

**VILLAGE OF TOBACCOVILLE
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2009 10:00 AM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Keith Snow called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and stated the purpose of the meeting, which was to conduct a joint Listening Tour for the Village Council and the Forsyth County Commissioners to discuss issues among the two boards that affect the Village of Tobaccoville and Forsyth County. Councilor Mark Baker gave the invocation. Present and representing the Village of Tobaccoville were Mayor Keith Snow, Councilor Mark Baker, Councilor Myron Marion, and Administrator Dan Corder. Present and representing Forsyth County were: Chairman David R. Plyler, Vice Chair Debra Conrad, Commissioner Richard V. Linville, Commissioner Walter Marshall, Commissioner Gloria D. Whisenhunt, County Manager Dudley Watts, Assistant Manager Damon Sanders Pratt, Attorney Davida Martin, and Clerk Carla Holt. Also present was Wes Young representing the Winston-Salem Journal. Total attendance for the meeting was 14.

The following items were discussed during the meeting as being concerns within the Village:

- **Firing Range** – The purchase of a large tract of land by the City of Winston-Salem for a firing range which will be used jointly by the City and the County has and continues to be a concern of the Village Board and the County Commissioners. The Village Council does not want an outdoor range at this location due to the proximity it is in relative to the Village Park and nearby developments. Noise and danger from such a range would be detrimental to the Park and to the nearby residents. The Village Council is not opposed to an indoor range being located on this property or other uses for training such as a driving training area for law enforcement. The latest study has recommended an indoor range that potentially and more cost effectively could be located near the Forsyth Tech campus in King. Such a facility will be better served to handle training needs and schedules than an outdoor range. It is important for the two boards and staff to communicate as plans go forward for any future uses of the purchased property should the County be involved in the decision making or planning process.
- **Yadkin River Overlay Plan** – The two boards discussed Village participation in a group that is in the process of recommending a future use plan for the area in western Forsyth County. This Yadkin River Overlay Plan could have some merit, but if such a plan emerges as being supportive of ETJ by the various municipalities participating in the plan, there could be problems with support from the County. The towns and

Villages need to be careful with how this plan could be potentially laid out.

- **Growth** - Tobaccoville is the last segment of Forsyth County which is rural in nature and how this area develops is a concern for both the Commissioners and the Village Council. The Village was advised to please continue to plan for organized growth. A plan adopted several years ago by both boards (Village Land Use Plan) lays out the establishment of Village Centers, Commercial Centers, and residential development, and is a strong foundation going forward. Support from the County for this plan is very important because all Planning and Zoning decisions are done by Forsyth County. The Village is still comfortable with this arrangement and does not wish to form its own planning or zoning board.
- **Law Enforcement** - The Village is currently being patrolled by the Sheriff's Department and Village citizens contribute to this cost by paying county taxes. There is currently no additional charge to municipal cost for patrolling within Village limits. The Village operates with an extremely low tax base of .05 cents per hundred and it's taxable base is also low. It would cost the Village .06 cents per hundred on the tax base just to add one deputy within the limits. The Village would like to leave things the way they are without having to pay any additional cost should the Sheriff's department expand due to need. The Village currently has an office which the deputies patrolling the area can use to save time and link up with the downtown offices and this has been a resource for the department and an added presence for the Village. The Sheriff's Department was commended for it's professionalism and the quality of the officers who patrol the area. The department is giving feedback on a monthly report to the Village on incidents and response times and this report will enable the Village Council and the Department to build a history to support any additional needs. It is felt that there are adequate response times within Village limits, even though there are other towns where response times and staffing are major concerns as summarized during a recent meeting of the Sheriffs Department and the Mayors and Town Managers this month.
- **Budget** – The Village budget was discussed in part. Questions were fielded by the staff in response to questions concerning the size and scope of the Village's yearly budget and what services were provided for the citizens. In response to the economy, the Village made cuts to run this year with what revenues were available without a tax increase. The Village Council was commended for being fiscally conservative to it's citizens by the Commissioners.
- **Water and Sewer** - Water and sewer availability continues to be a top concern for Village officials. There are two water systems within Tobaccoville. It is served by the King City Water System and the Utility Commission System. However, is currently beyond Village resources to consider running sewer lines through the limits without grant money or to

purchase lines and transfer ownership to the Utility Commission. Past studies indicate extreme cost for such a venture at the current time. The City of King is paying for a connection to the City County System to add capacity should King need the capacity. There is some concern about how much Tobacconville residents would be charged for water sold through this connection to King and passed on to Village residents. Growth through development will eventually lead sewer lines into the community a little at a time and need will drive this more than anything. However, should the Village become aware of any grant opportunities for water or sewer, decisions to take on a water or sewer project could develop if they are in the best interests of the community.

- **Prayer Lawsuit** - The County has not received a ruling on the lawsuit over prayer at meetings and is waiting for a decision on this. Village officials are concerned that should the County not prevail in the lawsuit that the smaller towns and Villages could be targets for similar lawsuits in the future.

Both the County Commissioners and the Village Council acknowledged that this meeting had been beneficial to both boards and to the staff in that it helped them identify concerns and priorities in the Tobacconville Community and how they related to the County in general. The Commissioners will be attending meetings at all the other towns and villages within Forsyth County soon in order to solicit county-wide input on concerns and issues. Doing this will help the Commissioners to better serve their constituents needs. The meeting then adjourned at around 10:30 am. by consensus of the two boards.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved By,

Dan Corder
Village Administrator

Keith P. Snow
Mayor