

Regular Meeting - July 14, 1998

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on July 14, 1998 at 6:00 pm with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis, presiding. Commissioners present were W.B. Lennon, James O. Perry, Charles Kemp, Frank McCree, Nedward Gaddy and Hayes Lewis. Others included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, John Jackson, Ronnie Seals, Ray Johnson, Lt. Sam Hunt, Linda Vause, Robin Scott King, Mickey Williamson, Huel Faulk, Will Buie and Shirley Price.

The invocation was given by Comm. Frank McCree.

Comm. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes for the two June meetings. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

Citizen Appearance

Recreation Director Mickey Williamson informed the Board that the Dixie Youth Baseball team is playing in the Championship games for the nine and ten year olds. He invited everyone to attend.

Mr. Hill, the Town Manager introduced a new employee in the Finance Department. Ms. Linda Vause will be replacing Ms. Jeanette Lupo upon her retirement in April 1999.

General Business

The Town Manager and the Town Board discussed the two requests for donations for local scholarship funds. They were the Charles Smith Scholarship and Rosenwald Alumni Scholarship. The Manager had been instructed by the Board to check with the N. C. League of Municipalities and the Institute of Government for a legal opinion on donations. After reviewing the letter from the League, Town Manager Ben Hill made a recommendation to the Town Board to deny the two request for scholarship funds since tax monies would be used. Basically the Board can legally give donations providing that it helps everybody like the Drug program and recreation department, but not to help one individual. This type of case can be argued in court. After discussion, Comm. Perry made the motion to deny the two requests for scholarship funds, also any future request, since it could put the Town in a debatable situation. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Comm. 's Lewis, Perry, McCree, Gaddy & Lennon

Nayes: Comm. Kemp

Administrative Matters

The Board adopted a Proclamation proclaiming August 5, 1998 as Robeson County American Red Cross Day. The Robeson County Chapter was chartered eighty years ago

on August 5, 1918. Ms. Robin Scott King was present to receive the proclamation. The motion was made by Comm. Lewis, seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

The Manager discussed the sale of a used 1989 100 G Dresser Track Loader which had a bad final drive. After discussion, Comm. Lewis made a motion to authorize the Manager to negotiate the sale of the equipment. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Commissioners Input

Comm. Kemp commended Recreation Director Mickey Williamson for doing an outstanding job with the Fairmont Recreation department.

Announcements

Comm. Kemp announced the Grand Opening of his new business Slim-R-U Ladies Fitness Center on August 2, 1998 at 3:00 pm. It is located at 222 S. Main Street.

There will be a Community Watch meeting, July 16th at 7:00 pm in the Courtroom.

The Chamber of Commerce will have a short meeting after the regular Board meeting adjourns in the Courtroom at 7: 00 pm.

A retirement luncheon for Mr. Rudolph Cook will held Friday, July 17th at noon in the Firemen's Hall.

The Town Manager announced that the Parks and Recreation grant was not funded.

Closed Session

Comm. Lewis made a motion to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel. It was seconded by Comm. Lennon and passed unanimously.

After discussion the Closed Session closed. The motion was made by Comm. Lewis, seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

Regular Meeting Resumed

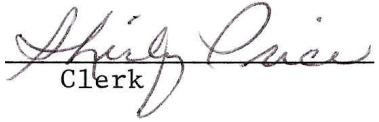
Mayor Lewis announced that a Special Meeting would be held on Friday, July 17th at 1:00 pm to discuss the League's recommendations on the annexation problems.

Town Manager Ben Hill announced that he had received a letter of resignation from Town Clerk Shirley Price. She will be leaving in February or March 1999. Shirley has

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been employed with the Town since 1956 and she feels that it is time to train her replacement.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Clerk

Special Meeting - July 17, 1998

The Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on July 17, 1998 at 1:00 pm to discuss the annexation problem. Those present were Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis, Commissioners Nedward Gaddy, Frank McCree, Charles Kemp, W. B. Lennon and James O. Perry, Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Shirley Price, Mr. & Mrs. Billy Stubbs, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Capps, Robert Floyd, Chief Terry Hunt, and Mickey Williamson. Commissioner Hayes Lewis was absent.

Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

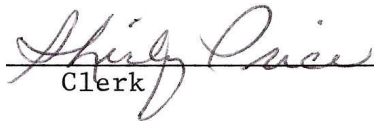
Comm. Perry made a motion to go into Closed Session to discuss legal matters. It was seconded by Comm. Kemp and passed unanimously.

After the discussion was over Comm. Gaddy made a motion to come out of Closed Session. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

The regular meeting resumed. Attorney Floyd stated that the Board discussed what steps the Town should follow in the recent annexation appeal. He said that we could go back before Judge Ellis at Superior Court or we could petition to go before Supreme Court.

After discussion, Comm. Kemp made a motion to direct the Town Attorney to petition to go before the State Supreme Court. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.


Clerk

Regular Meeting - August 11, 1998

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on August 11, 1998 at 6:00 pm with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Nedward Gaddy, Frank McCree, Charles Kemp, W.B. Lennon and James O. Perry. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Rose Johnson, Ann Marks, Becky Green, Will Buie, Ray Johnson, Mickey Williamson, Chief Terry Hunt, Bobby Walters, John Jackson, Jenny Huggins and Shirley Price. Commissioner Hayes Lewis was absent.

Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Kemp made the motion to approve the minutes of the last board meeting with the correction of Comm. Lennon's name. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Comm. Kemp made the motion to release one tax amount in the amount of \$69.00 which was improperly listed. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

Citizen Appearance

Ms. Rose Johnson and Ms. Ann Marks came before the Board representing the Borderbelt Museum. They thanked the Board for their support in helping to get the Museum repaired and asked for their continued support. Their new fundraiser is getting subscriptions to "Our State" magazine. The rate is \$19.75 with the museum receiving \$5.00 on each new customer. They are also working on selling Christmas ornaments with the depot on them. They also encouraged the Board members to join the Historical Society. The membership dues are \$20.00 annually or \$100.00 for Life Time Membership.

Shirley Price gave a report for Ms. Elizabeth Haywood on July activities for the Borderbelt Museum.

Town Manager Ben Hill introduced Jennifer Huggins, a new employee who will be replacing Shirley Price when she retires in 1999. He also announced that Cheryl Blount was leaving.

Public Hearing

Comm. Kemp made a motion to hold a public hearing for another Community Development Block Grant. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

Mr. Will Buie advised the Board of the need to reapply for a new grant and continue updating substandard houses. It was the consensus of the Board to proceed with the application. The required second public hearing will be held at the September meeting.

Mr. Buie and Codes Officer John R. Jackson recommended that the new grant, when approved, be used to continue in the North Fairmont area.

After discussion, Comm. Gaddy made the motion to come out of the public hearing. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

General Business

The Manager informed the Board that Triangle Bank has requested two fifteen minute parking spaces on Main Street to accommodate their ATM customers. After discussion, Comm. Lennon made a motion to grant the request for the two spaces with instructions for the police department to observe this area to see if there is a need for more than one space. It was seconded by Comm. Kemp and passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Comm.'s Kemp, Lennon, McCree and Gaddy

Nays: Comm. Perry

Commissioner Hayes Lewis was absent.

The Manager updated the Board on the Commercial Garbage contract with ARS. It was approved for the Manager to negotiate a contract with ARS and bring it back to the September meeting. The motion was made by Comm. Lennon, seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

The Board studied a suggested list prepared by Shirley Price on items to be installed on the internet. Mr. Clark Huggins of Charlotte wants to do this free for the town since his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Huggins, live here.

Mr. Will Buie informed the Board that bids were opened today at 3:00 pm on the new Wastewater Treatment Plant. The low bidders are as follows:

- #1 Wastewater Pumping System Contract I (Force Main to New Site) - Low Bidder was Goodyear Construction - \$809,338.00.
- #2 Sanitary Sewer Improvements Contract II (Annex Areas) - Low Bidder was McArthur Construction - \$1,037,586.00.
- #3 General Construction Contract III (Wastewater Treatment Plant) - Low Bidder was Turner Murphy - \$4,066,443.00.

Mr. Buie stated that the electrical bids would be received in about two weeks. He estimated that the ground breaking would be in about three months.

Mickey Williamson gave an update on the Farmers Festival. The beauty pageant will be held on October 10th at the Middle School Auditorium. The parade is set for October 17th with the dance being held that same night and the Fantastic Shakers performing.

Mayor Lewis stated that the Board needed to add one additional item to the agenda. Mr. Will Buie presented the documentation on Optional Coverage Relocation Benefits Policy. It is on the MLK Revitalization Community Development Block Grant # 97-C-0313. This allows the Town to have a policy in place if home owners have to move while their houses are being renovated. After discussion, Comm. Gaddy made the motion to adopt the Policy. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

Commissioners Input

Comm. McCree inquired if any additional funds are available in the CDBG project to pave the street near Star of Bethlehem Church. Mr. Buie assured him that there are enough funds available to pave that area.

Comm. Kemp inquired on the Downtown Revitalization project. Codes Officer John Jackson stated that six houses could not be renovated and are beyond repair. Mr. Jackson would like to start proceedings on these buildings through the Nuisance Abatement procedure. If the town doesn't use the Nuisance Abatement then they could go with the Minimum Housing Codes process which takes longer. Attorney Floyd stated that most towns like Lumberton, St. Pauls and others are putting this item on the back burner, and that the League of Municipalities doesn't have much to go on with dilapidated houses. Attorney Floyd gave Mr. Jackson and Mr. Hill a copy of the guidelines to follow for both procedures. They will study and proceed as directed.

