

TOWN OF BLACK CREEK
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2009

Revised

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Place: Black Creek Town Hall Meeting Room

Date: December 8, 2009

Attendee: Mayor Howard Moore, Commissioners Smith, Dawson, Lucas, Godwin,
Franks

Quorum Present: Yes

Mayor Moore called regular board meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

- I: Approve the minutes for November 10, 2009 Meeting: 1st: Commissioner Smith, 2nd Commissioner Godwin, approved unanimously.
- II: Approve December Bills: 1st Commissioner Franks, 2nd Commissioner Lucas, motion carried unanimously.

New Business

- A: Swearing in of newly elected officers: Deputy Clerk Minshew swears in Mayor Moore, Commissioner Lucas, Franks, Godwin, Smith, and Dawson. Signed Oath.
- B: CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) Upper Coastal Plan: Dennis Patton:
Back in December, 2008 the Rural Center approved an application for planning work for your water and sewer project and to do a Capital Improvement Plan. The Rural Center considers the CIP a very useful tool for scheduling and planning. These are projects that are expensive enough that you can't ordinarily pay for out of your regular budget. There is a scheduling tool and guide to help plan they you routinely can't take care in your budget. You got to stop and thank about how you will pay for these projects. The chief planner that is working on this project is Jim Bradshaw, he is here to explain the procedure with you and answer any questions you may have. It is not part of your budget technically; it is a planning tool to use with your budget. It is really helpful to the staff to plan the budget. It is not locked in, you can move things around. Jim Bradshaw: It is a pleasure to be here, what I know about Black Creek is what the previous administration was able to accomplish here and what the current administration, you guys and lady are able to accomplish, and I am really impressed. It is just amazing what you have been able to do in a small community in Wilson County. Even more impressed reading about it and talking to Greg and Barbara about some of the projects you want to pursue in the future. That is basically what a CIP is, what projects the town would like to consider in the future. It is just a guide, it just a plan, and a tool to help you consider those types of projects. So, that is good

to be doing that. It is interesting that the Rural Center began with the water and sewer, and ok we are going to fund this and we want to look at your water and sewer. But now they are saying we want you to look at your other projects as well, and that is a good thing. What you see before you, I wish I could say that the final document would be just 3 pages but it won't. It will be a little longer. As you go through each year you might want to pull that project up because a grant becomes available. It is a very flexible plan; it is not buried in stone. What this is a very flexible plan and so you go through each year things can change, and you have some plans beyond 10 years. Now the way it works with the budget, it is not a budget, you do not approve it like it is a budget although the Rural Center is requiring you to adopt the CIP once you see the full plan and consider it and adopt it. The way we developed the listing of the projects we started with a form. This form allowed the staff and engineers to decide what the title was, what it would cost, and the start date could be justification, and funding sources. A matrix was put together and it is a lengthy document of all the projects that have been identified. I did not put this together myself; your staff and engineers assisted me with the information. The next step was the ranking, the priority of these projects. That was based on the justification that was put in the original list here. The higher the number the higher the priority. After that is to finish and we just about have a full report. The completed CIP will be coming to you by the first of the year. That is the plan anyway. I am going to close and answer any questions you might have. I think it will be a good guide for you and a good tool that you can use going through your annual budgets and you are not caught flat footed. There are some big expensive items on the CIP. Commissioner Smith: Does this plan cost us anything? Ms. Aycock: That is part of a planning grant we got with the sewer videoing grant. Commissioner Smith: Whose idea was it? Ms. Aycock: We had a hand written excel spread sheet for years that did not meet the criteria for grants, and this has been a project I wanted to get done since I started here 6 years ago. I am use to working with CIP's and you have to have them to apply for grants. Commissioner Smith: I think it is a good idea, it acknowledges the foresight. I agree with big expenditures you need to be planning down the road. Commissioner Smith: So, the cost of developing this is in a grant? Ms. Aycock: Yes, it was. I saw the opportunity when we applied for the sewer project to include this in the grant. Bradshaw: Remember this is a flexible plan. You have a guide you can shift around. Mayor Moore: The last column, what does those number represent? Bradshaw: That is the total of those numbers added together, that taking all those numbers from various categories and adding them together to get those numbers. The functions are just the area of government it represents. Commissioner Smith: Is this guideline for some of the grants we are trying to get. Aycock: Yes, and the cemetery lines that we are going to do could be utilized from another Rural Center grant if they have any money left from the last round. Plus we have a professional CIP to submit with our grant. Commissioner Smith: These will aide us for future grants. Aycock: Yes, that is correct. When you are looking for grants you have an idea of cost and what we are looking for, and if a grant shows up we know what we need to apply for. We have been pulling out of the air on grants and they do not give you much time to prepare for submittal.

