

**UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JULY 28, 2010 – 6:00 P.M.
TOWN OF CRAMERTON, CRAMERTON, NC**

Committee Members Present: Walker E. Reid, III, Chairman
Councilwoman Brenda B. Craig
Councilman Keith Tidwell

The Gastonia City Council Utilities Committee and the Cramerton Town Board of Commissioners met on July 28, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at Cramerton Town Hall, 155 N. Main Street, Cramerton, NC.

Town of Cramerton Board of Commissioners present were:

Mayor Pro Tem Tammy Lawrence
Commissioner Will Cauthen
Commissioner Houston Helms
Commissioner Jacque Sumner
Commissioner Sandra Ware

Cramerton Mayor Pro Tem Tammy Lawrence called the meeting to order.

ITEM 1: Presentation of Joint System Study for Town of Cramerton Utility System:

Mr. Michael Peoples, Cramerton Town Manager, and Mr. Matt Bernhardt, Gastonia's Director of Public Works & Utilities, provided an introduction to the factors that prompted this study. Mr. Don Garbrick, with Pease Associates, was recognized to present the results of the joint study of the Town of Cramerton's options for water and sewer utility service. The goal of the study was to determine the best option for the operation of the Town of Cramerton's water and sewer systems, including possible utility consolidation with Gastonia. Mr. Garbrick stated that as the study progressed, the option that was shown to be the best for both the Town of Cramerton and the City of Gastonia is utility consolidation. Mr. Garbrick and Mr. Eric Howard, with Hobbs Upchurch, along with Cramerton and Gastonia Staff presented the results of the study to the Town Board and the Utilities Committee. A question and answer period followed, and a unanimous consensus was reached that Cramerton and Gastonia should continue the consolidation process. The next recommended step is to jointly develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for consideration by both communities, followed by negotiations hopefully leading to the preparation of a formal transfer agreement (to be completed by January 1 of 2011) and a formal transfer date of June 30, 2011. The Town Board of Cramerton voted unanimously to undertake the negotiation process with Gastonia, and the Gastonia Utilities Committee voted unanimously (3-0) to recommend the same to the Gastonia City Council.

Committee Recommendation: The Committee recommends that the City of Gastonia proceed with a transfer negotiation process with the Town of Cramerton, and that staff be directed to prepare and bring back a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for consideration.

Necessary Council Action: Accept or reject the Committee recommendation.

Having no other business, Cramerton Mayor Pro Tem Lawrence adjourned the meeting.