

## **TOWN OF UNIONVILLE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**

The Town of Unionville Town Council held a special meeting with Town of Fairview on Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at 7:00 pm in Piedmont High School's cafeteria. Mayor Simpson and all Unionville commissioners were present. Mayor Long and several Fairview commissioners were also present.

Mayor Simpson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag, and called the meeting to order.

Mayor Simpson recognized Kym Hunter and Frank Holleman from Southern Environmental Law Center and turned the meeting over to Mr. Holleman. Mr. Holleman thanked Mr. Jonathan Tyson, principal of Piedmont High School. Mr. Holleman then gave a power point overview of the proposed Monroe bypass project, stating that it is a 19.7 mile four-lane road from Marshville to Stallings with nine interchanges. The toll for an automobile is \$2.50 each way. The total cost of the project is \$900 million. His firm brought a legal challenge against the highway, and the court ordered the North Carolina Department of Transportation to reevaluate its review of the bypass.

Kym Hunter updated everyone on what has happened since the court decision. She stated that three municipalities—Hemby Bridge, Weddington and Mineral Springs—have passed resolutions asking NCDOT to reconsider alternatives to the current proposed bypass. There is one other toll road in the state in Raleigh. Toll charges are \$2.34 to save 30 minutes. Ms. Hunter stated that the proposed Monroe bypass will only save 9-10 minutes if the entire road is used. Ms. Hunter stated that the NCDOT projects less than 1% impact on growth from the bypass. The SELC is not in favor of Highway 218 becoming the bypass. Rather, they propose updates to Martin Luther King Drive, Secrest Short Cut and Old Monroe/Charlotte Highway. Their reasons for opposition are that the state does not have the funds and there are other traffic needs in the the county.

Beth Ram stated that there have been improvements in Charlotte she would like to see in Union County.

Jerry Clontz disagreed with the estimated time saving of 9-10 minutes from Stallings to Marshville. Ms. Hunter stated that they hired a private company with a Global Positioning System to drive Highway 74 at different times of the day, and these were their findings.

Someone asked why the bypass is being considered if the state doesn't have \$900 million. Ms. Hunter stated that because bonds were already sold the bypass is still being planned.

Someone asked where the toll money would go if it wouldn't support the bypass. Ms. Hunter stated that the tolls will go toward the project, but wouldn't be enough to pay for it entirely.

Phil Thomas stated that an intersection is needed every 2 miles and asked who has purchased property around the intersections. Ms. Hunter stated that a North Carolina Congressman owns land along one interchange. Someone else asked who the Congressman is. Ms. Hunter would not answer.

A Fairview resident encouraged them to ask NCDOT to explore alternatives.

Someone asked what happens to the funds if the bypass is not built. Ms. Hunter stated North Carolina's treasurer has asked that bonds be used for other projects.

Arnold Melton stated that Highway 218 serves as the bypass now. Ms. Hunter stated that they do not support Highway 218 as the alternate bypass. They suggest that impact on Highway 218 be studied and parts of Highway 218 improved.

Marie Hinson stated that NCDOT has labeled Highway 218 as the most dangerous road in North Carolina.

Someone asked if NCDOT has responded to the three towns who have signed resolutions against the proposed bypass. Mayor Rick Becker of Mineral Springs stated that they have not received a response.

Glenn Greene asked what the main objective is tonight. Mr. Holleman stated that they wanted to share Southern Environmental Law Center's perspective with the community, and then it is up to the community how they deal with this information. Mr. Holleman referred to the handout, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

Beth Ram asked if the Town Council would have authority to condemn property for this project. Ms. Hunter stated that she didn't think they would be able to do that.

There being no other comments or questions, Mayor Simpson thanked everyone for coming and for their thoughts.

Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Edd Little, Council unanimously adjourned the special meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya W. Gaddy  
Clerk

Approved as to form:

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R. Kenneth Helms, Jr., Town Attorney