

Regular Meeting – July 9, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, July 9, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Jeffrey McCree, Mary Bruce Grantham, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson, Fire Chief Freddie Miller and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others present included Scott Witten, Terry Hunt, Marc Werner, Donna Werner, Katherine Gaddy, Tabitha Smith, Carver Campbell, Michael Ramey and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order. Commissioner Kemp introduced Reverend Marc Werner and his wife Donna. Rev. Werner is the new minister at Trinity United Methodist Church. Rev. Werner gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Jackson stated that he abstained from voting to approve the minutes on June 11, 2002. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on June 11, 2002, and the special called meeting on June 25, 2002 with the correction that Commissioner Jackson abstained from voting to approve the minutes on June 11, 2002. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Ms. Katherine Gaddy complained about the traffic on Linden Street next to Calvin Haggins Park. She presented a petition from residents who would like to see speed bumps installed. Mr. Hill said speed bumps were not an option because the town would be liable if the bumps tore up someone's car. Commissioner Jackson suggested installing a metal barricade at the end of Linden Street forcing all park traffic to come in and out on Marion Stage Road. Mr. Hill said he would study the situation and report back to the board at the August meeting.

Mr. Michael Ramey with the Fairmont Youth Opportunity Program gave a short presentation on the program's achievements since it opened in January 2001. Mr. Carver Campbell, a participant in the Fairmont Youth Opportunity Program, gave a report on the seminars he attended in Washington, D.C. The seminars he attended were on bridging the cultural gap, character education, marriage and fatherhood and the impact of media on today's youth.

Administrative Matters

CDBG, URP and Bonaventure Monthly Status Reports.

CDBG PROGRAM – BENJAMIN AND PHILLIPS STREETS

Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum gave the board the monthly status report on the CDBG Program. Administratively, applications and ownership data have been secured from approximately 8 households. Two title reports have been received from the attorney. As far as engineering is concerned, the Wooten Company is preparing documents to begin the procurement process for execution of the work. The documents should be finalized within one month. Budget wise, no requisitions were processed during this reporting period.

URGENT REPAIR PROGRAM

Ms. Tatum reported that the application and selection processes are complete for the Urgent Repair Program. A selection memorandum showing the status or final scores for each applicant will be submitted for board review within the next two weeks.

BONAVENTURE SUBDIVISION

For the Bonaventure Subdivision, Ms. Tatum reported that five individuals attended the Housing Counseling Workshop held on Saturday June 15th. Construction wise, the subdivision developers broke ground during the week of June 24th. A critical issue with this subdivision is that the Governor de-obligated the infrastructure funds needed to complete the streets, etc. The Mayor requested a reversal of this action so that the subdivision could proceed as planned. No response has been received to date, however, one of the governor's representatives said Fairmont was one of four projects that is being reconsidered for funds. Ms. Tatum said we should have a decision in one or two weeks.

2003-2004 CDBG.

Ms. Tatum explained that the 2003 – 2004 CDBG application process has begun. The town generally applies for \$700,000 to serve a concentrated area selected by the Board. If the board decides to apply under this funding round, the local match would be approximately \$70,000-\$75,000 and can be expended as late as the 2004-2005 fiscal year. Ms. Tatum realizes that current budget concerns may negatively affect a decision to apply. However, the board can always make the decision to refuse a grant once secured, but cannot go back and apply after the fact. The application costs will amount to the publication costs for two public hearings only. There are no application fees. The Wooten Company has agreed to prepare the application and be present to address public concerns during the public hearings. The public hearings should be held August 13 and September 10. Commissioner McCree asked when the area to be considered for the

CDBG application had to be chosen. Ms. Tatum replied that the board should choose an area before the public hearing on August 13.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to apply for the 2003-2004 CDBG funds and set the public hearing dates for this application for August 13 and September 10, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Order to Collect Taxes.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to authorize the tax collector to collect taxes by any legal means. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the order to collect taxes is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Request for repair extension on 311 South Main St by Thomas Hill.

Mr. Hill explained that Mr. Thomas Hill, owner of 311 South Main St., has asked for an extension in repairing the building. Mr. Thomas Hill has been involved with the probation of Bishop John Barber's will and has not had time to begin repairs on the building. Town Attorney Charlie Floyd reminded the board that they put a stipulation on the deed when the town sold the property to Mr. Hill that the property be improved within 90 days. That time period has expired with no improvements made. Mr. Floyd asked the board if they would like the property back or give Mr. Hill another extension. Commissioner Jackson made a motion that Mr. Thomas Hill be required to abide by the rules of this board given to the Code Enforcement Officer concerning his building at 311 South Main Street and have it done within 30 days from today. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Allowance of fundraising car washes on public property.

Mr. Hill mentioned that during this time of year, the town receives a large number of requests from churches and nonprofit organizations to use the library for fundraiser carwashes. The requests are generally from churches inside and outside of the city limits. The actual cost for the use of water for such an event is minimal if not negligible. In light of recent liability concerns expressed by the governing body, Mr. Hill requested that policy be set for use of the library. Mayor Gaddy was concerned about the recent drought and its effect on the town's water supply. Mr. Hill replied that the town's water comes from wells and that the water level is good. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to allow carwash fundraisers by non-profit organizations on public property with the understanding that they must sign a waiver of liability. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Elementary School Drainage.

Mr. Hill said the Robeson County School Board is supposed to put in drainage and pave the parking lot at Rosenwald Elementary School. To date they have done neither. The town sold the parking lot to the school board with the understanding that the lot would be paved as soon as possible. Commissioner McCree made a motion that the Robeson County School Board be given thirty days to pave the parking lot at Rosenwald Elementary School as agreed to in the purchase of the land or it would be turned over to the town attorney for legal action. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

National Night Out sponsored by the Fairmont Community Watch Project.

The Fairmont Community Watch Program is requesting permission to host a public celebration in the town park on August 6, 2002 for a National Night Out. The hours will be from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. A hot dog dinner and entertainment will be provided. The National Association of Town Watch sponsors the event. Local businesses, clubs, organizations and individuals will also be asked to support this event. National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support and participation in local anti-crime efforts, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships and send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. The Community Watch Program is also requesting assistance from the Town of Fairmont and the Departments of Police, Fire, EMS and Public Works. Police Chief Sam Hunt organized the Fairmont Community Watch Program three months ago and has had a good response. Chief Hunt asked the board to adopt a proclamation naming August 6, 2002 as National Night Out for the Town of Fairmont. He also asked the Commissioners to contribute to the event as individuals.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion proclaiming August 6, 2002 as National Night Out 2002 for the Town of Fairmont. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Announcements

There will be no RCMA meeting this month.

Recreation T-ball and Coach Pitch Hot Dog Cookout and Trophy presentation will be Thursday, July 18 at the Civitan Field at 6:30 p.m.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jackson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McCree to adjourn the regular board meeting at 7:15 p.m. and reconvene at Pat Floyd's Clubhouse on Mill Branch Road at 7:45 p.m. for a Council Retreat.

Council Retreat

The Town Council reconvened at 7:45 p.m. at Pat Floyd's Clubhouse on Mill Branch Road for a Council Retreat. Those in attendance were Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Kemp, Townsend, McCree, Currie, Grantham and Jackson, Ben Hill, Jenny Larson, Katrina Tatum, Sam Hunt, Ronnie Seals and Charlie Floyd. Mr. Hill announced that the purpose of the retreat is to receive guidance from the board on what they expect from the town staff in the next year.

Police Chief Sam Hunt gave a presentation on the performance of his officers and his plans to improve the department.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – August 13, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, August 13, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Finance Director Linda Vause, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others present included Scott Witten, Huel Faulk, Andy Grimsley, Gaines Grantham, Ray Johnson, Beverly Collins Hall, Tony Normand and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Chief Sam Hunt gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on July 9, 2002. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mayor Gaddy wanted everyone to know how very proud he is of the town employees for sticking by the town during this hard economic time.

Public Hearing – Budget Amendment Request for CDBG No. 01-C-0848 – Benjamin and Phillips Streets

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m. to discuss a budget amendment request for CDBG No. 01-C-0848, Benjamin and Phillips Streets. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Town is requesting a budget amendment for CDBG No. 01-C-0848, Benjamin and Phillips Streets. The amendment would effectively reduce the acquisition appropriation from \$25,000 to \$22,900 and create a Clearance line item in the amount of \$2,100. The amendment is necessary to allow expenditures to demolish clearance properties. Initially, the Town was going to assume financial responsibility for this cost. However, due to increases in the cost of demolition, it is now necessary to budget for this expenditure.

After discussion, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of Public Hearing at 6:06 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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Commissioner McCree made a motion to approve the budget amendment request for CDBG No. 01-C-0848, Benjamin and Phillips Streets. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Hearing – 2003-2004 CDBG Grant Application

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into Public Hearing at 6:07 p.m. to discuss the 2003-2004 CDBG Grant Application. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill explained that at the last board meeting, the Board voted to apply for a CDBG application in the amount of \$700,000. The purpose of this public hearing is to discuss the Town's application for this grant, which will be in the Concentrated Needs Category. The grant is administered by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance and will be used to provide street, water and drainage improvements and rehabilitation, acquisition, demolition and relocation assistance to citizens in the North Fairmont area on the west side of Benjamin, Phillips, Wilton and Martin Luther King Streets. The Wooten Company and town staff has researched several areas and the area mentioned above has more characteristics in keeping with program requirements and will yield more rating points when reviewed. The Board is asked to select an area, or approved the recommended area.

Ms. Katrina Tatum went on to further describe the area being considered. It begins with Benjamin Street includes the left side of Martin Luther King Street and all of Wilton and Phillips Streets. She emphasized that some homes on Martin Luther King may have to be eliminated due to the high concentrated need of homes on Wilton and Phillips Streets. Twenty houses will be included in the application.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to come out of Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner McCree made a motion to select the west side of Benjamin, Phillips, Wilton and Martin Luther King Streets in North Fairmont as the area for the 2003-2004 CDBG application. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

COMtech's request for pledges.

Mr. Tony Normand, CEO of COMtech, was present to ask the board to consider a pledge to COMtech. Mr. Hill realizes COMtech needs support but the town has no money to give right now. Mr. Normand said COMtech is not all about the money. He wants all the

municipalities in Robeson County to come together to see COMtech as a representation of the whole county for the long term. COMtech's goal is to improve education and training in Robeson County. Commissioner Jackson made a motion that the Town of Fairmont give its full support to COMtech but financially we cannot give anything at this time. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Accept the Towns of Norman and Ellerbe into the Lumber River Council of Governments.

Mr. Hill reported that the Towns of Norman and Ellerbe in Richmond County have petitioned the member governments of the Lumber River Council of Governments for membership effective July 1, 2002. The by-laws of the LRCOG prescribe that the existing member governments must vote to accept a new government's petition for membership. A majority vote by the existing members decides the vote.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to vote for the acceptance of the Towns of Norman and Ellerbe into the Lumber River Council of Governments. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Mosquito Control Contract

Mr. Hill explained the Mosquito Contract with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Mr. Hill said the town applied for a \$12,800 contract with NCDENR to help buy mosquito control spray. Due to the state's financial crisis, the contract was dropped to \$6,421 for four years.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the Mosquito Contract with the NCDENR for four years with NCDENR paying the town \$6,421 per year for mosquito control spray. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Proclaim September 16-29 as Fall Litter Sweep for the Town of Fairmont

Mr. Hill reported that Governor Easley has asked all municipalities to proclaim September 16-29 as Fall Litter Sweep. During this period, residents can put out trash and junk to be picked up at no cost. The Spring Litter Sweep was very successful with over 40 tons of debris hauled off. Ms. Tatum pointed out that the litter sweep does not include contractor's material. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to proclaim September 16-29 as Fall Litter Sweep for the Town of Fairmont. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Update on parking lot paving and drainage at Rosenwald Elementary School and status of speed limit on Linden Street

Mr. Hill gave an update on the parking lot paving and drainage at Rosenwald Elementary School and the status of the speed limit on Linden Street. Mr. Hill reported that Attorney Charlie Floyd wrote a letter to Superintendent Barry Harding about the drainage and parking at Rosenwald Elementary School. Mr. Harding replied that the work would be done but did not give a time schedule. The Commissioners were concerned that the school board did not give a date on when the work would be completed. Mr. Hill suggested that the council go to the next school board and county board meetings to voice their feelings on the matter.

Concerning the speed limit on Linden Street, Mr. Hill met with County Recreation Director Rudy Paul about the traffic situation. Mr. Paul said the county will install 10 mph and “Children at Play” signs on Linden Street because they want to continue to use the street for park traffic. If the signs do not work, the town will cut warning slots into the pavement to get drivers to slow down.

Approval of Mission Statement for the Town of Fairmont

Mr. Hill presented the following statement written by Katrina Tatum to be used as the mission statement for the Town of Fairmont:

“The Town of Fairmont is a municipal government whose mission is to promote and support a high quality of life for its residents. The Town’s business is service. The Town will provide quality service delivery through staff development and training; positive leadership and the provision of a desirable work environment, ensuring maximum staff contribution and the highest achievable level of service excellence and customer satisfaction. Service delivery will be cost effective, based on the needs of the community and the requirements of federal, state and local laws and ordinances. The Town of Fairmont strives to improve business by continuously improving and upgrading service methods and tools. Our goal is to preserve, improve, protect, and enhance the quality of life within our community and surrounding communities. The Town supports everyone’s right to obtain safe, decent and sanitary housing and to live in a safe and secure environment. The Town will safeguard everyone’s right to be treated with respect, dignity, sensitivity and fairness and to pursue a higher standard of living. We, the Town of Fairmont pledge to strive daily to fulfill this mission statement.”

Commissioner Townsend made a motion to approve the above mission statement for the Town of Fairmont. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Announcements

There will be no RCMA meeting this month.

The Fairmont Community Watch will meet on Thursday, August 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtroom.

Town Offices will be closed Monday, September 2, 2002 in observance of Labor Day.

Closed Session

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into closed session at 6:50 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statue 143-318.10(e) and to discuss Legal Matters, “William H. Hayes, et al vs. Town of Fairmont” as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3). Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Townsend, Jackson, Currie, Kemp, McCree and Grantham, Ben Hill, Charlie Floyd and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information and legal matters, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:15 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Citizens Appearance

Ms. Beverly Collins Hall with American Indian Mothers announced the First Annual Harvest Celebration/Indian Heritage Month at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center, November 1-17, 2002. She asked the town to participate by setting up a booth on November 16 to showcase our community and its history.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jackson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kemp to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – September 10, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Finance Director Linda Vause, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson, Fire Chief Freddie Miller, Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others present included Scott Witten, Billy Floyd, Phil Wallace, Kathy Wallace, Mitch Ray, Terry Hunt, Syvalla Washington, Linda Bostic, Rusty Perry, Bill Lewis, Bill Floyd, Belinda McKoy and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Police Chief Sam Hunt gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner McCree made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on August 13, 2002. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Charlie Floyd spoke on behalf of the South Robeson Medical Scholarship Corporation Fund and the South Robeson Medical Development Corporation. The Scholarship Fund gives grants to persons pursuing a career in the medical field with the promise they will come back to Fairmont to practice. If they do not come back to Fairmont, they have to repay the money. The Scholarship Fund currently has a balance of \$38,000. The South Robeson Medical Development Corporation has a fund balance of \$380,000. They would like to lend the money to help build a medical fitness center. They would like the council to set up a committee to help convince Southeastern Regional Medical Center of Fairmont's need for a fitness center.

Commissioner Grantham introduced Billy Floyd, the new president of the Fairmont Youth Council. Mr. Floyd said they elected him at their first meeting last week. They plan to elect the remaining officers at the next Youth Council meeting. The group also discussed holding shag lessons.

Public Hearing – 2003-2004 CDBG Grant Application

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:14 p.m. to discuss the 2003-2004 CDBG Grant Application. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Town Manager Ben Hill explained that this is the second public hearing on the 2003-2004 CDBG application. The application amount is \$700,000 to serve the concentrated area on the west side of Martin Luther King Drive from Benjamin Street to Wilton, the eastern portion of Phillips Street and Wilton Street, selected by the board at the August 13 meeting. The local match will be approximately \$70,000-\$75,000, if required. A recent notice was received extending the application date from September 23, 2002 to October 23, 2002 and indicating a possibility that the local match requirement may be waived or at least carry less weight in the scoring process. If the local match is required, the town may expend the funds during fiscal year 2004-2005.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to come out of Public Hearing at 6:16 p.m. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Parking of Transport Vehicles along Martin Luther King Drive in front of Rosenwald Elementary School.

Mr. Hill brought it to the board's attention that a safety issue has been raised because transport vehicles are parked along Martin Luther King Drive at Rosenwald Elementary School obstructing the view of pedestrians and school buses. The children and accompanying parents can't see around the trucks to cross the street to and from the school and the buses must pull out too far in the street when leaving the school in order to see approaching vehicles.

Staff is recommending that a loading zone be established as permitted in the Town Ordinance, DIVISION 2. LOADING ZONES, CAB STANDS, ETC., Section 14-126. Loading and unloading zones. This section will allow the town to place signs, giving notice of the loading zone and it shall be unlawful to stop, stand or park any vehicle for any purpose or period of time except in accordance with the requirements of this division. The division allows the loading and unloading of passengers. The signs would specifically read, "No Parking, Passenger Loading Zone". Mr. Hill suggested that the 18-wheelers could park overnight on nearby Webster Street. Commissioner Townsend asked why we couldn't put up "no parking" signs during school hours. Mr. Hill replied that Chief Hunt has tried to work with the truck owners and have asked them to be gone by the time school opens but some drivers are not complying.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to create a Loading Zone in front of Rosenwald Elementary School on Martin Luther King Drive from Linden Street to the Parking Lot curve, just past Madison Street. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Always Remember 9-11 Day Proclamation.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adopt the “Always Remember 9-11 Day” Proclamation. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

An ordinance regulating the operation and use of parks and recreation facilities owned and controlled by the Town of Fairmont.

Mr. Hill presented a draft ordinance regulating the operation and use of parks and recreation facilities owned and controlled by the Town of Fairmont. Town staff came up with the ordinance based on ordinances from other towns. The ordinance is fair, with basic rules to promote safety and protection of the town and its residents. He added that the ordinance might have to be amended once the park is open to cover any unforeseen circumstances. Ms. Tatum added that there has to be a public hearing before the ordinance can be adopted and that the ordinance must be in place before the park opens.

Commissioner McCree made a motion to set a public hearing date for October 8, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the proposed ordinance to regulate the operation and use of parks and recreation facilities owned and controlled by the Town of Fairmont. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Smoke Free Work Place

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to set a public hearing date for October 8, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss a proposed ordinance to make all the buildings owned and controlled by the Town of Fairmont smoke free. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Manufactured Houses and Subdivisions in Flood Zones

Commissioner McCree made a motion to set a public hearing date for October 8, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss a proposed ordinance to regulate manufactured houses and subdivisions in flood zones. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The A.N.S.W.E.R.

Ms. Syvalla Washington was present on behalf of a group of concerned citizens who want to do something to help save the children of Fairmont and its surrounding communities. They are developing a new recreation and enrichment program called “Aiming for New Solutions With Enrichment and Recreation (The A.N.S.W.E.R.)” They have a facility located on 775 Reva Road on the outskirts of Fairmont. When complete, this program will provide year-round supervised activities for children and their families. Plans for the facility include a monitored swimming pool, baseball/softball and football fields, basketball and tennis courts, as well as nature trails for walking and running. There are also two natural ponds on the grounds to be used for fishing and canoeing. The facility was also house a Boys and Girls Club. They already have a building that can house 1,000 people for banquets, receptions, etc.

Ms. Washington needs the town’s help to fund the swimming pool, which will cost \$78,000. Commissioner Grantham informed her that unfortunately the town has no money to give at this time. Ms. Linda Bostic, who is also with the program, said they have applied for grant money but that most grants require a county or municipality to apply with them. She asked if the town would be willingly to help with their grant applications. Ms. Tatum said that even though the property is in the county, the town could administer the grant money, if approved. Mr. Hill added that the board would have to agree to administer the grant if Ms. Washington receives one.

Golden Leaf Grant update.

Mr. Hill informed the council that the Town of Fairmont has applied for a Golden Leaf Grant for the past three years. This year’s grant looks most promising because the town is partnering with Robeson Community College to set up computers and a nursing assistance program at the Community Building in a project call “Southeastern Robeson County: Planting Seeds for the Future.” The town applied for \$150,000. There will be a meeting soon with the grant administrators to discuss the application.

Reservations for Lumber River Council of Governments Annual Dinner.

Mr. Hill announced that the Lumber River Council of Governments will celebrate its 30th anniversary at their Annual Dinner Meeting on Thursday, October 17, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. at the Southeastern North Carolina Agricultural Center in Lumberton. Mr. Hill asked the board to let the Town Clerk know if they were going to attend by October 10.

Letter from the Governor on not providing local reimbursements.

Mayor Gaddy declared he had received bad news from Governor Easley concerning local reimbursements. The State of North Carolina is not going to give us our Inventory Tax, \$73,435, Senior Citizen reimbursement, \$6,000, Food Stamp reimbursement, \$4,200 or

Intangible Tax, \$12,000, for a total of \$95,635.00. Mr. Hill emphasized that the Governor might hurt us even more if he takes our Utility Franchise, \$100,000 and our Powell Bill, \$125,000. To make up for the loss of these reimbursements, the town would have to double our tax rate, which would be devastating to our citizens. Mr. Hill hopes the state legislature will pass a one-cent sales tax, which would solve everyone's financial problems in municipalities and counties across the state.

Updates on the Community Building, Community Park, and Sewer System.

Community Building

Mr. Hill reported that Ronald Nye Construction was the low bidder on the Community Building with a bid of \$1,027,000. Mr. Nye worked to cut costs to reduce the bid to \$839,354. This bid is still over the town's budget of \$650,000. Mr. Hill is waiting to get approval from USDA Rural Development on the bid changes. Mayor Gaddy discussed holding a special board meeting for Tuesday, September 24 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Community Building but no action was taken.

Community Park

Mr. Hill said the Community Park is lacking five items to be completed. The fencing around the park will be installed starting this week. The walking trail will also begin construction this week. The gazebo has been ordered and all that is left is the horseshoe area and children's playground. Mr. Hill hopes the park will be ready in 60 days.

Sewer System

Mr. Hill stated that the sewer plant has been in operation for two months now and has failed only one test. Proctorville and Orrum Middle School should begin construction around December to start hooking on to our system. Boardman has received a grant to tie on and should begin laying lines in the spring. Cerro Gordo and Fair Bluff have applied for money to do a study on tying on to the system. There is also a slight possibility that the Town of Tabor City may connect as well. Mr. Hill hopes the Robeson County Board of Commissioners will come on board to help get sewer to smaller areas in the county like Eastside Park.

Announcements

Pembroke will host the RCMA meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at Porter Plaza.

September 11 Memorial Prayer Service, Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Fairmont Memorial Park across from Town Hall.

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Community Watch meeting, Thursday, September 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtroom.

Fall Litter Sweep, September 16-29, 2002.

The Fairmont Dialysis Clinic plans to open October 14.

There being no further business, Commissioner Kemp made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McCree to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – October 8, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Finance Director Linda Vause, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson and Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews. Others present included Scott Witten, Billy Floyd, Phil Wallace, Kathy Wallace, Mitch Ray, Darol Moore, James Monroe, Jerry McCoy, Calvin McNair Terry Hunt, Fred Hughes, John Elliott, Gina Britt, E.R. Gause, Ann Vause, Rusty Perry, Huel Faulk and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Comm. Townsend gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on September 10, 2002. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentations

Mr. John Elliott, with Carolina Power and Light presented the board with two checks. One was \$1,000 for the Fairmont Farmers Festival and the other was \$2,500 for the Fairmont Community Building. Mayor Gaddy thanked Mr. Elliott and CP&L for their continued support of the Fairmont Community.

Citizens Appearance

Mr. Fred Hughes on Community Watch

Mr. Fred Hughes appeared before the board on behalf of the Fairmont Community Watch. He asked for the board's help in making the Community Watch program more successful than it already is. Mr. Hughes believes that the success and survival of Fairmont depends heavily on the success of Fairmont Community Watch. He said the program's objective is to remove any opportunity for people to commit crime. He stated the Commissioners could help by talking with their neighbors about Community Watch, help recruit responsible people to be Block Captains, participate in the churches and schools to get the Community Watch word out and attend on a rotating basis the

Community Watch meetings, which are held on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtroom. Mr. Hughes closed by going over the concerns brought up at past Community Watch meetings and the results of those concerns as well as future plans for the program.

Truck Drivers who park in front of Rosenwald Elementary School.

Mr. Darrol Moore spoke on behalf of the truck drivers who park in front of Rosenwald Elementary School on Martin Luther King Drive. He passed out papers to the council members with statements that the town would not be held liable if they were allowed to park in front of the school. Mr. Moore stated that if the drivers had been notified about not parking in front of the school during school hours that there would not have been a problem. Mr. E.R. Gause spoke up that several bus drivers have complained to him because they could not see over the tall trucks. Town Manager Ben Hill said he had talked to the town's insurance company and they recommended that trucks or any other heavy equipment not be allowed to park on town property for liability reasons. After discussion, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to amend the town ordinances to not allow commercial vehicles or equipment to park on public streets except for unloading, loading or servicing, effective today, October 8, 2002. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with the exception of Commissioner Currie who recused himself from voting since he is a truck driver. A copy of this ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Billy Floyd's report on Youth Council.

Mr. Billy Floyd, President of the Fairmont Youth Council, gave a report on their last meeting. They elected Tracy Johnson as Vice President, Mark McIntyre as Secretary and Kendra Brown as Treasurer. They also discussed holding shag lessons, tutoring at the Middle School and having a Christmas Social.

Public Hearing – Flood Ordinance Amendment to include section on Manufactured (Mobile) Homes and Hazardous Waste

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:55 p.m. to discuss amending our flood ordinance to include a section for manufactured (mobile) homes and Hazardous Waste. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum explained that the purpose of this public hearing is to allow public comment on an amendment to the existing Flood Ordinance of the Town of Fairmont. The amendments will include a Manufactured (Mobile) Home section and a Hazardous Waste component. The present ordinance regulates the erection of stick built homes in identified flood zones, but does not specifically address

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Manufactured (Mobile) Homes or hazardous materials. Both are mandatory for communities being remapped under the National Flood Insurance Program.

Commissioner McCree made a motion to come out of Public Hearing at 6:59 p.m. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Hearing – Park and Recreation Facilities Ordinance

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to go into public hearing at 7:00 p.m. to discuss adopting a Park and Recreation Facilities Ordinance. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Tatum explained that the purpose of this public hearing is to allow public input concerning the adoption of a Park and Recreation Facilities Ordinance. This ordinance will regulate the use and allowable activities within the Town of Fairmont Parks and Recreational Facilities. This ordinance is designed to reduce liability for uncontrollable incidences and to set guidelines for the orderly use of town owned recreational areas and facilities. At the September board meeting, Commissioner Jackson suggested changing the wording in Section 23-5 from “The Recreation Director or any Town employee designated by the Manager” to “The Police Department.” Town Attorney Charlie Floyd said this wording was allowable.

Commissioner McCree made a motion to come out of Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Hearing – Smoking Ordinance

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing at 7:02 p.m. to discuss adopting a Smoking Ordinance. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Tatum explained that the purpose of this public hearing is to allow public input concerning the adoption of a smoking ordinance. A staff member has requested that the town establish a smoke free workplace under the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This draft ordinance will allow for the accommodation of this request as required by law and also make provisions for the Town Manager to designate a smoking area for those who do want to smoke while at work. The smoking area can be inside as long as it is a room that is properly ventilated.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of Public Hearing at 7:04 p.m. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Adopt Flood Zone Ordinance, Park Ordinance, and Smoking Ordinance.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to amend the Flood Zone Ordinance to include a provision for Manufactured (Mobile) Homes and Hazardous Waste. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt an ordinance regulating the operation and use of parks and recreation facilities owned and controlled by the Town of Fairmont, Chapter 23, Parks and Recreation, Article I, Sections 23-1 to 23-5. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt an ordinance regulating smoking in town buildings and vehicles, Chapter 11, Health, Article II, Sections 11-4 to 11-14. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Set date for Special Meeting on the Community Building for Monday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Town Manager Ben Hill requested to set Monday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers as the date for a special meeting on the Fairmont Community Building Project. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the future of the project since the plans have to be redesigned and re bid to lower the cost of the building. Mr. Jimmy Byrne, Community Building Chairman, will be present to discuss plans for paying for the building and ask the board to raise the building's budget from \$650,000 to \$850,000.

Set date for Issue Forum for either Monday, November 4 or Thursday, November 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the courtroom.

Mr. Hill asked to set Monday, November 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the courtroom as the date for the next Town Issue Forum. The purpose of the Issue Forum is to get commissioner and citizen input on town concerns.

Sewer tap fees for North Fairmont and Golf Course Road areas.

Mr. Hill discussed the sewer tap fees for the North Fairmont and Golf Course Road areas. He suggested that the residents of these areas pay the same sewer tap on fee as town residents, which is \$250, and pay the same deposit fee, which is \$60 for homeowners and \$120 for renters. The only difference is that these areas would have to pay double rate for their sewer usage instead of the single rate that town residents pay until they are

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annexed into the town limits. After discussion, Commissioner Townsend made a motion to approve the single rate sewer tap-on fee and deposit and the double rate for sewer usage for the North Fairmont and Golf Course Road areas. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mixed Beverages Election on November 5, 2002.

The State Board of Elections has authorized a special election on the issue of mixed beverages for the Town of Fairmont on November 5, 2002. The purpose of the election is allow voters to decide whether to permit the sale of mixed beverages in hotels, restaurants, private clubs, community theaters, and convention centers within town limits.

Announcements

East Side Park, Annual Parade, Saturday, October 12 at 10:00 a.m.

Farmers Festival Pageant Tea for outgoing queens, Saturday, October 12 at 2:00 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Dialysis Center, Grand Opening tentatively scheduled for October 14.

Robeson County Clean and Green Luncheon, Monday, October 14 at 11:30 a.m. at the Agricultural Center Lumberton.

Annual LRCOG Dinner, Thursday, October 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the Agricultural Center in Lumberton.

Fairmont Farmers Festival, Saturday, October 19. Dignitary Breakfast at 9:00 a.m., Parade at 10:00 a.m., Dance at 9:00 p.m.

Community Watch meeting, Thursday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtroom.

RCMA meeting to be hosted by Proctorville and Orrum. Date and time to be announced.

Halloween Carnival, Thursday, October 31 at the Fire Hall.

There being no further business, Commissioner Kemp made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jackson to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Meeting – October 14, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday, October 14, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, John Jackson and Charles Townsend. Commissioner J.J. McCree was absent due to illness. Commissioner Antonio Currie was also absent. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Jenny Larson and Finance Director Linda Vause. Others present included Jimmy Byrne, Daphne Byrne, Mildred Brice, Bill Lester, Jack Johnson, Ben Brady, Maitland Hunt, Marlene Bass, Phil Wallace, Kathy Wallace, Gaines Grantham, Bill Lewis, Nina Johnson, Leon Littles, Shirley Price and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Commissioner Charles Townsend gave the invocation. Mayor Gaddy announced that the purpose of this special meeting is to discuss the Community Building Project.

Mr. Jimmy Byrne, Chairman of the Fairmont Community Building Project, gave a presentation on financing options for the community building. The plans for the community building were started three years ago. Last year, the board of commissioners approved a building cost cap of \$650,000. Earlier this year, the building was bid out and the lowest bid came in at a little over one million dollars. Several items were cut from the plans to get the construction cost down to \$850,000. Mr. Byrne asked the board to consider raising the building's construction budget from \$650,000 to \$850,000.

The Town has received a FHA grant of \$100,000, a 30-year loan for \$300,000 at 4.75%, and cash and pledges totaling a little over \$125,000. Mr. Byrne believes we can get another loan of \$325,000 at 4.75% to make up the budget shortfall. He also feels we can raise another 75 to 100 thousand dollars in contributions once work on the building has begun. If the town were to agree to a \$625,000 loan for 30 years the payment would be about \$3,143 per month or \$37,715 per year. Mr. Byrne gave the following options to use in repayment of the loan:

Pay off in full the \$625,000 debt with the sale of property to In 7 Company for \$750,000.
Repay debt with \$3,143 monthly payments for 30 years with \$4,892 monthly rent payments from In 7 Company or someone else if they leave town.
Use the ½% increase in sales tax to reduce debt.
We can add a \$2.50 monthly assessment to our present utility bill to fund the \$3,143 monthly payment.

Mr. Byrne also hopes that the town will receive a \$150,000 grant from the Golden Leaf Foundation to furnish the Community Building once it is completed.

After Mr. Byrne finished his presentation, the floor was opened for discussion by the board and the public. Commissioner Jackson did not feel that an assessment on the utility bills would be fair to the citizens of Fairmont when others in the county would also be using the building. Commissioner Grantham suggested raising the bills by \$1.00 a month to start with to help ease the burden on our residents, especially the senior citizens.

Mr. Gaines Grantham was concerned how the town was going to pay for the utility costs on the building once it is completed. Mr. Bill Lewis encouraged the council to go forward with the Community Building project. After discussion by the citizens and council, Mayor Gaddy asked the board to raise the budget on the Community Building to \$850,000 and decide later on how to raise the money to make the payments. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to raise the Community Building budget from \$650,000 to \$850,000. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion. The vote went as follows:

For:	Commissioners Grantham, Kemp
Against:	Commissioners Jackson, Townsend
Absent:	Commissioners McCree, Currie

Mayor Gaddy broke the tie to raise the Community Building budget to \$850,000.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

Citizens Issue Forum
Monday, November 4, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held its quarterly Citizens Issue Forum on Monday, November 4, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Courtroom with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were John Jackson, Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, Charles Townsend and J.J. McCree. Commissioner Antonio Currie was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Chief Sam Hunt, Mickey Williamson, and Alex Monroe. Others present included Dorothy Mitchell, P.C. Purvis, Huel Faulk, D.C. Bass, Marlene Bass, Daphne Byrne, Jimmy Byrne, Esma Jones, Betsy Taylor, Lanes McLean, Belinda McKoy, Lacey Charity, Andy Grimsley, Phil Wallace, Kathy Wallace, Gaines Grantham, Bill Lewis, and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Commissioner Charles Townsend gave the invocation.

Mayor Gaddy stated that the purpose of the forum is to hear citizen's concerns. He asked that each speaker state his or her name for the record.

Mr. Huel Faulk and Ms. Dorothy Mitchell spoke on the drug problems in the North Fairmont and Old Field areas. Many senior citizens live in these areas and are scared for their safety. Chief Sam Hunt said that the department was attacking each problem area and that things were improving little by little. He added that the court system makes it difficult because there are a lot of repeat offenders who get sentenced, serve their time and are back on the street breaking the law again. He encouraged everyone to get involved in the Community Watch program.

Mr. Lanes McLean had a question about the group homes coming into Fairmont on Martin Luther King Drive. He was concerned about the type of people who might live there because of all the senior citizens in the area. Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum explained that these group homes would house girls, age 7 to 17, who come from abusive homes. The purpose of these homes is to give these children a safe, family type environment. The children will be supervised 24 hours a day by trained, certified people.

Mayor Gaddy thanked the citizens for coming to the issue forum. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – November 12, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers and Courtroom with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others present included Scott Witten, Billy Floyd, Phil Wallace, Kathy Wallace, Huel Faulk, Gosnold Floyd, Nina Johnson, Jim Perry, John Pone, Richard Freeman, Effie Hill, Leroy Thompson, Lee Helen Thompson and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Deacon Leroy Thompson from Star of Bethlehem Church gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on October 8, the special meeting on October 14 and the Issue Forum on November 4 with the correction to add "Kendra Brown as Treasurer" of the Fairmont Youth Council to the October 8 minutes. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Youth Council Report

Mr. Billy Floyd, President of the Fairmont Youth Council, presented their monthly report. The youth council is working on tutoring at all the middle schools as well working on dates for possible dances and shag lessons.

