

13. LATE ARRIVING MATTERS**A. INTERNATIONAL PAPER ANNOUNCEMENT**

Undoubtedly, by the time you receive this agenda, you'll have already heard the bad news – much like November 22, 1963 or September 11, 2001, we won't forget where we were when we heard it or who told us. I had no advance notice - I received a call around 10:30 a.m. (October 22) regarding an 11:00 a.m. press conference, which I attended.

Attached for your reference, please find a copy of the press release that I.P. issued. It will be closing the entire mill and all related subsidiaries (C.I.C., Recycling, etc.) beginning in a couple of weeks and phasing all operations out by next spring. Roughly 1,100 employees will lose their jobs - I know you join me in extending your thoughts and prayers to all of them.

At this writing, I can't begin to quantify the economic impact of this announcement. In addition to the 1,100 employees that are directly affected, there are countless other retailers and service industries (and local governments) that are dependent on the money that the mill payroll pumped into this community. The mill has been the cornerstone of our local economy for more than a century and the days ahead will undoubtedly be difficult for everyone.

The Bible says that there's a time and a season for all things – today is a day to mourn. But we mustn't mourn too long – our focus on economic development and job creation is now more important than ever.

B. _____