Jim and Dennis have done a good job on the CIP and I do appreciate the hard work they have put in. Commissioner Smith: When I read it I was impressed with the CIP and that is why I wanted to ask who done it and congratulate them. Mayor Moore: This is for our review tonight, so we don't need to do anything, is that correct? Patton: Yes, that is correct. You will have the final copy at the January meeting. Anybody got anymore questions?

Water Shortage Resolution Plan: I believe we had adopted this plan but they say we have to adopt a resolution for the plan. Aycock: Greg received a letter on it and stated we had to have a resolution also for the Plan. Any discussion on this? Commissioner Smith: This is a requirement, right? If we don't do it they will come in and do what we have to do and what they want us too? Greg: That is right, if we have a drought they will mandate we do what they say. Motion to adopt resolution: 1st Commissioner Smith, 2nd Commissioner Franks, vote carried unanimously.

Water and Sewer on Cemetery Road: I think Greg has got a price to do the project. We have already talked about it, we had Mike Aquesta down for a visit to discuss this project, and it might be possible to get a grant for this if the Rural Center has in money left in June. Aycock: The key word is annexation on the application. Commissioner Smith: That property is annexed. Aycock: Yes, you are correct. Mike Aquesta stated that the key word is annexation and that is the case we use to get the grant. Mayor Moore: I talked with a person last night and they stated they are still planning to build a church out there. They are supposed to start shortly after the first of the year. But it will be a while because the members are building the church, so we have some time. I think the key thing is to wait and if we get the sewer grant we have put in for; I think that will be announced in January or March, 2010. Commissioner Smith: Did you get a figure? Gates: \$55,000. Commissioner Smith: What is it for the electronic meter readers? Gates: You are looking at \$160,000 to \$190,000 that is the complete system. Water, Sewer, Electric and all your software, everything. Commissioner Smith: Have they got grant money for that Barbara? Aycock: Mike Aquesta stated that Middlesex just got one, but it was in the water project they done, he combined the grant to include this. I called and talked with Middlesex and found out some information about this and what they had done to get the money and that is when I called Mike Aquesta and had him come in Friday to speak with the Mayor and me. Commissioner Smith: If they match it we will need \$80,000, is that correct? Mayor Moore: There is several ways to look at this thing. You can go in all at one time or work your way into it gradually. Gates: Let me say this. Even if you get 1/2 of the money we got 790 water meters, there is no way on God's earth we could put in this amount of meters. If you bought them and stacked them in the shop, it want happen. Plus Mayor Moore and I met with the guy from Itron and very few people put it in at one time because if you do that the meters only have a 20 year life span that will put you in 20 years doing it again. Most people do it in phases. For the very reason of, look at the City of Wilson, can you image if they bought 40,000 water meters. Gates: Electric will be easy. Electric is a different ball game, it will pay for itself. All you have to do is pop a meter in and pop it out. Water meters you might have to dig the meter up and the meters are different and you may have to do some alterations. Commissioner Smith: Grant money, they will not stretch that out over time are they? Aycock: No. You could put the labor into the grant to have meters installed. Commissioner Smith: Did Middlesex do theirs all at once? Aycock: They do not have the customers we do. Once you bought water meters, like Greg has already bought some you cannot apply toward grant. They gradually worked theirs in also. Gates: I went ahead and bought some 12 Itron meters

