

The Lincoln County Board of County Commissioners met as the governing body of the East Lincoln County Water and Sewer District at the Citizens Center, Third Floor, 115 West Main Street, Lincolnton, North Carolina, the regular place of meeting at 6:30 p.m. on April 20, 1998. The following were present:

Louis E. McConnell, Chairman
James A. Hallman, Vice Chairman
Terry L. Brotherton
Larry S. Craig
Beth H. Saine

Jeff Taylor, Assistant County Attorney
Richard French, County Manager
Stan Kiser, Assistant County Manager

Also present were Doug Chapman, County Engineer, Jack Chandler, Director of Public Service, and Amy S. Long, Clerk to the Board.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McConnell called the April 20, 1998 meeting of the East Lincoln County Water and Sewer District Board to order.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman McConnell presented the April 20, 1998 agenda of the East Lincoln County Water and Sewer District Board for adoption.

AGENDA

**EAST LINCOLN COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GOVERNING BODY
LINCOLN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

APRIL 20, 1998

6:30 PM Call to Order

	6:30 PM	Adoption of Agenda
1.	6:30 PM	Approval of Minutes March 16, 1998
2.	6:35 PM	District Update –Jack Chandler, Public Service Director
3.	6:40 PM	Annexations
4.	6:50 PM	Griffin Brothers Request for Capacity Fees For Waterside Crossing
		Adjourn

Commissioner Larry Craig motioned that the agenda of the April 20, 1998 East Lincoln County Water and Sewer District Board be adopted.

Seconded by Commissioner Beth Saine.
Unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 16, 1998

Chairman McConnell presented the minutes of the March 16, 1998 meeting for approval.

A motion by Commissioner Terry Brotherton to approve the minutes of the March 16, 1998 meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Larry Craig.
Unanimously approved.

REPORT ON SEWER DISTRICT ACTIVITIES – JACK CHANDLER, PUBLIC SERVICE DIRECTOR

Jack Chandler, Public Service Director, gave an update on the number of customers in the district. He commented that as of April 16, 1998, the County is scheduled to bill 528 bills in May, for sewer usage for the month of April. He stated that there are currently 324 applications, including customers who have paid their application fee in full and those making payments. Mr. Chandler stated that there were 509 customers billed in April for March usage. He stated that it is encouraging to see the steady growth.

Mr. Chandler presented the following letter from Ray Holmes, Chairman of the East Lincoln County Water and Sewer Advisory Committee:

Raymond H. Holmes
Chairman East Lincoln County Water &
Sewer Advisory Committee

Chairman Louis McConnell
Lincoln County
115 W. Main Street
Lincolnton, NC 28092

April 17, 1998

Dear Chairman McConnell:

Several pertinent Sewer District funding issues were discussed last night at the monthly Sewer Advisory Committee meeting. These issues resulted in two motions which were adopted unanimously and will appear in the minutes to be approved during the May 14, 1998 monthly meeting. Due to the May 7, 1998 workshop with the Commissioners and the staff, we thought it advisable to communicate these motions to you by letter in advance of our May meeting.

Issue #1 – address the commitment made to the voters immediately prior to the 1993 election in the published “FACTS” – “Questions and Answers” brochure which stated – “Who pays for the system?” and one of the answers was – “Customers of district businesses (portion of sales tax receipts).” The adopted motion was:

“Transform a portion of existing sales tax funds collected by the County within the District for use in the support of the District in the 1998/1999 Sewer District Budget”.

Issue #2 – addresses the perceived requirement for legislative approval to implement any non existing fees or taxes as proposed by certain commissioners and the Sewer Task Force. Our concern is that budget proposals to reduce property taxes by compensatory increases in usage and connection fees will further erode the District’s ability to attract new customer to the system. Increases in usage fees also penalize sewer users who have connected to the system and are also taxed on property. The adopted motion was:

“For the 1998/1999 Sewer District Budget there be no increase in usage fees, and only the scheduled 10% increase in the Sewer Availability Fee within the District and the scheduled increase in the Sewer Availability Fee within the District. Transfer, not loan, other County revenues to the Sewer District, to minimize the increase in the Sewer Tax Rate.

Issue #3 – a motion to review our October 30, 1997 support of the Waste water Capacity Fee was not supported by a seconding motion and therefore failed.

We look forward to participating in your May 7, 1998 Workshop and a resultant resolution to the Sewer District funding issues.

Sincerely,

Raymond Holmes
Chairman Sewer Advisory Board

Cc: Terry Brotherton, Commissioner
Larry S. Craig, Commissioner
James Hallman, Commissioner
Beth H. Saine, Commissioner
Richard French, County Manager

Commissioner James Hallman stated that in reference to the brochures that were put out prior to the election, there was all kinds of information issued by a lot of different people. He stated that what matters is what was printed on the ballot and voted on.

Commissioner Larry Craig stated that with the budget coming up, the Board is going to have to look for the fairest measure to justify the debt in the East Lincoln Sewer District.

Jack Chandler stated that there are 3 members of the East Lincoln Sewer Advisory Committee whose terms will be expiring at the end of June, 1998, and another in September, 1998. He stated that there is currently one vacancy.

A motion by Commissioner Terry Brotherton to dismantle the East Lincoln Sewer Task Force and the East Lincoln County Water and Sewer Advisory Committee, sending each member a letter thanking them for the work they have done and a Lincoln County Volunteer pin.

Seconded by Commissioner Beth Saine.
Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Terry Brotherton stated that he has a problem with the Task Force's proposal. He stated that the Task Force started out with 18 members, and when the proposal was voted on there were only 8 members present, which was not a quorum. He stated that he questions whether the proposal should even be considered.

Commissioner James Hallman stated that both groups gave the Board some advice and the advice should be considered. He stated that the Board appreciates what the groups did.

Commissioner Larry Craig stated that the groups need to be commended for giving their time and effort.

ANNEXATIONS

Doug Chapman, County Engineer, stated that there are several areas to be annexed including Sail View Subdivision, West Bay, Forest Hills, Minnow Pond, Denver Industrial Park III, Property of H. Edward Knox and Frances S. Knox, and Property of Park West Investments. He stated that a public hearing needs to be set for May 27, 1998.

A motion by Commissioner Larry Craig to set the public hearing for May 27, 1998 at 7:30 PM for Annexation of these properties.

Seconded by Commissioner James Hallman.
Unanimously approved.

GRiffin BROTHERS REQUEST FOR CAPACITY FEES FOR WATERSIDE CROSSING

Commissioner Larry Craig stated that he had a conversation with the Griffins and would like to postpone this item until May 4, 1998.

A motion by Commissioner Larry Craig to defer this item until May 4, 1998.

Seconded by Commissioner James Hallman.
Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Terry Brotherton stated that the Board has been talking about the connections by unlicensed plumbers. He stated that there is a very gray area, but he would like to see the Board give it a trial period, possibly six months.

Jeff Taylor, Assistant County Attorney, stated that they do not see any problem with this if the Board wants to proceed with it. He stated that there would need to be a disclaimer message.

Doug Chapman, County Engineer, stated that the Collections Permit for the low pressure sewer requires the County to train the installers. He stated that the training does not certify their installation. He stated that nobody gets the pumps for installation unless they have been through the training, and there could be a disclaimer in this process. Mr. Chapman stated that currently the classes are scheduled every first and third Tuesday.

A motion by Commissioner Terry Brotherton to say that anyone has the right to do the plumbing work for the installation and connection to the main sewer line if they

have completed the approved training session and signed the disclaimer, effective as soon as individuals receive the training.

Seconded by Commissioner Larry Craig.
Unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

Commissioner James Hallman made a motion to adjourn the East Lincoln County Water and Sewer meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Larry Craig.
Unanimously approved.