Citizens concerned about possible water bill increase

Several citizens were present because they had heard a rumor that the town was going to raise water bills in order to help pay for the Community Building. Commissioner Jackson acknowledged that an increase in water bills was given as an option to pay for the Community Building but that he was personally against it. Mayor Gaddy would like to see other plans for raising money for the Community Building without raising water bills. No action was taken on this issue.

Meeting moved to courtroom

Mayor Gaddy adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m. to reconvene in the courtroom due to the large number of citizens present. Mayor Gaddy called the meeting back to order at 6:20 p.m. in the courtroom.

Administrative Matters

Capacity Management Plan for Fairmont's Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Mr. Jim Perry, Chief Administrator for the Lumber River Council of Governments, presented a Capacity Management Plan for Fairmont's Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. The purpose of this plan is to outline the existing capacity and operation of the Fairmont Wastewater Treatment Plant, develop on-going discussions with potential regional partners, and facilitate best capacity management practices for the regional plant. Mr. Perry stated that the following represent major capacity management issues for the WWTP: Operation and Maintenance Costs, Financial Plan, Future Service Area, 80% Capacity Rule and Capacity Fee. After a suggestion by Town Manager Ben Hill, Commissioner Jackson made a motion requesting that Mr. Perry research other regional sewer systems and how they operate and report back to the board in three months. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adopt written ordinance on no parking of commercial vehicles on Town streets.

Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum read the ordinance written based on the board's motion to ban commercial vehicles from parking on town streets at the October regular board meeting. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adopt the ordinance as written. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this ordinance is attached to the October 8, 2002 minutes.

Request for a letter of support for HealthKeeperz Hospice and Palliative Care.

Commissioner Grantham felt that the board should not give letters of support to businesses. Commissioner Kemp agreed that the board should remain neutral. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to refrain from giving a letter of support to HealthKeeperz Hospice and Palliative Care. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Family Care Home Facilities on Martin Luther King Drive.

Several citizens had questions concerning family care home facilities to be located at 608A, 608B, 610A, and 610B Martin Luther King Drive. Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum responded to their questions by stating there has been much speculation and too much misinformation circulated regarding the concept of family care homes and

just who will and will not be living in the houses. Children between the ages of 8 and 18, not criminals or ex-drug addicts, will be living in the homes and they will be supervised 24 hours per day and attend local schools. These homes are not adult care, but childcare homes. The children who will be living in the homes have no violent or criminal past but come from homes where there has been neglect or abuse. Mr. Richard Freeman and his sister, Ms. Effie Hill, will be operating these homes. They are licensed by the state to operate such facilities and are trained in childcare and childcare development in order to qualify as administrators. If the community has any problem at all regarding the operation of the facilities or the treatment of the children, complaints may be filed with the state. Typically, the problems that may occur within these homes are the adolescent problems occurring in any other home. In terms of zoning and the legal aspects thereof, these homes are considered to be residential and the use is considered a use by right. Since the homes are residential, surrounding neighbors did not have to be notified that the houses would be used for family care homes.

Set a date for a special meeting date to discuss the two cemeteries on Hwy 130 East.

The board agreed to set Tuesday, November 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers as the date for a special meeting on the two cemeteries located on Hwy 130 East.

Set a date for a board retreat.

The board also agreed to set Tuesday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. at Pat Floyd's Club House on Mill Branch Road as the date for a special board retreat to discuss town issues. (Clerk's note: This retreat was cancelled on December 2 due to the Mayor and Town Manager being ill. It was not rescheduled.)

Salary Increases Request by Commissioner John Jackson.

Commissioner Jackson felt the town should look out for its employees before committing itself to spend a large amount of money on the community building. Commissioner Jackson suggested giving the full time employees a bonus of \$300 and the part time employees a bonus of \$150 since they did not get a cost of living raise this year. Town Clerk Jenny Larson reminded the board that the employees get a Christmas Bonus that equals 2% of their salary. No further action was taken on this issue.

Announcements

St. Pauls will host the R.C.M.A. meeting, date and time to be announced.

American Indian Mothers Harvest Celebration, November 15-16.

The next Community Watch meeting is Thursday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtroom.

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Town offices will be closed November 28 and 29 in observance of Thanksgiving.

The next Chamber of Commerce meeting is Monday, December 9 at 6:00 p.m.

Closed Session

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into closed session at 7:25 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss Personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Townsend, Jackson, Currie, Kemp, McCree and Grantham, Ben Hill, Charlie Floyd and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information and personnel, Commissioner McCree made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:40 p.m. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

There being no further business, Commissioner McCree made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Townsend to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Meeting – November 19, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday, November 19, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, John Jackson, J.J. McCree, Antonio Currie and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Jenny Larson and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others present included Rev. Chester Hopkins, Nina Johnson, Paul Thompson, Gosnold Floyd, Mitch Ray, Terry Hunt, Scott Witten, Terry Evans and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Rev. Chester Hopkins gave the invocation. Mayor Gaddy announced that the purpose of this special meeting is to discuss the two cemeteries on Highway 130 East.

Mr. Paul Thompson spoke on behalf of both cemeteries. The four major problems are money, people, time and future. The people who currently care for the cemeteries are running out of money and getting older in age. These cemeteries are part of Fairmont's heritage and need to be preserved. Almost every citizen in town has at least one family member buried in the cemeteries. Mr. Thompson asked the board to consider taking over the care of the cemeteries and suggested appointing a committee to study this proposal. His ultimate goal is to see a non-profit commission formed to operate the cemetery with the town's support. He would like the town to obtain the title to the white section of the cemetery so paths can be closed in order to sell more lots. The Gaston Sealey family will donate the black section of the cemetery to the First Baptist Church on North Main Street. Rev. Chester Hopkins, pastor of the First Baptist Church on North Main Street, said that the church would in turn give the black section of the cemetery over to the town, so the town would have ultimate responsibility for the entire cemetery.

Mrs. Nina Johnson spoke on behalf of the Mattie B. Haggins Federated Club. This club has been in existence for about 57 years and its main focus has always been the black section of the cemetery. The club members are getting older and are tired of begging people for money to help care for the cemetery.

Attorney Charlie Floyd said the town has to introduce a local bill in the state general assembly to ask for everything we need to take control of the cemetery. This includes annexing it into the city limits, acquiring a clear deed to the white section of the cemetery and asking for authority to close streets and paths in both sections in order to sale new lots.

Dr. J.P Brown, a former mayor of the Town of Fairmont, designed the cemetery in 1903. He eventually sold the black section of the cemetery to a Mr. Bradshaw. This section was later sold at auction and purchased by the current owner, the Gaston Sealey family. In 1943, the Town of Fairmont purchased a corner tract of land adjacent to the white section for a World War II soldier cemetery. When those lots were not filled, the town sold the rest of the lots. No one ever purchased the white section of the cemetery from

the Brown family but technically the streets still belong to them. Both cemeteries have been private all these years but the white cemetery has been run under a non-profit status and its funds appear on the town's annual audit report. These funds show up on the audit because the money the town made on selling lots and the money Paul Thompson's family raised in donations was combined back in 1972. Mr. Thompson said of the \$18,000 fund balance, \$12,000 could never be spent.

Attorney Charlie Floyd said the town should be looking at a perpetual care fund balance of \$150,000 to \$200,000 a year in order to care for the cemetery. The interest off this money would be used to pay for the cemetery's maintenance. He advised that once the town has clear deed to the entire cemetery, it would be responsible for it forever.

Mr. Thompson said there is enough space in both cemeteries to raise between \$400,000 and \$500,000, if you sold lots for \$400-\$450 each. Attorney Floyd added that the town could also charge an opening/closing fee for each burial.

After much discussion by the board, a fact-finding committee was established to do more research on the interest of selling more lots in the cemetery. The following people were appointed to the committee: Mayor Nedward Gaddy, Manager Ben Hill, Attorney Charlie Floyd, Commissioner John Jackson, Commissioner Mary Bruce Grantham, Nina Johnson, Paul Thompson, Beulah Arnette, Fitzugh Sealey, Rev. Chester Hopkins and Percy Hill.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – December 10, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Fire Chief James Thompson, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others present included Scott Witten, Billy Floyd, Phil Wallace, Alex Monroe, John Masters, Terry Hunt, Buster Jackson, Glenda Jackson, Chuck Floyd, Jeremy Jones, Mitchell Borchent, Robbie Barr, Cedric Rogers, Will McPhatter and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Commissioner Townsend gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on November 12 and the special meeting on November 19, 2002. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Special Introductions

Town Manager Ben Hill introduced Mr. James "Fig" Thompson, the new chief of the Fairmont City Fire Department. Mr. Thompson replaces Freddie Miller, who resigned due to health problems.

Town Attorney Charlie Floyd introduced six Webelos cub scouts from Troop 320. They are Jeremy Jones, Mitchell Borchent, Robbie Barr, Cedric Rogers, Will McPhatter and Chuck Floyd. The scouts attended tonight's meeting in an effort to obtain citizen activity badges.

Citizens Appearance

Youth Council Report

Mr. Billy Floyd, President of the Fairmont Youth Council, presented their monthly report. Wade and Patricia Sealey will teach four shag lessons for the youth council. Two Valentine Dances have been scheduled. The Middle School will have their dance on February 8 and the High School will hold theirs on February 15. The council is also working on their tutoring program.

Administrative Matters

Audit report for 2001-2002.

Mr. John Masters with S. Preston Douglas and Associates presented the 2001-2002-audit report. Mr. Masters reported that the town's fund balance at the end of June 30, 2002 was \$645,990. For the year 2001-2002, the town spent \$124,290 more than it took in revenue. Mr. Masters advised that the town may have to dip into its fund balance for the next three or four years before the economy and the state's budget improves. However, he added that the higher the fund balance the town keeps the better off it would be in the long run. Mr. Masters recommended that the town control costs as much as possible because the town's revenue will be low due to the state budget crisis. Mr. Hill added that the only way the town can increase its revenue is to raise property taxes or water bills and that is something the town does not want to do. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to accept the 2001-2002 audit report. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Nomination of individual from Fairmont to replace Mr. Butch Lennon on the Robeson County Committee of 100.

Commissioner Grantham nominated Mr. Jim Monroe to replace Mr. Butch Lennon on the Robeson County Committee of 100. Mr. Monroe is a retired bank accountant and auditor from Charlotte. Commissioner Jackson made a motion that the nominations be closed and that Mr. Jim Monroe be appointed to the Robeson County Committee of 100. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Nomination for Foundation of Renewal for Eastern North Carolina.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to table choosing a nominee to serve on the Foundation of Renewal for Eastern North Carolina until the January meeting. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Employee bonuses.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion at the last board meeting to give full time employees a \$300 bonus and part time employees a \$150 bonus. The motion was tabled because the employees already get a budgeted Christmas bonus of 2% of their salary. Commissioner Jackson still wants the employees to have this one time bonus to recognize the hard work they give to the Town of Fairmont. Commissioner Grantham felt a permanent gesture, like a 2.5 % percent raise, would be better but either proposal would have to come out of fund balance and she suggested we do neither. The cost of the bonuses would be \$13,117.67. The cost of the 2.5% salary increase would be \$14,307.66. Both would have to come out of fund balance. Mr. Hill advised that we should not spend a lot of money if we do not have to but agreed that the money was there if the commissioners wanted to spend it. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to give the full time employees a one time bonus of \$300 and the part time employees a one time bonus of \$150 to be given out prior to Christmas. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Restaurants, bars, nightclubs, private clubs.

Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum suggested that since the town has now been approved for “Liquor by the drink,” we should begin to think of revising the zoning to accommodate such uses as restaurants, bars, nightclubs and private clubs and control the locations of such uses. In addition, we must keep the proximity of such uses to residential areas, churches, daycare facilities, rest homes, nursing homes, etc. in mind. There is a concern about private clubs, especially, because they are not required to sell food in order to serve liquor. At present, there is no zoning district that speaks to private clubs. Therefore, private clubs such as the Civitan, Shriners or Masonic clubs were allowed to set up in primarily residential areas. While there was no need to restrict such uses in the past, now that liquor can be served, there should be a restriction. When considering desirable locations for the new zoning district(s), consider that this type of use has a potential to create undesirable conditions, such as littering, loitering, public intoxication and disturbances which may discourage uses that are more needed and/or desirable. The locations that are more reasonably suited for such uses are the commercial complex south of Cottage on South Walnut Street, North Walnut Street above Leesville and below Pine Street, and South Main Street above Iona and below Thompson. At present, Restaurants are permitted in Central Business, Neighborhood Business, General Business and General Manufacturing.

Ms. Tatum is not issuing any zoning permits until we change our zoning. She proposed establishing a special zoning permit for mixed drinks as well as triple zoning to overlay zoning for restaurants and private clubs. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to set a moratorium on issuing zoning permits relating to the sale and use of alcohol until the zoning changes can be made. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Meter tampering by water customers.

Mr. Hill read a proposal by Water Collections Clerk Joyce Thompson reference meter tampering by water customers. The proposal states that a customer who is caught tampering with a disconnected water meter will have to pay a \$25 fine plus the cost to repair the meter. This customer will also have to pay a \$25 reconnect fee that will increase by \$25 for each reoccurring offense. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the meter tampering fee policy. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Proposed change on retiree's health insurance plan.

Mr. Hill suggested changing the health insurance plan resolution to read “age 55 years or over with 20 years of service” instead of the current “25 years”. Commissioner Grantham was for the change but Commissioner Jackson was against it. After discussion, no action was taken and the current plan stays in effect.

Christmas holiday schedule for Town employees.

Mr. Hill explained that town's personnel policy allows town employees three days for the Christmas Holidays. Through an oversight, town employees only received two holidays for Christmas 2001. Due to this error, the town owes its employees an additional day for Christmas 2002. These dates would be December 24 through December 27. Mr. Hill asked the board to allow the administrative and public works staff to use a vacation or compensation day for Monday, December 23. These dates would be consistent with what Robeson County is doing for their employees this year. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the holiday schedule for town employees allowing the administrative and public works staff to use a vacation or compensation day for Monday, December 23. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Announcements

There will be no R.C.M.A. meeting for the month of December.

Town offices will be closed January 1, 2003 in observance of New Years Day.

The Town has received a Golden Leaf Foundation award of \$100,000. This money will be used to purchase computer equipment, furnishings, educational materials and supplies for the Fairmont Community Center.

The Town has received an Individual Development Account CDBG award of \$50,000. This money will be used to assist 21 first-time homebuyers in the new Bonaventure Subdivision on South Main Street.

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The Town Christmas party is scheduled for December 20, 2002 at 12:00 noon in the Fire Hall.

The South Robeson Rescue Christmas party is scheduled for December 14, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.

Closed Session

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into closed session at 7:30 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss Personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Townsend, Jackson, Currie, Kemp, McCree and Grantham, Ben Hill, Charlie Floyd and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information and personnel, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 8:00 p.m. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor Gaddy announced that a council retreat would be held on Tuesday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. (Clerk's note: Mayor Gaddy decided to cancel the retreat the next day.)

There being no further business, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Board Retreat – January 7, 2003

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special board retreat on Tuesday, January 7, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. at Pat Floyd's clubhouse on Mill Branch Road in Fairmont with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, John Jackson and Charles Townsend. Commissioner Antonio Currie was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Finance Director Linda Vause, Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson, and Police Chief Sam Hunt. County Commissioner Hubert Sealey and Robesonian Reporter Scott Witten also attended the meeting.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Police Chief Sam Hunt gave the invocation. Mayor Gaddy introduced newly elected County Commissioner Hubert Sealey. Commissioner Sealey offered to help Fairmont in any way he can.

The town staff discussed several issues with the board including: citizen complaints, CDBG applications, liquor by the drink zoning, moving the E-911 system to the county, the sewer plant, paving, tight budget, municipal codes and the Farmers Festival. Town Manager Ben Hill also asked the commissioners to come up with a wish list of items that they would like to see Fairmont accomplish in 2003 and prioritize it.

Shortly past 7:00 p.m., the town staff left the board to discuss these and other issues further. The topics the board discussed included: retirement separation policy, a monthly newsletter, signs in the street to advertise town events, downtown businesses and buildings, Presbyterian Church to host Senior Meals, burned houses to be torn down, compliments for Fire Chief James Thompson, complaints against Fairmont Rural Fire Department, street lights, Christmas decorations, Farmers Festival, and the Community Building. The board took no action on these issues.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned shortly after 8:00 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – January 14, 2003

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others present included Scott Witten, Annie Durant, Howard Durant, Andy Grimsley, Huel Faulk, Phillip Stephens, and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Chief Sam Hunt gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on December 10, 2002. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mr. Huel Faulk questioned the commissioners about the prospect of moving the dispatch/911 services to the county. Mr. Hill responded that the town is looking at the feasibility of merging our 911 system with the county because of duplication of service and expense. No decision will be made without holding a public hearing sometime before July.

Administrative Matters

Cancellation and rescheduling of Public Hearing for Capacity Building Grant Application – Division of Community Assistance (DCA).

The Durham Regional Finance Center is requesting that the Town of Fairmont apply for a grant to hire staff to work with homebuyers under the CHAF program, Bonaventure Sub-division. A pre-application is being requested by DCA to determine whether or not this project will pass the first phase of consideration. The grant amount is \$75,000.00 and will be used to fund two positions, a Homebuyer Education/Housing Counselor position (\$25,000) and a Construction Manager position (\$50,000.00). Staff feels that this grant is needed to facilitate many of the subsidy assistance grants that have already been approved to assist homeowners.

A public hearing had been advertised for January 14, 2003. However, the date of publication was not in conformance with state law and had to be cancelled. If the board decides to submit the pre-application for this grant, a public hearing will have to be scheduled for February 11, 2003. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to reschedule the public hearing on the Capacity Building Grant Application for February 11, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. and submit the pre-application for the grant. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

South Robeson Rescue request.

Mr. Phillip Stephens, Assistant Chief of the South Robeson Rescue, asked the board to consider a land swap/lease agreement for the town owned property known as the Liberty Warehouse Site on Hwy 41 across from North Sun Housing. This property has been unused for over 20 years as a vacant lot and due to construction codes can only permit construction at the front of the lot. The South Robeson Rescue Unit proposes to relinquish its current site back to the town in exchange for the Liberty Warehouse site. The Rescue would not only construct its new building on this site but would also maintain the back portion in good order so as to develop and manage a future emergency services training ground for the town so that the city and rural fire departments and the police department will have an area to conduct training operations. The rescue unit is asking for a ninety-nine year lease at the rate of one dollar a year. After discussion, Commissioner Kemp made a motion to set a public hearing for February 11, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss leasing the old Liberty Warehouse site on Hwy 41 for ninety-nine years at the rate of one dollar a year to South Robeson Rescue Unit in exchange for them relinquishing their current location back to the town. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Park Request. The Civitans have asked if they can place nice grills in the park with a marker dedicating the grills in memory of Thomas Jones, Jr.

Mr. Hill stated he was approached by Mickey Williamson, a member of the Fairmont Civitans, about placing two nice grills in the park with a small marker dedicating the grills in memory of Thomas “Tommy” Jones, Jr. Mr. Hill was concerned that other groups and families would also want to dedicate equipment in memory of loved ones and does not want to see the park turn into a “graveyard.” Commissioner Jackson suggested setting guidelines for placing memorials in the park. Commissioner Kemp recommended that the Park Committee be given the opportunity to meet and come up with some guidelines by the next board meeting.

Liquor by the drink zoning.

Mr. Hill reminded the board that since Fairmont has now been approved for “Liquor by the Drink” sales that we should begin to think of revising the zoning to accommodate such uses as restaurants, bars, nightclubs and private clubs and to control the locations of such uses. The locations that are more reasonably suited for such uses are the commercial complex south of Cottage on South Walnut Street; North Walnut Street above Leesville and below Pine Street; and South Main Street above Iona and below Thompson Street. Commissioner McCree suggested that the town hold a public hearing to let the citizens voice their opinion on the “liquor by the drink” zoning areas. Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum recommended “overlay zoning” to put restrictions on certain areas. After discussion, the board set a special meeting for Tuesday, February 4, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the courtroom to hold a public hearing on zoning as it relates to “liquor by the drink.”

Nomination for Foundation of Renewal for Eastern North Carolina.

Commissioner Grantham nominated Abner Harrington, of Fairmont Gas Company, for the Foundation of Renewal for Eastern North Carolina Board of Advisors.

With no further nominations, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to accept Abner Harrington’s nomination for the Foundation of Renewal for Eastern North Carolina Board of Advisors. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Monthly newsletter proposal.

Commissioner Grantham proposed that the town staff include a monthly newsletter with the water bills instead of the current quarterly newsletter. She feels the newsletter is a good vehicle to get information out to the citizens since we do not have a local newspaper. She suggested the newsletter contain a calendar of events as well as reports from the different departments. She also recommended two easel signs be placed in prominent locations in town to advertise meeting dates. After discussion, Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the monthly town newsletter as well as two easels to advertise town events. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Tarheel Challenge Academy.

Mr. Hill informed the board of a new program for troubled youth. The Tarheel Challenge Academy is a quasi-military style program for at-risk youth and is sponsored by the North Carolina National Guard. The Academy is located in Sampson County, North Carolina. It is a 17 ½ month program divided into two separate phases: a 5 ½ month in-residence phase at the Academy and a 12 month post-residential phase immediately following graduation from the in-residence phase. The prospective cadet must volunteer for the training and must be motivated and committed to turning his/her life around. The focus of this program is on learning and developing essential life coping skills to be successful. The Academy teaches and enforces what society expects from its young adults including civil behavior, hard work, responsibility and giving back to the community, state and nation. To qualify for this program the individual must meet the following criteria: be between 16 –19 years old, a high school dropout or expellee, a U.S. Citizen and N.C. resident, drug free, not in serious trouble with the criminal justice system, physically and mentally capable of completing the program, unemployed or underemployed, pass a medical screening exam and be a volunteer. Mr. Hill encouraged anyone who wanted more information on the academy to speak with Katrina Tatum.

CDBG, URP, and Bonaventure Subdivision Status Reports.

Mr. Hill gave the board status reports on the following projects:

CDBG PROGRAM – BENJAMIN AND PHILLIPS STREETS

Administrative: All title reports are complete. Four replacement homes have been ordered and are under construction at the factory, consisting of 3 mobile homes and 1 modular home. Engineering: The Wooten Company has prepared the specifications for street improvements and has sent specifications to the state for approval. The work will be issued for bids within two months. Budget: \$19,336 in requisitions was processed during this reporting period. Total expenditure to date is \$33,887.85.

URGENT REPAIR PROGRAM

Administrative: Fourteen out of fifteen properties are under contract for rehabilitation. Three are under construction. Of the remaining thirteen, work on 12 properties will commence within two weeks; issues with the contractor for one property remain unresolved. Budget: No expenditures for this period. Total expenditure to date is \$150.63.

BONAVENTURE SUBDIVISION

Budget: Total Expenditure to date is \$97,430.00. Construction: Drainage work is 100% complete; sewer work is 90% complete.

Announcements

Robeson County will host the R.C.M.A. meeting. Date and time to be announced.

Town offices will be closed January 20, 2003 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Town Manager Ben Hill and Commissioner Charles Townsend will attend the LRCOG annual retreat from January 16 –18.

Community Watch meeting, Thursday, January 23, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the courtroom. District Attorney Johnson Britt will be the speaker.

Community Watch “Walk in the Park”, February 1, 2003 from 8 a.m. – 12 noon at the new park. Dr. Eugenia Howie will be present to explain the health benefits of walking.

Closed Session

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into closed session at 7:00 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss the location and/or expansion of Industry/Business as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4). Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Townsend, Jackson, Currie, Kemp, McCree and Grantham, Ben Hill, Charlie Floyd and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information industry and business, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:20 p.m. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Meeting – February 4, 2003

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Courtroom with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, Antonio Currie, John Jackson and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, and Recreation Director Mickey Williamson. Others present included Huel Faulk, Marlene Bass, Fred Hughes, Andy Grimsley, Scott Witten, Charlie Grantham, Gaines Grantham, Rev. and Mrs. Len Bergman and several other citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Rev. Len Bergman gave the invocation. Town Manager Ben Hill explained that the purpose of this meeting is to hold a public hearing to allow citizen input concerning the possibility of revising and adding language to the industrial, commercial and residential zoning districts that allow uses such as manufacturing, restaurants, general business, bars, neighborhood business, nightclubs and private clubs.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss Commercial, Industrial and Residential Zoning at 7:05 p.m. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum went over a map detailing the town's commercial zoning areas. Commissioner Jackson suggested the town revise its zoning to make it more uniform. He feels that property on both sides of Walnut Street should be zoned as a general business district. Ms. Tatum said the only reason it has not been rezoned is due to a few residential homes along Walnut Street. She said if residential land was zoned commercial then the county would value the property as commercial and thus the taxes would be higher. She said the town could request that the county consider the homes to be grandfathered in and not value them at the higher commercial rate.

Commissioner Jackson feels the town needs to take time to rezone in order to make things more uniform and to get rid of the spot zoning that was done years ago. Current neighborhood businesses would be grandfathered in. Ms. Tatum agreed with Commissioner Jackson and recommended that the board take action to rezone the town to make it more uniform. She also advised the board to adopt ordinances with stricter zoning restrictions before doing the rezoning of the town.

After much discussion on the town's zoning, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of public hearing at 7:35 p.m. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

With no further business, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Grantham.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – February 11, 2003

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others present included Scott Witten, Huel Faulk, Mark McIntyre, Bill Lester, Len Bergman, Butch Lennon, Phil Wallace, Kathy Wallace, Alex Monroe, Rob Shadoan, Hal Herring, Ben Brady, Jimmy Byrne, Terrell Jones, and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Rev. Len Bergman gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the special board retreat on January 7, 2003, the regular meeting on January 14, 2003 and the special public hearing on February 4, 2003. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Speeding on Highway 41 South/Lake View Road

Mr. Rob Shadoan, who lives in the last house on the right in Collinswood on Highway 41 South/Lake View Road, made a complaint about the cars that speed past his home. The 55 mph speed limit sign is just beyond his property and cars are already going that fast or more by the time they reach his home. He is concerned about his children's safety and that of his neighbors' children, grandchildren and pets. He asked if the speed limit signs could be moved over 200 feet so the town police could have greater leeway in issuing speeding tickets for people coming in and out of town. Town Manager Ben Hill said he would contact the District Engineer with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and have an answer for Mr. Shadoan by the March board meeting.

Community Building

Mr. Phil Wallace, President of the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce, was present to voice the Chamber's continuing support of the Fairmont Community Building project and looks forward to groundbreaking. Mr. Hill suggested that the board hold a special meeting on the Community Building to go over the engineer's revised plans and cost estimates to build and gather citizen input. After discussion, the board set Tuesday, February 25, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall as the date for the special meeting on the Community Building.

Request for bathrooms for Rudolph Currie Park

Mr. Huel Faulk was present on behalf of the Old Field Community to request assistance in getting bathrooms for the Rudolph Currie Park. Mr. Hill said he would contact the county on this matter since they own the park and assured Mr. Faulk that the town would do what it can to help.

Youth Council Monthly Report

Mr. Mark McIntyre, Secretary of the Youth Council, presented the group's monthly report. The Youth Council is sponsoring a High School Valentine's Dance on Saturday, February 15 from 7 – 11 p.m. at the Civitan Hut and tickets are \$3.00. They are also making plans for a Middle School Dance and are continuing with their tutoring program. Commissioner Grantham congratulated Mr. McIntyre for being a Morehead Scholarship finalist and being a page for the NC General Assembly.

Public Hearings

South Robeson Rescue Squad request to lease town owned property.

Town Manager Ben Hill reported that the public hearing for the Rescue Squad was no longer needed because they have withdrawn their request to lease the property on North Walnut Street. The South Robeson Rescue Squad has obtained the property next to Greenbrier Rest Home and will build their new facility there instead.

CDBG Capacity Building Grant – Bonaventure Subdivision.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:24 p.m. to discuss the CDBG Capacity Building Grant for Bonaventure Subdivision. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum stated that the purpose of this public hearing is to allow the public input concerning the Town's application for a CDBG Capacity Building Grant. The grant amount is \$75,000.00 and will be used to partially fund two positions, a Homebuyer Education/Housing Counselor position (\$25,000) and a Construction Manager position (\$50,000.00) in conjunction with the Bonaventure II Subdivision home ownership initiative. The grant is administered by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance. The positions will not be funded in total by the grant and there is no local match.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:26 p.m. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Rezoning Request for property on North Walnut Street.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:26 p.m. to discuss a rezoning request for property on North Walnut Street. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Tatum stated that the purpose of this public hearing is to allow citizen input concerning an owner requested zoning change in the 800 Block of North Walnut Street, east side. The property is listed as Robeson County Pin #3002-01-003, and is adjacent to and south of Best-Way Insulation, located at 828 North Walnut Street. The owner, Mr. Terrell Jones of Best-Way Insulation, is requesting that this property be rezoned from R-10 (Residential) to G-B (General Business) to permit commercial use. The Planning Board met February 4, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss this matter and recommended that the amendment be approved based on the fact that this property is located adjacent to the current G-B Zoning District.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve rezoning of Robeson County Pin #3002-01-003, located on North Walnut Street, from R-10 (Residential) to G-B (General Business) to permit commercial use. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Closeout of In 7 CDBG/ED Grant #01-E-0731.

Commissioner Townsend made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the Closeout of the In 7 CDBG/ED Grant #01-E-0731. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill stated that in accordance with Section .1002 of the Subchapter 19L, North Carolina Community Development Block Grant Program (NCCDBG), a public hearing is required upon closeout of a grant. The referenced grant was provided under the Economic Development component of the NCCDBG in the amount of \$1,000,000 to provide water and sewer improvements to service the In 7 Company, located in the Old Premium Wear Building on East White Pond Road. This grant is 100% expended, all requirements for construction are complete and all requirements for creation of jobs have been satisfied. There are no outstanding claims for damages in conjunction with this grant. The final requirements of submission of a closeout report and final audit will be accomplished after this hearing. Mr. Bill Lester, with Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates, reported that the money was used for sewer improvements to the In 7 Company's facility and to build an elevated water storage tank for the town. The work was completed several months ago and the In 7 Company met all its requirements over a year ago.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:35 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Adopt Resolution for CDBG No. 02-C-1035 – Individual Development Account Grant.

Mr. Hill presented a resolution regarding the financial and administrative management for the CDBG Individual Development Account Grant program. The resolution has to be adopted in order to satisfy the initial administrative requirements for the program. The resolution authorizes Mayor Nedward Gaddy, Ben Hill, Town Manager, Linda Vause, Finance Director, and Jennifer Larson, Town Clerk, to sign requisitions, checks and other financial documents. It also authorizes Ben Hill and Katrina Tatum, Assistant Town Manager to administer the grant. The program requires that three signatory cards be signed and returned with the Funding Approval and Grant Agreement documents. Since the Mayor cannot authorize the individuals and be a signatory, the resolution is required. In addition, several other documents related to this program will have to be signed by the Mayor such as the environmental reports and other regulatory documents. Mr. Hill asked the Board to approve, in advance, the signing of any regulatory documents other than those requiring Board action such as resolutions or ordinances when submitted by the Division of Community Assistance.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adopt the Resolution for requisitions, check signatures and administration for the Town of Fairmont Individual Development Account Grant Program CDBG #02-C-1035, as well as any other regulatory documents required by the Division of Community Assistance. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ABC Board request to set up capital improvement account.

The Fairmont ABC store has been losing money for the last year due to the recession. Due to this situation, their accountant has recommended that they set up a capital improvement account. The ABC State office has made the same recommendation and other stores in the state are doing the same. The Fairmont ABC Board recommends that twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) be placed in a capital improvement account for future needs. It is the ABC board's recommendation that upon approval by the town council, six thousand six hundred and sixty-six dollars (\$6,666) be placed in the account each year over a three-year period beginning this year. The purpose of this fund is to maintain the store facilities without invading its operating capital account. Mr. Jimmy Byrne, Chairman of the Fairmont ABC Board, said this money would come from the ABC store.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the Fairmont ABC Board's request to set up a capital improvement account of \$20,000 dollars. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Summary of Zoning Public Hearing held on February 4, 2003.

A public meeting was held February 3, 2003 concerning current zoning districts and how they relate to future development and neighborhood conditions. The general consensus of the board was that the town need to achieve uniform zoning in all commercial areas and at the same time make sure that areas planned for specific uses are already zoned for those uses. A draft ordinance for restaurants, bars, nightclubs and private clubs use will be presented at the March board meeting.

Park Committee.

Mr. Hill announced that the Park Committee will meet before the March board meeting to discuss park concerns such as the width of the walking trail, memorial gifts and playground equipment.

CDBG, URP, Bonaventure Subdivision, and Hazard Mitigation Status Reports.

CDBG PROGRAM – BENJAMIN AND PHILLIPS STREETS

Administrative: Bids have been received from Environment Consultants for Lead Abatement and Testing. Carolina Environmental, Inc. was the lowest bidder and has been selected for these services. Engineering: The Wooten Company has prepared the specifications for street improvements but has not yet been approved by the state. The work will be issued for bids approximately one month after state approval. Budget: Total expenditure to date is \$48,184. Housing Replacement: Four homes have been requisitioned for replacement (One modular, three mobile homes). Erection of homes is

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anticipated to be complete by March 15, 2003. Rehabilitation: Five homes are pending lead paint inspection.

URGENT REPAIR PROGRAM

Administrative: Five properties complete. Three properties are under construction.
Budget: Total expenditure to date is around \$8,000.

BONAVENTURE SUBDIVISION

Budget: Total Expenditure to date is \$116,612. Construction: Drainage work is 100% complete, sewer work is 98% complete and water is 85% complete.

HAZARD MITIGATION

Ms. Tatum announced that the town has been awarded a Hazard Mitigation grant of \$3,000 to write the mandatory hazard mitigation plan as dictated by the state and federal governments. There is a local match of \$1,000 required for this grant.

Announcements

Little League Baseball signups, every Saturday in February from 10-12 in the Courtroom.

Red Springs will host the R.C.M.A. meeting. Date and time to be announced.

High School Dance sponsored by the Youth Council, Saturday, February 15 at the Civitan Hut.

Community Watch meeting, Thursday, February 27, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the courtroom. District Attorney Johnson Britt will be the guest speaker.

St. Jude's Walkathon, Saturday, March 8 in the Town Park.

Closed Session

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to go into closed session at 6:47 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel and the location and/or expansion of Industry/Business as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4,6). Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Townsend, Jackson, Currie, Kemp, McCree and Grantham, Ben Hill, Charlie Floyd and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

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After the discussion of privileged information, personnel, and industry, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jackson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McCree, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Meeting – February 25, 2003

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Courtroom with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, Antonio Currie, John Jackson and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Finance Director Linda Vause, Police Chief Sam Hunt and Recreation Director Mickey Williamson. Others present included Bill Lester, Norma Hill, Nina Johnson, Huel Faulk, Fred Hughes, Andy Grimsley, Scott Witten, Charlie Grantham, Gaines Grantham, Butch Lennon, Maitland Hunt, Jimmy Byrne, Daphne Byrne, Phil Wallace, Kathy Wallace, Shirley Price, Suzanne Perry, Linda Thompson, Susan Harrington, Abner Harrington, P.C. Purvis, Terry Hunt, Jack Johnson, Rose Johnson, Bill Lewis, Hal Herring, Bill Marks, Anne Marks, Dallas Ford, Melvin Rogers, Ben Brady, Paul Thompson, Linda Nye, Ronald Nye and several other citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order. Town Manager Ben Hill went over the purpose for tonight's meeting, which is for the Board of Commissioners to make a decision whether to go forward with the Community Building Project or not. USDA Rural Development has asked the town to respond with its decision by Friday, February 28. If the town decides not to go forward with the project, the funds from USDA Rural Development will be de-obligated. USDA Rural Development awarded the town with a \$100,000 grant and a \$300,000 loan for the construction of the Community Building back in 1999 to be used along with local contributions. The town has run into several obstacles in the past few years that have postponed the advancement of the Community Building project. In 2002, the town accepted bids for the construction of the building using the design approved by the board. Unfortunately, the bids came in way over budget with the lowest bid coming in at \$1,027,000. The town negotiated with the low bidder, Ronald Nye Construction, and was able to cut some items to bring the building cost down to \$839,000. However, USDA Rural Development said the changes to the building would have to be re-bid. Our engineers, Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates have reworked the plans to eliminate some items in order to bring the building costs down. Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates expect the bids for the revised plans to come in at around \$750,000. To achieve this goal, the town would have to ask USDA Rural Development to increase our loan from \$300,000 to \$500,000. The remainder of the money would come from the \$100,000 grant along with current and future donations. The \$500,000 will have to be paid back with payments of \$31,150 per year over the next 30 years. This money will have to be budgeted from the town's General Fund, regardless of whether the money comes from donations or not. USDA Rural Development requires that the money be budgeted from the General Fund as a guarantee for payment. The question that is before the board tonight is whether the town wants to budget for this money or not.

Mr. Bill Lester, with Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates, presented the revised plans to the board and the citizens present. Some of the major renovations to the plans include the removal of the permanent stage and dressing rooms, removal of the ticket booth and canopy and changing the type of ceiling. The engineers also changed several minor things to save money. Two things have been added to the plans including a state required sprinkler system and paving the parking lot. Mr. Lester feels that the building cost should now come in at around \$750,000. He added that the town could go back in and retrofit a permanent stage and add a canopy at a later date. It was also mentioned that a portable stage could be used instead.

After much discussion on financing, Commissioner Grantham made a motion to go forward with the Community Building project and borrow \$500,000 from USDA Rural Development. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous vote.

With no further business, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – March 11, 2003

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Sergeant Alex Monroe. Others present included Huel Faulk, Carolyn Bracey, Kendra Brown, Tracy Johnson, Mark McIntyre, Howard Durant, Annie Durant, Rusty Perry, Terry Hunt, Phillip Stevens, members of the South Robeson Rescue Squad, members of the Fairmont Middle School Girls Basketball Team and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Commissioner Charles Townsend gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 11, 2003 and the special meeting on February 25, 2003. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Street at Calvin Haggins Park

Mrs. Annie Stackhouse Durant, with the Citizens Awareness Group, was before the board requesting that the dirt street next to Calvin Haggins Park be repaired. The county owns this park. Public Works Director Ronnie Seals said dirt has to be brought in to build the road up before it can be dragged and smoothed out. Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum suggested that the board request the County Board of Commissioners to pave this road since most of the other county parks have paved roads.

Fairmont Middle School Girls Basketball Team – County Champions

Ms. Carolyn Bracey, Coach of the Fairmont Middle School Girls Basketball Team, proudly introduced the undefeated County Champions. The girls introduced themselves to the board before leaving for a pizza party in their honor.

Youth Council monthly report

Commissioner Grantham introduced members of the youth council: Tracey Johnson, Vice-President, Mark McIntyre, Secretary, and Kendra Brown, Treasurer. She congratulated Mr. McIntyre for winning the prestigious Morehead Scholarship. Mr. McIntyre gave the Youth Council monthly report. The High School Dance had a better turnout than expected and made about \$120 for the council. There are plans for a Middle School Dance to be held the first Friday in April. They are also discussing an end of school dance.

Public Hearings

R-10 Language Modification.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:21 p.m. to discuss R-10 Language Modification. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum stated that the purpose of this public hearing is to allow the citizens of the Town of Fairmont and interested parties to express their views concerning the modification of allowable uses within the R-10 (Residential) zoning district to include Public Safety Facilities as a conditional use. Public Safety Facilities include those facilities intended for the operation of police, fire and rescue services and related uses. The Planning Board met March 4, 2003 and voted to approve the modification of the R-10 Districts to include Public Safety Facilities.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:24 p.m. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve Public Safety Facilities as a conditional use under the R-10 zoning district. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Conditional Use Permit Application – South Robeson Rescue – South Walnut Street.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:25 p.m. to discuss the Conditional Use Permit Application for South Robeson Rescue on South Walnut Street. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Tatum stated that the purpose of this public hearing is to allow the citizens of the Town of Fairmont and interested parties to express their views concerning a conditional use permit request from South Robeson Rescue to build a rescue facility on the southern portion of the lot identified as Robeson County Pin Number 0508-01-0105, located on South Walnut Street, south of the Greenbrier Nursing Home. The lot, once recorded, will

contain 5.77 acres of land. This property is presently zoned R-10 and is directly across the street from the Woodfield I and II apartment complexes and adjoins the Greenbrier Nursing Home site to the north. Mr. Riley Evans has donated this land and retained the northern and southern portions of the original lot. South Robeson Medical Clinic is located at the southern intersection. The subject block has a mixture of business, medical, elderly-residential and nursing home uses. The proposed use would blend with existing uses. The Planning Board met March 4, 2003 to vote on this matter and recommend the approval of the condition use permit request by South Robeson Rescue with the following stipulations:

Only silent alarms may be utilized within 1,000 feet of the facility unless road conditions indicate a necessity for a full alarm system.

South Robeson Rescue is required to enter into a 99 year written agreement to this effect.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:27 p.m. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve South Robeson Rescue's conditional use permit to build a new rescue facility on South Walnut Street with the stipulations that only silent alarms may be utilized within 1,000 feet of the facility unless road conditions indicate a necessity for a full alarm system and that South Robeson Rescue is required to enter into a 99 year written agreement to this effect. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Hazard Mitigation Grant – Local Match.

Ms. Tatum reminded the board that the town was awarded a \$3,000 Hazard Mitigation Grant. The board must approve a local match of \$1,000 for the Hazard Mitigation Grant under the current fiscal year budget. State and Federal requirements call for the completion of the initial draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan by July 31, 2003. Approval of the local match will allow the contractor to proceed immediately to perform the necessary work in drafting the plan. The Hazard Mitigation Plan must be in place in order to receive state and federal funds following a disaster.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the \$1,000 local match for the Hazard Mitigation Grant from the current fiscal year budget. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Request to move 55 mph speed limit sign on Lake View Rd./Hwy 41.

Mr. Hill informed the board that the N.C. Department of Transportation has received our request to relocate the 55 mph speed limit sign at the city limits on Lake View Rd/Highway 41 several hundred feet south outside the municipal limits. The D.O.T. should respond soon with their response.

Request for bathrooms at Rudolph Currie Park.

Mrs. Annie Durant has requested that County Board of Commissioners install bathrooms at Rudolph Currie Park. The board agreed to her request but no date has been set for building the bathrooms. County Recreation Director Rudy Paul informed her that contractors are currently bidding on the project and that bids will be opened in 30 to 40 days. The Town of Fairmont will provide the water and sewer for the bathrooms. Ms. Durant plans to hold a Fashion Show and Gospel Sing on May 16 to raise funds for the project.

Park Committee Minutes from February 25, 2003.

The Fairmont Park Committee met on Tuesday, February 25 to discuss the plans for the park. The deadline for completing the park is June 30, 2003. The committee agreed to stain the bridge and gazebo instead of painting them. They also wanted the walking trail to be widened from 4 feet to 8 feet with a smooth grade. They also discussed what kind of playground equipment to install in the park and what age limits to place on its use. Shirley Price and Tempe Parker were appointed as subcommittee chairs for landscaping the park and Katrina Tatum and Mickey Williamson were appointed as subcommittee chairs on accepting donations for the park.

CDBG, URP, Hazard Mitigation and Bonaventure Subdivision Status Reports.

Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum presented the following status reports:

CDBG PROGRAM – BENJAMIN AND PHILLIPS STREETS

Administrative: Carolina Environmental, Inc. has tested the first six houses. Five out of six homes tested positive for lead paint and will have to include abatement under the rehabilitation process. Engineering: The Wooten Company has issued an RFP for the street, drainage and water work. The bid opening date is March 19, 2003. Budget: Total expenditure to date is \$164,991. Housing Replacement: Four homes have been requisitioned for replacement. Three of the homes have been erected and will be completed within the next two weeks. Placement of the fourth home is pending owner scheduling. Rehabilitation: Six homes have been tested for lead paint and the town has received the instructions for abatement. These houses will be bid out as soon as the Rehabilitation Specialist modifies the work write-up to include lead abatement.

URGENT REPAIR PROGRAM

Administrative: Four properties are complete. Three properties are under construction.
Budget: Total expenditure to date is \$17,312.

BONAVENTURE SUBDIVISION

Budget: Total Expenditure to date is \$116,612. Construction: Drainage work is 100% complete, sewer work is 98% complete and water is 98% complete.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT

The Town has been approved for a hazard mitigation grant in the amount of \$3,000 to complete a hazard mitigation plan. The consultant has been put in touch with David Carter, Robeson County EMS Director to begin this process.

Adopt Resolution for aid in Mosquito Control.

The town must adopt a resolution designating an official to sign papers and to otherwise represent the Fairmont Board of Commissioners in connection with Mosquito Control. This resolution is required in order for the town to receive aid from the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources to help with mosquito control. Under this agreement, the state will reimburse the town 50% of the money spent on mosquito spray.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt a resolution to designate the Town Manager as the agent to sign papers and otherwise represent the Fairmont Board of Commissioners in connection with Mosquito Control aid. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Status of the Theater Building, Callahan's TV Building and Mercer (Forrester's Menswear) Building.

Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum gave the board an update on the following properties:

The Callahan Building: Bishop Hill is working on plans for this property. He intends to start work on the building's façade in the next couple of weeks. He has an individual interested in starting a business in the building but there have been setbacks due to health problems.

Theatre Building: Danny Williamson owns this building. Approximately one year ago, Ms. Tatum brought a plan before the board to attempt to deal with this structure. She corresponded several times with Mr. Williamson's Attorney, which resulted in him offering to give the building to the town for demolition. Since the town could not afford this liability, the board asked that Ms. Tatum go back to the attorney and ask if payments could be made to absorb the cost of demolition. The attorney offered to pay \$50.00 per month until the approximate cost of \$28,000 was paid, which would take around 47 years. The board did not want to accept the offer. Our alternative was to go through a lengthy procedure to force correction, which would, in this case result in our taking the building because Mr. Williamson would be unable to comply. In any event, the town cannot afford to take him to court and end up paying for the cost of demolition. In that our ordinance does not regulate minimum housing code in commercial buildings, the owner is only required to board up the building and render it safe from the outside. Even if we can prove a case of "Unsafe Building," the result in the long run would be that we end up with the responsibility of the structure. For this reason, the board decided to abandon any further code action against Mr. Williamson. If the town does begin code enforcement to take this structure, it will then be our responsibility to demolish it.

Menswear Building: Approximately two months ago, Ms. Tatum informed the board that Mr. Mercer, the owner of this property, had passed away. Ms. Tatum also related that she and the Mayor had spoken to the heirs of the property asking that they please contact the town once the estate was settled because we had concerns about all of the Mercer properties. We were told that the town would be contacted once the estate was settled. The estate is not settled at this point and the property is under the control of the court system until an administrator is appointed. This property is boarded up as required by our ordinances.

Commissioner McCree asked Ms. Tatum if there were any grants available to help improve the appearance of downtown. Ms. Tatum said Rural Development has just designed a new grant to help bring in new businesses with extra money to be used to improve the surrounding central business core. She reported that she would bring the board more information on this grant in April. Commissioner Jackson asked if anything could be done to improve the appearance of the backside of the buildings on Main Street that face the empty warehouse lot. Commissioner Grantham suggested getting the owners permission and paint the back of each building a different color to give it a "Rainbow Row" appearance. Commissioner Jackson added that painting murals on the backs of these buildings would also be a good idea.

Government Acquisitions Program to get police cars free by placing advertising on them.

Police Chief Sam Hunt informed the board about a company called Government Acquisitions. This company donates brand new equipped vehicles to government agencies, allowing them to provide homeland security as well as protect and serve. These vehicles are paid for with advertising money and the sponsor logos/advertisements are

placed on the police vehicles on the hood, trunk and quarter panels. The sponsors contract with Government Acquisitions and pay them for advertising. The town will pay one dollar to the new car dealer and will receive the title at the time of delivery. In three years, the town sells the vehicles to Government Acquisitions for one dollar and they will re-supply the town with new vehicles. This method will reduce high repair costs and breakdowns. Chief Hunt has put in a request for eleven 2003 Crown Victorias and the town has been approved. The board must approve an agreement with the company before we receive any cars. The Town Attorney must review the agreement before the board adopts it. Chief Hunt told the board that the Town of White Lake is the closest town currently using this program. Commissioner Townsend made a motion that the Town Attorney review the draft agreement with Government Acquisitions. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Draft Zoning Ordinance on Nightclubs, Bars, Restaurants, Adult Establishments

Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum presented a draft zoning ordinance on nightclubs, bars, restaurants, and adult establishments. Due to the extensive ramifications of these uses, she is continuing her research to make sure nothing is overlooked. She strongly suggested that overlay zoning would be needed for these types of uses. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to submit the draft zoning ordinance on nightclubs, bars, restaurants and adult establishments to the Town Attorney for his review and to set a Public Hearing to discuss this zoning ordinance for the April board meeting. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Announcements

Rowland will host the R.C.M.A. meeting. Date and time to be announced.

Community Watch meeting, Thursday, March 27, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the courtroom.

Farmers Festival meeting, Monday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. in the courtroom.

Fairmont Civitan Club Charity Ride Benefiting Dixie Youth Baseball, April 12th, 2003.

The Robeson County School Board has approved a contract with Benson Construction to do the paving and drainage work at Rosenwald Elementary School.

Commissioner Grantham suggested honoring Morehead Scholarship winners, Mark McIntyre and Anna Evans, by making them Grand Marshals of the Farmers Festival Parade.

Closed Session

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into closed session at 7:26 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Townsend, Jackson, Currie, Kemp, McCree and Grantham, Ben Hill, and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information and personnel, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 9:35 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Meeting Recessed

At 9:35 p.m., Mayor Gaddy recessed the meeting to reconvene tomorrow, March 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Meeting Reconvened – Wednesday, March 12, 2003, 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting back to order at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2003 in the Council Chambers. All the commissioners were present along with Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Sergeant Alex Monroe, and Investigator Tina Rhodes. Commissioner Charles Townsend gave the invocation.

Closed Session

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into closed session at 7:05 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Townsend, Jackson, Currie, Kemp, McCree and Grantham, Ben Hill, and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information and personnel, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 10:10 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Emergency Meeting – March 14, 2003

On Friday, March 14, 2003 at 9:10 a.m., Mayor Nedward Gaddy called for an Emergency Board Meeting to go into closed session to discuss personnel. This meeting was held at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Mayor Gaddy was present along with Commissioners John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, Charles Townsend and Antonio Currie. Commissioner Charles Kemp was absent but was duly notified of the meeting and stated he would be unable to attend. Town Clerk Jenny Larson was also present.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Commissioner Charles Townsend gave the invocation.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to go into closed session at 8:03 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statue 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After the discussion of privileged information and personnel, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 9:15 p.m. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

With no further business, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Meeting - April 1, 2003

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special called meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others present included Huel Faulk, Scott Witten, Fred Hughes, Sam Tedder, Charles Tedder, Kathy Wallace, Phil Wallace and a couple other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Commissioner Charles Townsend gave the invocation. He stated the purpose of the meeting is to discuss special projects.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Fairmont Community Park

Commissioner Grantham began the discussion by passing out pictures she had taken of the walking trail in the park. There are cracks in the asphalt, poor joint work, spoil scattered to the side, big clumps of asphalt everywhere, some areas are smooth, some rough, some areas thick, some thin. Commissioner Grantham was upset that the town paid King's Asphalt \$8,000 for such poor workmanship. Some of her other concerns with the park include loose fencing in some spots, no cement around the bathrooms and the roofline on the bathrooms do not provide protection during the rain. Town Manager Ben Hill responded that both the trail and the fence had one-year warranties and that he would see to it that they get repaired. The board also felt that someone besides King's Asphalt should widen the walking trail to eight feet.

Commissioner Kemp asked how much more it would cost to widen the walking trail from four feet to eight feet. Mr. Hill estimates the additional paving will cost around \$20,000. The town has a NC PARTF Grant for the park in the amount of \$60,000. The town's local match is \$63,100. The town also received a Benchmark Grant for \$6,000 bringing the total revenue to \$129,100. The expenditures on the park so far equal \$133,786.64. This figure does not include widening the trail or the playground equipment, which has not been purchased yet. The deadline for completing the park is June 30.

Mayor Gaddy questioned why the land preparation cost \$57,742.49. Mr. Hill explained that it was expensive to haul off the debris from the burned Holliday Frye warehouse. He originally thought we could fill in around the debris with ash. The previous owner's insurance did not cover removing the debris and it was donated to the town as is. Mr. Hill added that the land preparation costs also include correcting drainage problems and an artesian well. Commissioner Jackson wondered why the board was not made aware of these extra costs.

Commissioner Jackson was concerned about the bid process for the park project. He asked Mr. Hill to provide the bid documentation. Mr. Hill replied that he received bids from 3 different contractors, ranging in price from \$109,000 to \$120,000. Commissioner Jackson felt the entire project should have been bidden out as a package job so that one contractor would have been responsible for all of the work done by its subcontractors. Commissioner Jackson was troubled about the bid process. He wondered if the process was fair, documented and followed proper procedure. Commissioner Jackson was also bothered by the fact that the board was not more involved in the park project and how the money was spent. Mayor Gaddy requested that Mr. Hill present the board copies of the bids on the park project. Mr. Hill replied he would get that information to the board in their Friday agenda packets. Commissioner Jackson was not satisfied with this response and wanted to know why the board could not get the information sooner.

