

**MINUTES OF
VILLAGE COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2017**

**395 MAGNOLIA ROAD
ASSEMBLY HALL
PINEHURST, NORTH CAROLINA
4:30 P.M.**

The Pinehurst Village Council held a Special Meeting at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 21, 2017 in the Assembly Hall of Pinehurst Village Hall, 395 Magnolia Road, Pinehurst, North Carolina. The following were in attendance:

Ms. Nancy Roy Fiorillo, Mayor
Ms. Claire L. Berggren, Councilmember
Mr. Clark H. Campbell, Councilmember
Mr. John Bouldry, Councilmember
Mr. John R. Cashion, Mayor Pro-Tem
Mr. Jeffrey M. Sanborn, Village Manager
Ms. Lauren M. Craig, Village Clerk

And approximately 48 attendees, including 5 staff and 1 press.

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Nancy Roy Fiorillo called the meeting to order.

2. Discussion and public comments on the proposed Western Connector.

Village Manager Jeff Sanborn gave a presentation on the proposed Western Connector. He explained the purpose of this meeting is to solicit input on a very important transportation project. Mr. Sanborn shared the connector was conceived over 25 years ago to alleviate potential future growth and traffic on Hwy 5 and has been included in plans since. Mr. Sanborn showed average daily traffic numbers on Hwy 5 near the railroad overpass at 2014 and 2040 and what Level of Service (LOS) we would be at depending on the solution. Mr. Sanborn also shared information about the growth projections and the analysis that was done to figure out how these projections were formulated. Mr. Sanborn explained this project would have to compete for funding and once that happens, NC DOT would negotiate environmental impacts, costs, and property that this would affect. Mr. Sanborn shared the following timeline: 2017 to adopt MCTP, 20122 to compete for funding, 2030 for right of way acquisition, and 2035 would be the earliest expected the road would be opening. Mr. Sanborn also shared the current results from the Open Village Hall topic and noted the topic will be left up longer than planned. Mr. Sanborn summarized that staff believes Council should endorse the retention of the Western Connector in Village plans and inclusion of the Western Connector in the Moore County Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Audience member Flint Long asked about the urgency of this project that was conveyed.

Audience member John Taylor said the county has to adopt a transportation plan whether it includes this project or not and he recalls from the last transportation meeting numbers that more than half of the projected growth that the county is projected was east of 15/501 and North of Midland Road. He asked what percentage of the traffic on Hwy 5 is designated as local traffic and he commented about the number of homes projected in Foxfire. Pat Molamphy said there is specific information based on cellular data that shows either 1 in 5 or 1 in 6 of the vehicles traveling along Hwy 5 do not terminate on Hwy 5.

Audience member Debbie Lalor said regarding the Village being almost fully built out that adding apartment complexes of four floors does expand the density and she asked why improving Linden Road going towards the backside of Hwy 5 wouldn't be an option.

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Bruce Geddes and Jason Kaufman of “Grow Moore Smart” gave a presentation opposing the Western Connector. They explained their view that the NC DOT projections are overinflated and oversubscribed. Mr. Geddes explained the great quality of life and the vision for West Pinehurst. He noted the topic of eminent domain has not been discussed in Moore County Transportation Committee meetings or mentioned by the NC DOT. He shared information regarding each TAZ and available property for the projected development. They shared models showing traffic patterns in the surrounding area. They noted the local agenda doesn’t have to align with NCDOT and TARPO and should be removed from the transportation plan. They suggested the following as solutions: remove the Western Corridor from the transportation plan and to do inexpensive alternatives first and see the results. They also suggested working with the railroad to improve the traffic flow on Hwy 5 and offer other improvements to the traffic circle, Morganton, NC5, US 15/501, US 1, and throughout Moore County. Council held a discussion about the presentation.

Laurie Wiles shared a story about the history of Frederick Law Olmsted and James Tufts. She said this Western Connector cuts through a large portion of that land that James Tufts had laid out.

George Lucas who has property that comes out on Linden Road and Foxfire said mass transit is needed and is a simple fix by buying buses. He asks that the Council reject the idea of a Western Connector because it does not serve a purpose. He said no one has talked to the railroads because commuter trains could be put in.

Diane Lucas said this is wrong because we would be taking the breeding ground of the redheaded woodpeckers. Laurie Wiles gave information about this unique area of long leaf pines and its habitat to wildlife.

Carl Hoover said the important argument is the zoning and he assumes there would be a natural increase of the Village limits. He suggested the social ecosystem and the boutique feel of Pinehurst are important and an increase of density would hurt this. He suggested looking at other case studies to offer valid input here.

Tom Pashley, President of Pinehurst Resort and CC, stated that on behalf of the resort, they have a concern about Hwy 5 and Morganton and these roads are very important to the resort. He suggested they be involved in the decision if it will affect the traffic and experience along these roads.

Earl Ingram said he is Pinehurst’s friendly neighbor. He explained his involvement since October 1996 and he said it seems we have come full circle since that time. He said it was identified back then that the traffic was local traffic not thru traffic and the local traffic has only increased in this area. He suggested pushing for more turn lanes and accelerated improvements of the traffic circle to help the congestion. He also believes the transportation plan can move forward without the Western Connector.

Harry Huberth reiterated the point this is a huge decision to make and he said the data is flawed and is not good data for decisions. He said some of the development on the books is no longer going to be developed in this economy.

Larry Fenton said Hwy 5 and Morganton are being used to get to businesses and to avoid the traffic circle. He suggested the right lane on Highway 211 going toward the traffic circle is useless and should be used to get people onto 15-501 South directly.

Jeff Sanborn said the traffic circle is related to many of the traffic issues and he said to date, the most effective alternative for the traffic circle will leave us in 2025 with traffic conditions that are like today because of the projected growth.

Collett Kolinski of Lake Pinehurst said she has been here 30 years and the traffic circle has already been improved once. She said not to mess with the traffic circle or residents would really push back.

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Mike McCue, Mayor of Foxfire Village, said the Council in Foxfire is in favor of low density development because they think that's their niche and they have a new land use plan to support low density. He said his number one priority of the Western Connector is to not widen Hoffman and Roseland Roads and he would be against the bypass being put through Foxfire Village. He shared the current Council would be most interested in talking about zoning and land use with the county and Pinehurst.

3. Motion to Adjourn.

Councilmember Bouldry moved to adjourn the Special Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cashion and carried unanimously. The Special Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren M. Craig
Village Clerk

DRAFT