Announcements

Mr. Hill announced that former Public Works employee George Dudley passed on August 4th and that several of the public works employees were pallbearers.

No RCMA meeting in August.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Clerk

Regular Meeting - September 8, 1998

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on September 8, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Nedward Gaddy, Frank McCree, Charles Kemp, W. B. Lennon, James O. Perry and Hayes Lewis. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Chief Terry Hunt, John Jackson, Ronnie Seals, Mickey Williamson, Ray Johnson, Joyce Thompson, Richard Tyner, Stephen Jones, Betty Overturf, Donnie Byers, and Jenny Huggins.

Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Lewis made the motion to approve the minutes of the last board meeting. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Comm. Lewis made the motion to release three tax amounts totaling \$ 285.27. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Citizen Appearance

Town Manager Ben Hill introduced Joyce Thompson, a new employee who replaces Cheryl Blount in the water and tax department.

Police Chief Terry Hunt introduced two new police officers, Richard Tyner from Lumberton and Stephen Jones from Maxton.

General Business

Mayor Lewis informed the Board that Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. has proclaimed September 17-30, 1998 as "LITTER SWEEP" in North Carolina, as part of the 10th anniversary of the Adopt-A-Highway program. The Mayor also announced that the Town's Clean-up week is September 21-25, 1998. Comm. Lennon made a motion for the board to issue a proclamation in conjunction with Governor Hunt. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

The Mayor informed the Board that Time Warner Cable has added WeB TV, Channel 37 and that more information about the channel was needed. The Manager announced that during the recent storms electricity went out before the cable did.

The Manager told the Board that there is a problem with residents and property owners not abiding by the codes. Codes Officer John Jackson updated the Board on dilapidated houses. He stated that he was notified voluntarily by three people who are interested in having their old structures torn down. He informed these people that he needs a notarized statement of voluntary demolition and that a fee would be charged.

Mr. Jackson also discussed two businesses downtown that are in violation of the codes. The old movie theater is a touchy situation because the true owner of the building has not yet been determined. The owner of Callahan's TV will not accept any letters from the town. An administrative search warrant may be necessary in order to inspect and condemn the building.

Comm. Charles Kemp read a statement concerning his feelings on the code violations. He mentioned the theater building and Callahan's TV, as well as lot cutting, Bargain House (Garris' Building) and Stevens Cleaners. Comm. Kemp noted that many lots had grass growing beyond the violation height of 12". He also stated that junked cars and appliances were being kept in the alley behind the Garris Building and Mitch Stevens' Cleaners. The Manager informed the Board that he, Attorney Charlie Floyd, and Codes Officer John Jackson would work diligently to solve these problems. Comm. Kemp made a motion to authorize John Jackson to use all methods necessary by law to enforce the code violations. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

The Manager told the Board of the parking problem on Iona Street. The first two parking spaces in front of the Middle School at the intersection of Iona & Trinity Streets are a traffic hazard. Chief Terry Hunt received a memo from Principal Owens informing all teachers and employees not to park in those spaces. The Manager stated he will have an ordinance requesting no parking anytime for that area ready by the October board meeting. He suggested that if teachers don't abide by Principal Owens' memo that no parking signs be erected.

Administrative Matters

The Manager acknowledged that the sewer plant has been fined a penalty of \$2,822.19 for non-compliance of state toxicity levels for TSS and BOD for the month of June. The state has put the plant under an S.O.C. (Schedule of Compliance) effective August 1998. This means we will not be fined anymore after a second fine for the month of July. The reason for the fine is that our sewer plant cannot bring toxicity levels down to state regulations. This problem will continue until the new sewer plant is built. The Manager recommended that the Town pay the fine.

The Manager discussed the proposed Armon Jenkins subdivision. The area is outside the city limits but within the one mile zoning division of the town. The Planning Board met and discussed this property, which is located south of Fairmont High School on S.R. # 2298. Mr. Jenkins was informed that mobile homes are not permitted but stick built and modular homes are fine. The Manager showed the Board a map of the proposed five house subdivision. Zoning Officer John Jackson stated that the second stage of the zoning request requires Mr. Jenkins to get the land surveyed. The Board approved with no action taken.

The Manager brought up the planned contract with ARS Waste Management for collecting commercial garbage. He highly recommended it because tipping fees will probably go up in the next couple of years and this contract will save the town money. ARS will bill and collect from the commercial customers. The Town will be completely out of commercial garbage. ARS will also pay the town \$500 per month as a franchise fee. Comm. Perry made the motion to adopt an ordinance granting ARS an exclusive franchise for commercial waste disposal effective September 15, 1998. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Commissioner's Input

Comm. Kemp asked Chief Hunt about the time officers spent walking the street. He also inquired about the amount of money the town receives from drug confiscation. Chief Hunt said that information was confidential and could be given out during closed session only.

Comm. McCree requested that an area on Phillip St. be filled in.

Announcements

Mr. Hill announced that the Community Watch meeting is September 17, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. in the courtroom. He encouraged all the commissioners to attend.

The R.C.M.A. meeting is September 22, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. at Flora McDonald Academy in Red Springs. Mayor Jeff Lewis is the president for 1998-99.

The NC Utilities Commission has approved toll-free county wide phone service. It will become effective in January or February 1999.

The Chamber of Commerce will meet following the Board meeting in the courtroom with Mr. Ray Johnson presiding.

Mr. Hill announced that Finance Director Helen Lockley is out of the hospital and doing well. She will be out of work for several days to rest and have tests run.

The Centennial Committee will meet September 10, 1998 at 5:30 p.m. in the boardroom.

Mr. Hill announced that Federal Assistance as a result of Hurricane Bonnie is available for individuals only.

Mr. Hill read the Border Belt Museum Report and was pleased to note that 92 people visited the museum last month.

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The Manager announced that the Lumber River Council of Governments has had workshop meetings concerning wireless communication (cellular phones). These companies want to put new towers on town land, like putting one on the water tower. This could be a new franchise to generate money for the town. The LRCOG will gather more information and let the board know what action may be needed.

Closed Session

Comm. McCree made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel and land acquisition - GS-122C-52. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

After the discussion was over, Comm. Kemp made a motion to come out of closed session. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously. Mayor Lewis announced that Comm. Perry was granted leave before closed session ended.

The Manager stated that Attorney Charlie Floyd updated the Board on the annexation lawsuit.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Jennifer Huggins, Assistant Clerk

Regular Meeting - October 13, 1998

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 1998, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Nedward Gaddy, Charles Kemp, W.B. Lennon, James O. Perry, Frank McCree and Hayes Lewis. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Chief Terry Hunt, John Jackson, Ronnie Seals, Mickey Williamson, Shirley Price, Jenny Huggins, Bill Lester, Thomas Norton, Betty Overturf, Lib Haywood, Scott Witten, Steve Floyd, Shirley Eaton, and Steve Baldwin.

Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Kemp made the motion to approve the minutes of the last board meeting with the amendment of removing the last two sentences of the last paragraph. It was seconded by Comm. Hayes and passed unanimously.

Comm. Lewis made the motion to release four taxes totaling \$475.19. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Citizen Appearance

Ms. Shirley Eaton came before the board and spoke in praise of the Lumber River State Park Dedication. She said over 600 people attended. She passed around pictures she had taken of the event.

Mr. Steve Baldwin informed the board that he was against a mobile home being placed in his neighborhood. Mr. John Jackson informed him that the mobile home request was canceled because the woman decided to buy a house instead. Mr. Jackson stated that modular units are allowed according to state law.

Public Hearing

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

Mr. Bill Lester, from Hobbs and Upchurch conducted the second required hearing for the new 1999-2000 Community Development Block Grant. Mr. Lester presented a map of the Martin Luther King project illustrating the areas to be improved. Mr. Lester informed the Board that the proposed C.D.B.G. application was for \$750,000. He suggested the town contribute an additional \$90,000 for a total of \$840,000. These funds will be used for housing, street and drainage improvements. Mr. Lester asked the Board to pass a resolution to submit the application and to appoint a project area committee. Mayor Lewis read the proposed resolution and the list of suggested committee members to the Board.

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to close the public hearing. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to accept the resolution to submit a community revitalization grant application. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to approve the C.D.B.G. Project Area Committee. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously. See attached copy.

General Business

Mr. Thomas Norton of the Palmer Drug Prevention Program of Robeson County asked the Board to designate October 23 through October 31, 1998, as Red Ribbon Week. He emphasized the importance of wearing and displaying red ribbons as a symbol for a drug-free community. Mr. Norton also invited the Board to attend the first annual Red Ribbon Booster Luncheon on October 28, 1998, from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. at the National Guard Armory in Lumberton. Tickets are \$12.50.

Town Manager Ben Hill summarized a letter he received from Time Warner Cable. The letter states that a minimum 30 day notice will be provided to all subscribers of any rate changes. Mr. Hill stated that he had a visit from Eric Collins, Systems Manager of Time Warner. Mr. Collins informed the manager that fiber optic cable was being laid and that Fairmont should have the same programming as Fayetteville between March and May 1999.

Mr. Hill, Codes Officer John Jackson and Town Attorney Charlie Floyd discussed nuisance lots, buildings and abandoned cars. The manager updated the Board on the old theater building and Callahan's TV. Some people are interested in renovating the theater and using it for plays. Mr. Charles Callahan has given Codes Officer John Jackson permission to inspect his building.

Mr. John Jackson updated the Board on dilapidated houses and abandoned cars. Mr. Jackson has sent out certified letters to the owners of the dilapidated houses asking for voluntary demolition and 90% have responded. Mr. Jackson argued that abandoned cars are a never ending cycle because the owner is forced to move one out and later puts another in its place.

Mr. Hill assured the Board that nuisance lots were taken care of. Public Works has taken over cutting them and all lots should be within code.

Attorney Charlie Floyd indicated that he was working with all the attorneys for Robeson County and neighboring municipalities. They plan to have a dinner before Christmas to discuss problems common to all municipalities and see that they are handled similarly.

The Manager informed the Board of a letter he sent to all department heads regarding the sickness or major crisis of employees so the Board can be notified. An example of this policy is Mrs. Helen Lockley who just got out of the hospital.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for nominations to the Fairmont ABC Board. Mr. Virgil Brady's term has expired. Comm. Perry nominated Wade Sealey and Comm. Kemp nominated Virgil Brady. Comm. Lewis made a motion to close the nominations. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously. The voting went as follows:

Virgil Brady - Comms. Kemp and Lennon

Wade Sealey - Comms. Gaddy, McCree, Perry and Lewis

By a majority of 4 to 2, Wade Sealey was approved to the ABC Board.

Administrative Matters

Mr. Bill Lester summarized a letter from Will Buie recommending tentative awards of the wastewater system and annexation sewer improvement contracts. Low bid on Contract I was Goodyear Construction of Fairmont for \$809,338.41. Low bid on Contract II was McArthur Construction of Lumberton for \$1,037,586.38. Comm. Kemp made a motion to tentatively award Contract I to Goodyear Construction and Contract II to McArthur Construction, contingent on final approval of all permits and of USDA - Rural Development. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously. The manager announced the groundbreaking for the plant should be in December or January.

Mayor Lewis explained the proposed clean water and natural gas bond referendum to be voted on November 3, 1998. The bond provides \$800 million for water and sewer projects and \$200 million for natural gas projects. Comm. Perry made a motion to adopt the resolution in support of the proposed state bond issues for water, sewer and natural gas. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

The Manager discussed the parking problem at the intersection of Iona and Trinity streets. He stated that the Town needs to adopt an ordinance before the Department of Transportation can erect no parking signs. Comm. Lennon made the motion to adopt the ordinance amending Iona Street parking. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Commissioners Input

Comm. Kemp wanted to apologize to Mitch Stevens for comments he made at the last board meeting about Mr. Stevens' cars. Comm. Kemp did not know that Mr. Stevens had contacted and was in negotiations with a salvage company to remove the cars. Comm.

Kemp also mentioned that one of the judges at the Farmers Festival pageant was impressed with the town.

Comm. Lennon expressed his approval of the condition of the town's appearance. He thanked Ben and his staff for all their hard work. Comm. Gaddy also thanked the staff for their good work.

Announcements

Mr. Hill reported that the Little Miss and Miss Farmers Festival Pageant was a big success. He thanked Comm. Kemp for doing such a good job as MC. Brittany Hunt won Little Miss Farmers Festival and Mikey Nye won Miss Farmers Festival.

The Southeastern Democratic Rally is Thursday, October 15, 1998, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Robeson County Fairgrounds. Several elected officials will be present and food will be served. Mayor Lewis said the Town will pay for all the tickets and encouraged everyone to attend.

The Fairmont Farmers Festival is Saturday, October 17, 1998. The day begins with a Strongmen Show at 9:00 a.m. The parade starts at 10:00 a.m. with 100 entries, including 25 floats and 6 bands. There will be live entertainment, food, arts and crafts throughout the afternoon. The festival concludes with a tobacco barn dance in the Hi-Dollar Warehouse. The Fantastic Shakers will perform with "Elvis" as the opening act. The dance begins at 8:00 p.m. and lasts until 1:00 a.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.

The N.C.L.M. is hosting a conference in Charlotte, NC from October 18 - 20, 1998. Ben Hill and Comm. Hayes Lewis are representing Fairmont.

The Centennial Committee will meet Monday, October 26, 1998, at 5:30 p.m.

The R.C.M.A. will meet Thursday, October 27, at 7:00 p.m. at the Pink Restaurant in Rowland. Representative Donald Bonner will be the speaker.

The Chamber of Commerce will be meeting in the courtroom following the board meeting.

Woodfield Apartments II will hold their grand opening on October 19, 1998, at 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be served.

Closed Session

Comm. Lewis made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel and land acquisition - GS-122C-52. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

After the discussion was over, Comm. Kemp made a motion to come out of closed session. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously. Mayor Lewis announced that personnel was discussed but no action was taken.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Shirley Price, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting -- November 10, 1998

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 1998, at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Nedward Gaddy, Charles Kemp, James O. Perry, W.B. Lennon, Hayes Lewis and Frank McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Chief Terry Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Mickey Williamson, John Jackson, Betty Overturf, Ray Johnson, Mark Lassister, Jenny Huggins and Shirley Price. Town Attorney Charlie Floyd was absent.

Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Lewis made the motion to approve the minutes of the last board meeting. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mr. Daniel Mark Lassister came before the board as part of the process for earning a citizenship in the community merit badge for the Eagle Scouts.

Mayor Lewis read and presented Mickey Williamson with a letter of appreciation from the board for his outstanding work on the Farmers Festival.

Public Hearing

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

This is the second required public hearing on Armon and Barbara Jenkins' request to subdivide a portion of their property located on the east side of State Road 2298 (Old Stage Rd.). Zoning Officer John Jackson showed the board a map of the proposed Floyds Ridge Subdivision. The subdivision has five one acre lots with a 50 foot street access for future development. The area is zoned R-15, which means only standard built or modular homes are allowed. Mr. Jackson stated that the Planning Board recommended approval of the subdivision.

Comm. Lewis made a motion to close the public hearing. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

Comm. Lennon made a motion to approve the planning board's recommendation for the subdivision plan. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

General Business

Mayor Lewis informed the board that he would like someone to take his place on the Robeson Enterprise Community Development Corporation because of time constraints. After discussion, Comm. Lennon made a motion to appoint Comm. Gaddy to the corporation. It was seconded by Comm. Kemp and passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis announced that Maitland Hunt's term on the Fairmont Housing Authority Board had expired. She has said she would serve again, so Mayor Lewis reappointed her for another five year term.

Town Manager Ben Hill discussed the need for an alternate person to sign town checks. It is required to have one original signature and one stamped on every check. A problem arose recently when the mayor was out of town and Finance Director, Helen Lockley, was in the hospital. Mr. Hill stated that the NCLM recommended that the next highest elected official be the alternate signature. Comm. Lewis made a motion to appoint Comm. Charles Kemp as the third check signer. It was seconded by Comm. Lennon and passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis had planned to discuss Downtown Revitalization but was not able to get all the information he needed. He said he would bring it up again at the December board meeting.

The Manager informed the Board that the town has received Year 2000 (Y2K) compliance letters from Manatron and Southern Software. These letters assure us that their software is year 2000 compatible and that no problems should arise.

Administrative Matters

Mr. Hill brought before the board a resolution supporting fund raising activities for the new community building. He explained that it will be a 30,000 square foot building on five acres across from the Gaston Sealey warehouse. Mr. Hill is asking individuals and businesses for tax deductible donations. He is planning to attach a letter to the water bills asking for donations of any size. The community building should be completed by October 1999, at an estimated cost of \$350,000.00.

Comm. Perry made a motion to accept the resolution supporting fund raising activities for the new community building. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Commissioners Input

Comm. Kemp wondered if it was possible for the manager, Chief Terry Hunt and John Jackson to network with Lumberton on their abandoned car procedures. Comm. Kemp said he had talked to Lumberton Police Chief Aragon and that they were doing a lot toward community policing. Mr. Hill said he would look into it.

Comm. Kemp informed the board that Mr. Laney Edwards, principal at the high school, recently lost his daughter in a car wreck. He wanted everyone to have their thoughts and prayers with his family during this sad time.

Announcements

The fourth annual Fairmont Christmas Festival will be Sunday, December 6th from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Border Belt Museum.

Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Commissioners Hayes Lewis and Frank McCree, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals will be in Kansas City, Missouri from December 1-6, 1998, at the National League of Cities Conference.

The R.C.M.A. will meet Tuesday, November 17, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. in Parkton.

Town offices will be closed Veteran's Day, November 11 and Thanksgiving, November 26 and 27.

Department Heads will have the annual Shadow Student Program on November 18 and 20.

The Grand Opening of Fairmont Art Products will be Thursday, November 19, time to be announced.

Sheriff Glenn Maynor is hosting the annual deer luncheon Thursday, November 12 at 12:30 p.m., at the Lumberton Rescue building.

Mayor Lewis announced that the North Carolina Supreme Court will hear the appeal case on the annexation sometime in February 1999.

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Closed Session

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel and land acquisition - GS-122C-52. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

After the discussion was over, Comm. Lennon made a motion to come out of closed session. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously. Mayor Lewis announced that personnel was discussed by no action was taken.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Shirley Price, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting -- December 8, 1998

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Nedward Gaddy, Charles Kemp, James O. Perry, W.B. Lennon, Hayes Lewis and Frank McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Chief Terry Hunt, Attorney Charlie Floyd, John Jackson, Helen Lockley, Mickey Williamson, Ronnie Seals, Johnny Britt, Shirley Price, Jenny Huggins, Betty Overturf, John Masters, Ann & Allen Vause, Lynn & Raven Taylor and Ann Hughes.

