

**Camden County Board of Commissioners**

**Special Meeting  
October 18, 2005  
7:00 p.m.  
Senior Center Dining Room  
Camden, NC**

A special meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Camden County Senior Center Dining Room, Courthouse Complex, Camden, NC. The following members were present:

Chairman Melvin J. Jeralds  
Vice Chairman Clayton Riggs  
Commissioners Jeffrey B. Jennings, Carolyn O. Riggs, and Mike Andrews

Commissioner Carolyn Riggs arrived at 7:04 p.m and Commissioner Clayton Riggs arrived at 7:17 p.m.

Also attending was County Manager Randell Woodruff, Clerk to the Board Ava Murgia, Attorney Herbert Mullen and various staff members.

Chairman Jeralds called the special meeting to order.

The purpose of the special meeting was to hold a work session to discuss county wide government.

**Presentation by John Morrison**

John Morrison, Trestle Court, appeared before the Board as a Camden County resident and constituent to share information from his research regarding county wide unification.

Mr. Morrison, who appeared before the Board on April 28, 2005, spoke on the same subject, and added the following comments:

- The advantages of unification to Camden County: no hostile annexation by the City of Elizabeth City; eligible for State Franchise Tax levied by the state on utilities.
- The public will be apprehensive because this is visionary plan for the county. No one will notice any change until approximately twenty (20) years into the future.
- Commissioners must decide by majority vote if a referendum, although not required, will be held.
- Commissioners could appoint study commission of independent minded citizens from different areas of Camden County for a period of ninety (90) days. Give the commission publications from Institute of Government: *How County Government Works in North Carolina* and *How Municipal Government Works in North Carolina*. The study commission can look at the Currituck public records for study and guidance and invite other city managers, county managers, and the School Board to discuss their problems. The study commission should give a report to the Board of Commissioners the majority opinion and the minority opinion. All study commission sessions/meetings should be advertised and open to public. The study commission would appoint a Chairman and the commission would conduct with adoption of Roberts Rules of Order.
- Study commission gives a written report to the Commissioners in ninety (90) days.
- Must educate the public; any educational presentation cannot be basis.
- Commissioners must take a public position for or against unification, and campaign for their position. However, the County Manager, County Attorney and county staff cannot express a political opinion, but can only educate the public. County money is to be used for educational material only, such as video presentations, flyers, hold forums, copies, and put on website.

Following questions answered by Mr. Morrison, Chairman Jeralds thanked Mr. Morrison for his presentation and assistance.

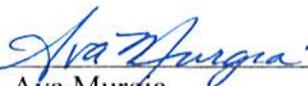
**Adjournment**

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with Chairman Jeralds, Commissioners Jennings, Carolyn Riggs, Clayton Riggs, and Andrews voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; no Commissioner absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

  
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Melvin J. Jeralds, Chairman  
Camden County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

  
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Ava Murgia  
Clerk to the Board