because there is no need of me buying meters we will not use after we decide to get the new system. We need them we will put them in. Commissioner Smith: What are you thinking 2 or 3 years? Gates: Something like that. That way your warranty will be phased in, if we get the money we will have to determine if you can spend that. If you phase it in you will always have meters that will be in warranty. Twenty years from now someone on the board will be saying we will have to spend a lot of money because all your meters have gone dead at once. Mayor Moore: This guy that Greg was talking about that we meet with the Itron he was going to demonstrate and Greg wanted him to demonstrate and he put one of the meters in the middle of the park where Greg had already put the electric meters in. The guy steps to the shop door and it read that water meter and read 13 of the electric meters in town. Very impressive. Gates: These water meters look at meters over a 24 hour period so when you drive by and read them it will flag a meter, it will flag a water meter that has a leak over a 24 hour period and it will print the report out when it is put in the dock at the town hall. It tells someone that you have a problem with this meter, like meter tapping, new meters like it doesn't recognize and it didn't come to the office. It will send a report that this meter is not in the system. No re-reads and it is accurate. The re-reads are done right there. The parameters are set in the handheld, like 20% higher, etc. and if it is not in those parameters it will not let you go any further until you correct the problem, and it will not let you go to the next meter until it is corrected. Commissioner Lucas: Did he give you any idea how many to do each year? Gates: He said most people do it in a span of around 3 or 4 years because of the labor to get them all in plus you always end up with meters under warranty. Commissioner Lucas: So you got 800, if you done a 100 over 8 years would that be too long to spread it out? Gates: Yes. I wouldn't spread it out that long. I was working some figures and I have not had the chance to finish them. The basic figures I was working you are looking at putting \$30 to \$36 thousand every year in the water budget to do this without a grant if you pay for it yourself. The electric, you could put it in all at once because of the difference in price plus there is no doubt when you put the electric in it will pay for itself. Commissioner Smith: If we could get a grant for all the electric we could gradually add the water. Aycock: Why not apply for it all at one time. If you get the grant it will help you in the long run with the cost. Mayor Moore: The catch now is there might not be any money left when the time comes up to apply in June. Gates: If you want to go that route we will have to do what we have to do. We need to find out what the time frame is and how quick you got to spend the money. Aycock: Usually 2 years is the time frame on most grants. Gates: There you go; you could buy a set of meters at the end of the grant. Commissioner Smith: Have you put a figure on how much we will save going this route? Gates: No, I haven't worked that out. Commissioner Smith: What are we going to save, time. Gates: They can show you the savings you can save. They already have the figures worked up. I can call the guy and he can get the figures to me. They say it cost a \$1.25 to read manually and 25 cent to read with the Itron. Commissioner Smith: We got people that can be doing something else. If they are not reading they need to be doing something else. Commissioner Godwin: They got something they can do; they only read for 3 days. Gates: There is something to do 7 days a week. Mayor Moore: Any more on that?

Toshika Smith/US Census: Thank you for inviting me to the meeting tonight. I am here from the US Census for the purpose of working up partnerships with the several entities, government, and community base, religious base in order to mobilize the community to let them know the census is coming and it is important and that it is safe. I am sure you

all know that the Census is done every 10 years and 2010 is when we have our next census. It is mandated by law that it be done every 10 years. Questionnaires will be mail out in mid March and with an expected return date of April 1. We call that Census Day. We need to get information out in the community that it is safe, if a person is here illegally it does not matter, the census bureau does not care. If they are living in a place they are not suppose to be living, if they are running from the law the census bureau just want to make sure they get an accurate count. That is how dollars come back to the community. We also need people to understand that it is easy, I don't know how many received what is called the long form in 2000, and did anyone get that long questionnaire? This time around everyone will get a form with 10 questions, easy, 10 minutes. So we want to get into the community information that it is coming and it is important for the community. Our congressional seats are based on this. We could gain or lose seats from the census. We gained a seat in 2000 and of course our congressional people are our voices. So we really need to make sure people really understand that it is important and when they get the form to fill it out and send it back in. The questionnaires are mailed to addresses not to individuals. Do most of the citizens of Black Creek get there mail from a P.O. Box? They do o.k. Most of these people will receive a visit from a census taker. In this case it will be their job to make sure everyone sees that they understand how important it is and when the census taker comes out and to cooperate with them. There are stiff fines if there is a breach of confidentiality. Everyone who works with the census has to be fingerprinted and checked out on criminal check. If there is a breach there is a \$50,000 fine and time in jail. The seriousness is taken seriously in a breach of contract. Not even the president gets data, only numbers. So what I am trying to do is touch as many communities as I can and I am asking you if you will be willing to partner with us to help you get the most accurate count for your community. Either by making commitments to do certain things to get information out, as simple as a poster in the town hall. If you will be willing to form a committee which is called a complete count committee which will be comprised of a cross section of your community who would set down and strategize ways to get information out into the community. When I say a cross section you would want people from your faith base community, people listen to their pastors, people form the businesses, and at some point in time everyone is going to touch a business or pastors. Your community based organizations if you have any of that, which may get information out to the community. You want to make sure it is culturally and have a racial diversity. One of the under counted populations is the African Americans and particularity African American male between the ages of 18 and 35. So you want to make sure you get this information out to that group of people. So I am asking if you would partner with us if you would be interesting in forming a committee I would come back and do training and help you get off the ground but it would be your committee and not something I would oversee and run. I would only serve as a resource if you needed me. Any questions? Commissioner Smith: Does it cost us anything? Ms. Smith: It depends on what you decide to do. That was a nice way to put it most people would ask me if the census was going to provide funds. It would depend on what you decide to do in terms in the way you want to promote if there was a cost associated with it, which would be your cost there are no funds made available for that purpose. But! What would come back to you in terms of 400 billion dollars that is allocated each and every year for 10 years; that is your payment because if you get a complete and accurate count then you get funds based on your count. Mayor Moore: Anybody got any comments? We can put the message on our utility bill or put posters up? Commissioner

Smith: What has the town done in the past? Ms. Smith: I will tell you some things you can do, if you have space for training or be a counted site or questionnaire center this might work. The testing and training will be determined by the census group and if we do not have a large enough applicant pool in this area of persons who are interested in being census takers then they would need space to come out and test applicants and train those people that they hire. We would also eventually need space for what is call a “Be Counted Center” which would be no more than counter space where someone for some reason was missed could come to pick up a questionnaire or if they have some people that received it in the mail and needed help that would be staffed by the census staff. We would just need the space. Agreeing to provide the space does not mean you would be selected, we have a local census office that is open in Rocky Mount and what we are doing is as we determine businesses and town councils etc. that are willing to provide that kind of space we will enter that information into a data base and then they have recruiters and they look at these sites and identify and make a decision if this would be suitable for their use. Saying you will provide a site does not mean you will be chosen. We are trying to identify space. Mayor Moore: I honestly don’t know what to say. Commissioner Smith: Anything free we will do it. Mayor Moore: Who would you get to head up committee? Commissioner Franks: We do not have to have a committee, we just have to provide a space for the census. Commissioner Lucas: Are they mailed out in March and due in April? Smith: Yes, they will be mailed in mid March. Depends on what you want to do, if you decide to form a committee of some sort to help get information out that is something you really need to start working on. We are going to kick it off in January because people need to know that it is coming and that it is important. If you provide the space for testing and training that will go a little longer. You can provide an area for information also. Mayor Moore: Will someone have to man that or will you just have materials laid out for them? Smith: For the questionnaire assistance center the census bureau will provide someone to man that . For the training and testing there will not be a situation where people will be constantly going, and census bureau person will talk with you on the date and times they can use your facility to test and train and they will manage that also. The be counted site will be nothing more but a little container for people to pick up information. Mayor Moore: Anyone have any ideas? Commissioner Smith: We will think about it and let her know. Mayor Moore: I am pretty sure we have a place for the forms you were talking about. Commissioner Smith: We can put it on the light bills. Ms. Aycock: We can put the information here and put with the bills. Commissioner Franks: If they do not have a place in Wilson County we can give them a place to meet one or two times. We don’t have to do nothing. I don’t think it would hurt to have a class over there a few times a month. Mayor Moore: The space you are talking about training is that like township or the whole county. Smith: Yes, if they need more people in this town to do take the census they would pull people from this immediate area. Mayor Moore: You would need a space to train them. Smith: Yes, that is correct. Mayor Moore: We can let them use the community building, and put the forms in the town hall and the information on the bills. Is this the form everyone will get, no long forms. Motion to put notification on the bills and place for assistance and or training if they need it: 1st Commissioner Godwin, 2nd Commissioner Lucas. Motion carried unanimously.

Hire Utility Technician: Mr. Greg Gates: I have gone through all the applications and narrowed it down to 2 people and brought them in and interviewed them and ended up with one candidate Timothy Daniels Gerrell is the one I would like to hire. I actually

interviewed him twice I didn't hold anything back on what we do here in the town.
Commissioner Smith: Where is he from? Gates: Princeton. Mayor Moore: You done a background check on him? Gates: Joe has run his driver license, past the drug test.
Commissioner Smith: He is alright driving from Princeton everyday? Are we furnishing him a truck? Mayor Moore: No, I don't think so. Gates: The only time you would furnish him a truck if he was on call. Gates: He has to be certified and all that. He will have his CDL licenses before his probation time is up. He is about to finish up his 2 year degree at Wayne Community College
Commissioner Smith: You feel good about him? Gates: I do!
Commissioner Lucas: Where was the 2nd candidate from you liked? Gates: He was from Wilson. I called all the references and that is what helped me make a decision.
Fortson: He never had a ticket for anything. Commissioner Lucas: You can run mine, I have never had a ticket either. I am 3 x 20. Mayor Moore: Any discussions, Greg has run the background on him and is satisfied with him. Motion to hire him:
Commissioner Godwin, 2nd Commissioner Smith, vote carried unanimously to start the first of year.

Commissioner Business:

Commissioner Lucas: Pass

Commissioner Franks: The only thing I got is replacing the full time police officer. We have a very good candidate in Butch Dillard but instead of going full time we will go permanent part-time. Mayor Moore: Have you talked with him? Franks: We have talked with him and we will start him off with the full time rate of pay. Of course he will get the benefits of vacation and sick pay and holidays and then he as a probation period also. Commissioner Godwin: Could that possibly be shortened with the amount of time he has already been here. He has been here since March and I would have no problem saying 30 days, he has been here long enough for us to know what kind of job he can do.
Mayor Moore: Is that something we need to vote on? Godwin: To change the probation, yes. Franks: First of all I make a motion that we put him on as permanent part-time and shorten the probation time? Motion: 1st Commissioner Franks, 2nd Commissioner Godwin, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Godwin: Pass

Commissioner Smith: How are we coming on the filtration deal? Gates: I guess the submittal has to be approved like their scada, even the contractor stated it will be sometimes in late January with the piping. Smith: Do we have a deadline on this? Gates: 300 days. It is going to happen, you will see a lot being done and then nothing being done. Moore: Didn't they say it took around 3 or 4 months to do the tanks. Smith: What is the last day we have to have this completed? Gates: You want have a problem with the deadline.

Commissioner Dawson: Pass.

Assign department to Commissioners: Motion to keep like it is by Commissioner Lucas, 2nd Commissioner Smith, vote carried unanimously.

Department Heads:

Chief Fortson: Pass

Gates: I guess you seen the sidewalks have been completed.

Aycock: Did you see the ones in the park too? Don't they look nice? Response: Yes.

Mayor Moore: The water fountain will be put up shortly, right? Did you find that water line? Gates: Ya are asking some tough questions tonight. Christmas party is Friday night. Gates: The water line has moved since we put it in, it has shifted. I am thinking we are going to jack hammer some concrete. I haven't given up on it yet, I am going to put a locator on it.

Aycock: We have submitted our preliminary application to the LGC about the sewer grant coming up. I have notified them we are going to do this project and then finish up when we find out more on the project. Hopefully we will get the USDA Grant.

Commissioner Smith: The Christmas parties you are saying kids are invited.

