

**TOWN OF BLACK CREEK**  
REGULAR  
TOWN BOARD MEETING

Date: September 12, 2006

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Black Creek Town Hall

Present: Mayor Howard Moore, Commissioners Seltzer, Franks, Lucas, Smith, Godwin

Absent: None

Minutes Taped Yes

QUORUM PRESENT: YES

Mayor Moore: I declare September 12 regular board meeting open. Motion and consideration to pay September bills. Motion made by Commissioner Lucas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Godwin. Motion Carried. Motion to approve minutes for August Meeting.

Commissioner Seltzer: Motion to approve with the addition of the winning bid on the fence. Seager's bid is not listed on the minutes, and it needs to be included for the record in the minutes.

Mayor Moore: Motion made by Commissioner Seltzer to amend the minutes to show the price of the winning fence bid. Seconded by Commissioner Godwin. All in favor say I. Motion carried. New Business. Miss Heather Proctor Aging Director for the Upper Coastal Plains Council of Government will provide a presentation for the board.

Heather Proctor: Good evening! I'm Heather Proctor from the Upper Coastal Plains Area Agency on Aging. I have Judy Mansel here with me who is the care giver coordinator for Wilson County. I'm going to take just a few minutes tonight to talk to you about a new project that is happening in Wilson County, and ask for your assistance in finding someone local to be part of that project. In your packet there's a couple of things that I'm going to point out. One is the Area Aging brochure. I'm not going to go through all of our services, because that's not why I'm here tonight. But we do offer a lot to help senior adults. And when you have an opportunity to glance at this and feel free to make referrals if you have seniors that need assistance. There is also several pages of demographics that pertain to Wilson County. Something that isn't in your presentation, is something I came across while working on another presentation for the State of NC, by 2030 we will have more people 60 plus than we do 0 to 17 age group. That will be the same here in Wilson County as the state wide statistic is showing. Looking more closely at what we need to do for seniors. If you turn through the presentation you will find a slide that has 5 pictures on it. I'm not actually going to ask for a show of hands, but I'd

like you to look at that and just decide which one you feel are senior adults. It's kind of an exercise to draw your attention to a few things. Most people will answer 1 or 4, those are the most common answers. Four would probably be the closest of the ones that are listed here, but number 5 is the true answer. With baby boomers and our changing health demographics you cannot tell just by looking at someone. Not every senior has gray hair, and live in a nursing home. Many are very active at home and live within your community. The next slide talks just a little bit about the Area on Aging, and which counties we serve. It's our goal to work closely with community programs. And basically give senior adults choices and retain their independence and remain at home if that is what they choose. The next slide shows how many you have in Black Creek at 55 and over, and 23% of your population in 2011 will be 55 plus. For Wilson County as a whole it's 27%. 25% is the projection for the state. As a county you are over the statewide projection. The next slide is a fact that a 61 year old may have at least 47 years left of their life. So what that means is are we ready individually and financially, and psychologically to live that late. And as communities, are we ready for that kind of aging. Baby boomers have changed the way a society does things since they were in diapers and will continue to do so as they age. The reality of it is that baby boomers are a huge portion of our population. They are a demanding group and because they are such a large group they get what they ask for. They are going to be asking for services as they age. The first baby boomer turned 60 this year. They are now able to get most of our services for senior adults. The division of aging and adult services received a grant from the administration on aging. It's a 3 year grant to address how we are planning for the growth in our senior population in the coming years. We are one of eight states that received that grant. We're one of the three in the state that they are working with and in turn we chose Wilson County to work with. The bottom line is we really need to look at how we're going to care for seniors in the next several years. What we would like from Black Creek is to hear what your community needs one for us to make a difference in Wilson County as a whole. We're looking for someone who is at least 55 years old. Someone who is not working in the area of aging. Someone who wants to advocate and believes in senior issues, and is willing to volunteer and is concerned about seniors in the area and in Wilson County. There will be a monthly meeting for them to attend. The projects in the community would be attending town meetings and doing surveys. Just getting out there so we hear from seniors in settings that they are comfortable in. Basically your help is needed for today's older adults. Anything we do to prepare for seniors is going to help everyone. I'm here to tell you briefly about the grant. And how we'll be going out and gathering data. It doesn't always take money to help seniors with what they need, such as transportation. I'll follow up with a letter asking you to appoint someone to serve on that committee, and bring your voice to the table as we work on this project. There will be one officially appointed individual but if you have others that want to get involved there is a lot of work we can do. The more people we have involved the better. Thank you.

