

Vance County Board of Commissioners  
122 Young Street  
Henderson, NC 27536

Home in Henderson  
217 S. Garnett Street  
Henderson, NC 27536  
(252) 438-4000

Last year, on our local news and events site Home in Henderson, ([www.homeinhenderson.com](http://www.homeinhenderson.com)) we accumulated comments from readers to be presented to the board of commissioners during their annual retreat. We understand our comments arrived too late to be included in any official capacity, but that they were received by the commissioners during the event.

We value our public forum that provides feedback from the community to the elected officials, and it was unfortunate that our readers did not receive any acknowledgment back for their efforts.

Please find an enclosed letter prepared by one of our readers to be submitted to this year's annual retreat for 2013. These comments were gathered on our site during the last few weeks.

Our website receives on average 5,000 unique visitors monthly, and our Facebook page has over 870 likes. Please consider communicating with this large audience of constituents to address their concerns.

We will be happy to publish your response on our website as soon as possible.

Thank you!

Phil Hart

Home in Henderson

## **Chairman Hester and Commissioners**

Last year a letter was presented to Mr. Asycue of citizen suggested topics for the annual retreat. Mr. Asycue's responded saying the citizen suggested topics were too late to be included among the topics for the retreat. Below is a list of citizen suggested topics for this year's annual retreat. Our collective hope is that you will address and respond to each of these topics in your annual retreat. Note this list is in alphabetical order.

**Consolidate Data Center** – currently the Vance County School building has a data center with sufficient physical space and resources to accommodate the servers supporting both Vance County and the school district. Commissioners should explore the costs and benefits of a consolidated county data center including the potential for leasing available space to the City.

**NC Amtrak service into Henderson** – currently the North Carolina Department of Transportation operates Amtrak trains between Raleigh and Charlotte that include a car for transporting bicycles. This car encourages cyclist to travel to a point then cycle off on day or weekend trips. Commissioners should explore the costs and benefits to Vance County of a train traveling between Henderson and Raleigh especially for cyclists.

**Puppy Mills** – currently North Carolina is known to permit what is commonly called puppy mills. The Commissioners should formally request the State legislature to establish standards for care and maintenance of breeding animals (such as dogs and cats) to prevent neglect and mistreatment of animals.

**Scooters and Mopeds on Roadways** – currently scooters and mopeds are allowed to travel along county roadways at a speed nearly 25% below posted maximum highway speed. Commissioner should formally request the State legislature to prohibit scooters and mopeds on county roadways unless roadway includes a lane designated for scooters and mopeds.

**Trash Collection Sites** – the dumpsters for recyclables have small openings that are 5 – 7 feet above ground level and may not be compliant to ADA requirements. Commissioners should formally approve requirements that dumpsters for recyclables meet or exceed ADA requirements.

**Water** – five years ago the Commissioner started the county water project solidly based on a major unknown, the monthly cost for water. The Commissioners should develop a monthly water rate focused on water conservation and real world water usage for presentation at public hearing during their regularly scheduled February meeting.