Commissioners Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Kemp made the motion to approve the minutes of the last board meeting. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Miss Raven Taylor came before the board to complain about the smell of the sewer plant. She asked the board what the town was going to do about it. She was also concerned about the trash dump near the sewer plant. Mr. Hill thanked Miss Taylor for coming and expressing her concerns. He responded to her questions by saying that the town receives sewage from all citizens and businesses. A toxic load was put in the plant a year ago, which killed the bacteria that kills the smell. The town, with help from the state, has been trying to pinpoint the source of the toxic shock but have not been able to so far. Mr. Hill stated that the new sewer plant design is bigger and better because it will have two digesters and aeration bases to break down the sewage faster. The new plant will take 17 months to build. Mr. Hill reassured Miss Taylor that the town and the state will work on the problem constantly until the new plant is built.

Mr. Hill addressed Miss Taylor's other concern about the junk stored next to the sewer plant. He told her that all the junk will be removed in two or three weeks. He said the land will be used in the future to store equipment only.

Mrs. Lynn Taylor had concerns about leaf and trash pickup. She stated that she has called public works in the past and that they were slow to respond. She is concerned because she has seen town trucks riding around with three men in them doing nothing. Mr. Hill asked her to get the vehicle number and he would take care of it.

General Business

Mr. John Masters of S. Preston Douglas & Associates came before the board to discuss the 1997-98 audit report. He passed out graphs to the board and went over them and the financial statements. He said that Fairmont was in a solid financial position with assets of 5.8 million dollars and liabilities of only \$260,000. He said our liability will increase in the future because of the new wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Masters went over the

graphs with the board. He stated that tax revenue had increased over last year. Sanitation went down slightly due to some businesses switching from dumpsters to roll out carts. Sewer and water revenue also went down because of the new annexed areas not paying double rate anymore.

Comm. Lewis made a motion to accept the audit as presented. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis announced that W.B. Lennon, Frank McCree and Maurice Stackhouse need to be reappointed to the Board of Adjustment. Their terms expired in November and they need to be reappointed for three years. Comm. Kemp made a motion to reappoint Lennon, McCree and Stackhouse to the Board of Adjustment. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill discussed a letter he received from Fairmont Associates, LLC. They will be expanding Food Lion 60 foot in width. It will be the biggest expansion to date for Food Lion. They are also doubling the size of Mayberry Video and rebuilding it beside Kerr Drug. They are also building a new Phyllis's Beauty Salon and a 1,000 square foot space that will be available for rent to another business.

Mr. Hill also informed the board of a letter he received from Time Warner Cable. They have changed the rates on some programming and services. The new rates will go into effect January 1, 1999.

Mr. Hill discussed MetroSite Management, LLC, a company that works with local governments in finding public property that is suitable to put antennas for wireless communications companies. Mr. Hill first heard of the company at the November R.C.M.A. meeting. He contacted the speaker, Susan Rabold, about helping Fairmont find possible sites to place antennas. Mr. Hill stated that it would be a good way to generate income for the town. There can be antennas for nine different companies on one tower. Rent can be up to \$1,000 per month per carrier. MetroSite helps market the sites to wireless communications carriers. If the town signs a contract with them, MetroSite will receive about one third of all revenue. No action was taken by the board at this time.

Commissioners Input

Comm. Kemp thanked Ben Hill, Ronnie Seals and Chief Terry Hunt for their help with the Christmas Festival. Comm. Kemp said it was a tremendous success.

Comm. Kemp also asked about the progress of Fairmont working with Lumberton on the abandoned car problem. Codes Officer John Jackson stated that he has a copy of Lumberton's policy and is reviewing it to see how we can relate it to ours. Chief Hunt said he had talked to Robert Brice of the Lumberton Police Department. Mr. Brice is the

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head of that area and informed Chief Hunt to be cautious and careful when dealing with abandoned cars.

Announcements

There will be no R.C.M.A. meeting in December due to the holidays.

The Chamber of Commerce will meet Monday, December 14, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. in the courtroom.

The town offices will be closed December 24 & 25 for Christmas and January 1, 1999 for New Year's Day.

The Annual Christmas Party Luncheon will be Wednesday, December 23, 1998 at 12 noon in the Fire Hall. BBQ and fried turkey will be the main course.

Closed Session

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel and land acquisition - GS-122C-52. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

After the discussion was over, Comm. Gaddy made a motion to come out of closed session. It was seconded by Comm. Kemp and passed unanimously.

Comm. Lennon made a motion to give the manager the authority to hire Miss Jane Price as a manager's intern for six months. It was seconded by Comm. Kemp and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Shirley Price, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting -- January 12, 1999

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 1999 at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Nedward Gaddy, Charles Kemp, James O. Perry, W.B. Lennon, Hayes Lewis and Frank McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Chief Terry Hunt, Attorney Charlie Floyd, John Jackson, Ronnie Seals, Shirley Price, Jenny Huggins, Rebecca Fisher, Mickey Williamson, Elizabeth Haywood, Shirley Eaton, Lee Helen Thompson, Laura Thompson, David Ramsaur, Mae Ringold, Kenneth & Geneva Lennon, Robert Price, Betty Overturf, Scott Witten, Bobby Walters and several other concerned citizens.

Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation. Mayor Lewis extended sympathy to the town manager in the loss of his newborn grandson.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to approve the minutes of the last board meeting. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mayor Lewis presented Ms. Elizabeth Haywood with a plaque recognizing her fine work at the Border Belt Museum. Ms. Haywood thanked the board, Ben Hill and Shirley Price for their support. She announced that there has been 714 visitors to the museum since July.

Town Manager Ben Hill introduced Ms. Rebecca Fisher to the board. Ms. Fisher is currently serving as Deputy Tax Collector. She will take over as Tax Collector when Mrs. Shirley Price retires.

Mr. Bobby Walters and several other concerned citizens from the Happy Hill area came before the board to voice a complaint. They are upset because they still have dirt roads, no sewer, no lights and no police protection in the recently annexed area. The town manager explained that the town is waiting on one permit to get approved by the state department. After it is approved, the town will begin running new sewer lines. He hopes construction will begin July 1. Mr. Hill explained that the dirt roads cannot be paved until the sewer lines are run. Mr. Hill did say he would work on installing street lights. The board apologized to the citizens and explained they had no idea that it would take so long to get the sewer permits. Chief Terry Hunt reassured the citizens that the police did in fact patrol their area and have been since it was annexed.

Public Hearing

Comm. Lewis made a motion to schedule and advertise a public hearing for February 9, 1999 on the L.B. Brice subdivision. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Board of Adjustment Hearing

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners, acting as the Board of Adjustment, with Comm. Gaddy as an alternate, heard a zoning appeal by Mrs. Lee Helen Thompson. Attorney Robert Price represented the town in this case. Attorney David Ramsaur represented Mrs. Lee Helen Thompson and Attorney Charlie Floyd represented Kenneth and Geneva Lennon.

Mr. Price informed the board of the zoning problem. Codes Enforcement Officer John Jackson issued a zoning permit to Mrs. Lee Helen Thompson in February 1997 for a double wide mobile home. Mr. Jackson incorrectly listed the parcel of land owned by Kenneth and Geneva Lennon on the permit instead of the land which Mrs. Thompson leases from the Gaston Sealey family. Mrs. Thompson placed her new double wide in the same location as the single wide she lived in since 1974. A zoning violation occurred because the bigger trailer is over the Lennon's property line on one corner by 8 feet, 2 inches or 33.62 square feet.

Mr. Ramsaur, Mrs. Thompson's attorney, pointed out that she did not fill out the zoning permit application. It was completed by Mr. Jackson and therefore she should not be in violation. Mr. Price responded that Mrs. Thompson signed the application implying that everything was true and correct. She nor Mr. Jackson were aware of the correct property lines until after the mobile home was set up.

Mr. Floyd, the attorney for Mr. & Mrs. Lennon, stated that the line was never in question until the double wide was put down. Mr. Lennon noticed the new mobile home was not in the same place as the single wide. He was concerned and employed a surveyor to determine the correct property lines. The Lennons have taken Mrs. Thompson to civil court for trespassing. The case does not involve the town ordinances. Mrs. Thompson tried to settle with the Lennons without taking the case to court. She offered to buy or lease the piece of land in question but the Lennons refused. The court case is scheduled to be heard in March.

Mr. Price recommended that the Board enforce the zoning ordinance and rule that Mrs. Thompson move her trailer. Mrs. Thompson expressed regret that the mobile home was placed over the property line. If she had known, she would never have put it there. She informed the board that moving the trailer would cost her \$20,000 and financially she cannot afford it. Mr. Jackson told the board he felt guilty for causing this problem between people he has known for years. It upsets him that it could no be resolved without going to court.

Comm. Perry made a motion to affirm the decision of the Code Enforcement Officer in this case with the provision that Mrs. Thompson be given 60 days to comply with the ordinance and move the mobile home. It was seconded by Comm. Kemp and passed unanimously. (Comm. Gaddy did not vote since he is an alternate.) Criminal

proceedings can be taken against Mrs. Thompson if the trailer is not moved within 60 days.

Administrative Matters

Codes Officer John Jackson informed the board that an ordinance needs to be adopted in order to tear down the house on 514 Marvin St. Comm. Kemp made a motion to adopt an ordinance directing the Codes Officer to remove and demolish the property on 514 Marvin St. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

Town Manager Ben Hill discussed the North Carolina League of Municipalities Risk Management Services Interlocal Agreement. They are proposing amendments that will require 90 days notice of termination should the town choose another insurance company. Comm. Perry made a motion to accept the amendments to the Interlocal Agreement. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

General Business

Mr. Hill informed the board that a PARTF grant for the Fairmont Community Park will be applied for on February 1, 1999. Comm. Kemp made a motion to adopt the PARTF Application and Certification form. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Commissioner's Input

There was no commissioner's input.

