

**The Pilot: Letter to the Editor 27 Mar 2019**

## **Letter: Don't Bail Out Woodlake**

Senator Tom McInnis and Representatives Jamie Boles and Allen McNeill were irresponsible in introducing legislation recommending the repair of the dam in Woodlake CC Corp by creating a special tax designation. There is no practical way this can ever be implemented.

Woodlake CC Corp, which is owned by a German company, has a total of almost \$168 million in liens owed to creditors and the State of North Carolina. If Woodlake files for bankruptcy, ownership will be tied up for years in the courts.

In addition, the residents lack credibility because they are divided in their support of a tax assessment or incorporation. In other words, they want something for nothing and expect Moore County residents to pick up the estimated \$9 million in dam repair for something we don't own, have no control over and may pass into other hands.

Woodlake is not entitled to public funds because it is a private gated community club.

Law cases in other areas have opposed funding of dams in private communities. McInnis uses the situation in Rockingham where Richmond County paid for the repair of a dam, but that was public land.

Moore County faces a daunting debt for school construction. If the bills pass in legislature, and the County Commissioners feel compelled to fund the dam, our taxes will rise considerably to avoid a lowered bond rating.

We have a good bond rating, why lose it?

Restoring the dam is not an engineering necessity to the county. The failure of the owners of Woodlake to maintain the spillway compromised the earthen dam.

The excuse that its absence lowers Woodlake property values should not be a concern of ours. Woodlake has a history of mismanagement which the deluded buyers failed to recognize.

*Kevin Lewis, Carthage*