Mayor Moore We will now hear from Mike Aquesta from NC Regional Wastewater

Mike Aquesta: Good Evening everyone. The County of Wilson received a grant to look at the possibility of a land application waste water treatment plant in Southern Wilson

County, which included Black Creek, Lucama, Stantonsburg, Saratoga, and parts of Wilson County. A couple of years ago we did a study similar to this, but we looked at not just land application but all types of waste water treatment. That report came up with the alternative of sending the waste water from all these towns to the Town of Stantonsburg Waste Water Treatment Plant, and upgrading that plant. Stantonsburg didn't like that idea. Former Mayor Ralph Smith decided it would be a worthwhile task to look at the possibility of a land application type plan. One of the reasons we're looking at land application is the nitrogen pounds that Black Creek and Lucama once upon a time had less you go through a long legal battle to get them returned. With land application you don't have to have those pounds. You just spray the waste water out on the soil and let the soil do its thing.

Commissioner Seltzer: Is that why it would not be feasible to try and build a waste water treatment plant?

Mike Aquesta: That's right. You would not be allowed to dump into Contentnea Creek, or any other place in the Neuse River basin, unless you had those pounds or you buy additional pounds. It doesn't have anything to do with the contract. You would never get it back. Unless you go through some legal battle with the City of Wilson. The state law that decided all this stuff about the nitrogen pounds had written into it, that anybody that was connected to a large municipality, the pounds that you once owned were given to that municipality.

Commissioner Seltzer: So you've never had an incident where a municipality broke out on its own and was granted some poundage to deal with.

Mike Aquesta: Not since this law went into effect, and if you're in the Neuse River basin. In other basins it's not this way. Tar River basin is getting that way too. When we first starting looking at this alternative, Ralph had talked about the possibility of using his land. And leasing his land for a dollar a day. Ralph doesn't have enough land, and Mack doesn't have enough land. So Mack brought up some other alternatives. We have looked at the other alternatives and they are presented here as well. Because the grant was originally obtained with the idea of leasing the land for a dollar a day we still had to do that, because it's in the grant application.

Mayor Moore: You said, a dollar a day, you meant a dollar a year.

Mike Aquesta: Yes. We have about a 15 minute presentation. Mayor Smith mentioned something about leasing land for a dollar a year, so we looked at that. Another possible option is to purchase the additional land we need for \$2500.00 per acre. Another way was to try and see if we could get affordable rates for Black Creek, Lucama, and Saratoga, Stantonsburg and even in the county. They have areas of growth in southern Wilson County that can participate. The big driver here is that The City of Wilson increased their bulk rates by almost 12.3%. We had discussions with the city manager. They indicated that next year the rates would probably go up 6 to 7%. And each year after that between 3 and 5%. So we took the 12.3% and we used the 7% and did it both ways with

3% and 5% over the next 20 years. Your rate right now is \$2.56 per hundred cubic feet. Converting that to 1000 gallons it's \$3.42. Saratoga rates went up as well. This is the track of land, there's Black Creek. The cemetery is right here. Here is Mayor Smith's land. That would not be enough for Black Creek, and Lucama for 20 years so there's a track of land on the left side, it's about 140 some odd acres. And other options if Saratoga and Stantonburg join in, you would need option number 3. Altogether we looked at 3 alternatives, one with Black Creek, and Lucama, one with adding Saratoga, and alternative 3 is adding Saratoga, and Stantonburg. Track 1: the soil is not good for land application and you can't spray much on it. So that is where we have to put our lagoons. This plan is going to be about .65 million gallons per day capacity. We would put our lagoons here, two treatment lagoons, and two holding ponds. Having the lagoons down there also has them further away from any residential areas. '

Mayor Moore: This goes to the lift station that's out on Evansdale Rd. Is that the lift station that is there now?

Steve Scruggs: That's right. We would need to upgrade it some. Then we would abandon this force main. This is the force main now that goes to Wilson

Commissioner Seltzer: So we're talking about raw sewage lagoons. How far is that from B.C.? Mr. Scruggs responds, it's about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. And you're not going to smell that in B.C. *MR Scruggs responded, I wouldn't guarantee that you wouldn't smell it. I wouldn't either.*

Steve Scruggs: Alternative two would be having Saratoga joining in. Here's Saratoga and we'd have a force main all the way over and connect into the existing force main. We'd abandon this part of it and then reuse this stretch here and go back to the Contentnea Creek pump station then on back down to the site like in alternative one. With Saratoga coming on board, plus the county we're up to 900,000. gallons per day. Now if Stantonburg were to come on board along with Saratoga; Black Creek and Lucama would continue to go on down to the Contentnea creek pump station. Let's talk about the cost, with alternative one, that's you and Lucama 7.4 million dollar lease plan, if we had to purchase it would be about 8.1 million dollars. Alternative two would be about 12 million with lease plan, and then 12.8 million purchasing the land. Alternative 3 with Stantonburg coming on board would be about 14.6 million dollars. The counties growth areas, one is with the Drivers Store area. This cannot be part of alternative one with you, because there is no way to get the waste water over there. But it is definitely a growth area. But if Saratoga came on board with a force main all the way over to Contentnea creek then it would open up the area for a line and pump station down 264 put a pump station there and pump it across. So that would be part of alternative 2 and 3. The county facilities we figured we'd do as phase 2, phase 1 is let's get the facilities up and running, then we give the county time to advertise and get some developers on board. Let the developers help pay for some of these pump stations and force mains. The Evansdale area as you know there would be sewer along the creek. Pump station would be there pump it back up and then across, again reuse the existing force main to Contentnea creek pump station. Another growth area is here north of Black Creek. One

area is up hwy 117, a force main would tie into your existing grounded sewer with the force main to the pumping station there at Yank Rd. That would open up this whole area left and right to pump over, or grounded sewer could be installed, and continue further north to another pump station north of FPC Rd. Another growth area along Carr Rd there is a low area right in this area it could flow by gravity to this pump station. A growth area in Lucama north of their existing pump station grounded sewer going across 301 would open this entire area up. That's the counties participation. It's very costly which is why we bring it up in two phases. We did look at several alternatives for funding. USDA loan rate right now is 4.3%. There's not much grant money out there. In summery, the land application waste water is feasible. The break even points are 2011 and 2014. I'll be glad to answer any questions.

Mike Aquesta: One thing I would like to say is Elm City has a waste water lagoon less than a mile from downtown. If you go to Elm City you won't smell it. It's because it's in a low spot.

Commissioner Seltzer: I have seen waste water treatment facilities and they stink.

Mike Aquesta: Well if you are right there at them they do, but if you are half a mile away you don't smell them.

Commissioner Seltzer: You know where the Tar River waste water treatment plant is. How many lagoons and how many gallons of waste are we talking about storing? In just the Black Creek area.

Mike Aquesta: If you take 650,000 gallons a day and multiply it by 45 days I think it's around 15 million gallons. That's how big the holding ponds would be. The treatment lagoons would be 30 days worth of storage for treatment purposes. They are 2 5 acre lagoons that are about 6 feet deep. The storage lagoons are very close to the same.

Commissioner Seltzer: That's 20 acres of raw waste, and then you're talking about each phase bringing in somebody else, that's more. In the summer the winds blow south.

Mike Aquesta: There's no aeration it's not being sprayed up in the air like waste water plants you're talking about.

Commissioner Godwin: Isn't this a land application? Doesn't it have to be sprayed on the land? Then it's going to be in the air. Why does Stantonsburg keep popping up? They are not interested in coming in; they want to do their own thing.

Commissioner Seltzer: I think I'll go to Elm City. I want to see what it looks like.

Mike Aquesta: Talking about phase one with just you and Lucama. You are talking about 400 acres and quite a bit of it is swamp land.

Commissioner Seltzer: Is this in a low spot Is there any development at all any where around this area

Commissioner Smith: Let me ask you a question. I read that report and the best I can understand is you need 161 acres to spray on. How many clear acres do you need for alternative one? So I can look at the report and possibly calculate it?

Commissioner Godwin: On these land application fields, could they not raise crops on it? Yes, but you can't use anything that would be fed to a human

Commissioners Seltzer and Smith: How can they derate your field if you are over watering. You spray so much the water table gets up and the ground can't absorb any more water. Who's monitoring that? The government. They come out and check it periodically. You have to have a permit. Elm City has this. In eastern NC a lot of towns have this. We lost our nitrogen pounds because we were unaware the legislation passed a law. How can somebody take something from you when you don't know that they took it. I disagree that you can't get it back somehow. There's definitely something wrong with this picture. There's no such thing as a law that can't be turned around.

Mayor Moore: Does this complete this study? No, the next step is for you to decide if you want to move forward or not. I'm not asking you to do that tonight. I want to present this to all the towns in the county before that. When that's done I'm going to write a resolution for each town, saying that you support or don't support. The next step is to form a sewer authority. That's all that's on our agenda, I guess we get into commissioner and department head business. Roland do you have anything.

Commissioner Lucas: The only thing I've got is that the library roof has been done. The park fence is up but I don't like the gate. I understand we have a leak in the community building. We can just patch it ourselves it doesn't sound like a big problem, it's a small leak. That's all I've got.

Commissioner Godwin: While you are in there, the people who have used the community bldg have parked on the grass instead of using the parking lot Can we high light on the rules that if you park on the grass you lose your deposit?

Superintendent Gates: If you are going to build a bathroom and eventually a gazebo then they are going to have to stop parking on the grass.

Mayor Moore: Motion made by Commissioner Lucas to add not parking on the grass to the list of rules for renting the community bldg. Second by Commissioner Seltzer all in favor, all opposed. Motion carried. Commissioner Franks do you have any thing?

Commissioner Franks: Greg, did you have a safety meeting? Gates responds, yes. That's all I have.

Mayor Moore: Commissioner Godwin. No. Mack do you have anything. No. Commissioner Seltzer?

Commissioner Seltzer: The grass over here on Sweetwater Properties, that's inside the city limits don't you think we need to contact them and have them bush hog at least every now and then, if their not going to build right away. I make a motion we contact them and have them cut their grass.

Mayor Moore: Motion made by Commissioner Seltzer, second by Commissioner Godwin, I all in favor say I , all opposed. Motion carried. Motion to talk to Cenie Lamms family about cutting her grass in the back, and if they don't handle it the town will. Motion made by Commissioner Seltzer, second by Commissioner Godwin, all in favor, all opposed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Seltzer: No trash cans that are not the towns will be dumped any cans other than the towns found out beside the road will be considered littering, I make that motion.

Mayor Moore: So the only thing you will pick up on Mondays is yard debris. Motion made by Commissioner Seltzer that no other cans by dumped except the towns, second by Commissioner Lucas, all in favor, all opposed. Motion carried. Department Head business, Greg do you have anything? Candy, do you? Anybody in the audience. Please step up to the podium, Mrs. Glover.

Eleanor Glover: I think you know what I'm here for. I've been here so many times about the ditch behind my house. When we got nine inches of rain the other day the water stood in my back yard because it couldn't go down the ditch. The pine trees that are down below my house on the back of the ditch, all that pine straw was in there and the water can't go anywhere. There's trees grown up in that ditch. If it's my responsibility then I'm going to have it filled in. I can't afford to pay anybody to keep it cleaned out. They say half that ditch is mine and half is the man behind me. The man behind me has never done anything. We tried to keep ours up until those trees got so big we can't do anything.

Mayor Moore: How big are the trees now. Commissioner Seltzer states that some of them are getting some size on them.

Commissioner Seltzer: We can't go around cleaning everybody's ditches out. Ms. Glover responds that if it's her responsibility then she will have the ditch filled in. If you dam it up it's going to create more problems, where is the water going to go, it's going to your yard.

Eleanor Glover: How come ya'll came out there year before last, but you won't do anything now? Gates responds that it was the goodness of the town, but not the towns responsibility, after all it is a private ditch. Well, if it's a private ditch, then I'll have the men out where I work come and fill it in. I can't afford to pay somebody \$100.00 a

month to come out and clean it. I don't make that kind of money. Superintendent Gates, Commissioners and Mayor all reply that they will get the inmates to go out and clean the ditch when they come again. They won't take the trees out, but they will get the pine straw and the debris out. Ms. Glover ask what can be done about those trees.

Commissioner Seltzer responds that anything that hangs over to her side of the ditch, she can cut. I can't get down in the ditch to cut trees. Commissioner Seltzer states that we just do not have the man power to go and clean out all the ditches in town. There are some people that wouldn't let us because it's private property. One more thing, the first speed bump down on Branch St. Every time there are two people in my car we scrub. It's too high it needs to be lowered down a little bit.

Mayor Moore: Don't it meet specifications Greg? Thank you, Ms Glover we will certainly try to help you with these things. We'll get the inmates to clean the ditch, and we will work on grinding the speed bump down some. I've got some important dates to announce, Barbara is going to be in New Bern for debt set off meetings September 21<sup>st</sup>, she's going to be at UNC School of Government the 25<sup>th</sup> thru the 29<sup>th</sup>, Heritage Day is October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of September here at the town hall at 2pm we're going to open, hopefully, some favorable bids on our construction of our Frank Price Church Rd water line. Do I hear a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner Godwin, all in favor say I, all apposed. Meeting adjourned

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Mayor Howard Moore

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Barbara Aycock, Secretary to Board