Commissioner Godwin: What about cardboard in our recycling? Gates: You got a circular didn't you? Godwin: Where do you want me to put the cardboard boxes at that you can't get in that door? Gates: You got boxes that big at your house? Put all your other recycling in that box. Godwin: No, he gave me a green container I got to put it in that. They will not pick it up if it is not in the green container. Did you not get a flyer? Gates: No, I didn't. Godwin: I am just asking because there are times you will have bigger boxes then what you can get in that box. One time we had a dumpster, cardboard dumpster. Only a couple of times would it get sufficiently dumped before someone would throw some trash in there and contaminate it. I don't know who the individual was or where he stayed but we have an idea. So if do go that route to get another one maybe get one that we can lock the top. Commissioner Lucas: Relocate it. Godwin: But we do need to think about that the business over her, what do they do with their cardboard? Gates: Well now you better, I would have to look at the General Statue again, but I think a business has to provide their own dumpster, you do not even have to provide them a recycle bin, they are responsible for it themselves. Godwin: O.K. Gates: That is why BB&T and places like that they have their own stuff because the city does not have to pick their cardboard up. Godwin: That is good; I can burn my cardboard then. Gates, Brother you can burn cardboard, leaves, and sticks. Commissioner Smith: They got a place on Hwy 117 for stuff like that. You take your cardboard. Godwin: They will not let you put it in there. Commissioner Smith: I go down there all the time. Godwin: You got one of those yellow stickers. Commissioner Smith: I got about 20 of them. Godwin: I will tell ya this and then I will shut up. Gail King now she is on this recycling, she has been on my case right before this come up and wanted to know why we didn't recycle, she care a bunch of stuff down to the dumpster to recycle it and they said no because you live in the town of Black Creek you cannot put it in here. That upset her apple cart. Gates: What need to happen and I have already talked to the county guy, but the county should step up and meet with all the entities inside of the counties and it should be a county wide thing. In Martin County Waste Industries does the entire county. They don't do cities or towns, they do the entire county. The county should be the lead agency and everybody county should have the same thing. They should have a bin and you could settle a lot of this. Commissioner Smith: The County is going to tell you they have it at the dump site. Gates: That is not going to keep getting it.

Mayor Moore: We forgot one thing; we did not name a Mayor Pro-tem. Commissioner Godwin; we left everything else like it was. Aycock: We didn't vote on the meter change date. Mayor Moore: That is right. Moore: What do you want to do about the Mayor Pro-tem thing? Godwin: Motion to leave it like it is, 2nd. Commissioner Franks. Motion carried unanimously.

Meter Date: Commissioner Godwin: On the light thing we said we would mail them on the 21st. and due date by the 10th. Start on March Bill. Put some information with bill so they will have at least 2 months notice. You were not in here earlier; I don't think. We changed this thing before and we had all kinds of opposition and we got harassed and threaten. Commissioner Smith: Are we going to put an explanation why? Aycock: Yes. Godwin: I make a motion we do that. Due date on the 10th cut off on the 14th. 2nd Commissioner Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Smith: What about the deposits? Aycock: \$360.00 electric, \$65.00 water. That is a renter. Godwin: If you go any higher you will have trouble getting renters to come in town. Aycock: It has not slowed renters down any, they still come in and a lot leave after a few months. Commissioner Smith: What does other towns do? Aycock: They have done like we have; increased their deposits because they are losing money on renters leaving without paying. Pikeville, Fremont, etc. They are at the same rate we are. They have followed what we have been doing because they are losing a lot of money. You can't do that anymore because of the cost of electricity now. Commissioner Lucas: I want mine back; it was \$3.00 in 1948 at that house. I found it after Mommy died in a chester drawer's when the lights were turned on. So I want my deposit. Gates: Do you want the interest on the money also.

Mayor Moore: Christmas Party 7:00 p.m. Friday and families are invited. I reckon everyone has things lined up. Gates: Commissioner Smith is handling it. Moore: I thought you were cooking. He is cooking and you are assisting. Gates: He is the department head; I am working for Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Smith: Well. If all goes wrong don't look at me. Gates: A true politician.

Mayor Moore: The town hall will be December 24th and 25th. No one in audience. Motion to adjourn.

Mayor Howard Moore

Barbara Aycock
Secretary to Board

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