Announcements

The Centennial Committee will hold a barbecue/chicken luncheon on Sunday, January 17, 1999 at 11:00 a.m. in the fire hall. Tickets are \$5.00.

The town offices will be closed Monday, January 18, 1999 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The R.C.M.A. will meet in Maxton on Tuesday, January 26, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. at Townsend Middle School. Mr. Ralph Campbell with the State Auditor's office will be the guest. Anyone interested in going meet at 6:15 p.m. at the town hall.

Town Manager Ben Hill and Comm. Hayes Lewis will be attending a Lumber River COG retreat January 22 & 23, 1999 at Calabash, North Carolina.

Closed Session

Comm. Lewis made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel and land acquisition - GS-122C-52. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

After the discussion was over, Comm. Lewis made a motion to come out of closed session. It was seconded by Comm. Lennon and passed unanimously.

Comm. Perry made a motion to sell a 20 x 224 lot, totaling 4,480 square feet. The property adjoins Robeson Insurance Co. and others on the north, the Town of Fairmont on the south and east and Main St. on the west. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Shirley Price, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting -- February 9, 1999

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 1999, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Nedward Gaddy, James O. Perry, W.B. Lennon, Hayes Lewis and Frank McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Chief Terry Hunt, Attorney Charlie Floyd, John Jackson, Ronnie Seals, Mickey Williamson, Johnny Britt, Shirley Price, Jane Price, Jenny Huggins, Betty Overturf, Shirley Eaton, Bill Lester, Sharon McDuffie, Huel Faulk, Lt. Sam Hunt, L.B. Brice, Bridgette Bass, Berlester Campbell, Dick Britt, Angelo McMillan, Bobby Walters and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Pro-tem Charles Kemp called the meeting to order and presided until Mayor Lewis arrived.

Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes of the last board meeting. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Comm. Lewis made a motion to release taxes in the amount of \$56.53. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Town Manager Ben Hill introduced Miss Jane Price. Miss Price will be working with the town as a manager's intern for the next six months. She is a senior at Appalachian State University.

Ms. Shirley Eaton informed the board that she took pictures of both good and bad aspects of town and had them available for viewing.

Mr. Angelo McMillan and Mr. Bobby Walters spoke on behalf of the Happy Hill area. They are still upset over the sewer issue.

Public Hearing

Comm. Perry made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss the L.B. Brice subdivision. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously. Codes Officer John Jackson informed the council that the planning board recommends approval of the L.B. Brice subdivision which falls under the annexation area. Mr. L.B. Brice stated that all he wants is to give his daughter a piece of land to build on. Comm. Perry made a motion to come out of public hearing. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Comm. McCree made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss the close-out report to Grant # 97-C-0393, the Lumber River Basin Regional Waste Water Study II project. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously. The manager explained that the L.R.C.O.G. gave a grant of \$50,000 to the counties of Bladen, Hoke, Robeson and Scotland to do a wastewater feasibility study. The study looked at regionalizing wastewater discharge points and identifying other issues of concern related to wastewater treatment and water quality. Mr. Hill informed the board that the money was spent on two engineering firms to do the study. Comm. Kemp made a motion to come out of public hearing. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Comm. Lennon made a motion to adopt the planning board recommendations on the L.B. Brice and Bridgette Bass request for a subdivision on Hwy. 130 bypass. It was seconded by Comm. Kemp and passed unanimously.

Mr. Bill Lester of Hobbs and Upchurch came before the board to give a report on the wastewater plant and line work. He said permits for the collection and pumping systems were ready and that tentative awards have been given to contractors. The major holdup is the permit to discharge for the wastewater treatment plant. The paperwork was filed with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in February 1998. DENR has yet to approve the permit. Rural Development, the funding agency for the sewer plant, will not release any funds until all permits are in hand, which prevents the town from starting any projects. Mr. Lester anticipates that it will be May or June before the town can begin work on the plant. It will take a year and a half to complete.

The manager discussed the policy for carry over and payout of vacation earnings. The current policy states that if you have 32 days of vacation at the end of the year, two days will be carried over to sick leave. The state says we cannot do this anymore. Mr. Hill said the policy needs to be revised to comply with the state's new regulations. Comm. Perry made a motion to amend the policy to reflect that any vacation earnings exceeding thirty (30) days will be lost, beginning 12/31/99. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

The manager discussed the amendment to the grant agreement for the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund. The grant agreement is for the repair of the town's failing wastewater management system. Since work has not yet begun on the new plant, the agreement needs to be extended to January 21, 2000. Comm. Kemp made a motion to approve the amendment to the grant agreement. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to accept the close out report to Grant # 97-C-0393, the Lumber River Basin Regional Waste Water Study II project (see public hearing). It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

The council unanimously decided to endorse and promote Robeson County Spring Clean 99, the week of April 18, 1999. It is being sponsored by the Robeson County Committee of 100.

General Business

The manager updated the board on the Lee Helen Thompson zoning appeal. Since the last board meeting, Mrs. Thompson has moved her trailer. The town is currently working on a driveway for her.

The manager brought up the NC Intergovernmental Relations Award - call for nominations. The purpose of this award is "to honor a current local government elected or appointed official who has made significant contributions to promote, develop and foster intergovernmental relations and cooperation in North Carolina." Comm. Kemp nominated Commissioner Hayes Lewis for his work with the L.R.C.O.G.

The manager reported on the abandoned vehicles problem. Mr. Hill, along with Codes Officer John Jackson, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd and Police Chief Terry Hunt are working hard to enforce these ordinance violations.

Mr. Hill informed the board that the land next to the Britt Building and Robeson Insurance will be appraised soon by Kenny Richardson.

Commissioner's Input

Comm. Kemp asked Town Attorney Charlie Floyd for an update on tax foreclosures on several buildings in town. Attorney Floyd stated that one is in bankruptcy, one is in dissolution and the third is being turned over to another lawyer because of conflict of interest.

Announcements

The next R.C.M.A. meeting will be hosted by the Town of Fairmont on Tuesday, February 23, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall. W.C. Baxley, Director of Robeson County Solid Waste will be the guest speaker.

The Centennial Committee is holding an Open House in the Fire Hall on Sunday, February 28, 1999 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Page 4 -- Regular Meeting, February 9, 1999

The Community Building Steering Committee held its organizational meeting on February 1. Over 20 people attended the meeting presided by Jimmy Byrne. Over \$101,000 has been donated or pledged to the building fund so far.

Mayor Lewis recognized County Commissioners Berlester Campbell and Dick Britt. Comm. Campbell presented the board with a \$5,000 check for the community building. Comm. Britt committed to \$5,000 for the community building as well.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Shirley Price, Town Clerk

Special Board Meeting -- February 23, 1999

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special board meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 1999 at 6:30 p.m., with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Nedward Gaddy, James O. Perry, W.B. Lennon and Frank McCree. Commissioner Hayes Lewis was absent. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Jenny Huggins, Jane Price, Betty Overturf, Bill Lester, Mickey Williamson, John Jackson, Ronnie Seals, Shirley Price and three citizens from Happy Hill.

Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Mr. Bill Lester, from Hobbs and Upchurch, informed the board that sewer work in the Happy Hill and Franklin/Rosewood areas can be done for an estimated \$213,573. He recommended the board give notice of award to McArthur Construction to do this portion of the sewer work. The town will spend its funds on this work to be reimbursed later by Farmer's Home. The town manager said McArthur Construction can begin work in 15 to 30 days.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to award McArthur Construction the amount of \$213,573 for the needed sewer improvements in the Happy Hill and Franklin/Rosewood areas. This money is to be appropriated from the general fund to be reimbursed at a later date by Farmer's Home. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Assistant Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – March 9, 1999

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 1999 at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Pro tempore Charles Kemp presiding. Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis was absent. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Hayes Lewis, Nedward Gaddy, James O. Perry and W. B. Lennon. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Chief Terry Hunt, John Jackson, Shirley Price, Jenny Huggins, Jane Price, Bill Lester, Sharon McDuffie, Ronnie Seals, William Hayes, Mr. & Mrs. Bud Cayton, Mickey Williamson, Dan McKenzie, Andy Grimsley, Barbara Strickland, Jimmy Byrne, Scott Witten, Bobby Walters, Leroy & Bessie Thompson, Jeff Neelon and several other concerned citizens.

Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9 and February 23 board meetings. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Comm. Lewis made a motion to release taxes in the amount of \$534. 56. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mr. Bobby Walters came on behalf of the Happy Hill area to thank the board for their concern and help.

Administrative Matters

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Cayton came before the board seeking a license to operate a Beach Bingo parlor. Beach Bingo is regulated by the NC General Statutes and states that no prize can be more than \$10.00. The Caytons will be operating the parlor as a profit making business and not for charity. They will be sharing the old Pa Bill's restaurant with TJ's Auction. The business will be family operated and will be open only on Saturdays from around 4:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Beach Bingo will be good family entertainment. Each bingo card will cost .25 to .50 a card. Comm. Perry made a motion to give the Caytons a license to operate Beach Bingo under NC General Statutes. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Town Manager Ben Hill informed the board that state funds in the amount of \$501.42 need to be released to the Lumber River Council of Governments for regional technical assistance. If the funds are not given to the L.R.C.O.G., they will revert back to the state. Comm. Lewis made a motion to release the \$501.42 to the L.R.C.O.G. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

Comm. Perry made a motion to set April 8, 1999 as the day to advertise 1998 delinquent taxes. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Attorney Charlie Floyd mentioned to the board that some citizens would like to give stock instead of cash to the Community Building. In order to accept these stock donations, the town has to open a brokerage account. Mr. Jeff Neelon, of Linsco Private Ledger, explained how a brokerage account works. For example, if a person has stock worth \$10,000 and sells it himself, he has to pay \$2,000 in taxes. If the same person gives the stock to the town, he gets a \$10,000 tax deduction. The town will get the full \$10,000 minus a brokerage fee for selling the stock. The town will not play the market on any stock it receives, but will immediately sell it for cash. Comm. Lennon made a motion to adopt the resolution directing that a brokerage account be opened. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously. Comm. Lennon made a motion to appoint the Town Manager as the agent for the brokerage account. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

General Business

Mr. Hill stated that the contract to do sewer and water lines in the Happy Hill, Rosewood, Franklin and Pittman Street areas has been awarded to McArthur Construction. The contractors hope to start work this week, weather permitting.

Mr. Hill announced that Intern Jane Price will be going to the Lumber River Council of Governments on March 11, 1999. She will be working with Jan Hester on our codebook. They will look at the entire book to see what needs to be updated, with special focus on Chapter 15 – Nuisances.

Mr. Hill informed the board that the town will not receive any funds for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for 1999. We can reapply in January 2000. Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Thompson came before the board upset that houses on Benjamin Street have not been fixed yet. Mr. Bill Lester, of Hobbs and Upchurch, explained why Benjamin Street has not been worked on. The town held two public hearings to decide which area to work on next. It was decided to continue with the next homes in line, which are on Martin Luther King Street. Benjamin Street is in a specific area that needs to have all houses brought up to Section 8. The board informed the Thompsons that the town is committed to work on Benjamin Street. However, the CDBG program requires that you work in a continuous pattern and go from one house to the next, rather than skip around. Mr. Lester explained that the next CDBG grant application and public hearing will be in June/July 2000. Benjamin Street will be included in that application.

Announcements

Intern Jane Price will conduct a community meeting immediately following the board meeting in the council chamber. Please attend and support her efforts.

R.C.M.A. meeting will be hosted by the City of Lumberton on March 23, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. at Adelio's Restaurant.

The Centennial Committee is sponsoring an Open House at the Border Belt Museum on Sunday, March 14 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please try to attend.

The Town offices will be closed on Friday, April 2, 1999 in observance of Easter.

Closed Session

Comm. Perry made a motion to go into closed session to consult with the town attorney regarding the lawsuit, "William A. Hayes et al vs. Town of Fairmont" – G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3). It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to come out of closed session. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously. Mayor Pro Tempore Kemp announced that legal matters were discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Assistant Town Clerk

Regular Meeting - April 13, 1999

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 1999, at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Hayes Lewis, Nedward Gaddy, James O. Perry, W.B. Lennon, and Charles Kemp. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Chief Terry Hunt, John Jackson, Jenny Huggins, Ronnie Seals, Alex Monroe, Jane Price, Mickey Williamson, Rebecca Fisher, Helen Lockley, Shirley Eaton, Gloria Ivey, Tim Larson, Dan McKenzie, Nancy Joyce, Frances Davis and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Mayor Lewis swore Miss Jennifer Huggins in as Town Clerk and Mrs. Rebecca Fisher in as Tax Collector.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9th board meeting. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Comm. Lewis made a motion to release taxes in the amount of \$30.09. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mayor Lewis recognized Finance Director Helen Lockley with a plaque honoring her twenty-five years of service to the town. Mayor Lewis also recognized Sergeant Alex Monroe with a plaque for being chosen "Employee of the Year."

Administrative Matters

Mr. Hill brought up the sewer hook-up incentive for residents on Happy Hill, Franklin and Rosewood Streets. Mr. Hill and the town attorney have discussed this matter and informed the board that the incentive needs to be tabled until the May meeting. Comm. Perry made a motion to table the sewer hook-up incentive proposal until the May meeting. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Town Attorney Charlie Floyd spoke on the Planning Board's decision on Lennon Development. He stated that the Planning Board met on April 6 and they decided to deny Butch Lennon's request for a subdivision on Pittman Street. Attorney Floyd said there was a lot of citizen opposition to the subdivision. Comm. Lennon wants the board to table this issue. He would like the land rezoned from an R-20, which allows mobile homes on a conditional use permit to an R-15, where no mobile homes are allowed at all. Several citizens expressed concern about modular homes. Attorney Floyd explained that under state law, modular homes are the same as site built stick homes. They are just built off site rather than on site. Comm. Lennon stated that there will only be 12 lots, around

half an acre each. Comm. Perry made a motion to send this issue back to the planning board. He withdrew his motion after Attorney Floyd suggested the issue be tabled. Comm. Gaddy made a motion to table the subdivision request until the next board meeting. It was seconded by Comm. Kemp and passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis called a five minute recess. When the meeting resumed, Mr. Hill brought up Robeson County's Industrial Development Incentive Grant. The grant is offered to both new and existing industry for locating or expanding in Robeson County. The town would use Level I - which offers 50% inducement based upon capital investment on both real and personal property available for five years following the year of investment, with a minimum investment of \$1,000,000. Comm. Kemp made a motion to adopt the County's Industrial Development Incentive Grant. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill informed the board that a resolution for requisition and check signatures and administration of the Town of Fairmont FY 97 Community Development Block Grant needs to be adopted because of the retirement of Jeanette Lupo and Shirley Price. Jennifer Huggins and Linda Vause will be the replacement signatures. Comm. Kemp made a motion to adopt the resolution for requisition and check signatures. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis read the ordinance amending the prohibition of tractor trailer trucks from entering upon Church Street from South Main Street to Pittman Street. The original ordinance was put into the wrong section in the municipal code. Comm. Kemp made a motion to amend the ordinance and move it from Section 14-2011 to Section 14-2013. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis announced that Thursday, May 6, 1999, is the National Day of Prayer. Comm. Perry made a motion to proclaim May 6 as a Day of Prayer in Fairmont. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill gave an update on the carry-over and payout of vacation earnings. The board amended the policy in February to say that any vacation earnings over thirty (30) days would be lost. Mr. Hill called the state retirement system and found that any vacation over thirty (30) days as of December 31 can be transferred to sick leave. Comm. Perry made a motion to amend the policy to allow vacation earnings over thirty (30) days as of 12/31/99 to be transferred to sick leave. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

General Business

Mr. Hill updated the board on Time Warner Cable. They are in the process of replacing the current cable with fiber optic cable and are sending weekly reports on their progress. They hope to be finished by the end of June. After completion, we should receive better reception and double the channels for the same basic standard service rate. On a different matter, Time Warner needs to know if we want to continue printing the Town's address on cable bills. Mr. Hill suggested we leave things as they are.

Mr. Hill announced that April 18-24 is "Keep Robeson County Clean and Green" week. Residents will be able to get rid of undesirables at no cost including white goods, old brick, concrete, metal and furniture. Town Intern Jane Price announced that April 17-30 is "Litter Sweep" which promotes roadside cleanup.

Mr. Hill recognized Mrs. Linda Oliver-Link. Mrs. Oliver-Link would like to contribute something to Fairmont by restoring the Old Theater Building into a coffee shop and garden. Mr. Hill reminded everyone that the town does not yet own the property.

Mr. Hill announced that the town has received confirmation from the State Utilities Commission that local county wide calling will be implemented on June 26, 1999.

Announcements

There will be a Community Watch meeting on Thursday, April 15, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. in the courtroom.

The Centennial Committee and the Recreation Department are sponsoring a Kick-a-thon/Music Fest on Saturday, April 17, 1999 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the grounds of the Border Belt Museum. If it rains, it will be held at the Fairmont Middle School Gymnasium.

The R.C.M.A. meeting will be hosted by the Town of Pembroke on Thursday, April 29, at 7:00 p.m. at Sheff's Seafood.

Mrs. Shirley Price, Mrs. Dot Walters and Mrs. Jeanette Lupo retired on March 31, 1999. They will truly be missed. Mrs. Price is currently in the hospital. She had surgery on her left knee and is doing well.

The Community Building Steering Committee is working hard on raising money and designing the building.

Page 4 -- Regular Meeting -- April 13, 1999

Closed Session

Comm. Lewis made a motion to go into closed session - GS 143-318.11 (a)(5&6). It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

After discussing personnel and real estate, Comm. Lewis made a motion to come out of closed session. It was seconded by Comm. Kemp and passed unanimously.

Comm. Lewis made a motion to put the land next to Britt Associates up for sale with sealed bids for a minimum of \$9,200 sent to Attorney Charlie Floyd's office. It was seconded by Comm. Kemp and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – May 11, 1999

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 11, 1999, at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Hayes Lewis, Nedward Gaddy, James O. Perry, W.B. Lennon, and Charles Kemp. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Chief Terry Hunt, John Jackson, Jenny Huggins, Ronnie Seals, Jane Price, Mickey Williamson, Shirley Eaton, Shirley Price, Betty Overturf, Robert Shaw, Bobby Walters, Huel Faulk, Ronald Hughes, Bill Lester, Sharon McDuffie, Doris Locklear and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 13th board meeting. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mayor Lewis recognized Lumberton City Councilman, Robert Delane Shaw. Mr. Shaw is also the president of the Rosenwald Alumni Association. He presented the board with a \$1,000 check for the Community Building and thanked them for the things they do for the city. The Association also pledged \$500 a year for 2001, 2002, 2003, & 2004.

Administrative Matters

Codes Officer John Jackson updated the board on Lennon Development. He stated that the Planning Board approved rezoning the property from R-20 to R-15. The next step is to set a public hearing, advertise it in the paper and notify adjoining property owners. Comm. Kemp made a motion to schedule the public hearing on the rezoning for June 8, 1999. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

Town Manager Ben Hill informed the board that there are some environmental concerns in the newly annexed areas of Happy Hill, Franklin and Rosewood Streets. These areas have many bad septic tanks which can contaminate ground water. Mr. Hill and Town Attorney Charlie Floyd recommend a \$300 incentive for these residents to hook on to town sewer. This \$300 credit will be applied to the residents' water bills. Comm. Perry made a motion to grant the \$300 sewer credit to the newly annexed residents of Happy Hill, Franklin and Rosewood Streets. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill informed the board that three Planning Board members' terms expire the end of May. All three are willing to serve again. Comm. Kemp made a motion to reappoint Phostenia McCrimmon, Dennis Hicks and Rita Rogers to the Planning Board. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Page 2 --Regular Meeting, May 11, 1999

Town Clerk Jenny Huggins informed the board that a new Municipal Records Retention and Disposition Schedule needs to be approved. Comm. Kemp made a motion to approve the new schedule. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill told the board that a date needs to be set for the public hearing on the proposed 1999-2000 budget. Comm. Gaddy made a motion to set June 8, 1999 as the date for the budget public hearing. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Mr. Bill Lester of Hobbs and Upchuch came before the board with a loan application from McKee Craft. McKee Craft has had a transfer of ownership and is asking for a \$250,000 loan to help revitalize the business, retain jobs and create new ones. He stated that the board needs to approve the application before McKee Craft can receive the money. If the loan is approved, the Town will receive the funds but all transactions will be handled through the lending bank. McKee Craft will have a limitation of two years to create new jobs. They currently employ 35 and hope to increase it to 50. Comm. Perry made a motion to adopt the resolution to submit the Industrial Development Fund loan application for \$250,000. It was seconded by Comm. Kemp and passed unanimously.

Mr. Lester informed the board that informal bids were taken for a water line contract to install a six inch water main on Taylor St. The low bid is \$11,275 and the high bid is \$16,350. He recommended awarding the contract to low bidder, McArthur Construction. Comm. Lewis made a motion to award McArthur Construction the water line contract for Taylor Street in the amount of \$11,275. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill advised the board that it would be best to discontinue garbage, lights, limbs and leaves services in the Golf Course Road, North Fairmont and Shanty Town areas. These areas are currently in a lawsuit against the town. Attorney Charlie Floyd stated that it could be another two years before we get a final decision from the courts. Mr. Hill will write the residents of these areas to see if they want to continue the garbage pickup for a fee. The board agreed that we should discontinue all services to these areas. Residents in the North Fairmont and Shanty Town areas will have to pay double rate for water instead of the current single rate until the lawsuit is settled.

Mr. Hill informed the board that a public hearing was held on May 10, 1999 to discuss a USDA Rural Development loan and grant application of \$400,000 for the Community Building. He wants the board to go ahead and adopt the loan resolution, letter of intent and resolution to submit application. Ms. Irma McPherson informed the board at the public hearing that we may or may not get any funds. If we do get the money, we have to spend \$125,000 of the town money first, then the \$300,000 loan and lastly, the \$100,000 grant for a grand total of \$525,000. No decision has been made on the exact location of the Community Building but the money can be used toward either spot. Comm. Lewis

made a motion to adopt the loan resolution, letter of intent and resolution to submit application for the Rural Development Community Facility loan and grant. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Mr. Lester informed the board that bids were taken for CDBG street and drainage improvements in the MLK and Webster Street areas. The low bid is \$184,830.25 and the high bid is \$236,216. He recommended awarding the contract to low bidder, Barnes Paving. Comm. Lewis made a motion to award Barnes Paving the contract for the CDBG street and drainage improvements in the amount of \$184,830.25. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

The council sat next as the Board of Adjustment to hear the zoning appeal of Ms. Doris Locklear. Codes Officer John Jackson began by explaining the reason her permit was denied. Ms. Locklear was trying to put another mobile home on her property to use as a storage building. The problem is she already has a dwelling and a burnt mobile home on the property. Our codes only allow for one storage building. He feels a second storage building would not fit and overcrowd the lot. The problem could be solved if she removes the burnt mobile home. Ms. Locklear stated that the mobile home she is trying to install on her lot has sentimental value. It has no walls and will be used only as a storage building. When asked if she would remove the burnt mobile home, she explained that she has invested a lot of money to repair it and all it needs is windows and doors. Mr. Hill advised the board to take the recommendation of the zoning officer. The council returned to the regular meeting. Comm. Perry made a motion to accept the zoning officer's decision to deny permit for Ms. Locklear. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

General Business

Mr. Lester gave the board an update on the new sewer plant project. We have acquired the draft for the permit to discharge. We should receive the actual permit soon. The next step is to get Authorization to Construct. It is a 90 day process at best, it will probably take longer. After we receive the Authorization to Construct, we will do the loan closing with Farmer's Home. Mr. Lester feels it will be 6 to 8 months before work can begin on the new plant. He will contact the contractors to see if they will hold their bids at current market prices. He should know more next month.

Mr. Hill and Attorney Floyd updated the board on the old theater building. Mr. Hill stated that the property owner is now paying property taxes on the building. Attorney Floyd thinks our next step should be forcing renovation or demolition according to town codes. Attorney Floyd will give a full report at the next board meeting.

Commissioner's Input

Comm. Kemp is concerned about the appearance of downtown. He wants to know if we have anything in the codes governing cosmetic appearance. Attorney Floyd stated that our downtown is not a historic district and therefore we have to approach it from a safety standpoint.

Announcements

Mr. Hill announced that Town Hall Day is June 2, 1999 and asked the board to let him know if anyone wanted to go.

The Fairmont Enterprise local council meetings are every second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtroom.

The R.C.M.A. will meet on Tuesday, May 25, 1999 at the Community House in Proctorville at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Lewis announced that a Special Town Board meeting will be held on Monday, May 17, 1999 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss personnel and have a budget workshop.

Closed Session

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to go into closed session - GS 143-318.11 (a)(5). It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

After discussing real estate, Comm. Lennon made a motion to come out of closed session. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Special Board Meeting – May 10, 1999

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special board meeting on Monday, May 10, 1999 at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Hayes Lewis, Nedward Gaddy, James O. Perry, W.B. Lennon, and Charles Kemp. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Chief Terry Hunt, Jenny Huggins, Jane Price, Mickey Williamson, Shirley Eaton, Shirley Price, Betty Overturf, Irma McPherson, Jimmy Byrne, Wendell Thompson and Mildred Brice.

Mayor Lewis called the special meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss the USDA Rural Development loan and grant application for the community building. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis introduced Ms. Irma McPherson of USDA Rural Development, who has been working closely with the town on this application. She asked if anyone had any questions or comments on the grant and loan application. Mr. Jimmy Byrne, Chairman of the Community Building Steering Committee, is ready to get started on the building. He stated that we have received close to \$125,000 in donations so far.

Mr. Hill explained that the total cost of the project is \$525,000. We are asking for \$400,000 from Rural Development. Ms. McPherson detailed how the money is to be spent. The town has to spend its own money first. Then we have to spend the \$300,000 loan. The \$100,000 grant is spent last. If more than \$525,000 is needed, the town will have to come up with additional funds. Ms. McPherson added that the value of the land and building can be considered as the town's contribution of \$125,000.

The council asked Ms. McPherson about the loan conditions. She stated that the town has 15 years to pay it back. Mr. Hill said that the loan will be paid with contributions and fund raisers and not town money.

Attorney Charlie Floyd reminded everyone that we do not have a deed for the Premiumwear land yet. Ms. McPherson said that was alright because the "letter of conditions" gives us a year to obtain the property.

Comm. Lewis made a motion to come out of public hearing. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

Ms. McPherson discussed the loan process with the board. She starting working on our application two weeks ago. She received a call from Raleigh today that money is not available right now and may not be available at all. She was upset by this news and hopes to know by Wednesday at the earliest if we get any money. Assuming we get

Page 2 -- Special Board Meeting – May 10, 1999

funded, we will schedule another special meeting and get all the paperwork signed then.
The council thanked Ms. McPherson for her hard work.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Special Board Meeting – May 17, 1999

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special board meeting on Monday, May 17, 1999 at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Hayes Lewis, Nedward Gaddy, James O. Perry, W.B. Lennon, and Charles Kemp. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Chief Terry Hunt, Jenny Huggins, Jane Price, Betty Overturf, Paul Woolverton and Scott Witten.

Mayor Lewis called the special meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into closed session - GS 143-318.11 (a)(6). It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

After discussing personnel, Comm. McCree made a motion to come out of closed session. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to insert a letter of reprimand for inappropriate behavior in Mr. Ben Hill's personnel file and put him on probation effective for one year. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – June 8, 1999

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 8, 1999, at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Hayes Lewis, Nedward Gaddy, James O. Perry, W.B. Lennon, and Charles Kemp. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Chief Terry Hunt, John Jackson, Jenny Huggins, Ronnie Seals, Jane Price, Mickey Williamson, Betty Overturf, Thomas Norton, April Whittemore, Sara Humphrey and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes from the special board meetings on May 10 and 17 and the regular board meeting on May 11th. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mrs. Janice Thompson, teacher of special needs at Fairmont Middle School, came before the board to request a contribution for the World Special Olympics to be held in Raleigh. Larry Nichols, a student from Fairmont Middle School, will represent the town in the Olympics and will compete in the powerlifting event. Mrs. Thompson asked the board to support the Robeson County Special Olympics with a gift contribution of \$100. Comm. McCree made a motion to grant \$100 to the Special Olympics. It was seconded by Comm. Kemp. The vote was as follows:

For:	McCree, Kemp, Lennon, Lewis and Gaddy
Against:	Perry

The motion passed with a vote of 5 to 1.

Mrs. Betty Overturf presented the board with a book that the seventh grade of Fairmont Middle School put together on the early history of Fairmont. A copy of the book is in Town Hall for public inspection.

Administrative Matters

Comm. Lewis made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss the rezoning of the Lennon property from R-20 to R-15. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously. The planning board recommended approval of rezoning the property from R-20 to R-15. R-15 prohibits installation of mobile homes on property. Comm. Lewis made a motion to come out of public hearing. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

Page 2 – Regular Meeting, June 8, 1999

Comm. Perry made a motion to rezone the subdivision from R-20 to R-15. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously. (Comm. Lennon did not vote). Comm. Gaddy made a motion to set a public hearing on the Lennon subdivision request for July 13, 1999. It was seconded by Comm. Perry and passed unanimously.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss the proposed budget for fiscal year 1999-2000. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously. Mr. Hill explained that there is no tax increase, only a \$2 increase in sanitation fees and new privilege license rates. The two dollar increase from \$9 to \$11 is to help cover salaries in sanitation and bring the town rate up comparable to other municipalities in the county. Comm. Lewis made a motion to come out of public hearing. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Comm. Lewis made a motion to set June 29, 1999 at 6:00 p.m. as the date to hold a special meeting to adopt new budget for 1999-2000 and adopt amended budget for 1998-1999. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Mr. Thomas Norton and Miss April Whittemore of the Palmer Drug Prevention Program came before the board with a request for financial support. They would like the town to increase its support from \$450 a year to \$1,250 a year. Comm. Perry made a motion to give them \$600 a year but later withdrew his motion. The board decided to table the request until after the budget is adopted on June 29. Mr. Norton also asked the board to call for a voluntary ban on drug paraphernalia such as rolling papers, locking up chemicals at school, and moving cigarettes behind the counter so they are not easily accessible. Mayor Lewis said he would write a letter in support of Mr. Norton's drug prevention efforts.

Police Chief Terry Hunt informed the board that an updated Mutual Aid Agreement between Fairmont and Robeson County needs to be adopted. Comm. Perry made a motion to adopt the Mutual Aid Agreement between Fairmont and Robeson County. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill discussed the issue of health insurance for retired employees. The current policy states that after 30 years of service, the town will pay insurance until age 65. Other municipalities, including Lumberton, offer this incentive for 20 years of service. The council asked Mr. Hill to look into the state's policy on insurance for retired employees. They want more information before they make a decision.

General Business

Mr. Hill updated the council on the Cablevision upgrade. The upgrade should be completed sometime in July.

Miss Jane Price gave a building aesthetics update. Our current codes only concern the aesthetics of dwellings, not commercial buildings. The state statutes allow for an appearance committee but it has no teeth because it is voluntary. She has called the COG for advice but has not heard from them yet. Attorney Charlie Floyd said it was an issue of safety versus appearance. Appearance is hard to enforce unless it is in a historic district, which Fairmont is not.

Miss Price informed the board that Ms. Sara Humphrey had applied for a taxicab permit. Ms. Humphrey stated that she would comply with all state and local laws. Comm. Gaddy made a motion to grant a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Sara Humphrey. It was seconded by Comm. Lennon and passed unanimously.

Miss Price discussed Carolina Guide Books and the Robeson County Newcomers Guide. The book came out last year and had only a half page on Fairmont. With the help of a \$1,500 grant from CP&L, we are going to have a whole page this year. Representatives from Carolina Guide Books is coming on July 15 to talk to merchants and get their advertising support. With their help, we may even get two pages in the book.

Commissioners Input

Comm. Lewis is concerned about the poor job ARS is doing in replacing the trash containers after they empty them. Several have been left in the road, in front of mailboxes or lying on the ground. Mr. Hill will look into this matter.

Announcements

The R.C.M.A. meeting will be Thursday, June 24, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Pauls at the R.E. Hooks Community Building. The speaker will be Mr. Steven Crysel, Robeson County Tax Administrator.

The Centennial Committee is hosting an Open House at the Border Belt Museum on Sunday, June 13, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please try to make an appearance and support our centennial events.

The Town Council will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, June 29, 1999 at 6:00 p.m. to adopt the budget for FY 1999-2000 and to adopt the amended budget for FY 1998-1999.

Page 4 – Regular Meeting, June 8, 1999

McKee Craft is looking to hire summer help. Must be 18-21. Call 628-0926.

The local telephone service to anywhere in Robeson County becomes effective on June 28, 1999.

CP&L is hosting a workshop on hurricane awareness in Whiteville on June 29.

Closed Session

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to go into closed session – GS 143-318.11(a)(5&6). It was seconded by Comm. Lennon and passed unanimously.

After discussing real estate, Comm. Lewis made a motion to come out of closed session. It was seconded by Comm. Lennon and passed unanimously.

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the sale of land next to Robeson Insurance and Britt Associates by accepting sealed bids with a minimum bid of \$4,600. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Fairmont Board of Commissioners
Special Meeting - June 29, 1999

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on June 29, 1999 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Nedward Gaddy, Frank McCree, Charles Kemp, W. B. Lennon, and Hayes Lewis. Commissioner James O. Perry was absent. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Chief Terry Hunt, Jenny Huggins, Ronnie Seals, Mickey Williamson, Jane Price, Helen Lockley, Linda Vause, Rebecca Fisher, Shirley Price, Sharon McDuffie, Bill Lester, Betty Overturf, Scott Witten and several concerned citizens.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Lewis made the motion to release taxes in the amount of \$ 272.38. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

A citizen from North Fairmont came before the board with some traffic concerns in the Jackson and Pine Streets area. He requested some police protection and help. Chief Terry Hunt replied that he was aware of the situation and that the problem would be taken care of soon.

Administrative Matters

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss the Fiscal Year 1998-1999 CDBG Grant Amendment. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously. Mr. Bill Lester, of Hobbs and Upchurch, updated the board on the amendment. It includes adjusting line items in budget to reflect actual amount of funds spent. There are also some excess funds left which will be used for demolition of at least 10 units outside the target area. Comm. Kemp made a motion to come out of public hearing. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously. Comm. Kemp made a motion to accept the Fiscal Year 1998-1999 CDBG Grant Agreement. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

Town Manager Ben Hill discussed the 1998-1999 Amended Budget. Comm. Lewis made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 1998-1999 Amended Budget. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to write off delinquent 1988 taxes in the amount of \$1,248.18. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to write off the 1998-1999 uncollected water bills in the amount of \$1,964.56. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to set the 1999 tax rate at .69 per hundred dollar valuation. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

Town Manager Ben Hill discussed the 1999-2000 Budget. It includes a 2 1/2 % 401K plan for general employees and a 2 1/2 % cost of living for the police department, a \$2.00 increase in sanitation fees and an increase in privilege license fees. Comm. Kemp made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Budget. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously.

The board discussed the request made by Palmer Drug at the last board meeting. They requested \$1,250 for the upcoming year. The town gave them \$450 last year. Comm. Kemp made a motion to give the Palmer Drug Prevention Program \$800 for their 1999-2000 budget. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously.

Town Manager Ben Hill brought up the need for a better health insurance policy for employees. The current policy will pay an employee's health insurance up to age 65 with 30 years of service to the town. The proposed policy will provide health insurance up to age 65 and will pay supplemental insurance once Medicare has taken over. The policy has four different eligibility criteria:

- a. A current employee who is age 55 years or over and has a minimum of 25 years of service with the Town of Fairmont and has retired under the North Carolina Local Governmental Retirement System and receiving benefits.
- b. A current employee with 30 years or more of service to the Town of Fairmont, regardless of age, and who has retired under the North Carolina Local Governmental Retirement System and receiving benefits.
- c. A current employee who is 62 years or over and has a minimum of 15 years of service with the Town of Fairmont and who has retired under the North Carolina Local Governmental Retirement System and receiving benefits.
- d. A current employee with the Town of Fairmont who has retired due to disability under the North Carolina Local Governmental Retirement System and receiving benefits.

After much discussion and debate by the board, Comm. Gaddy made a motion to adopt the resolution granting health insurance to all eligible retired employees. It was seconded by Comm. Lennon and passed unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Lewis announced that he had received a \$500 donation for the Community Building from Mrs. Omega F. Johnson, widow of former Mayor Joy J. Johnson.

Mayor Lewis announced that a retirement party for Fire Chief John "Ronnie" Jackson will follow the meeting.

A ribbon cutting ceremony for Smith's Signs and Graphics will be Thursday, July 1, 1999 at 10:00 a.m.

The Town Offices will be closed on Monday, July 5th in observance of Independence Day.

There will be a tour of the new Post Office at its Grand Opening on Sunday, July 11 at 2:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk