

**Camden County Board of Commissioners  
Emergency Meeting  
February 3, 2023; 9:00 AM  
Camden Public Library**

**MINUTES**

A duly noticed Emergency Meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on February 3, 2023 in the boardroom of the Camden Public Library in Camden, North Carolina. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a request from the South Mills Water Association to provide additional water due to an emergency. The Emergency Meeting took place in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 143-318.12(b)(3).

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tiffney White at 9:00 AM. Also Present: Vice-Chair Ross Munro, Commissioners Randy Krainiak, Sissy Aydlett and Troy Leary. Administration Staff Present: County Manager Erin Burke, County Attorney John Morrison and Clerk to the Board Karen Davis. Public Works Director Chuck Jones was present for the open session only.

County Manager Erin Burke shared information received from Wayne Raper, employee of the South Mills Water Association dated February 2, 2023. On Thursday, February 2, 2023 mechanical issues took place at the SMWA plant that requires immediate attention. The generator transfer switch malfunctioned and after looking into a replacement, this part will take 36-40 weeks to have replaced. With the SCADA system down, the plant will have to be monitored manually and SMWA does not currently have the manpower to operate 24 hours a day. Therefore, SMWA has requested an additional 30,000 gallons a day from South Camden Water to help serve the needs of our customers until the SCADA system can be repaired. That repair may take a minimum of 2-4 weeks according to Mr. Raper. Once the repairs are completed SMWA expects to resume normal operations.

County Attorney John Morrison explained to the public that South Mills Water Association is not a part of the county. It is a private, nonprofit corporation and is not subject to the North Carolina Utilities Commission regulation. Mr. Morrison requested that the Board go into Closed Session to receive legal counsel concerning this matter. After a brief Closed Session, the Board may return and announce its decision.

**Motion to go into Closed Session.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PASSED [5-0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Tiffney White
<b>AYES:</b>	Tiffney White, Ross Munro, Randy Krainiak, Sissy Aydlett, Troy Leary

The Board entered a Closed Session for the purpose of consultation with the County Attorney on a state of emergency.

**Motion to come out of Closed Session.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PASSED [5-0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sissy Aydlett
<b>AYES:</b>	Tiffney White, Ross Munro, Randy Krainiak, Sissy Aydlett, Troy Leary

No official action was taken during Closed Session.

**Motion to return to open session.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PASSED [5-0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Tiffney White
<b>AYES:</b>	Tiffney White, Ross Munro, Randy Krainiak, Sissy Aydlett, Troy Leary

**Chair White requested to be recused from this matter in that she is a resident of South Mills and a customer and member of the South Mills Water Association.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PASSED [4-0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Tiffany White
<b>AYES:</b>	Ross Munro, Randy Krainiak, Sissy Aydlett, Troy Leary

Chair White was recused by the Board has a membership interest in the corporation under discussion. She did not express an opinion or participate in discussion regarding this matter.

County Manager Burke stated that the Board agreed to sell the requested 30,000 gallons per day to South Mills Water Association contingent upon a contract drafted by and agreed to with the County Attorney and the attorney for South Mills Water Association by closed of business for the extended provision of water.

County Attorney Morrison stated that South Mills Water Association will be requested to allow the County's Public Works Director to inspect the plant to determine the problem, solution, cost and anticipated time for repair, and the cost the Association intends to charge its customers for the water. Mr. Morrison added that Camden is subject to the Local Government Commission and must follow rules and regulations in regard to certain matters. It was his understanding that the Board must act immediately in that the Association has stated they will be out of water by the afternoon.

Vice-Chair Munro questioned if the South Mills Water Association has the ability and means to make the necessary repairs.

County Manager Burke indicated that SMWA estimated a 2 to 4-week repair to the SCADA will be necessary. She did not have information on their financial status or ability to make the repairs or information at the time on the condition of the plant.

Vice-Chair Munro inquired as to the possibility of the County requesting that the Utilities Commission inspect the SMWA plant to confirm that the customers served by the SMWA are getting the quality of water necessary for their health, safety and welfare.

County Attorney Morrison stated that in there were two caveats in the original order that exempted SMWA from Utilities Commission Regulation. One, that the exemption lasts only so long as they continue to serve the best interests of the community as a water utility; and two, that the Public Staff, a division of the Utilities Commission, would monitor complaints and report those complaints to the Utilities Commission Board. With the Board's authority, Mr. Morrison will bring this to the attention to the Public Staff. Mr. Morrison added that it is not the intent of the Board of Commissioners to allow any of its citizens to go without water.

Vice-Chair Munro added that the health, safety and welfare is the number one concern of the Board and that it is the Board's intent that citizens have the ability to fight fires and have access to potable water for their needs.

**Motion that the Board approves the immediate sale, contingent on a contract by Tuesday, to 30,000 per day to South Mills Water Association.**

**Mr. Morrison requested that the motion include that he be authorized to enter into an agreement in sufficient legal form to protect the interests of the County and the people of South Mills and that he is authorized to make a report with the appropriate authorities of the Utilities Commission.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PASSED [4-0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Ross Munro
<b>AYES:</b>	Ross Munro, Randy Krainiak, Sissy Aydlett, Troy Leary
<b>RECUSED:</b>	Tiffany White

There being no further matters for discussion Chair White called for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion to adjourn.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PASSED [5-0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sissy Aydlett
<b>AYES:</b>	Tiffany White, Ross Munro, Randy Krainiak, Sissy Aydlett, Troy Leary

ATTEST:

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Tiffany White, Chair  
Camden County Board of Commissioners

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Karen M. Davis  
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners