

**Public Forum
Northampton County
March 31, 2010**

Present: Virginia D. Spruill, James Hester, Robert Carter, Fannie Greene, and Chester Deloatch

Others Present: Wayne Jenkins, Kimberly Turner, and Mary Faison

Chairwoman Greene called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Board introduced themselves and made opening comments.

A motion was made by James Hester and seconded by Chester Deloatch to approve the agenda for this evening. **Question Called For: All present voted yes. Motion carried.**

Mr. Wayne Jenkins, County Manager, recognized the elected officials in attendance. Mr. Jenkins stated the purpose of the forum and explained the format.

There was a question and answer exchange between the following citizens, Commissioners, and Mr. Jenkins:

- Grover Edwards
- Ruby Ward
- Terrance Boone
- Lucy Edwards
- Doug Hughes
- Paul Smiegel
- Leon Vincent

Question encompassed the following topics:

- Economic Development and Tourism
- Highway Cleanup in the Lake Gaston community
- Abandoned buildings and cars
- Food Distribution at the Lake Gaston Community Center
- County water for all citizens in the Lake Gaston community
- Recreation in the Lake Gaston community
- Installation of 'Welcome to Lake Gaston Community' highway sign
- Jobs at NCCAR
- Proposed new high school
- Board of Education making the new high school PowerPoint presentation available to the public
- Revaluation

PLEASE SEE SCANNED COMMENT SHEETS BELOW:

PUBLIC FORUM COMMENT/INQUIRY SHEET

Lake Gaston Community Center

March 31, 2010 6:00 p.m.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND HAND TO THE CLERK BEFORE 6:00 P.M.

Name: Grover Edwards Phone: # 537-1765

Physical Address: 672 Vincent Ln

City/State/Zip: Henrico, NC 27842

Mailing Address: Same

City/State/Zip: _____

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If you wish to address your comment/inquiry to a specific Commissioner, please circle or underline their name: F. Greene (5th) J. Hester (1st) R. Carter (4th) V. Spruill (2nd) C. Deloatch (3rd)

Comment: Economic Development / Tourism

Inquiry:

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1. The Chairperson will recognize you and you will receive either an oral or written response, as time permits.
2. If the Board is unable to address your comment/inquiry at this forum, you will receive a written response by April 30, 2010.

NOTE: This forum is not for the purpose of providing a format to be publicly critical of the performance of any County Commissioner or County Employee.

Thank you for attending this year's forum and please feel free to contact your District Commissioner if you have further concerns or questions.

Ruby Vincent Ward
649 NC Highway 46
Gaston, NC 27832

March 31, 2010

To Whom This May Concern:

Re: **Concerns for Northampton County Public Forum**

I was born and reared in the Lake Gaston Community (Vulture) area. I have seen the traffic and community grow by leaps and bounds over the past four decades. I feel that the county should tap into this tremendous growth by offering the following services:

- **Clean up and spruce up the area.**
 - Demolish abandoned buildings and cars.
 - Highway trash pickup and improved highway maintenance will contribute to the appearance of the county. The county's appearance might attract more newcomers and small businesses. A community's look is one of the key ingredients in successful efforts to entice new business into an area.
- **Design/install a nice "Welcome to The Lake Gaston Community" highway sign** at/near the entrance of the Lake Gaston Community on Hwy 46 providing the basic county contact information. Hwy 46 is the Gateway to Lake Gaston in Northampton County.
- **Tap into the heavy volume of traffic on Hwy 46 in this area** as a source of revenue for the county. This highway is a thoroughfare for workers/tourist out of VA who are traveling to and from Roanoke Rapids and Lake Gaston. Why not consider some type of convenient stores, gas station, welcome center, teller machine, etc on Hwy 46 in the Lake Gaston area? Right now we are taking our business (\$\$\$\$) to Roanoke Rapids or Warren County who are profiting from our services.
- **Provide a food bank and other county services** to this end of the county at a satellite center in this area once a month. The Lake Gaston Community Center is a great location for these services. It is very inconvenient and costly for us especially our senior citizens to drive or hire someone to go to Jackson.
- **Provide county water to all citizens** in this community. My brother who lives on Cherry Tree Road in this area does not have county water.
- **Provide some type of recreation** such as a walking trail with a pavilion for this community. Again it is too inconvenient and costly to travel to Jackson to use the Cultural and Wellness Center.
- **What kind of follow up** has been taken or considered from the last forum in this community?

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Ruby

After the Board made closing remarks, a motion was made by Chester Deloatch and seconded by Virginia Spruill to adjourn. **Question Called For: All present voted yes. Motion carried.**

Kimberly L. Turner, Clerk to the Board

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