



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND MANAGER

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News Release

Board Action from March 19 Meeting

March 20, 2012, Monroe, NC – The following action was taken by the Union County Board of Commissioners on Monday, March 19.

Board Waives Right to Purchase Land at Cuthbertson Schools

The Union County Board of Commissioners has waived its right of first refusal to obtain property located on the Cuthbertson Middle/High School campus.

The Union County Board of Education is negotiating a long-term lease for 14.04 acres on the site to the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). North Carolina law requires the Board of Education to first offer the opportunity to obtain the property to the Union County Board of Commissioners before it can lease or sell the property.

The proposed lease is for a term of 50 years with completion of construction of the YMCA to be no later than October 2016. The YMCA would, among other considerations, build an athletic field and a pavilion facility to be part of a shared facilities agreement between the YMCA and Union County Public Schools to be constructed by October 2013. Additionally, the YMCA will pay \$5,000 per year to UCPS.

The shared field and pavilion facility will not be built on the 14.04 leased acres, but will be constructed on the property set aside for a future elementary school. According to UCPS Superintendent Ed Davis, the athletic field and pavilion facility will not impact the school system's future ability to build an elementary school on the remainder of the property. The field and pavilion will be ancillary to the school, replacing the need to build those facilities as part of a future school.

Guided Horse Trail Rides Coming to Cane Creek Park

The Union County Board of Commissioners approved a contract with Hickory Trail Rides of Waxhaw to provide guided horse trail rides at Cane Creek Park.

The price for an individual guided ride will be \$35 per hour. Hickory Trail Rides will pay Union County Parks and Recreation \$5 per ride. Before rides begin, a safety orientation will be

provided for all customers on the safe and proper way to ride any of the horses used by Hickory Trail Rides.

The contract lasts for one year with an option to renew for a second year at the end of the first year. Guided trail rides should begin in April. For more information, call Cane Creek Park at 704-843-3919.

Commissioners Support Referendum Protecting Marriage

Commissioners on Monday unanimously endorsed an amendment to the North Carolina Constitution which states the only domestic legal union that is valid or recognized in North Carolina is marriage between one man and one woman.

The 2011 General Assembly approved a measure that would put language into the North Carolina Constitution related to legally recognized marriages in the state. If approved by voters on May 8, the proposed amendment to Article 14 of the North Carolina Constitution would add a new section, to be called Section 6. It would read as follows:

“Sec. 6. Marriage.

Marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State. This section does not prohibit a private party from entering into contracts with another private party; nor does this section prohibit courts from adjudicating the rights of private parties pursuant to such contracts.”

The General Assembly also approved the language the voters will see on the ballot this spring as they consider this constitutional amendment:

FOR AGAINST

Constitutional amendment to provide that marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State.

The resolution approved by commissioners also encourages voter participation on the issue.

“In terms of this proposed constitutional amendment, May 8 is the one and only time North Carolina voters will be able to vote in favor of or in opposition to it,” said North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall. “So, if there are any voters out there who have been thinking they might not vote in the primary, they should realize this is the ‘general election’ for this proposed amendment.”

County to Assist During “Moving Wall” Event

The Union County Board of Commissioners has approved a request for \$5,000 from VFW Post 2423 in Indian Trail to pay for Union County Sheriff’s Office and Union County EMS services during the five days in June (June 14 – June 18) when Post 2423 hosts the Vietnam Moving Wall.



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The Vietnam Moving Wall is a half-size replica of the actual Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. There are more than 58,000 names on the Wall, with more than 1,600 of those that made the ultimate sacrifice coming from North Carolina alone, with Union County having 18 fallen heroes.

The Moving Wall will open on Thursday June 14 at 12 p.m. There will be an opening ceremony at 5 p.m. that evening that will be dedicated to the families of the 18 Union County fallen heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War. Other ceremonies will follow during the course of the five days.

The Sheriff's Office will handle traffic control, both to control vehicle traffic and pedestrian traffic crossing the road. EMS will be needed and positioned as a precautionary measure at the VFW Post during ceremonies scheduled for June 14, June 16 and June 17.

County Supports Reducing Heavy Vehicle Usage of Downtown Monroe Streets

Union County will send a letter signed by Union County Board of Commissioners Chairman Jerry Simpson to the North Carolina Department of Transportation supporting the City of Monroe's goal to limit the volume of heavy vehicles on downtown Monroe streets.

One reason Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (NC 200) was built by NCDOT was to help reduce thru-truck traffic in the downtown area of Monroe. NC 200 was rerouted to follow Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Dickerson Boulevard from U.S. Highway 74 to Lancaster Avenue, and NCDOT posted a "No Thru Trucks" sign on Lancaster Avenue at Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to reroute trucks away from downtown. Also, "No Thru Trucks" signs were posted on NC 84 and NC 75 at Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. These signs have recently been removed because NCDOT cannot divert truck traffic from state or federal routes.

On Jan. 17, Monroe Mayor Bobby Kilgore wrote a letter to the North Carolina Department of Transportation requesting that NCDOT terminate the routing of NC 84 and NC 75 at M.L. King, Jr. Boulevard and for the roadways to continue into Monroe as secondary roadways. This was requested so that "No Thru Trucks" signs could be posted.

The County's letter to NCDOT emphasizes that Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard offers a safer and more convenient route for truck traffic.

Commissioners Want to Pursue Alternative Construction Methods

The Union County Board of Commissioners on Monday approved a resolution requesting that the Union County legislative delegation introduce a local bill that will grant commissioners the authority to pursue alternative construction methods to provide a new law enforcement complex and human services facility that will meet the needs of the county's growing population.

Statutory requirements, debt capacity and economic conditions limit available options for procurement, construction and financing new facilities.

The authority would grant the County the ability to pursue agreements outside the scope of what is already authorized by North Carolina General Statutes, including the capability to specify, negotiate, construct and finance a capital facility through a private developer or other private entities.

The County would perform a cost-benefit analysis of any alternative method compared against methods currently authorized by statutes. The authority to execute these agreements would expire in five years.

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