

**IREDELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BRIEFING MINUTES
MAY 23, 2006**

The Iredell County Board of Commissioners met in Briefing Session on Tuesday, May 23, 2006, at 5:00 P.M., in the Iredell County Government Center (South Wing Conference Room), 200 South Center Street, Statesville, NC.

Present were:

Chairman Sara Haire Tice
Vice Chairman Godfrey Williams
Steve D. Johnson
Marvin Norman
Ken Robertson

Staff present: County Manager Joel Mashburn, Deputy County Manager Susan Blumenstein, Tax Administrator Bill Doolittle, Solid Waste Director David Lambert, Library Director Steve Messick, Assistant Tax Collector Linda Morrow, Planning Supervisor Steve Warren, Code Enforcement/Planning Director Lynn Niblock, Planner Matthew Todd, Purchasing Agent Dean Lail, Emergency Management Coordinator David Martin, and Clerk to the Board Jean Moore.

CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Tice.

REQUEST FROM THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT FOR A DISCUSSION PERTAINING TO A POSSIBLE AMENDMENT TO THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION ORDINANCE: Planning Supervisor Steve Warren said that on April 11, 2006, the Farmland Preservation Board approved an amendment to the farmland preservation ordinance in an effort to increase the acreage in the program, and to provide protection for smaller farms. He said currently, there had to be at least 50 contiguous acres of qualifying farmland, or at least two or more qualifying farms. Warren said the farmland board wanted to lower the acreage requirement, and to allow qualifying parcels, within one mile, to join existing districts. Warren said no board action was needed at the present time, rather he was sharing the information prior to scheduling a public hearing. He said the amendment had merit, because 10 applicants out of 14 would already be eligible if the change were approved.

County Manager Mashburn mentioned the impact on future residential growth, if the eligibility requirements were lowered.

Commissioner Williams said poultry farms could fit on 25 acres, and this was the type of use that might want protection from the ordinance. He added that the program was voluntary, and property owners could opt out anytime they wanted.

Planner Matthew Todd said all that was needed to be removed from the program was a letter, and then it was presented to the Farmland Preservation Board.

The board members were in agreement to allow Mr. Warren to publish legal notices about the ordinance amendment.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION REGARDING GASOLINE AND DIESEL BLENDS: On May 1, 2006, Caldwell County approved a resolution petitioning the State to enact laws to require vehicle fuels to be at least an E-85 blend for gasoline and a B-80 blend for diesel in an effort to lessen the dependency on domestic and foreign oil. The board members reviewed the resolution, but declined to take any action. (It was felt that "economics" would eventually take care of the situation.) This item was removed from the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Tice adjourned the briefing at 6:20 p.m.

Approved: _____

Clerk to the Board