Federal and State Drug Money

Commissioner McCree had concerns on how the town has been spending the federal and state drug money. Finance Director Linda Vause answered several questions by the board on how the money was spent. The board was disturbed by the amount of donations given to civic groups and other organizations with drug money. Mrs. Vause explained that donations were given as good public relations for the police department. The board felt the money should have gone to hiring a temporary police officer or paying overtime instead. Mrs. Vause tried to explain that it is difficult to budget a salary out of drug money because we never know how much money we are going to receive. Commissioner Grantham believes drug money should be used for the safety of our citizens and the training of our police officers. Town Attorney Charlie Floyd stated that the police department has control over how the drug money is spent, not the board of commissioners. Mayor Gaddy replied that the board may not be able to control the money but they do have the right to know how it was spent.

Chief Sam Hunt informed the board that everything he spends on the department is approved by the Town Manager. The board asked Chief Hunt several questions on how much control he had over the drug money. Chief Hunt replied that he was told not to spend the state drug money. Commissioners Kemp and Jackson had difficulty believing that Chief Hunt allowed the drug money to be spent without his knowledge.

Commissioner Jackson did not realize that the drug money could be spent on salaries on a temporary basis. He wanted to know why we couldn't have used this money to hire a black police officer. Mayor Gaddy stressed that the town cannot move forward if race is an issue and everyone should be treated equally.

Mayor Gaddy called for adjournment of the meeting at 8:40 p.m. with Commissioners Jackson and McCree motioning and seconding the adjournment.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – April 8, 2003

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Fire Chief James Thompson and Sergeant Alex Monroe. Others present included Huel Faulk, Terry Hunt, Laura Kemp, David Little, Billy Hayes, Shirley Price, Benny Price, Billy Floyd, Phil Wallace, Kathy Wallace, Cliff Rich, Andy Grimsley, Rev. Len Bergman and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Rev. Len Bergman gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting with the following additions: response from DOT on moving speed limit sign on Hwy 41 South, Callahan Building status, King's Asphalt bankruptcy status and adding industry to closed session. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 11, 2003, the emergency meeting on March 14 and the special meeting on April 1, 2003. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Hearing – Individual Development Account (IDA)

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:05 p.m. to discuss Individual Development Account (IDA). Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum stated that the purpose of this public hearing is to allow public input concerning the Town's application for a \$41,000 CDBG Individual Development Account Grant application. The grant is administered by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance and is designed to provide down payment assistance and housing counseling services to potential homebuyers within the Bonaventure II Subdivision. The \$41,000 grant will be split as follows: \$9,000 for the town for financial administration, \$11,000 to the consultant and \$1,000 for each of the 20 homebuyer applicants. The town approved the grant application at an earlier board meeting but the consultant forgot to advertise for public hearings on the grant. DCA reprimanded us for not holding the hearings earlier but are allowing the town to hold them now. Another public hearing on the IDA grant will be held next month.

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Commissioner Grantham made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:08 p.m. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Youth Council monthly report

Youth Council President Billy Floyd presented the Youth Council's monthly report. The council decided not to hold a Middle School Dance this school year because the 7th and 8th grade prom is the same night as the High School Prom. The council plans to hold a Middle School Dance in August instead. The Youth Council will elect a new president in June and the rest of the officers will be elected next school year.

Administrative Matters

Clerk Week Proclamation.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion proclaiming Municipal Clerks Week for April 27 to May 3, 2003. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Litter Sweep – April 21 – May 5, 2003.

Town Manager Ben Hill asked the board to proclaim April 21 to May 5, 2003 as Litter Sweep and Spring Clean and Green for the Town of Fairmont. During this time, residents can dispose of big junk items like old tires, furniture, etc. at no charge. Senior citizens can call Public Works for assistance in removing these items. Commissioner Grantham made a motion proclaiming April 21 to May 5, 2003 as Litter Sweep and Spring Clean and Green for the Town of Fairmont, Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Accident Prevention Week – May 5 – 9, 2003.

Commissioner Townsend made a motion proclaiming May 5 to May 9, 2003 as Accident Prevention Week. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Request for Local Match Funds – NCLM Risk Management Services Loss Control Grant Programs Safety Grant - \$1,000.

Ms. Tatum informed the board that the North Carolina League of Municipalities Risk Management Services is accepting applications for Loss Control Grant Programs Safety grants for the second half of FY 2002. The Public Works Department would like to apply for this grant to secure safety equipment, such as Safety Vests, Safety Glasses, Gloves, Ear Plugs, First Aid Kits, and Traffic Supplies.

Ms. Tatum emphasized that it is more cost effective to purchase these type items under a safety grant because the League will split the cost 50/50 as part of the incentive to reduce loss of life and injuries within high risk profession areas such as Police, Fire, Rescue, and Public Works. She added that the police department has been approved for this grant in the past.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the local match of \$1,000 for the NCLM Risk Management Services Loss Control Grant Programs Safety Grant. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Animal Control – Mr. and Mrs. Benny and Shirley Price.

Mr. Hill informed the board that Mr. and Mrs. Benny Price requested to be on tonight's agenda to discuss the situation with their dogs. Code Enforcement Officer Katrina Tatum sent Mr. Price a letter on March 28 giving him thirty (30) days to remove all dogs in excess of three. Mrs. Shirley Price spoke to the board on behalf of her husband. She thanked the board for giving her a chance to speak. Mrs. Price said her husband was unaware that the town ordinance only allows three (3) dogs. Her husband rescues stray dogs and takes them to the vet to be treated. She mentioned that three of their dogs are on medication right now. Mr. and Mrs. Price are very attached to their dogs and consider them to be part of the family. She feels the dogs help protect the neighborhood by barking at strange people. Mrs. Price presented a petition signed by several of her neighbors requesting that the Prices be able to keep their dogs. Mrs. Price asked the board to let her keep the six dogs they currently have until they die.

Ms. Tatum advised the board that giving the Prices an exemption would compromise the town codes. She added that the board would have to change the ordinance in order to allow more than three dogs. Ms. Tatum emphasized that she has had to enforce this ordinance at least 15 times since she has been Code Enforcement Officer. Commissioner Jackson made a motion not to give the Prices an exemption on their dogs but to abide by the Town of Fairmont Code of Ordinances as written and enforced by Code Enforcement Officer Katrina Tatum. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Award Contract for the Benjamin – Phillips Street Revitalization project.

Ms. Tatum reported that the bid opening for the Benjamin – Phillips Street Revitalization Project was held on March 19, 2003. Three contractors submitted proposals for street improvements with bids ranging from \$84,354.55 to \$110,194.00. Graham's Masonry & Construction, Inc. of Delco, North Carolina submitted the lowest proposal at \$84,354.55. Barnes Paving Co., of Lumberton, North Carolina, submitted the second low proposal at \$104,975.90 and Metcon, Inc. of Lumberton, North Carolina, submitted the third low proposal at \$110,194.00. The Wooten Company researched the prior work of Graham's Masonry & Construction, Inc. and recommends awarding the contract to them.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to award the contract for the Benjamin-Phillips Street Revitalization project to the low bidder, Graham's Masonry & Construction, Inc. of Delco, North Carolina at the unit price contract amount of \$84,354.55. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Eagle Scout Project – David Little

Mr. David Little presented his proposal for a mini-park in downtown Fairmont as part of his Eagle Scout Project. Mr. Little proposes to improve the vacant area between F & J Beauty Supply and Wayne Floyds' Antiques by placing a lattice divider about 1/3 of the way into the space from the sidewalk. Mr. Little also plans to paint murals on the walls depicting farm life and historic buildings in Fairmont. He will rearrange the existing park table and benches, as well as add another bench and planter and plant flowers. Mr. Little will raise all the money for the project himself and will do all the work with assistance from fellow boys scouts. He hopes to begin the work in April and be finished before mid-summer.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the plans for David Little's Eagle Scout Project to improve the mini-park in downtown Fairmont. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Urban Community Development Grant for Downtown

Ms. Tatum reported she attended a workshop on an Urban Community Development Grant for Downtown. This grant is a sub-category of the Economic Develop Grant administered by the Department of Commerce. Its primary thrust is creating jobs and promoting economic growth within disinvested areas of small towns. Although there is no match for the local government, there are requirements for local investment. Any program application must demonstrate community investment such as new business, existing business, profit, and nonprofit investments. The maximum grant is \$1,000,000. The following is a brief breakdown of what is required and what can be done with the grant:

Code Improvements on public buildings occupied by the recipient. Improvements on public property not in use or occupied by the recipient. Ex. Commercial rental property owned by municipality.

Money can be used to clean up environmental or toxic substances from an abandoned commercial structure, provided there is a business committed to occupy the building and provided the local government has ownership control of the building.

There must be a primary business focus. The primary business being assisted should be using an existing building. This scenario will be given preference.

Specific area must be identified. The area must be an urbanized area suffering from disinvestment. End result must show a positive impact. There are restrictions on the size of the area served by the grant.

Must adopt a redevelopment plan and have a redevelopment commission appointed at the time of application. Redevelopment plan and commission must be established as required by General Statute. Project area must be within the redevelopment area and be identified in the redevelopment plan.

Downtown or other centralized commercial corridor must be project area. You can have mixed use, but the primary use must be commercial. Developer must sign commitment to stay for a specified period of time and create a specified number of jobs. The application must demonstrate that primary business will spur economic growth.

When assisting the central downtown district, the business and property owners must invest. Either profit or non-profit.

Employment, goods and services and mixed uses will be given priority. Applications addressing government, cultural, religious, and retail needs will receive priority.

Ms. Tatum informed the board that the town must come up with a design, identify the redevelopment area and appoint a redevelopment commission before applying for the grant.

2003 Urgent Repair Program Assistance Policy

Ms. Tatum reported that the Town is applying for its second Urgent Repair Grant. She mentioned that the Fairmont's Assistance Policy was ranked #1 in the state. The Urgent Repair Program's primary focus is on senior citizens, handicapped, single family and large family homes with income less than 30% of the county median. Commissioner McCree made a motion to adopt the 2003 Urgent Repair Program Assistance Policy. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

CDBG, URP, Hazard Mitigation and Bonaventure Subdivision Status Reports.

I. CDBG PROGRAM – BENJAMIN AND PHILLIPS STREETS

Administrative: No significant administrative issues. Carolina Environmental, Inc. has submitted work write-ups for three of the five homes that tested positive for lead paint. Engineering: The bid opening was held March 19, 2003 and Graham's Masonry & Construction, Inc. was the low bidder at \$84,354.55. Budget: Total expenditure to date is \$167,041.00. Housing Replacement: Four homes have been requisitioned for

replacement. Three of the homes have been erected and are complete. The frame dwelling replacement property has been built and is on site at Prevatte's Home Sales. Once demolition can be arranged, this property will be erected on site. Rehabilitation: Carolina Environmental, Inc. has submitted work write-ups for three of the five homes that tested positive for lead paint. The rehab specialist is in the process of modifying the original write-ups to include the lead abatement requirements so that the houses can be bid out.

II. URGENT REPAIR PROGRAM

Administrative: The nine properties are complete. One property is under construction. Budget: Total expenditure to date is \$22,832.00.

III. BONAVENTURE SUBDIVISION

Budget: Total Expenditure to date is \$116,612. Construction: No change since last reporting period. Drainage work is 100% complete, sewer work is 98% complete and water is 75% complete. This program has been approved for New Homes Assistance through the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency. Potential homeowners whose income is at or below 80% of the median area income can qualify for a second mortgage of up to \$20,000, which does not have to be paid until the primary mortgage is paid in full. This will allow the homeowner the opportunity to qualify for a better home.

IV. HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT

The Wooten Company has received information from David Carter, Robeson County EMS Director, to begin preparation of the plan. No funds expended to date.

Response from DOT on moving speed limit sign on Hwy 41 South

Commissioner Grantham asked Mr. Hill what the status was on moving the 55 mph speed limit sign on Hwy 41 South. Mr. Hill responded that he has heard nothing from the DOT on this issue, either in writing or by phone.

Callahan Building status

Commissioner Grantham asked the status on the Callahan Building. Ms. Tatum reported at the March meeting that Mr. Thomas Hill was going to begin façade work in two weeks. No work has begun at this time. Ms. Tatum said Mr. Hill called her last week but she has been unable to get back in touch with him on the building.

King's Asphalt bankruptcy status

Commissioner Grantham asked if King's Asphalt was bankrupt. Mr. Hill does not know if the company is bankrupt, only that he has been unable to get in contact with Mr. King. Town Attorney Charlie Floyd said he would investigate to see if King's Asphalt was bankrupt.

Announcements

Parkton and Lumber Bridge will host the R.C.M.A. meeting. Date and time to be announced.

Community Watch meeting, Thursday, April 24, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the courtroom.

Fairmont Civitan Club Charity Ride Benefiting Dixie Youth Baseball, April 12th, 2003. This fundraiser will be used to raise money for new bathrooms at the ballpark.

Regional Center for Economic, Community and Professional Development Groundbreaking Ceremony, Monday, April 28, 2003, 11:00 a.m., COMtech, Pembroke.

Barbecue chicken benefit meal, Saturday, May 10 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., \$5.00 per plate at Lumberton High School Cafeteria. The purpose of the dinner is to honor the memory of Fairmont resident Bill Taylor and to raise funds to assist LHS Athletes with special financial needs in attending summer sports camps.

Public Works Director Ronnie Seals announced that he attended the preconstruction conference on the paving and drainage work to be done at Rosenwald Elementary School. Drainage work will begin the week of Easter.

Closed Session

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into closed session at 6:55 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel and industry as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4,6). Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Townsend, Jackson, Currie, Kemp, McCree and Grantham, Ben Hill, Charlie Floyd and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information, industry and personnel, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 8:44 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Page 8 – Regular Meeting, April 8, 2003

Mayor Gaddy announced that due to personal reasons, Town Manager Ben Hill has asked to go on administrative leave with pay starting Monday, April 14 for an undetermined amount of time. Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum will act as Interim Town Manager during his absence. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to accept Mayor Gaddy's recommendation that Town Manager Ben Hill be allowed to go on administrative leave with pay for an undetermined amount of time and to make Katrina Tatum Interim Town Manager during his absence. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to increase Katrina Tatum's annual salary to Grade 17, Step 6-A in the amount of \$40,248, retroactive to March 17, 2003, due to the additional duties taken on as supervisor of the Police Department and now Interim Town Manager. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Meeting – May 5, 2003

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a Special Board Meeting on Monday, May 5, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Mayor Gaddy was present along with Commissioners John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, Charles Kemp, Charles Townsend and Antonio Currie. Town Clerk Jenny Larson and Robesonian Reporter Scott Witten were also present.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Commissioner Charles Townsend gave the invocation. Mayor Gaddy stated the purpose of the meeting was to go into closed session to discuss personnel.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into closed session at 6:03 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After the discussion of privileged information and personnel, Commissioner McCree made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:40 p.m. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy announced that personnel was discussed and no decisions were made. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Meeting – May 9, 2003

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a Special Board Meeting on Friday, May 9, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Mayor Gaddy was present along with Commissioners John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, Charles Kemp, Charles Townsend and Antonio Currie. Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson and Robesonian Reporter Scott Witten were also present.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Commissioner Charles Townsend gave the invocation. Mayor Gaddy stated the purpose of the meeting was to go into closed session to discuss personnel.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into closed session at 6:03 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After the discussion of privileged information and personnel, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:15 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy announced that personnel was discussed and no decisions were made. With no further business, Commissioner Jackson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McCree, to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – May 13, 2003

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews and Fire Chief James Thompson. Others present included Phil Wallace, Kathy Wallace, William Floyd, Hal Harris, Fred Hughes, Junior Baxley, Nancy Baxley, Marlene Bass, Anthony Sealey, C.H. Lovette, P.C. Purvis, Nina Johnson, Connie Hayes, Terry Evans, James Worley, Scott Witten, Gaines Grantham and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Commissioner Charles Townsend gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to approve the revised agenda for tonight's meeting with the following changes: delete Palmer Prevention, Inc and add water bill and sewer tap policies. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 8, 2003. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting on May 5, 2003. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Special Presentations

Employee of the Year – C. H. Lovette

Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum and Police Chief Sam Hunt presented Master Patrolman C.H. Lovette with a plaque for being named Employee of the Year 2002. Chief Hunt said Officer Lovette was recognized for his dedication to the department by serving as an acting supervisor for eight months without compensation or rank.

Presentation of Advanced Telecommunicator Certificate to Connie Hayes

Chief Sam Hunt presented Dispatcher Connie Hayes with an Advanced Telecommunicator Certificate from the North Carolina Department of Justice, signed by State Attorney General Roy Cooper. This is the highest certificate given in the state for a Telecommunicator.

Presentation of Plaque by Fairmont Police Department

Chief Sam Hunt presented a plaque to Mr. James Worley for his help in identifying the couple who robbed BB&T on April 24. Mr. Anthony Sealey, President of BB&T in Fairmont, also thanked Mr. Worley for helping getting the robbers apprehended.

Citizens Appearance

Citizen Complaint – Junior Baxley

Mr. Junior Baxley, of 106 Market St., came before the board with several complaints about his neighborhood. His first complaint was about the Williamson house across the street from him. This house is in dilapidated shape and has no water but people still live in the house. His second complaint concerned the children in the neighborhood. They are always walking across his yard or playing in the street. Mr. Baxley also complained about trash pickup, loud boom boxes, people urinating in the bushes and drug dealers. Mr. Baxley would like to see these issues addressed within the next 30 days. Ms. Tatum and Chief Hunt encouraged Mr. Baxley and his neighbors to join Community Watch.

Commissioner McCree made a motion to add Mr. Baxley's request to abate the problems in his neighborhood to next month's agenda with Ms. Tatum and Chief Hunt giving a full report on the actions taken to correct the situations. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Trash complaint – Terry Evans

Mr. Terry Evans complained about trash piled up on his street for three weeks. Mayor Gaddy responded that more trash was put out for Spring Clean and Green than expected and that it is taking longer for Public Works to pick it all up.

Request for speed bumps on Linden Street – Robert Walters

Mr. Robert Walters requested speed bumps on Linden Street to help with the traffic coming in and out of Calvin Haggins Park. Ms. Tatum said she would look into the legality and liability of installing speed bumps.

Boy Scout Troop 320

Boy Scout Troop 320 members Thomas Rogers and J. P. Barr were introduced to the board.

Youth Council

Commissioner Grantham reported that there would be no Youth Council report for this month because the students were having a meeting at school.

Public Hearing – Individual Development Account (IDA)

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:45 p.m. to discuss Individual Development Account (IDA). Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum stated that the purpose of this second public hearing is to allow public input concerning the Town's application for a \$41,000 CDBG Individual Development Account Grant application. The grant is administered by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance and is designed to provide down payment assistance and housing counseling services to potential homebuyers within the Bonaventure II Subdivision. The \$41,000 grant will be split as follows: \$9,000 for the town for financial administration, \$11,000 to the consultant and \$1,000 for each of the 20-homebuyer applicants. No comments were received.

Commissioner Townsend made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:47 p.m. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Hearing – Zoning and Animal Ordinances

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:47 p.m. to discuss revising the town's zoning and animal ordinances. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Tatum reported that she finalized the language for the zoning ordinance on nightclubs, etc. and it just needs to be approved by the board. She also drafted a revised animal ordinance limiting citizens to three domestic animals.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:50 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the Zoning Amendment Ordinance for General Business, Central Business and General Manufacturing addressing Adult Entertainment, Nightclubs, Bars and Restaurants and to create an Adult Business Overlay Zone (A-B Overlay) for General Business, effective May 13, 2003. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Grantham also made a motion to adopt the revised ordinance on Animals, Chapter 3, Sections 3-1 to 3-66, effective May 13, 2003. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of these ordinances are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Administrative Matters

Bonaventure II Subdivision – new joint partnership.

Durham Regional Finance Center has entered into a Joint Venture agreement, “Bonaventure Development Collective” with the Edmonds Community Development Group South, LLC. The purpose of the Joint Venture is to complete the Bonaventure II Subdivision construction.

Mr. Hal H. Harris, representative of the Edmonds Community Development Group South, LLC, came before the Board to discuss changes he would like to make in the Bonaventure Subdivision in order to successfully complete the development. The project is currently stalled due to some mistakes made by Durham Regional Finance. Mr. Harris feels 21 single-family homes will not work and is proposing to develop 42 duplex condominium units instead. Mr. Harris was informed that duplex construction would have to go before the Planning Board for a variance. While right allows two-family dwellings, the minimum lot size is 10,000 square feet. In this case, Mr. Harris would have to petition the Planning Board to grant a variance in lot size to accommodate the additional units. The second alternative would be to request a conditional use permit to allow a group development project, which would allow two or more principal structures built on a single lot, tract or parcel of land, which has not been subdivided.

The board was concerned that the proposed changes would not go over well with the surrounding community. There were also concerns that the condominiums would be too expensive. Ms. Tatum informed Mr. Harris he would need to apply for a zoning change with the planning board. She advised him to communicate with the citizens because they would be key to the project’s approval or disapproval.

Community Watch Update and flag request – Fred Hughes.

Mr. Fred Hughes, President of the Fairmont Community Watch reported that the Yard Sale held on May 10 was a big success netting \$615.70. Part of the money came from the sale of raffle tickets. A gas grill, savings bond and gift certificate to Outback Steakhouse will be given away at National Night Out on August 5. The Community Watch plans to renovate the flagpole in front of Town Hall before National Night Out. He plans to fly the U.S. flag, the N.C. flag and a town flag. Mr. Hughes suggested “Striving for Pride” as the town’s new motto. The Community Watch is also organizing a “Food for Christmas” program. Officers will gather canned goods to be given out to needy families. The Community Watch is also planning to install a security light at the park once it is completed. The next Community Watch meeting is May 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtroom with Sheriff Glenn Maynor as the guest speaker.

Palmer Prevention, Inc. – request for support.

This item will be discussed at the June board meeting because their representatives could not attend tonight's meeting.

Advertise Delinquent Taxes in newspaper the last week in May.

Ms. Tatum reported that Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews would advertise 2002 delinquent taxpayers during the last week of May. All delinquent taxpayers have been notified that if a good faith effort to pay the taxes is not made by the time the advertisement request is submitted to the newspaper, their names will be advertised listing the taxpayer's name, the property for which there is a delinquent status and the amount of tax owed the town. Ms. Tatum said partial payments made on a regular basis would be accepted. Fairmont has one of the highest tax collection rates in the county due to our diligence in collecting taxes.

Set dates for budget workshop and public hearing.

The board agreed to set Thursday, May 29 at 6:00 p.m. as the date for a Budget Workshop and to set Tuesday, June 10 at 6:00 p.m. as the date for the Budget Public Hearing.

Request for Community Calendar – Charles Kemp.

Commissioner Kemp requested a Master Calendar be developed and made available to the citizens of Fairmont. This calendar would list all community groups and church activities so planning and attending events would be easier. Community groups, schools, churches and service organizations can call the town with upcoming events to be placed on the calendar in the newsletter and website. Town Clerk Jenny Larson has already developed a calendar for the town's web site. The calendar of events can be accessed by pulling up the town's website and going under "What's Happening".

Planning Board reappointments.

The terms for the following Planning Board members will expire effective May 30, 2003:

Fitzhugh Sealey
Dorothy McCormick
Ronald Hughes

They are active members in good standing. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to reappoint Fitzhugh Sealey, Dorothy McCormick and Ronald Hughes to the Planning Board for another three-year term. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Pond on Dogwood Drive – Phil Wallace.

Mr. Phil Wallace, President of Flag Tree Golf Course, came before the board with concerns about the pond on Dogwood Drive. This pond shares borders with the golf course and town property. The damn on Dogwood Drive has been broken twice with washouts from the pond. There is a damn on the golf course that needs some tile repair work in order to keep the water level down. If this repair work is not done it could cause the damn on Dogwood Drive to wash out again. Mr. Wallace said it would only take a backhoe and operator a half a day to fix the loose tiles. Ms. Tatum realizes this would mean town staff working on private property but noted it is necessary to work together in order to relieve the pressure on the Dogwood Drive damn. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to allow town staff and equipment to help repair the loose tiles at the golf course damn. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

North Carolina: Moving Ahead! Program.

Ms. Tatum reported that on April 8, 2003, the Lumber River Council of governments contacted all the municipalities for an emergency meeting to discuss the “North Carolina: Moving Ahead!” Program. We were asked to make a list of improvements for traffic conditions, streets, highways and roads, considering those that would have the greatest impact. If this initiative is passed by the State House, Highway Trust Fund money will be used, allocating \$300 million for fiscal year 2003-2004 and \$400 million for fiscal year 2004-2005. The allowable uses are as follows: (1) highway system preservation and maintenance; modernization of existing roadways, signs, signals and traffic control devices; and resurfacing; and (2) funding the planning and implementation of regional public transit systems; modernization of rural and urban transit systems operating equipment; improvements to rail facilities; improvements to the ferry system; and to assist municipalities in incorporating bicycle and pedestrian options into their transportation plans.

Ms. Tatum met with the Police and Public Works Departments and came up with the following list of improvements needed in this area:

- Drainage improvements at Morro Street and Leesville Road, Powell and Cottage Streets, South Walnut and Center Streets and Red Cross and Cottage. There have been problems with severe flooding in these areas.
- Signal lights at the High School intersection of Old Stage Road and Hwy 130 East, the Food Lion Commercial Complex on North Walnut Street and the intersection of Golf Course Road and Walnut Streets.
- Repainting School Zones (not a high priority).
- Widen State Road 1003, Chicken Road from Hwy 41 South to 95 exit. This might increase more traffic to town.

While we do have some drainage problems at other locations in Town, the areas mentioned pose the greatest danger for travelers.

Wetlands Mitigation.

Ms. Tatum stated that the town has paid \$80,400 in wetlands mitigation for construction of the Fairmont Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility in Orrum. These fees were paid out of the Wastewater Treatment Plant project funds. The town has to pay wetlands mitigation because the sewer plant was built in a wetland area. The money is used for planting seedlings and the NCDENR will monitor their growth. If more seedlings are needed, it will cost the town \$2,000 a year.

CDBG, URP, Hazard Mitigation and Bonaventure Subdivision Status Reports.

CDBG PROGRAM – BENJAMIN AND PHILLIPS STREETS

Administrative: No significant administrative issues. Engineering/Street Improvements: Graham Construction was selected to perform street and drainage improvements. The contractor's pre-construction meeting was held 5/8/03. Construction will begin as soon as all pre-construction requirements have been satisfied. Budget: Total expenditure to date is \$170,376. Housing Replacement: The budget is being analyzed to consider the possibility of two more housing replacements. Demolition of the Wallace home is scheduled to begin within three weeks, pending relocation of the family. Rehabilitation: Requests for proposals have been issued for six properties in the project area. The bid closing date is May 16, 2003.

URGENT REPAIR PROGRAM

Administrative: Eleven properties are complete. One property is under construction. Budget: Total expenditure to date is \$26,182.

BONAVENTURE SUBDIVISION

Budget: Total Expenditure to date is \$116,612. Construction: No change since last reporting period. Drainage work is 100% complete, sewer work is 98% complete and water is 75% complete. Work is stalled due to the Developer seeking a zoning variance to allow duplex condominium construction.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT

The contracts have been signed and returned to the consultant, The Wooten Company. The anticipated completion date of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is November 1, 2003. No funds expended to date.

Fairmont Community Park - cost update.

Ms. Tatum has secured estimates for the completion of the Fairmont Community Park.

The following is a summary of bids secured by telephone for the paving and sidewalks:

Paving for Parking Lot

1. Barnes Paving Company, Inc.	\$15,687.00
2. Carolina Paving company of Fayetteville	\$21,200.00
3. McArthur Construction Company	\$14,396.00
4. King's Asphalt	\$8,200.00

Sidewalks

Tommy Brown	\$2,430.67
Vince Renfrow	\$2,335.37
Weldon Carter	\$2,052.00

Estimates for the playground equipment, water fountains, picnic tables and athletic field come to \$10,855. Estimates for a safe fall area around the playground is \$6,500 and bench estimates are \$400. Commissioner Kemp stated that Trinity United Methodist Church is willing to donate their swing set to the park. Commissioner Jackson had concerns about the way the bids were acquired. Ms. Tatum explained that she had to get the bids over the telephone because the park has to be completed by June 30. The state is not giving us another extension to finish the park. If the park is not finished by June 30 we may be required to pay back the \$60,000 PARTF grant. Ms. Tatum said it would take between \$38,000 and \$40,000 to finish the park and that does not include widening the walking trail.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to authorize Ms. Tatum to contact the appropriate vendors to complete the park using the figures given to her. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Commissioner Jackson questioned the manager having authority to pick the lowest bidders. Commissioners Kemp and Grantham withdrew their original motion. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to authorize Ms. Tatum to accept the lowest bidders on the estimates to complete the park. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Donation of surplus property – Community Watch.

The town owns a 3.5 engine Lawn Machine mower with a 20" cut that is currently not in use. Ms. Tatum has checked with all departments and finds that the town has no use for this property. The estimated value of the mower is \$50 and is therefore not considered waste. It may be declared surplus and transferred to any individual or organization by

Board Resolution. The property is hereby declared surplus and may be disposed of in accordance with the Town Ordinance prescribing procedures for disposing of personal property valued at less than \$500. Ms. Tatum asked the board to approve a resolution to transfer this property to the Fairmont Community Watch Program.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adopt a resolution transferring the 3.5 engine Lawn Machine mower to the Fairmont Community Watch Program. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Town vehicle and equipment policy.

There is much controversy over the current policy of allowing Police and Public Works Department staff to drive their vehicles back and forth to work. The two departments have different issues involved with this policy.

Police Department: The Police Department currently allows all but three officers to drive their vehicles home. Those three patrolmen are Hezzie Lowery, David Miller and Danny Parker. All patrol cars except the detectives' cars are marked and there has never been a complaint regarding misuse of police vehicles. The issue involved here is whether all officers should be allowed to drive their vehicles home since all officers are equally likely to be called in for duty. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to allow all police officers to drive their police cars home. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Works Department: The Public Works Department currently allows all staff members to drive their vehicles home. Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Water and Wastewater Operator Johnny Britt are on call 24 hours. In addition, one other person on a rotating weekly basis is on call during the week. There have been issues and complaints associated with the use of Public Works vehicles. One issue has been the lack of town decals so that these vehicles can be easily identified. The other issue, which has been the source of many complaints, is the use of these vehicles for private business and fee work. Complaints have also been lodged regarding driving while impaired in conjunction with one Public Works employee. Commissioner Grantham made a motion that the only Public Works employees who can drive a vehicle home are the Public Works Director, Water and Wastewater Operator and the employee on call and that all decals be placed on Public Works vehicles effective immediately. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Equipment: Ms. Tatum explained that Commissioner Jackson brought to her attention the town's policy of letting town equipment be rented to residents who need or have a use for the equipment. A fee schedule was established for this reason several years ago. The manager, due to liability issues and the frequency with which the equipment was damaged or broken, abandoned this policy. The town does not carry insurance coverage for rental of equipment. The town would be liable if someone is hurt using our

equipment. Also, OSHA has standards for use, which require that anyone using government equipment be trained in its use. The other alternative is to have town staff, in their spare time, perform the work needed by the residents. Ms. Tatum added that leaving an unmanned truck with no keys for a citizen to fill up is fine because it helps our staff in removing trash. Commissioner Jackson asked about excess dirt being dumped on private property. He sees no problem in letting Public Works dump excess dirt in citizens' yards if they request it. Commissioner Grantham made a motion that the rental policy for town equipment be abolished and that excess dirt can be dumped but not spread on private property on a first come, first serve basis when available. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Water bill and sewer tap policy.

Sewer Tap Policy: Ms. Tatum explained that the town charges \$250 for our sewer tap on fee. Public Works recently installed a sewer tap that cost more than \$250 to install. Ms. Tatum recommended that the board include any additional costs the town may incur above and beyond \$250 as part of the tap on fee to cover all expenses. Commissioner Grantham made a motion that customers be charged any additional costs incurred above and beyond the \$250 sewer tap on fee. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion. Commissioner Jackson questioned the cost of out of town sewer taps. After discussion, Commissioners Grantham and Kemp withdrew their motions. Commissioner Grantham made a motion that customers be charged any additional costs incurred above and beyond the \$250 sewer tap on fee for in town customers and \$500 for out of town customers and that the customer hire someone to install the sewer lines. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and the vote went as follows:

For: Grantham, Kemp, Currie, McCree and Townsend
Against: Jackson

Water Bill Policy: Ms. Tatum recommended that property owners be ultimately responsible for water bills on rental property. That way if a renter leaves with an unpaid water bill, the property owner will have to pay it before someone else rents the property. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to require property owners to be ultimately responsible for water bills on rental property. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Announcements

Celebration of Flight – May 17 & 18 at the Lumberton Airport.

Maxton will host the R.C.M.A. meeting. Date and time to be announced. Fairmont will host the R.C.M.A. meeting in June.

Town Offices will be closed Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.

Page 11 – Regular Meeting, May 13, 2003

Community Watch meeting, Thursday, May 22, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the courtroom. Sheriff Glenn Maynor will be the guest speaker.

Town Hall Day in Raleigh, Wednesday, May 21.

One East Economic Summit – Tuesday, May 27 in Greenville, NC. Governor Easley will be the keynote speaker.

Farmers Festival awarded Grassroots Arts Program grant for \$1,726.

Closed Session

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to go into closed session at 9:00 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel and industry as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4,6). Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Townsend, Jackson, Currie, Kemp, McCree and Grantham, Katrina Tatum, Charlie Floyd and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information, industry and personnel, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 9:30 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Meeting Recessed

At 9:31 p.m., Mayor Gaddy recessed the meeting to reconvene tomorrow, May 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Meeting Reconvened – Wednesday, May 14, 2003, 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting back to order at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2003 in the Council Chambers. All the commissioners were present along with Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Scott Witten and Venita Jenkins. Commissioner Charles Townsend gave the invocation.

Closed Session

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into closed session at 6:05 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Page 12 – Regular Meeting, May 13, 2003

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Townsend, Jackson, Currie, Kemp, McCree and Grantham, Charlie Floyd, and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information, and personnel, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 6:49 p.m. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy asked the board to make a motion to place Town Manager Ben Hill on administrative leave without pay. Commissioner Jackson made the motion to place Town Manager Ben Hill on administrative leave without pay. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion. The vote went as follows:

For:	Jackson, Townsend, McCree, Currie and Grantham
Against:	Kemp

There being no further business, Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner McCree, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Meeting – May 29, 2003

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Thursday, May 29, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Finance Director Linda Vause. Robesonian reporter Scott Witten was also present.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Commissioner John Jackson gave the invocation.

Closed Session - Industry

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to go into closed session at 6:05 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss industry as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4). Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Townsend, Jackson, Currie, Kemp, McCree and Grantham, Katrina Tatum and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information and industry, Commissioner Grantham made a motion to come out of closed session at 6:40 p.m. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Drew Levinson proclamation

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to amend the agenda to include discussion of honoring former Fairmont resident, Drew Levinson. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Former Fairmont resident, Drew Levinson, is a CBS reporter out of New York. He will be speaking in Lumberton on June 5. Jeff Neelon has requested that the town honor Mr. Levinson in some way for his accomplishments. Commissioner Kemp made a motion that a proclamation be prepared to honor Drew Levinson and have the Mayor present it to him on June 5. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Budget Workshop

Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum went over the proposed budget for fiscal year 2003-2004 line by line. This budget is very tight with travel and supplies cut to a minimum. Ms. Tatum did include a 2 1/2 % cost of living raise for the town employees but did not budget for any new positions. The proposed budget has an appropriated fund balance of \$582,185. This amount is in excess of available funds. After expenditures, the town will only have about \$86,029 in reserve.

