatives. He noted that in the long-run Union County is looking for 30 million gallons per day from Anson County.

Ms. Putnam replied that in studying the demand projection, it is necessary to review it for the entire Yadkin portion of the basin so Union County can determine what would be the best increments to expand long term.

The Vice Chairman emphasized that this is probably one of the first boards that has taken action to start expanding the system to meet the needs that it recognized for water. He noted that this Board is looking at both short term and long term solutions or solving the water shortages of Union County. With confirmation from the Public Works Director, Vice Chairman Pressley stated that if all goes well within the next three years, Union County is significantly increasing its water supply. He said he did not believe this Board should jerk the rug out from anyone and that he felt comfortable sitting here tonight and voting against this proposal because he realizes that he has done what he is supposed to have been done. He said he had gone to meetings and begged for water and it is paying off. The Vice Chairman stated that his lawn was also dead and he understood that this Board has an obligation to the people who have made an investment in Union County and with

the sewer allocation process, it was tough. He said he did not want to jerk the rug out from anyone because he knew how it is to be out of work, and he does not want to do that to anyone. Vice Chairman Pressley encouraged the Commissioners to vote against the proposal and continue to work toward getting water into Union County.

Commissioner Mills asked Ms. Putnam what is the average water usage at this time. Ms. Putnam stated that the average usage at this time is nine million gallons per day.

He said if he remembered correctly the Board initiated the water restrictions after the County peaked around Labor Day at about 22.5 million gallons per day. He agreed that the restrictions were initiated not only because of the drought but because of the quantity of water used. Commissioner Mills also stated that there were three times after the restrictions were initiated that the County peaked out over the 18 million gallons per day.

Ms. Putnam agreed that two or three times the County peaked over its 18 million gallons per day for the Catawba water usage.

Commissioner Mills stated that Union County has a good working relationship with the colleagues on the Lancaster side and when Union County runs short, they have been willing to help the County. He said that Lancaster is going to continue to let Union County purchase some of their water allocation but realizes that Union County must try to solve its long-term water demand.

Commissioner Mills asked the Staff Attorney if he thought Union County has a legal stand to rescind permits that have already been issued.

Jeff Crook, Staff Attorney, stated that he could address it now, if the Board wished, but he had already discussed it in closed session with the Board.

Commissioner Mills said that he did not believe the opinion would pose imminent threat and would like to hear the opinion.

The Chairman stated that he was not comfortable asking the Staff Attorney to give the opinion in open session.

Mr. Crook stated that it would be at the Board's desire but that he thought there were reasons that legal opinions should be kept in closed session, but the thrust of his discussion was that absent of an imminent threat to public health and safety, the Board could not legally impose the moratorium on building permits.

Commissioner Mills said he thought that it was the consensus of all the attorneys that this did not impose an imminent threat to public health and safety.

Commissioner Lane asked the Public Works Director when the new sewage treatment facility was to be completed.

Ms. Putnam responded that there is not a sewage treatment facility under construction. Commissioner Lane said he knew that because last year Union County wanted to put a new sewage facility in place and prior to his coming on the Board Union County was already talking about getting more water in this county.

Ms. Putnam stated that the Board at the time had not decided where they wanted a long-term source and the County was looking at Rocky River/Stanly County and Anson County.

Commissioner Lane concurred and pointed out that water will be coming in but there is not a sewage solution.

Ms. Putnam said there are other options for this Board to consider.

Commissioner Lane said that he was of the opinion that by deferring it to this Board that that the County would be looking at the sewage situation, but as of this date, not much has been done and the drought required the Board to take action to solve its water crisis.

Chairman Baucom addressed Commissioner Lane and stated that while Commissioner Lane was Chairman of the Union County Board of Commissioners, he did not know how many times Commissioner Lane spoke with his counterparts in Anson County or Stanly County, but what he did know was that Vice Chairman Pressley, Commissioner Mills, and he had at different times have spoken with their counterparts about sewer, about water, and about regionalism in order to move forward and address the challenges that Union County faces. He said they are proactive and will continue to be proactive until a solution is reached. He said another thing he would say to him is don't look at Ms. Putnam but to look in the mirror when he said that Union County has not been proactive enough in coming to terms with Union County's challenge. The Chairman stated that if this Board doesn't do it, then it will be this Board's fault.

Commissioner Mills stated that Commissioner Lane is correct that he did discuss with him prior to his being sworn in that he would like for the Board to defer to this current Board the issue of putting the sewer plant on Grassy Creek with gravity flow to the Rocky River, but that required a large interbasin transfer from Catawba to do that and with that proposed action, Union County would be throwing good money after

bad. He said he thought that by bringing the three million gallons from Anson that those gallons will help relieve some of the interbasin transfer. He said that the earlier proposal was not a viable option since the County could not transfer flow from one basin to another. He also noted that it was a three to two vote to bring in water from Anson County. He pointed out that in one way Commissioner Openshaw's motion wants to penalize taxpayers for not having water but on the other hand, Commissioner Openshaw and Commissioner Lane did not vote with the majority of the Board to bring water into the County. He said he did not look at Commissioner Openshaw's motion as a solution but as a proposal that creates more of a problem, but assured this Board is working to provide solutions.

Commissioner Mills also reminded that at the Visioning Conference, one of Commissioner Lane's top priorities was to bring water into the County but did in fact vote against the action at the last meeting.

The Vice Chairman asked if there were new construction water permits issued since June 2007. He asked if there had been any "will serve" letters issued or any new major subdivision approved for waterline extensions.

Ms. Putnam assured that there had not been any issued within that time.

Vice Chairman Pressley pointed out that the Public Works Director had been proactive in her department by not approving any new subdivisions that has to do with water since June 2007.

Ms. Putnam again confirmed that was correct.

Commissioner Openshaw countered the Vice Chairman with the comment that he had not known his proposal would be illegal. He reviewed that at the Visioning Conference the headlines of Durham's, *The Herald Sun*, was about this topic and the statement that it could cut off water. He said for anyone to say that he was aware of it not being legal is totally false. He also responded to Commissioner Mills' comment and stated that he voted against the water coming in from Anson County not because the County does not need the water, but because it is being brought in without a plan. He stressed that there is not an allocation plan about who gets the water and what gets the water. He said that if the three million gallons are used for residential construction, as has been the vast majority of the water coming from the Catawba plant, that is over a quarter of a billion dollars more in school construction to the citizens of this county.

Commissioner Lane said that reason is also why he voted against the issue at the last meeting not because he was against bringing water in; he stressed he wanted water brought in to Union County's citizens to help the Wingate and Marshville area. He said he is glad to hear that the Board is going to be proactive and get additional sewer capacity so once the water is brought in and the Monroe Bypass is completed, the

Board will have a sewage system to take care of any industry that might want to locate along that area. He said water is great, but the County has to think about relieving the tax burden on citizens by getting more businesses in the area.

The Vice Chairman reminded that the vote at the last meeting was to initiate the proceedings to get the water into Union County and there is a lot of time before the water is brought into Union County to produce and adopt a policy. He said a unanimous decision would have looked much better on that vote.

Vice Chairman Pressley stated that *The Herald Sun's* article was specifically talked about earlier and the attorneys did say that the General Statutes would not hold up to what Commissioner Openshaw was asking to be adopted. He said if he used the word illegal that is what he calls it when the General Statutes state that a Board cannot take certain action.

Chairman Baucom stated that he knew that Commissioner Openshaw had placed a lot of thought into the motion, but in his opinion he does believe the motion is illogical and that it is not in the good of the majority of the citizens of this county and, therefore, he offered a substitute motion. He moved the following:

WHEREAS, based on the following facts:

1. In order for Union County to effectively manage its current and future population increases and economic growth it must balance these factors with pro-active and regular improvements to its water supply, transmission and storage system infrastructure.
2. On certain occasions, Union County customer demand for water has exceeded the County's supply capacity due to periodic drought conditions and shortcomings within its current water supply, transmission and storage system.
3. In an effort to meet both current and future water needs, the County is now investigating multiple alternatives to address the shortcomings with its water system including new conservation programs as well as expansions to its water supply, transmission and storage system.
4. The County recognizes and accepts its obligation and responsibility to meet the current and future water needs of its citizens, property owners and businesses. Accordingly, the County needs to conduct a comprehensive diagnosis of its current water supply system and to prepare a plan of action that will allow the County to determine current needs, current water commitments, current water supply/transmission/storage system capacity and that will address future needs, future water commitments and those future water

system improvements that should be made to restore balance between current and future water supply, population increases and economic growth within the County, in order to coordinate with the future Capital Improvements Plan.

5. The County acknowledges that, through its past issuance of "agreeable to serve" letters, the County has already extended water supply commitments to a number of citizens, property owners, and businesses within the County who have, in good faith, made substantial expenditures in reliance of these previously issued "agreeable to serve" letters.
6. In an effort to correctly determine the extent of its water supply commitments, the County recognizes that it must conduct an audit of all outstanding "agreeable to serve" letters and other existing water supply commitments (all such letters and commitments are hereinafter referred to as "agreeable to serve letters") so as to assess the extent of its current water supply obligations and prepare a remedy plan of action that will allow the County to effectively balance its current and future population increases and economic growth with improvements to its water supply, transmission and storage system.

NOW THEREFORE, the County shall:

1. Issue an official notification that all citizens, property owners and businesses desiring to claim benefit of existing "agreeable to serve" letters that were issued prior to the approval of this motion must submit evidence of such letters to the Public Works within thirty (30) days of an official notification by the County. This notification shall be published in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in the County and posted at the main County Government Center, and shall be mailed by U.S. mail, first class, to the above-described citizens, property owners and businesses that the County staff is aware of.
2. In return for compliance with this request, the County agrees that the valid County-issued "agreeable to serve" letters that are submitted pursuant to Paragraph 1 shall continue to be honored and shall be included in the formation and implementation of the future County water supply and allocation policy.
3. To adequately conduct its diagnosis and assessment of the current water supply, transmission and storage system, the County will temporarily suspend for the period of six (6) months from this date, the issuance of any new residential water supply "agreeable to serve letters" in Union County, with the exception of requests pertaining to minor subdivisions of five (5) or less residential water connections.

4. During that six (6) month period, the County Manager and Public Works Director are directed to assess, prepare, and present to the Commissioners for approval a comprehensive future water supply plan for the County that addresses the best way to manage presently available water supplies and to obtain/transfer and store sufficient additional future water supplies to accommodate the County's current and future population increases and economic growth.
5. This temporary suspension shall not apply to and the County shall continue to honor existing "agreeable to serve" letters that were issued prior to the date of this motion. It shall also not apply to requests or applications to the County falling under the minor subdivision ordinance regarding five (5) or less residential connections.

The Chairman asked for discussion on his substitute motion.

Commissioner Mills addressed Ms Putnam and asked if the imposed time limit is sufficient for her and her staff to get the necessary information together to determine what needs to be done. He noted that at this time the County does not have an idea as to how much water the County has agreed to serve.

Ms. Putnam replied that she had not had an opportunity to review the motion in detail and she would need to study the expenditure of staff time to enable issuance of notification that she had just heard. She said at this time she was unable to tell the Board what time would be required and at this time she could not adequately respond to his question.

Commissioner Mills said that if the County stops issuing letters and anyone who has an "agreeable to serve" letter brings these to her office that should give the Public Works Department an adequate count of what commitments have been made.

Ms. Putnam said that if he is only asking for an accounting of those who bring the letters to her department that she thought it was a much publicized issue and many people would be prepared to present the information.

Commissioner Mills asked if she had this information at this time. The Public Works Director responded that her department did not have the information at this time in any condensed format.

Commissioner Mills said he was looking at this problem similarly to the one on sewer allocation which was to draw a time line and have the developers, contractors, or others with an agreeable to serve letter to bring in their letters, sign up, and then the information could be placed in the computer for date, time, when, where and other information. He asked if 30 days would be sufficient.

Ms. Putnam again stated that she had not reviewed the motion and some of the information might have escaped her during its reading. She assured that anything the Board directed, she and her staff would make happen.

The Chairman stated that the date could be extended but, if the County did so, it would only be extending the time line and that he thought 30 days are adequate. Chairman Baucom said that if she determined that it was not, she could present an extension request.

She agreed with the Chairman's statement and acknowledged that it was a timeline that she and her staff would work within.

Commissioner Openshaw thanked the Chairman for setting forth a well thought out plan; however, he requested that the County add in the exceptions for anyone that has applied for a self-help program and permits for those constructing under the well and septic tank arrangement.

Chairman Baucom said his motion did not apply to building permits but applied to water permits only and construction with wells and septic tanks would not be applicable.

Commissioner Openshaw said he understood that but wanted to make sure the general public understood the resolution.

Commissioner Openshaw next questioned if the resolution applied to commercial, school and government construction projects.

Chairman Baucom responded that the resolution is applicable only to residential construction. He emphasized that for the County to know where it is going; it has to know where it is.

Commissioner Openshaw stated that a concern that immediately pops into his mind is the third priority of sewer allocations where the County's Attorney, Mr. Bundy, said that there was no guarantee that water would be available there. He asked in conjunction with Mr. Bundy's statement, where would the County draw the line on the level of service while this policy is being implemented.

Chairman Baucom stated that it was anything prior to this date.

Commissioner Mills stated that Sewer Priority three would not come on-line until the diversion line is built in two years. Chairman Baucom interjected that this resolution is for a six-month period.

Commissioner Openshaw pointed out that there is a line in place going to Six-Mile Creek so the use of capacity will still be increasing.

Ms. Putnam responded that the study has not been completed, and it would be the Board's determination on how much and what infrastructure is required. She stated that depending on the Board's decision, the current line that is in place might not be enough to serve what the Board's desire is at that time.

Commissioner Openshaw asked if the line going to Six Mile Creek is active at this time.

Ms. Putnam responded that it was active by one of the pump stations.

Vice Chairman Pressley interjected that the way he understands the Chairman's motion is if the developer or contractor does not have an agreeable to serve letter in hand at this time, he will not be getting one after this motion is adopted until the study is completed six-months from this date.

The Vice Chairman stated his question is when the 30-day period expires, does the six-month moratorium start at the end of the 30 days or do they run concurrently. The Chairman clarified that there would be five more months after the expiration of the 30-day period for the staff to return with information and for the Commissioners to assess, make recommendations, and to approve where the County will get water, how it will be obtained, what will be done with it, and how it will be dispensed.

Commissioner Mills interjected that before water can be allocated, the County must find out what the County has to allocate. He also asked the Public Works Director for confirmation that she had not issued any agreeable to serve letters since June 1, 2007. Ms. Putnam agreed it had not for any residential development with more than five lots.

Chairman Baucom called for a vote on the substitute motion as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The staff attorney asked to be recognized. He stated that the original motion would be still on the table because the substitute motion was not accepted by the first presenter.

With that opinion given, Commissioner Openshaw withdrew his original motion.

Commissioner Lane requested a five-minute recess.

At the conclusion of the recess, the Chairman recognized Matthew Delk, Assistant County Manager, to present the next item of business.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING STATE LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TO FACILITATE AND ENCOURAGE THE USE OF RECLAIMED WATER SYSTEM IN ORDER TO ALLEVIATE THE STRAIN ON POTABLE WATER SUPPLIES:

Mr. Delk stated that the comment earlier in the meeting about rain gardens reminded him of a situation that occurred when he was the Manager in a county in South Carolina. He said that the problem came not from the theory of how constructed wet lands worked, but that the County could not guarantee a consistency of flow of what the flow would need to be chemically or the amount of the flow. He said that was why he was intrigued about the resolution on Purple Pipe because it does something that is different. He presented a short background that these systems have been in areas since the early 1970s and that he is excited about the leadership of Union County's municipal partners and the County in seeking reclaimed water that would be available as early as the spring of 2008 for bulk users. Mr. Delk said that he thought within his life time, Union County would be able to mitigate large amounts of sewage flows going into rivers by directing the flow to purple pipes and similar-types of systems. He said the proposed resolution was prepared with deliberation to not only give the County direct, implicit authority from the North Carolina Legislature but also to tie it into something that would guarantee a consistency of flow.

Commissioner Lane moved that the following resolution be adopted:

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING STATE LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION
TO FACILITATE AND ENCOURAGE THE USE OF RECLAIMED WATER SYSTEMS
IN ORDER TO ALLEVIATE THE STRAIN ON POTABLE WATER SUPPLIES**

WHEREAS, the Governor has stated that North Carolina is in the midst of the State's worst drought in recorded history and that significant rainfall is needed to avoid the possibility of water rationing; and

WHEREAS, there is a limited availability of water resources which can be used for potable water; and

WHEREAS, potable water is widely used for non-potable uses (such as irrigation, vehicle washing, dust control, and non-potable industrial processes), thus depleting the supply of potable water for potable uses, especially during times of severe drought; and

WHEREAS, reclaimed water is wastewater effluent that has been highly treated and meets the reclaimed water effluent criteria; and

WHEREAS, a reclaimed water system allows wastewater to be treated and delivered for non-potable uses, and thus alleviates the strain non-potable water uses place on the potable water supply; and

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2008, the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council (NCDMAC) strongly recommended that reuse options for water be explored and/or revisited in areas experiencing Severe drought conditions (as classified by the NCDMAC); and

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2008, the NCDMAC classified Union County and 66 other counties, as areas experiencing Exceptional drought conditions (the most severe NCDMAC category of drought); and

WHEREAS, a number of local governments in North Carolina already utilize reclaimed water in some capacity, with the Town of Cary operating the most extensive reclaimed water system serving homes, businesses, and industries; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Division of Water Quality has recognized that processing reclaimed water permit applications and providing opportunities for safe reuse systems is a high priority for the State, especially during drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, Article 15 of Chapter 153A of the North Carolina General Statutes enables counties to operate “public enterprise” systems; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 153A-274 defines “public enterprise” to include “water supply and distribution systems, wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal systems of all types, including septic tank systems or other on-site collection or disposal facilities or systems, solid waste collection and disposal systems and facilities, . . . [and] structural and natural stormwater and drainage systems of all types”; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 153A-331 controls what conditions a county can place on subdivision approval; and

WHEREAS, from the foregoing, counties have the implied authority to operate reclaimed water systems, but express authority from the General Assembly may better facilitate the development of these systems; and

WHEREAS, the regulations pertaining to reclaimed water (See for example 15A NCAC 02T .0903 and 15A NCAC 02T .0910) limit local governments' ability to utilize reclaimed water to its fullest potential by restricting uses such as street washing (street sweeping is allowed) and by requiring numerous inspections; and

WHEREAS, treated wastewater that is not used as part of a reclaimed water system will be released into streams and rivers, thereby making excessive restrictions on the use of reclaimed water unwarranted.

NOW THEREFORE, THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DOES HEREBY RESOLVE to request that the North Carolina General Assembly update the statutes granting counties public enterprise and subdivision authority in order to grant express authority to operate reclaimed water systems and to enable developers to install reclaimed water pipes through the subdivision approval process. Furthermore, the Union County Board of Commissioners resolves to request that the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and other State agencies having jurisdiction, if any, amend their regulations so that local governments will be able to more effectively utilize reclaimed water.

Adopted this the 4th day of February, 2008.

ATTEST:

Lynn G. West, Clerk to the Board

Allan Baucom, Chairman

Kevin Pressley, Vice Chairman

Roger Lane, Commissioner

A. Parker Mills, Jr., Commissioner

Lanny Openshaw, Commissioner

With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously. [Commissioner Mills was not in the room at the time of the vote but had not been excused from the meeting.] [See later action in the minutes.]

PRE-AGENDA MEETING SCHEDULE:

The Chairman proposed and moved that the Board of Commissioners hold a pre-agenda meeting on the Thursday prior to the following week's regular meeting for a pre-agenda meeting solely for the purpose of questions and answers about items that will be included on the agenda for the following meeting. He said he was also suggesting that the meetings be at lunch between 12 o'clock noon and 1:00 o'clock p.m. and be limited to that hour.

The Vice Chairman asked the attorney if a quorum is required at these workshops. He explained that there might be times he would be unable to attend.

Mr. Crook responded that if a quorum is not present, the discussion could continue but it would not be an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

The Chairman explained that it is hoped that the pre-agenda meeting will allow the Board and staff to have a higher level of information and the Board will be able to conduct meetings in a smoother manner. In response to a question from Commissioner Lane, the Chairman responded that the Commissioners will have the agenda in hand at the time of the meeting as the agenda and supporting documentation will be delivered to the Commissioners on Wednesday night prior to the pre-agenda meeting on Thursday noon.

The motion passed unanimously. [Commissioner Mills was not in the room at the time of the vote, but had not been excused from the meeting.]

UPDATE ON PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE:

Mr. Nelson reminded that earlier in the year, the Board established an ad-hoc Property Management Review Committee and charged the committee "to conduct a thorough review of the services provided by the Keith Corporation and the associated costs." He reported that the Committee has been working on the details and their minutes are included in the package. He said the committee minutes for its meeting of October 18th have been approved and the minutes of December 17th are in draft form. The organizational meeting of the committee was held in October and in the Board's agenda abstract, it was noted that the committee identified four specific charges on which it was going to focus:

1. Review current service and quality level standards for landscaping, housekeeping, and building maintenance functions;
2. Review costs components
3. Review pricing allocation methods, identify deltas and validate appropriateness
4. Review, establish and conduct pricing models to validate pricing

He said there are four components to property management: (1) housekeeping and janitorial services, (2) landscaping, (3) property maintenance, such as plumbing, HVAC, electrical (4) property management which is the fee that Union County pays the Keith Corporation to manage the other three functions.

Mr. Nelson said that to-date, the Property Management Review Committee has only reviewed one component which is janitorial services and has reached the following conclusions regarding janitorial services:

- 1.) The County's janitorial costs are competitive in the marketplace
- 2.) Service and quality level standards are usual, customary and reasonable
- 3.) County's costs to bring those services in-house is cost prohibitive; not cost effective
- 4.) Finance and General Services Department should develop a more accurate method of allocating those costs to all benefiting departments.

He reported that the next review and report will be landscaping, the third would be property maintenance, and the final component to be reviewed will be property management. Mr. Nelson assured that all of these will be completed prior to budget deliberation.

Commissioner Lane moved to accept the report. The motion was passed unanimously.

WESLEY CHAPEL-WEDDINGTON ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION:

Vice Chairman Pressley reported that for approximately two years, Union County has held funds from the Association due to conflict about possible flooding of the area caused by the sport fields constructed on the site. He explained that great strides have been made toward settlement of the conflict, and requested and moved that Union County Manager approve and release **all** funds that are being held by the County and Parks and Recreation Authority to the Wesley Chapel Weddington Athletic Association.

The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO REVISE THE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

After brief comments on the need for amending the regular meeting schedule, motion was made by Commissioner Lane that the following resolution be adopted:

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

WHEREAS, the Union County Board of Commissioners has heretofore established the regular meeting schedule of the Board such that regular meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom; and if a regular meeting is a holiday on which county offices are closed, then the meeting would be held on Tuesday rather than Monday; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to cancel the first regular meeting of Monday, March 3, 2008, and the second regular meeting of Monday, March 17, 2008, and to schedule two regular meetings for intervening times.

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

The Board does hereby revise its regular meeting schedule to delete from the schedule the regular meeting of Monday, March 3, 2008, and Monday, March 17, 2008, and to add new regular meetings for March to occur on Monday, March 10, 2008, and Monday, March 24, 2008, at the customary place and time. Except as herein amended, the regular meeting schedule shall remain in full force and effect.

Adopted this the 4th day of February, 2008.

ATTEST:

Lynn G. West, Clerk to the Board

Allan Baucom, Chairman

The motion passed unanimously.

REVOTE ON THE RESOLUTION OF RECLAIMED WATER:

The Chairman explained that the resolution previously adopted by the Board was prepared with lines for the signature of all Commissioners to be included on the document, but pointed out that Commissioner Mills was not in the room at the time of the vote. He called for a second vote to approve the previously adopted resolution entitled RESOLUTION REQUESTING STATE LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TO FACILITATE AND ENCOURAGE THE USE OF RECLAIMED WATER SYSTEMS IN ORDER TO ALLEVIATE THE STRAIN ON POTABLE WATER SUPPLIES.

The motion to adopt the said resolution passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCIES ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk read the listing of vacancies on boards and committees.

- 1.) Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – (1) District Attorney or designee (2) Substance Abuse Profession (3) Two persons under the age of 18 and (4) Juvenile Defense Attorney
- 2.) Farmers Market Committee
- 3.) Union County Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee
- 4.) Nursing Home Advisory Committee
- 5.) Board of Health for Licensed Optometrist
- 6.) Planning Board – (member representing Jackson Township; member representing New Salem Township; and a member representing Sandy Ridge Township)

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Board of Equalization and Review: The Chairman reported there are two vacancies and the Board must appoint the Chair.

Vice Chairman Pressley moved that Mark Ashcraft and Dutch Hardison be reappointed and Vernard Littleton be appointed to act as Chairman. The motion passed unanimously.

Board of Adjustment: Commissioner Lane moved that Mark Tiley who now serves as alternate be appointed to fill the vacant position. The motion passed unanimously.

Fire Commission: Commissioner Openshaw stated that there were two late applications from people who are wishing to serve on the Board. It was noted that one applicant went by the Fire Services Office to complete the application and was to take it to the Clerk. The Chairman asked if that was Jack Barr. Commissioner Openshaw said that he did not want to cost anybody their job but that are no representatives from the far side of the county. He said predominantly the appointments are from Monroe with the only one west of Monroe is a gentlemen from Indian Trial. Therefore, he said he would nominate Frederick Denton who is currently a member of the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Department to fill one of the two vacant positions.

In response to a question, the Chairman reported that Jack Barr and Richard Williams are the two whose terms are expiring.

Commissioner Lane nominated Richard Williams for reappointment to the Fire Commission.

Commissioner Mills presented a substitute motion that Jack Barr and Richard Williams who are currently serving on the Fire Commission be reappointed. He pointed out that the issues before the Fire Commission would benefit from continuity of that Board.

The Staff Attorney interjected that under the terms of the Rules of the Board, the Commissioners would need to vote on the nominees as presented unless the Board wanted to suspend its rules and accept the substitute motion.

Commissioner Openshaw moved that the Board suspend its Rules of Procedure to act on the appointments to the Fire Commission.

The Chairman called for the vote on the motion to suspend the Rules of Procedure. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mills restated his motion to reappoint Jack Barr and Richard Williams to the Fire Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee: The Vice Chairman recommended that the appointment be made in block as follows: Glendoria Bention, Richard Davis, Eric Little, Michael Starnes and Andy Williams.

Commissioner Openshaw nominated all the incumbents for reappointed and Mike Starnes for appointment. He said his motion included: Glendoria Bention, Richard Davis, Crunkleton, Andy Williams and Michael Starnes.

The Chairman called for a vote in order of nomination:

Glendoria Bention – Received five votes and was appointed.

Richard Davis – Received four votes and was appointed. [Commissioner Lane did not vote in favor of the appointment.]

Eric Little – Received three votes and was appointed. [Commissioners Openshaw and Lane did not vote in favor of the appointment.]

Michael Starnes – Received five votes and was appointed.

Andy Williams – Received five votes and was appointed.

With this filling the available slots, no other votes were taken.

INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER’S COMMENTS:

The Interim County Manager reported that on February 26 at 7:00 p.m., there would be a public meeting to receive citizens' comments and suggestions concerning the County’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan. He said the matters that will be discussed would be goals and objectives, transportation issues, economics, population projections and Land Use patterns and options.

He also presented a proposal from John Carver regarding the Governance model, which was presented during the Board's recent planning conference in Chapel Hill. The proposal contains policy development workshops, timeframe, costs, and additional training options. He said the staff would like to include this on the agenda of February 18 and that during the next two weeks the Commissioners will be polled to determine possible dates for the workshop so that on the 18th if the Board decides to move forward there will be suggested dates that would meet everyone’s schedule.

Matthew Delk interjected that there is a request for a three-day time period for everyone to make their commitments to attend all sessions.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS:

Commissioner Openshaw stated that he was glad the County is moving forward with planning for the water process and secondly would request that in the future the Chairman institute a random order of comments instead of having the same order weekly.

Commissioner Mills expressed sympathy to Jim Bention in the death of his mother.

He also expressed appreciation for the vote on the water policy and thought it was a good step forward that all good endorse. He congratulated the Chairman in his conduct of the meeting.

Vice Chairman Pressley stated that he attended the Crisis Pregnancy Center Banquet for Life and said he is a supporter of that group. He reported that Dave Ballard stepped up and years ago constructed the building that houses this group. He said if he understood correctly, one supporter at the banquet wrote a check for \$100,000. He said he was thankful for that group, and he was grateful for the millions of lives that these people have touched.

Chairman Baucom thanked everyone for the decorum of the meeting. He said he thought there was good discussion during the meeting, but more importantly there were good outcomes; he said that is what it is about. The Chairman stated that he hoped the viewing public could see that the ship has been turned and Union County is headed in a direction whereby it can pick up speed.

At 9:59, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.