

**TOWN OF WALKERTOWN
LISTENING TOUR MEETING
11:00 A.M. @ WALKERTOWN LIBRARY
FEBRUARY 25, 2010
MINUTES**

The Listening Tour meeting started at 11:00 a.m.

Present for the County Commissioners were Richard Linville, Debra Conrad-Shrader, David Plyler, Ted Kaplan, Walter Marshall, and Gloria Whisenhunt. County Manager Dudley Watts was also in attendance.

Present for the Town were Mayor Doc Davis, Council members Wayne Hester, Peggy Leight, Sarah Welch, and Randy Mendenhall along with Lynn McKinnie, Wesley Hutchins, and Scott Snow.

Planning Board members in the audience included: Jenny Morris and Don Whitaker.

Various issues were reviewed. Included among the issues discussed were Sheriff Deputies for the County/Municipality, Recycling, Inspections and Building Codes, and Zoning for areas outside Walkertown jurisdiction.

Sheriff Deputies: Mayor Davis stated that Walkertown's tax rate of 20-cents included 8-cents fire tax – and 12-cents property tax. For this tax paid, Walkertown offers recycling, trash service, street lights, and through the fire tax – fire protection service. We have no dedicated community police and really do not see the need for any. Mr. Mendenhall said that we would have to raise our tax rate four to five cents if we had to pay for county-wide police.

Recycling: Walkertown has looked at the possibility of establishing a recycling point in the Walkertown area. Forsyth County has a franchise with haulers to pick up outside their boundaries.

Inspections: Building inspections are city administrated jointly with Planning and Inspections but there needs to be consistency between departments and building/health/plumbing, etc.

The question was asked that the County Commissioners have asked for input for zoning issues for the territory outside Walkertown jurisdiction, but do the Commissioners ever listen? Mr. Marshall said that he considers the municipality and never votes for anything if it is against what the municipality wants. He said we should recognize Walkertown standards and work with those. Ms. Whisenhut said that schools are built by tax payers' money – and this is not the same as developers – so when they consider the town, she said the town should consider them !! We need to work closer together when building public schools because it is taxpayers' money 100%.

Mr. Plyler said that the major benefit in talking together is that the Commissioners and the Towns are building a relationship.

One last conversation involved the traffic situation in Walkertown – the Commissioners were reminded of the major influx of traffic through the town on NC-66. There are three major thoroughfares in Walkertown – 158 and 66; 311 and 66; and NC-66 itself. The commissioners were told that NC-66 needs to be widened – and quickly!!

More conversations took place but nothing major was debated nor decided on.

The Town Council enjoyed the meeting and the various discussions and everyone thought it was a very good idea to have the mini-meetings.

The meeting ended at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

**Lynn McKinnie
Town Clerk**

