

CUMBERLAND COUNTY POLICY COMMITTEE
September 4, 2008 – 9:30 AM

PRESENT: Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner Ed Melvin
James Martin, County Manager
Amy Cannon, Assistant County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Assistant County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Harvey Raynor, Deputy County Attorney
Sara VanderClute, Public Information Officer
Tom Cooney, Public Utilities Director
Landis Chavis, Cedar Creek Road Property Owner
Tony Sessoms, Cedar Creek Road Property Owner
Marie Colgan, Deputy Clerk

Commissioner Edge announced that Commissioner Council was unable to attend the meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

1. Approval of Minutes: July 30, 2008

MOTION: Commissioner Melvin moved to approve.
SECOND: Commissioner Edge
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

2. Petition from Cedar Creek Road Property Owners Requesting a Special Assessment Project for Water Service

Tom Cooney, County Public Utilities Director, referred members to the handout in their packet stating a petition, with a 90% signing rate, has been submitted by property owners in the 300 and 400 blocks of Cedar Creek Road requesting that the Board of Commissioners authorize a Special Assessment Project to bring public water service to their residences. Mr. Landis Chavis headed up the petition and the petition requirements have been met. The estimated cost to provide a water extension for this community is \$104,500. Currently, the County policy has an 8% Special Assessment interest rate which has limited these type projects in the past. Mr. Cooney suggests that the interest rate be lowered to 6%, which would result in an assessment of approximately \$4,180 to each property owner. In the past, the County has not participated in these projects other than to loan the money upfront, but Mr. Cooney would like the County to consider helping to offset the property owner's cost with these type projects in the future. Mr. Cooney has requested PWC to participate by way of upsizing the four inch line for future needs in that area, provide the engineering and construction documents needed, and help in acquiring the easements, but no commitment has been made at this time. Mr. Chavis thanked the Commissioners for their consideration and Mr. Sessoms questioned whether the County could help out with the construction cost of the line in addition to lowering the interest rate. Commissioner Melvin answered that PWC has been contacted regarding help with the cost and hopefully that will happen.

MOTION: Commissioner Melvin moved to recommend to the full Board to proceed with this project, at a 6% interest rate, which will include preparation of a

Preliminary Special Assessment Resolution and the setting of a Public Hearing date before the full Board.

SECOND: Commissioner Edge
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

3. Other Matters of Concern

Mr. Cooney provided an update on the County-wide water system stating that the details in the contract with the consultant selected are being worked out and expectations are that it will be forwarded to the County Attorney within the next week for review.

In response to a question posed by Commissioner Melvin, Mr. Cooney advised that the State Department of Environment and Natural Resources recently held a meeting at Bladen Technical Community College by for the purpose of a public hearing on a proposed water treatment plant that will be built in Tar Heel. A reclassification of the Cape Fear River will be required which will result in a protective water shed for property owners in that area, and which would extend into the Gray's Creek area of the County. Discussion ensued regarding the effects of a watershed protection ordinance.

Mr. Martin gave members a heads up on a discussion which will be brought to the Facilities Committee regarding the consolidation of the E911 and the Sheriff's dispatch services which has recently been agreed upon to become effective October 1st. As a result, an area outside of the LEC needs to be considered for a more adequate dispatch center. One place being considered is the Alphin house in the Cedar Creek area. More information will be provided at an upcoming Facilities Committee meeting as well as to the Finance Committee.

Attorney Barrett advised that a request has been received from the president of the Cumberland County Bar Association to place a plaque on the first floor of the courthouse listing the name each year of their president. This will be brought before the Facilities Committee for consideration.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:55 AM