Page 2 – Special Meeting, May 29, 2003

Ms. Tatum informed the board that the town's fund balance or reserve has decreased steadily over the last seven years. In other words, the town has spent more money and brought in less revenue and has "over dipped" into the general fund reserve.

Ms. Tatum suggested the board consider selling the Premiumwear/In 7 building to help bring the reserve fund back up. She also plans to sale all unused, surplus property in the next fiscal year. Ms. Tatum also plans to request all departments to get permission before making any unnecessary expenditures to help save money.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner McCree, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Emergency Meeting – June 6, 2003

The Board of Commissioners held a Emergency Board Meeting on Friday, June 6, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Mayor Gaddy was present along with Commissioners John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham, J. J. McCree, Charles Kemp and Charles Townsend. Commissioner Antonio Currie was absent from this meeting. Katrina Tatum, Interim Town Manager, Linda Vause, Finance Officer/Deputy Clerk and Scott Witten, reporter for The Robesonian, were also present for this meeting.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Charles Townsend gave the invocation.

Ms. Tatum updated the Board on the budget shortfall. She stated our “ace in the hole” is no longer an “ace in the hole.” This statement is in reference to the In 7 Building. Ms. Tatum reported that after her brief inspection of the building, we will be unable to sell the building for what was previously estimated. The tenants have left the building in a state of disrepair. Ms. Tatum is unsure of how much the clean up will cost.

Commissioner McCree asked if the lease agreement held In 7 responsible for this cleanup. Ms. Tatum’s answer was “no, but is unclear, so I’m going to have to have Charlie take a look at it.”

Ms. Tatum also informed the Board of her conversation with the Local Government Commission in regard to our budget shortfall and the investigation of our Town Manager. The LGC has assigned Jean Slaughter to work with the Town as our advisor.

The Board was notified of the retirement of an Operator III in the Public Works Department. This salary will be left in the 2003-2004 budget. However, the Public Works Department will try to get by without filling the position for now.

Ms. Tatum informed the Board that the only change in the budget presented today verses the budget presented on June 10, 2003 is an increase the Tax Department Budget. This budget had to be increased due to advertising costs with The Robesonian. Commissioner McCree wanted to know if the proposed budget included retroactive merit raises for the two police officers that were recently promoted to Master Patrol. The answer was yes.

After much discussion of the budget shortfall, Commissioner Jackson said he wanted the record to reflect that this did not reflect on the finance officer. He stated that the finance officer worked under the direct supervision of the town manager. The town manager approved all invoices before the finance officer processed them.

Mr. Kemp asked what would happen if we do not push our new wastewater treatment plant. Ms. Tatum stated we would continue to have budget shortfalls. She also stated that she is working with Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates to connect other communities to our plant.

Page 2 – Emergency Meeting, June 6, 2003

The proposed increases in our water, sewer and sanitation rates were discussed at length. Ms. Tatum informed the Board that they would have to make a decision about these increases when the budget is adopted.

The budget for 2003-2004 is scheduled to be adopted on June 30, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

With no action taken, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Linda W. Vause, Deputy Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – June 10, 2003

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Police Chief Sam Hunt, and Fire Chief James Thompson. Others present included Phil Wallace, Kathy Wallace, Fred Hughes, Junior Baxley, Thomas Norton, Scott Witten, Dick Taylor, Huel Faulk, Rusty Perry, Danny Williamson, Annie Durant, Kenny Caulder and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Commissioner Townsend gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner McCree made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 13, 2003 and the special meetings on May 9, 2003. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Citizen Awareness Group – Annie Durant

Ms. Durant thanked everyone who attended the Citizen Awareness Group's Fashion Show and Gospel Extravaganza. She added that the group has applied for a non-profit tax number so any future donations to the organization can be tax deductible.

Complaint on new water bill policy – Dick Taylor

Mr. Dick Taylor, a businessman from Lumberton who owns several buildings in downtown Fairmont, was present to complain about the town's new policy of putting all water accounts in the property owner's name. Mr. Taylor refuses to rent any of his buildings as long as this policy is in place because he cannot afford to endorse "open notes" for the twelve buildings he owns. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to suspend the water bill requirement that rental properties be in the property owner's name until it can be properly researched. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Hearing – Budget – Fiscal Year 2003-2004

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:05 p.m. to discuss proposed budget for fiscal year 2003-2004. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kemp had some questions about the \$6.00 user fee increase on the utility bills. He asked if we could reduce the water bill rates in the future once the sewer plant starts making a profit. Interim Town Manager Katrina replied that could be a possibility but right now the services we provide cost more than what we receive in fees.

Commissioner Grantham suggested that the budget ordinance include a statement that the town will not be giving to any worthy causes because there is no extra money in the budget.

Ms. Tatum informed the board that staff is working on increasing zoning fees and privilege license fees to help bring in additional revenue.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:27 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Set Monday, June 30 as the date to adopt the Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2002-2003 and adopt the Budget for Fiscal Year 2003-2004.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to set Monday, June 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers as the date to adopt the Amended Budget for fiscal year 2002-2003 and adopt the Budget for fiscal year 2003-2004. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Palmer Prevention – Thomas Norton

Mr. Thomas Norton, Executive Director of Palmer Prevention, Inc., was present to discuss the programs they currently offer. He reported that 63 people from the Fairmont area participated in their programs last year. Mr. Norton reported that the number of kids on drugs is down and so is the amount of criminal activity by adolescents. Mr. Norton understands that the town is having a bad budget year but requested the board to consider a donation of \$1,000 if finances improve. Mr. Norton also asked the board to consider requesting local stores to ban the display of drug paraphernalia like rolling papers.

Southeastern Family Violence Center – Ginger Carter

Mrs. Ginger Carter, Executive Director of Southeastern Family Violence Center, was supposed to be present to request \$2,000 in funding but did not attend the meeting. Commissioner Grantham suggested Ms. Tatum write Mrs. Carter a letter letting her know we support her efforts but are unable to give any financial support at this time.

Update on situation in Mr. Baxley's neighborhood.

Ms. Tatum stated she was asked to implement changes to increase security checks in the area of Market and McDaniel Streets. The following is an update regarding this issue:

- Increased patrols to every thirty minutes.
- Moved crowds gathering behind the convenient mart.
- The police made contact with the owners and let them know that they would be held accountable for their tenants actions and excess trash.
- Corrected one incident of overturned trash. Owner had the trash picked up within thirty minutes of notice.
- One individual appears to be a constant presence at that location and is being monitored.
- Vehicles are being stopped for investigative purposes and during this period, citations were issued.
- Police Officers had been performing foot patrols.
- Stationary observations have been made.

Commissioners Jackson and McCree added that they have separately rode through the area several times and have seen a great deal of improvement.

Mr. Baxley is still upset over the conditions in his neighborhood. Ms. Tatum assured him that the police department is doing everything it can but they need to actually see someone breaking the law in order to arrest them. Ms. Tatum added that plans are underway to condemn the house owned by Danny Williamson. Commissioner Grantham suggested to Mr. Baxley that he and his neighbors form a Community Watch group to help ward off crime. Mr. Baxley replied that he could not do anything to stop the criminal behavior. Mayor Gaddy emphasized that the town has made progress in the area whether Mr. Baxley appreciates it or not. Mr. Baxley stated that he needed to see Mayor Gaddy and Ms. Tatum in private to tell them something. Mayor Gaddy called a brief recess at 7:10 p.m. to talk to Mr. Baxley in private. Mayor Gaddy called the meeting back to order at 7:12 p.m.

Speed Bumps request on Linden Street

Ms. Tatum was asked to research the possibility of installing speed bumps along Linden Street. Town Clerk Jenny Larson asked other municipalities what their experience had been. Most had not had good experiences. Some went through major expense to install them and later, some within one month, had to take them out at the request of the residents who asked for them in the first place. There were also some liability issues concerning repairs to vehicles.

On June 3, 2003, the Police Department performed a survey to determine whether the majority of the residents on Linden Street desired speed bumps and the majority replied yes. Of the twenty occupied dwellings, 13 households desired the installation of speed bumps, indicating a majority. The others were either not at home or didn't answer the door. Questionnaires were left to allow them to get their responses to us. To date, no other responses were received.

Considering the desire of the majority of the residents and to avoid the liability issues, most of which pertained to the permanent speed bumps, Ms. Tatum recommended that portable speed bumps be placed on Linden Street. Six units would be needed to effectively reduce speed. Ms. Tatum has priced speed bumps at \$87 for each 6-foot unit and \$33 per speed bump sign (four are needed to avoid liability issues). The approximate cost for the speed bumps and speed bump signs is \$654.

Commissioner McCree made a motion to approve the installation of 6 speed bumps and 4 signs on Linden Street at a cost of \$654. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution – Pre Tax Premium Plan AON Consulting Insurance

Ms. Tatum explained that Pre-Tax Plans allow the town to provide eligible employees and other adopting employers a choice between certain taxable and non-taxable benefits under the Plan. The Plan is to be maintained for the exclusive benefit of employees. Effectively, it allows the town to pay out certain costs on behalf of the employees before taxes are taken out. In 1990, the town amended and restated the plan. The town is required to periodically amend and restate the plan in order to continue to provide this benefit to the employees.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt a resolution amending and restating the Town of Fairmont's Pre-Tax Premium Plan, effective, July 1, 2003. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Jackson refrained from voting because he is a retired town employee receiving health insurance benefits.

2003 Urgent Repair Program Procurement and Disbursement Policy

Ms. Tatum clarified that The North Carolina Housing Finance Agency now requires municipalities adopt a procurement and disbursement policy prior to release of funds. These policies control the contracting and bidding procedures and the conditions under which payments are made to contractors.

The purpose of these policies is to ensure a competitive bidding process and acceptable work quality prior to the payment of funds. Each contractor hired for rehabilitation services will be required to sign this policy prior to being issued a notice to proceed for work execution.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adopt the 2003 Urgent Repair Program Procurement and Disbursement Policy. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution holding Town of Fairmont Employees Harmless during the SBI investigation.

On April 28, 2003, a memorandum was received from the State Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, requesting certain actions on behalf of the Town of Fairmont to facilitate an investigation into various allegations of misuse and misappropriation of funds and town owned property by Town Administrator Ben Hill. The Town of Fairmont wishes to comply with the requests of the State Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice in order to facilitate this investigation and therefore resolve that:

No employee will be the subject of retribution or harassment as a result of their cooperation with this investigation.

Explicit authorization is given for town employees to be interviewed on Town property during normal working hours with no negative consequences to the employee.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the Resolution holding Town of Fairmont Employees harmless during the SBI investigation of Town Manager Ben Hill. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Status Report – CDBG, Urgent Repair, Bonaventure and Hazard Mitigation

CDBG PROGRAM – BENJAMIN AND PHILLIPS STREETS

Administrative: No significant administrative issues. Engineering/Street Improvements: The contract with Graham Construction has been executed. Budget: Total expenditure to date is \$172,347.70. Housing Replacement: The budget is being analyzed to consider the possibility of two more housing replacements. Demolition of the Wallace home is scheduled to begin within three weeks, pending relocation of the family. Rehabilitation: Requests for proposals have been issued for six properties in the project area. Six houses are being awarded for rehabilitation. Five of the six will be delayed until the state approves substantial rehab, due to the extensive repairs needed due to lead abatement. Substantial rehab means the cost to rehabilitate the house will exceed \$29,999. Ms. Tatum hopes to save some money by having the World Changers program repair the roofs on these homes.

URGENT REPAIR PROGRAM

Administrative: Eleven properties are complete. One property is under construction. Budget: Total expenditure to date is \$31,482.00

BONAVENTURE SUBDIVISION

Budget: Total Expenditure to date is \$116,612.00. Construction: No change since last reporting period. Drainage work is 100% complete, sewer work is 98% complete and water is 75% complete. The project is currently at a standstill. The developers plan to come before the planning board in July with their proposed changes.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT

The contracts have been signed and returned to the consultant and the plan is now being written. The anticipated completion date of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is November 1, 2003. No funds expended to date.

Announcements

Town Offices will be closed Friday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

Fairmont will host the RCMA meeting on Thursday, June 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church, South Main Street. Angie Carter, Director of the Carolina Civic Center will be the guest speaker.

Community Watch meeting, Thursday, June 26, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the courtroom.

Page 7 – Regular Meeting, June 10, 2003

New Restaurant open in Fairmont – Fatbacks Café located in the old Hardee’s building.

LRDA – 4th Annual Charity Golf Tournament, Saturday, June 28 at Flagtree Golf Course.

Robeson County Church and Community Center Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 12, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. at Branch Street United Methodist Church in Lumberton.

Closed Session – Personnel and Industry

Commissioner Townsend made a motion to go into closed session at 7:30 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel and industry as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4,6). Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Townsend, Jackson, Currie, Kemp, McCree and Grantham, Katrina Tatum, Charlie Floyd and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information, industry and personnel, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 8:05 p.m. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner McCree, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Emergency Meeting – June 25, 2003

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held an emergency called meeting on Wednesday, June 25, 2003 at 5:300 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, John Jackson, and Antonio Currie. Commissioners J.J. McCree and Charles Townsend were absent as well as Town Attorney Charlie Floyd. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Finance Director Linda Vause. Scott Witten was also present.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Commissioner John Jackson gave the invocation. Mayor Gaddy stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the town's budget situation.

Ms. Tatum informed the board that she received a letter from the Local Government Commission regarding our proposed budget for fiscal year 2003-2004. They advised that the town should not budget for the sale of the In 7 building. Not budgeting the sale of the building will cause the town to have a budget shortfall. Ms. Tatum and Finance Director Linda Vause are working on an interim budget to carry the town for the first three months of the fiscal year in order to gain more time to assess possible revenue sources. The problems with balancing this budget has forced major spending cuts in every department and no cost of living raises or Christmas bonuses for the employees.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion giving Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum authority to write an interim budget. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Kemp, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Meeting – June 30, 2003

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special called meeting on Monday, June 30, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, John Jackson, J.J. McCree, and Charles Townsend. Commissioners Antonio Currie was absent. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson and Town Attorney Charlie Floyd. Phil Wallace, Kathy Wallace and SBI Agent C. Lee Newcomb were also present.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Commissioner Townsend gave the invocation.

Closed Session – Personnel and Industry

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into closed session at 7:02 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel and industry as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4,6). Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Townsend, Jackson, Kemp, McCree and Grantham, Katrina Tatum, Charlie Floyd, Jenny Larson and SBI Agent C. Lee Newcomb were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information, industry and personnel, Commissioner Grantham made a motion to come out of closed session at 8:07 p.m. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adopt 2003-2004 Budget.

Ms. Tatum presented the board with a full year budget for 2003 – 2004. The Local Government Commission would not allow the town to adopt an interim budget for three months. Ms. Tatum and Finance Director Linda Vause balanced the budget by increasing revenue for several line items. They are recommending reimbursement from the separate Community Building Donation Fund for \$63,397 to reimburse the general fund for money spent on engineering costs over the last three years. The board was upset that the town spent so much money on engineering without their prior approval. Ms. Tatum also pointed out that the Farmers Festival line item was deleted. Employees will get compensation time instead of being paid for working that day.

Commissioner Kemp read the following statement for the record:

“First, I would like to thank each and every staff member of the Town of Fairmont who labored so long and hard to bring us this budget tonight. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated staff on board. I especially want to thank Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum and Finance Officer Linda Vause for their tireless effort on this very tough job. I was originally not convinced of the need for a \$6.00 across the board utility rate increase but after much personal study and hearing reports from our staff and the State of North Carolina, I am now convinced that this increase is necessary. The financial situation we find ourselves in must not give way to finger pointing or blame passing. We should look forward to a brighter financial future and take the steps we need to take, beginning tonight, to begin to reach that goal. The citizens of this community are depending on us for leadership.”

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the 2003-2004 fiscal year budget as presented. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this budget ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Adopt 2002-2003 Amended Budget.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adopt the 2002-2003 amended budget. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this budget ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Write-Off uncollected water accounts for 2002-2003 in the amount of \$1,764.83.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to write off uncollected water accounts for 2002-2003 in the amount of \$1,764.83 with the hope of them being eventually collected. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of these water accounts are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Release 1992 property taxes in the amount of \$3,273.46.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to release unpaid property taxes from 1992 in the amount of \$3,273.46. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this property tax accounts are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution amending the privilege license fee and zoning permit fee schedules.

Commissioner Jackson suggested changing the minimum housing code inspection from \$5.00 to \$10.00. Commissioner Grantham reminded the staff that insurance agents are exempt from paying a privilege license fee. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adopt the resolution amending the privilege license fee and zoning permit fee schedules with the above changes. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Sell surplus town property.

Ms. Tatum tabled the sale of surplus town property until the August board meeting in order to give staff more time to complete the list of property to be sold.

Water tank maintenance.

Ms. Tatum informed the board that the Town's water tank is in desperate need of repair. At the advice of Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates, Ms. Tatum asked Utility Service Holding Co., Inc. to prepare an analysis of the deterioration suffered. The tank has heavy sediment buildup and corrosion. The State is entertaining mandated maintenance and the town will eventually have to bring the tank up to standard condition. This will be a big expense that will be forthcoming, either by mandate or necessity. No action required at this time.

Fairmont flag and motto.

The Fairmont Community Watch Program has made changes to the previously board approved Fairmont Flag. They are asking for approval to allow the modified flag to take its place. The new flag is essentially the same as the approved flag with the addition of the motto "Striving for Pride." Commissioner Grantham thought "Striving for Excellence" would make a better town motto. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the revised design for the Fairmont town flag with the new motto "Striving for Excellence." Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk