

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS	MINUTES JANUARY 12, 1998
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The Lincoln County Board of County Commissioners met for a work session on January 12, 1998 at the Citizens Center, Commissioners Room, 115 West Main Street, Lincolnton, North Carolina, the regular place of meeting at 7:00 PM. The following were present:

Louis E. McConnell, Chairman
James A. Hallman, Vice Chairman
Terry L. Brotherton
Larry S. Craig
Beth H. Saine

Jeffrey Taylor, Assistant County Attorney
Richard French, County Manager
Stan Kiser, Assistant County Manager

Also present were Jack Chandler, Director of Public Service, Doug Chapman, County Engineer, Kelly Atkins, Subdivision Administrator, Judy Francis, Zoning Administrator, Emily Robinson, Personnel Assistant, Leon Harmon, Finance Director and Amy S. Long, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McConnell called the January 12, 1998 work session to order.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Chairman McConnell presented the Agenda for the January 12, 1998 Board of Commissioners work session.

AGENDA

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORK SESSION

JANUARY 12, 1998

6:30 PM Call to Order

6:30 PM Adoption of Agenda

1. 6:30 PM Discussion of Waterside Crossing Planned Mixed Use Development
2. 7:00 PM Discussion of Unlicensed Installation of Grinder Pumps in the East Lincoln Water and Sewer District
3. 7:20 PM Discussion of Substandard Road Policy – Alexis Acres
4. 7:30 PM Discussion of Lincolnton Optimist Club Proposal Concerning Joint Recreational Facilities
5. 8:00 PM Discussion of Personnel Issues
Hospitalization Insurance/Retirement
Snow Day
6. 8:30 PM Financial Report
7. 9:30 PM Other Business

Adjourn

Commissioner Larry Craig motioned to adopt the agenda for the January 12, 1998 work session with the addition of Item 8 – Closed Session for Contractual and Personnel Matters.

Seconded by Commissioner Beth Saine.
Unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION OF WATERSIDE CROSSING PLANNED MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT

Judy Francis, Zoning Administrator, stated that she has been contacted by a traffic engineer, who is preparing a proposal for a traffic impact study for the Waterside Crossing project. She stated that the discussion included which intersections would be impacted by this development. Ms. Francis stated that the discussion led to the conclusion that the three following intersections would be affected, Pilot Knob Road and Highway 16, Pilot Knob Road and Highway 73, and Highway 73 and Highway 16. Ms. Francis stated that the projection time for the study is build-out, which will probably be about three years.

Judy Francis, Zoning Administrator, presented the following memorandum:

TO: Rick French
County Manager

FROM: Judy Francis

Zoning Administrator

DATE: January 12, 1998

RE: Waterside Crossing Planned District
Staff and Planning Board Recommendations

At the meeting held by staff on January 12, 1998, and attended by Jeff Taylor, Rick French, Doug Chapman, Jack Chandler, Kelly Atkins, and Judy Francis, the following recommendations were formulated, after consideration of the recommendations proposed by the Planning Board, concerning the Waterside Crossings Planned Mixed-Use Development:

1. Approve subject to the completion of a traffic impact study and an agreement by the developer to provide any improvements deemed necessary by the Board of Commissioners after their review of that study.
2. Approve multi-family residential, single-family residential, retail, and professional office phases of the development subject to approval of water and sewer line plans by the county engineer and NCDENR.
3. Final plat to be submitted must be in compliance with the Lincoln County Subdivision Ordinance.

Doug Chapman, County Engineer, stated that plans had been submitted plans for the water and sewer for the retail and office areas in December. He commented that he reviewed these plans and spoken with the project engineers about some minor variations. Mr. Chapman stated that the engineers were going to make the changes and send them back along with the multifamily plans. He stated that he does not think there will be any problems in these areas.

Judy Francis, Zoning Administrator, stated that there is also a situation with the US Army Corp. of Engineers that has not been resolved. She stated that there may be an additional permit they have to get, but the developer would have to come back with any significant changes.

Commissioner Terry Brotherton stated that the developer has addressed all of the issues presented to them.

Commissioner Terry Brotherton made a motion to give preliminary approval based on the memo from Judy Francis, addressing the traffic study, water and sewer plans, and compliance with the subdivision ordinance.

Seconded by Commissioner Larry Craig.
Unanimously approved.

Commissioner James Hallman stated that the project is good for the developer and for Lincoln County. The Board just wants to make sure it is done properly.

DISCUSSION OF UNLICENSED INSTALLATION OF GRINDER PUMPS IN THE EAST LINCOLN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Jeff Taylor, Assistant County Attorney, stated that he is not yet prepared to offer a recommendation on this matter. He recommended that the Board defer action on this matter until the January 19, 1998 regular meeting.

Commissioner Larry Craig made a motion of defer action on this matter until January 19, 1998.

Seconded by Commissioner Beth Saine.
Unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANDARD ROAD POLICY – ALEXIS ACRES

Rick French, County Manager, stated that representatives from Alexis Acres were present to talk about a commitment from the Commissioners.

Gary Martin, representative from Alexis Acres, stated that Alexis Acres wants to have confirmation that their road will be selected for paving, so the residents can get started with their loans.

Commissioner Larry Craig asked if the Alexis Acres had met all of the other criteria to be selected.

Rick French stated that that Alexis Acres has already met all of the guidelines, and they want to be assured that their road will be selected.

Gary Martin stated that he has already spoken with a contractor about getting the work done.

Commissioner Terry Brotherton stated that he was under the impression that the County would only pay \$25,000, no matter what the cost of paving the road was.

Commissioner Larry Craig stated that he thought the Commissioners should go ahead and make this commitment to Alexis Acres, since he has met all of the criteria.

Rick French, County Manager, stated that no other plans have been submitted.

Commissioner James Hallman stated that a deadline should probably be added to this, such as December 31, 1998.

Commissioner Larry Craig stated that he would like to stress that there is no cost to taxpayers for this money, this is basically a loan.

Jeff Taylor, Assistant County Attorney, stated that in Section 2 of the Policy For Selection of Substandard Roads it states that the money must be submitted within 60 days after notification that a particular road has received preliminary approval for improvements from the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Terry Brotherton asked how many property owners were participating in this.

Gary Martin stated that roughly 49 property owners are participating in this. He stated that the community pays road dues based on deeded lots. He stated that their petition and all the information compiled is based on deeded lots.

Commissioner Larry Craig made a motion to move forward with this, giving Alexis Acres until December 31, 1998 to complete the project.

Seconded by Commissioner Beth Saine.
Unanimously approved.

LINCOLN OPTIMIST CLUB PROPOSAL

Dave Machado, President for the Lincoln Optimist Board of Directors, stated that the Optimist Club is currently in the process of developing two pieces of land: 38.5 acres for a baseball and football field, and 24 acres for a soccer site. He commented that they are only asking for the County's assistance with the soccer field. He presented the following list of benefits of the proposed soccer field:

- Provide soccer fields for Middle School and High School athletic use. This would be available to all Lincoln County schools.
- Provide soccer fields for the Lincoln County Recreational Soccer league.
- Provide soccer field for Lincoln Optimist Soccer league.
- Provide a site for the Charlotte Eagles Summer Soccer Camp.
- Various other recreational facilities (i.e., walking tracks, fitness trails, etc.).

- School administration personnel and the recreational department director have been notified of this proposed project and are receptive to this proposed park.

Mr. Machado presented the following figures:

Development of Soccer Fields

*Projected Costs:

Clearing of Land	\$5,000
Grading	\$12,000
Landscaping/Seeding	<u>\$7,500</u>
Total:	\$24,500

*These costs are to be provided for by the Lincolnton Optimist Club

Development of Road and Parking Lot

Projected Costs:

Clearing and Burning	\$2,000
Grading	\$3,000
Gravel/Paving	\$30,000
Prep Bridge Site	<u>\$2,500</u>
Total:	\$37,500

Community/Government Involvement Requested to help fund this portion

Commissioner Terry Brotherton stated that this proposal was a great idea, but he could not support recreation funding in the City of Lincolnton until West Lincoln and East Lincoln get caught up. He stated that he does not consider recreational funding necessary considering the costs of the new jail and the new school.

Chairman Louis McConnell asked if there were any other soccer fields anywhere in the County.

Dave Machado stated that he thought there was a soccer field at a church in the East Lincoln area.

Commissioner Larry Craig stated that the Board needed to see if any funds were available before a motion was made on this matter.

Commissioner Larry Craig made a motion to table this issue until January 19, 1998, to check and see if the funds are there.

Seconded by Commissioner James Hallman.
Unanimously approved.

Chairman Louis McConnell called for a five minute recess.

Chairman Louis McConnell called the meeting back to order.

**DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL ISSUES
HOSPITALIZATION INSURANCE/RETIREMENT
SNOW DAY**

Rick French, County Manager, stated that on March 20, 1995, Lincoln County Commissioners unanimously approved anew Continuation of Health Insurance Policy. He stated that Lincoln County's Hospitalization Insurance/Continuation Policy at Retirement requires 3 qualifications that an employee has to meet to receive the benefit. Employees meeting the qualifications will receive hospitalization insurance on the group policy until they reach the age of 65 and then be placed on a Medicare Supplement policy until death.

- The employee is occupying a full-time or part-time budgeted position (receiving benefits) at the time of retirement (full-time employee would have to benefit paid 100% and part-time budgeted position, ex. 50% or 75% the employee would have to pay a percentage of coverage, depending on percentage of the position that they held while employed);
- The employee has completed a minimum of twenty (20) years of service with Lincoln County;
- The employee is eligible to retire with the Local Government Employees Retirement System with a minimum of 20 years.

Emily Robinson, Personnel Assistant, presented the following information:

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rick French, County Manager

FROM: Emily A. Robinson, Personnel Assistant

SUBJECT: Retiree Hospitalization Insurance

DATE: January 28, 1997

Listed below are hospitalization insurance benefits that surrounding counties and the City of Lincolnnton offer retirees.

Catawba County Pays entire premium only if employee retires with 30 years service.
Pays **NO Medicare Supplement** after age 65.

Gaston County Pays retired employee \$100 if they have 20-25 years of service and lets them stay on policy, employee pays remaining premium.
Pays individual rate of insurance 25 years and above.
Pays **No Medicare Supplement** after age 65.

Cleveland County Pays entire individual premium with 20 years and above.
Pays **No Medicare Supplement** after age 65.

Burke County 25 years or more - County pays 100% of coverage
20 years less than 25 - County pays 75% of coverage
15 years less that 20 - County pays 60% of coverage
10 years less that 15 - County pays 45% of coverage
5 years of service - County pays 20% of coverage
Coverage will be available until the retiree reaches the age of 65.
No Medicare Supplement Policy available.
The county of Burke retains the right to discontinue this benefit; however, all retirees will be given a 90 day notice.

Iredell County Any age 30 years of service county pays 100%
Age 50 - 20 or more years of service county pays 100%.
Age 50 - 15 -19 years of service county pays 75%
Age 50 - 10 -14 years of service county pays 50%
Any age 5- 9 years of service employee pays entire premium
NO Medicare Supplement Policy available.

City of Lincolnnton 20 years of service - pays individual coverage until age 65.
NO Medicare Supplement Policy available.

Lincoln County 15 - 19 years of service with Lincoln County and retiring from LGERS employee pays premium and is eligible to stay on group plan until age 65.

20 + years of service with Lincoln County and retiring from LGERS Lincoln County pays entire individual premium and at age 65 retiree is placed on a Medicare Supplement until death paid by the county.

Commissioner Beth Saine stated that every time you change a policy, someone is left out.

Emily Robinson stated that the cost of Medicare Supplements depend on age and health problems. She also stated that Lincoln County is the only County that pays any Medicare Supplement.

Commissioner Larry Craig stated that he knows there had to be a cut-off somewhere, but that the policy should have stated that any employees hired from this day forward would not receive these benefits.

Rick French stated that in January of 1997 there were 22 employees with 15 –19 years of service and 25 employees with 20 – 28 years of service.

Rick French stated that the Board had wanted to discuss Snow days. He stated that the County as policy does not close. He stated that employees can go home on their time. He commented that according to Fair Labor Standards, if the County closes, employees that have to work have to be paid time and a half. Mr. French stated that this is also what the other counties do. Chairman Louis McConnell stated that the policy should continue as it is, that now all of the Commissioners know what the policy is.

Commissioner Larry Craig stated that he has been approached about a Bereavement Policy. He stated that he would like to establish a Bereavement Policy for immediate family only.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Leon Harmon, Finance Director, gave an update on the finances for the current fiscal year. He also discussed the reduction of the fund balance.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French reminded the Commissioners of the East Lincoln County Water and Sewer District Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 1998, at 7:00 p.m.

Rick French stated that the petition turned in for Lowesville Lane did not have all of the signatures on it. Mr. French stated that we need to get all signatures before it is advertised.

Rick French presented the following memo about additional work sessions:

MEMORANDUM

TO: Louis McConnell, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

FROM: Rick French, County Manager

SUBJECT: Third Meeting

DATE: January 7, 1998

I would like to suggest a third meeting each month. I would suggest a work session (round table) type meeting to discuss non-zoning issues.

The third meeting each month would be for zoning/variance/subdivision type matters. The second meeting would be a work session type meeting and the third would be our regular meeting. I believe the Monday night schedule works best for your schedule.

FEBRUARY 1998

February 2, 1998
6:30 PM Public Hearings – Zoning
7:30 PM Board of Variances and Appeals

February 9, 1998
6:30 PM Work Session (Financial Update?)

February 16, 1998
6:30 PM East Lincoln Water and Sewer District
7:30 PM Regular Meeting

MARCH 1998

March 2, 1998

6:30 PM Public Hearings – Zoning

7:30 PM Board of Variance and Appeals

March 9, 1998

6:30 PM Work Session (Financial Update – ELW&S)

March 16, 1998

6:30 PM East Lincoln Water and Sewer District

7:00 PM Regular Meeting

APRIL 1998

April 6, 1998

6:30 PM Public Hearing – Zoning

7:30 PM Board of Variance and Appeals

April 13, 1998

6:30 PM Work Session (Budget?)

April 20, 1998

6:30 PM East Lincoln Water and Sewer District

7:00 PM Regular Meeting

By April 1998, County staff would have a more realistic schedule for budget. Please note, we may want to discuss “Charter schools” or budget with the School Board before the end of March. What about February 9 or March 9, 1998?

I look forward to our discussion concerning our upcoming schedule.

Thank you.

/asl

Commissioner Larry Craig motioned to approve the memorandum and accept the dates presented.

Seconded by Commissioner Beth Saine.
Unanimously approved.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman McConnell advised that there was a need for a Closed Session for the purpose of discussing a Contractual and Personnel matter.

Commissioner Larry Craig motioned that the Board go in to Closed Session.

Seconded by Commissioner Terry Brotherton.
Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Larry Craig motioned for the Board to come out of Closed Session.

Seconded by Commissioner James Hallman.
Unanimously approved.

Chairman McConnell advised that the Board would return to Open Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, Chairman McConnell entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Beth Saine motioned that the Board adjourn.

Seconded by Commissioner James Hallman.
Unanimously approved.