

This is a statement I read to the County Commissioners at their meeting on 6-19-06.

Mr Chairman, Commissioners:

My name is Chris Smithson and I live at 920 North Saylor St in Southern Pines.

Last month, I spoke to you in opposition to your quote, "Resolution Supporting the Orderly Provision and Exp[ansion of Local Public Services.

Among other things, your resolution stated, "...it no longer seems necessary for municipalities to undertake involuntary annexation in order to provide local public services."

Although I was against the resolution, I am happy that you have finally made the commitment to provide needed public services to all properties in the County.

My business, Smithson of Southern Pines, Inc. is a 3rd generation family business that has been operating in this county for almost 50 years. We've been at our current location for over 40 and have employed hundreds of Moore county citizens over the years. In fact, we recently closed our operation in Missouri and moved more jobs to Moore County. We're located on US-1 north and are not in any city limits- we're "in the county."

The reason I am so excited about your new commitment to provide municipal-level services to "county" properties is that we currently have no access to public water. We have a well and the state requires all kinds of costly testing even though we don't drink our well water; we provide bottled water. In fact, even though our "system" is just a well and your standard indoor plumbing and we use less water daily than the average home, we have to hire a licensed engineer to draw up plans even if we just want to move a supply line or put in a water softening system. It is surprising they don't require a permit every time someone flushes a toilet.

Now that you, the county, are committed to providing municipal services to non-municipal properties, I'd like to be first in line to have you extend water lines south down US-1 from Highland Hills. This will be much more affordable than paying the Town of Southern Pines the \$70+ thousand

dollars they want in order to extend water up from Ingersoll Rand. The Ingersoll Rand situation makes things even more interesting since it was actually the county who paid to extend lines to their property as an incentive to get them to build here 25 or so years ago. Well, we've been where we are for over 40 and still no water.

I look forward to immediately hearing from your public works department as to how quickly you will be able to get the lines run up to our property line. 40 years is long enough and I'm willing to hook up tomorrow.

Thank you again for protecting my property interests from the greedy towns by providing municipal-level services to a longtime Moore County business without all the hassle and costs associated with annexation.