

**LINCOLN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES
APRIL 24, 1997**

The Lincoln County Board of County Commissioners met jointly with the Lincolnton-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce on April 24, 1997 at the Citizens Center, Commissioners Room, 115 West Main Street, Lincolnton, North Carolina, the regular place of meeting at 7:00 PM. The following were present:

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

Don Pendleton, County Attorney
Jeffrey Taylor, Assistant County Attorney
Richard French, County Manager

Chamber of Commerce Members present were:

Ken Kindley
Patsy Black
David Wilson
Neil Ferguson
Danny Richard
Hollis Henderson
Bo Moore
Jim Warren

Also present was Rebecca B. Shoupe, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McConnell called the April 24, 1997 meeting to order.

Chairman McConnell thanked the Lincolnton-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Association, and Lincoln County School Board representatives for coming to the meeting.

Patsy Black, Chairman of the Lincolnton-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce thanked Ann Gaither, Lincoln County's Department of Transportation Representative, for coming to the meeting.

Bo Moore, Chairman of the Transportation Committee, stated that the Transportation Committee has been actively involved in the Highway 16 project.

REPORT ON HIGHWAY 16 PROJECT--ANN GAITHER AND NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Ann Gaither, Lincoln County's Department of Transportation Representative, stated that with her from the N. C. Department of Transportation were Ray Spangler, Division Engineer from the Department of Transportation Office in Shelby; Frank Vick, Manager of Planing and Environmental Branch in Raleigh; and Tom Kendig, Project Manager for the Highway 16 project.

Mrs. Gaither gave an overall view of the transportation program in Lincoln County. Mrs. Gaither stated that the projects that are being completed are Highway 321 from the Gaston County line to the Startown Road in Catawba County, reconnection of Gaston Street to give hospital better access, replacement of bridge on Main Street downtown Lincolnton, replacement of bridge over Leepers Creek, and replacement of bridge on Vesuvius Furnace Road.

Mrs. Gaither stated that in the last four years Lincoln County has had 31 miles of secondary roads paved and spent over \$4 million. Usually every four years the Department of Transportation prioritizes the unpaved roads in the county then roads are paved by priority.

Mrs. Gaither stated that the current projects of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) are as follows:

1. Highway 150 from Gaston County near Crouse to new Highway 321 which will cost \$31 million.
2. Highway 16 which will cost \$111,000,000.
3. A feasibility study on the next project that we are looking at is Highway 73 and that would be how Highway 73 will be linked with Highways 150 and 321.

Mrs. Gaither stated that there are two spot safety improvement projects that will be done this summer:

1. A turn lane at East Lincoln Middle School on Highway 27
2. An improvement at intersection Highways 73 and 27

Mrs. Gaither introduced Frank Vick, Manager of Planning and Environmental Branch in Raleigh.

Mr. Vick stated that planning for the new Highway 16 has proceeded rapidly since it began in 1992. Right-of-way acquisition is scheduled to begin later this year. Mr. Vick stated that it usually takes a project of this magnitude an average of seven to eight years to get to right-of-way.

Mr. Vick stated that later this year maps will be displayed to show the exact location of Highway 16.

Mrs. Gaither stated that the Highway 16 project is already 90 percent funded.

Mrs. Gaither introduced Tom Kendig, Project Manager for the Highway 16 project.

Mr. Kendig stated that Mrs. Gaither has been pushing the Highway 16 project hard.

Mr. Kendig stated that the project has three phases:

First phase: South of Lucia to Highway 73
Right-of-way acquisition scheduled to begin in 1997
Construction starting in 1999

Second phase: Highway 73 to St. James Church Road
Right-of-way acquisition scheduled to begin in 1999
Construction starting in 2001

Third phase: Denver to Highway 150
Right-of-way acquisition scheduled to begin in 2002
Construction starting 2004

Mrs. Gaither stated that officials are hopeful the timetable can be accelerated.

Mrs. Gaither opened the meeting for public questions

Chairman McConnell called for a brief recess.

Chairman McConnell called the meeting back to order.

Commissioner James Hallman requested that the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners send a letter of support for the Smart Start Program of the Partnership for Children of Lincoln/Gaston Counties.

It was a consensus of the Board that Chairman McConnell send a letter of support for the Smart Start Project of the Partnership for Children of Lincoln/Gaston Counties.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman McConnell advised that there was a need for a Closed Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

Commissioner James Hallman motioned that the Board go in to Closed Session.

Seconded by Commissioner Beth Saine.
Unanimously approved.

Commissioner James Hallman motioned for the Board to come out of Closed Session.

Seconded by Commissioner Larry Craig.
Unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

Being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, Chairman McConnell entertained a motion to adjourn the April 24, 1997 meeting.

Commissioner Larry Craig motioned that the Board adjourn.

Seconded by Commissioner Beth Saine.
Unanimously approved.