

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
AUGUST 17, 2009

The Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the Henry Dunlap Building Classroom, 80 East Street, located in Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 2:00 PM on August 17, 2009.

Present: George Lucier, Chairman, Sally Kost, Vice-Chair, Mike Cross, Commissioner, Tom Vanderbeck, Commissioner, and Carl Thompson, Commissioner

Staff Members Present: Charlie Horne, County Manager; Tim Sullivan, Acting County Attorney; Renee Paschal, Assistant County Manager; Elizabeth Plata, Deputy Clerk to the Board; and Sandra B. Sublett, Clerk to the Board

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lucier called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM.

The Chairman asked that Item #5, continuation of the Departmental Evaluation Process, be deferred until a later date and add to the agenda, an update by Fred Royal on the Jordan Lake Boundary Rules.

SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

School system officials provided the Board with an update on the status of capital projects the school system is working on. Items for discussion included the Briar Chapel Middle School, the new high school site and Northwood High School work.

Dr. Robert Logan gave an overview of the State budget reductions stating that the County’s support, by not reducing their 2009-2010 local allocation, is what allowed the Chatham County School System to manage the cuts without laying off teachers.

Dr. Logan recognized Derick Jordan, Director of Secondary Education, who is working on his doctorate and whom Dr. Logan is mentoring.

David Moody provided an update on capital outlay projects including improvements to buildings and grounds, furniture, equipment, and technology.

Chairman Lucier asked for a regular update from the schools on the different projects that the schools are undertaking.

Randy Drumheller discussed the Capital Improvement Projects for the schools including Northwood and Briar Chapel Schools.

Dr. Logan discussed the complete six-year Capital Improvement Projects Plan, including quality school construction bond money.

Commissioners agreed to allow the School Board to proceed with the application for additional interest-free bond money (which will have to be paid back) to be used for the survey and new Capital Improvement Plan projects.

BYNUM COMMUNITY GARDEN

Chairman Lucier explained that the Board had agreed to allow the use of the ball field to build the Bynum Community Garden; that there was a question regarding liability; and that the County Attorney was to look into this matter.

Maggie Franz stated that they sent a copy of the lease agreement to the County Attorney; that they were asked to talk with the Utilities Director to see if capturing the water used in flushing the Bynum water system would be feasible for the garden; that Mr. Lowder did not have an easy solution to this problem; and that they have contacted Robin Kohanowich at Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) regarding water sources.

Chairman Lucier stated that since it is on County property, the Board will not have a problem with waiving the tap fee. The County Manager stated that staff would check on the liability and lease issues and the tap fee.

SWAC UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATIONS: A COUNTY LANDFILL

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) held community meetings around the County and provided the Board with feedback on citizen input.

Doug Carver, Solid Waste Advisory Committee Chairman, gave a presentation on the meetings held in the County on solid waste issues, including comments from citizens, sitting criteria and cost per year to open a landfill. He stated that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee recommended that the Board pursue a 500 TPD landfill.

By consensus, the Board agreed that there needs to be a new landfill constructed to deal with Chatham's waste disposal problem.

The Board responded to the recommendations from the Solid Waste Advisory Committee members.

Commissioner Vanderbeck recommended that the Board set a date on which to hold a meeting with all municipalities in order to get input from everyone.

The Chairman reiterated the action needed: (1) Feedback from the State; (2) Recognition that a new County landfill is needed.

The Chairman suggested that a meeting be set up with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, managers, chairs, and mayor pro-tem and the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources. Commissioner Cross suggested that it be a special meeting and that dinner be provided to all attendees to include all parties involved.

The County Manager and Mr. