

# **YADKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES**

**Tuesday March 11, 2014**

The Yadkin County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, in the Yadkin County Human Services Building (Commissioners Meeting Room), 217 East Willow Street, Yadkinville, North Carolina pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1)(3)(4)(5)(6) to discuss Personnel Matters and to Protect Personnel Information that is Confidential under NCGS 153A-98, and to discuss the potential Location or Expansion of Industries or other Businesses in the County, to Establish the County's Negotiating Position for Acquiring Real Property and to Instruct the County Staff on that Position, and to have a Privileged Consultation with our County Attorney.

## **Present were:**

Chairman Kevin Austin  
Vice Chairman David Moxley  
Commissioner Gilbert Hemric  
Commissioner Marion Welborn  
Commissioner Frank Zachary

**Staff present:** County Attorney, Ed Powell; County Manager, Aaron Church; Deputy County Manager/Finance Officer, Lisa Hughes; and Deputy Clerk to the Board, Tanya Gentry.

**CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Austin at 2:01pm.

## **INTRODUCTION OF GUEST**

The County Attorney, County Commissioners, and County Manager introduced themselves to those present. North Carolina Secretary of Transportation Tata introduced himself to those present. The other North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) personnel that were present also introduced themselves. Those present were as follows: Jim Palermo, NCDOT Board Member representing Division 11; Mike Pettyjohn, Division Engineer; Mike Holder, Chief Engineer; Susan Pullium, Director of Strategic Planning; Mike Charbonneau, Deputy Secretary of Communications; Shelley Blake, General Council; and Andrew Bell, of the Secretary's Office.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION**

Chairman Austin thanked Secretary of Transportation Tata and the NCDOT personnel for coming to the meeting today. Yadkin County requested this meeting be held to give the County an opportunity to discuss Yadkin County's transportation needs with the NCDOT.

Yadkin County has been left behind and suffered through the years when it comes to transportation. Yadkin County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) maps are updated every four years and this is a year the maps are being updated. The Board of Commissioners have studied the CTP maps and identified areas where changes are needed in order to improve transportation in Yadkin County.

To give the NCDOT personnel a better understanding of the County and its background, a video about Yadkin County was shown. After the video, Chairman Austin went over the transportation changes the County would like made while Matthew Hamby brought up various maps showing each of the areas under discussion.

The first change discussed was the addition of an interchange to connect Billy Reynolds Road to US 421. Adding the interchange would make it easier to access the industries, and other properties, located along, and off of, Billy Reynolds Road and Beamer Road. That could help with the Beroth Road intersection issue. The data shows that the Beroth intersection has more frequency of traffic accidents than any other intersection in the four counties that make up the local RPO. The four counties in the RPO are Stokes, Surry, Yadkin, and Davie. Adding the Billy Reynolds Road interchange would not only benefit the County by allowing easier access to industries but it could also lessen the number of vehicles going through the Beroth intersection and lessen the number of traffic accidents that occur there.

The second change discussed was to place rail lines on the western side of I-77. Yadkin County does not currently have any rail service. Local industries have been contacted to see if they would be interested in having rail lines in Yadkin County. There was interest in rail service, particularly from the feed grain industry. If rail lines were put in and a grain depot was built, it would greatly benefit the grain industry. Rail service could also make Yadkin County look more attractive to businesses looking to possibly move into the area.

The third change discussed was to build a new bridge between Jonesville and Elkin. Both Surry County and Yadkin County believe putting in the bridge will be beneficial. It will allow easier access for people who live, work, or shop near the proposed bridge location. Another important benefit to having the new bridge is that it will allow faster and easier access to Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital. In an emergency having that better access to the Hospital could possibly increase the chance of someone's life being saved because they reached the Hospital sooner.

The fourth change discussed was the addition of an interchange near Asbury Church Road on I-77 south of the US 421 interchange. Adding this interchange near the existing bridge will allow easier access to Lydall and Blue Rhino. These businesses have quite a bit of large truck traffic. The trucks currently have to exit the interstate, take multiple roads, and make several turns to wind around to where the businesses are located. Adding the interchange would allow the trucks, and anyone else traveling to those businesses, to exit the interstate and reach their destination much quicker and easier than they can now.

Chairman Austin stated there were no further changes to be presented. The floor was opened for questions and comments.

Secretary Tata said the NCDOT staff tries to reach out and be good listeners. They are not resistant to local input but the degree of local input will vary depending on the type of project. For example, Regional Impact Projects are based 30% on local input and Division Needs Projects are based 50% on local input. Some projects are considered statewide projects though and they would be prioritized based on the importance of the project to the State as a whole. The statewide projects are 100% data driven. The requested rail line would cost hundreds of millions of dollars and may not be financially feasible at this time.

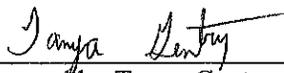
Chairman Austin said that the County wants to work together with the NCDOT. Yadkin County appreciates any assistance the NCDOT staff can offer in helping the County understand what needs to be done to ensure the projects the County wants can be considered by the NCDOT.

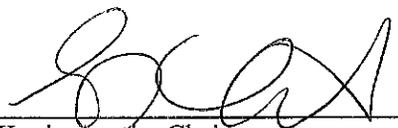
Secretary Tata said that a clear presentation of what the County's vision is had been made today. The NCDOT will take the information presented back with them, review it and see what they can do.

Chairman Austin thanked Secretary Tata and the NCDOT staff for attending this meeting.

**Commissioner Zachary made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Welborn second.**

**Vote: 5/0.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Prepared by Tanya Gentry  
Deputy Clerk to the Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Austin, Chairman

4/7/14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date approved by the Board