

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Thursday, November 29, 2012

**Special Meeting – Rougemont Water**

Place: New Red Mountain Baptist Church, 1401 Red Mountain Road, Rougemont NC

Present: Chairman Michael D. Page, Vice-Chair Ellen W. Reckhow, Commissioner Brenda A. Howerton, and Commissioners-Elect Fred Foster, Jr., and Wendy Jacobs; Michael M. Ruffin, County Manager; Michelle Parker-Evans, County Clerk; Deputy County Manager Marqueta Welton; County Attorney Lowell Siler; Assistant County Managers Deborah Craig-Ray and Drew Cummings

County Manager Ruffin thanked everyone for coming out to learn more about the Rougemont Water situation. He stated that the State will invest the last of stimulus funds to help resolve the contaminated wells in Rougemont. The County has applied for a grant for Community Development Block Funds to assist with the solution.

Mr. Cummings shared information regarding the affected properties. There are 51 known properties listed. Five (5) of those properties have excessive levels of contamination. Properties deemed to be dangerous would be connected at no cost.

Aqua Water may be interested in interconnecting water systems.

Citizens questioned the future of existing contaminated wells. All wells within 1000 feet would be abandoned.

Mr. Mark Petermann, NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources, further explained that the temporary solution by the North Carolina Division of Energy Resources had become a permanent system. The Division discovered the problem in the early 1990's.

Citizens asked the following questions:

- What is the guarantee of not drilling into more plumes?
- Who will own the well system?
- How will this fix impact seniors and low income residents who cannot afford to pay for water?
- Will there be damage to the contaminated wells when drilling? If so, who assumes responsibility?

Residents requested to have other vendors involved besides Aqua. Mr. Cummings assured residents that Aqua had not been authorized to conduct any tests.

The residents requested a Question and Answer sheet to help explain the process to affected residents.

Manager Ruffin assured the group that the County intended to be transparent and would meet as often as possible to ensure everyone was knowledgeable.

Mr. Cummings explained that there is a very tight deadline of March 30, 2012 to spend the \$120,000 on something tangible for the project.

Vice Chair Reckhow was interested in hearing from the 51 affected persons.

Manager Ruffin again thanked everyone for coming out and vowed to keep the group informed.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michelle", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

V. Michelle Parker-Evans  
Clerk to the Board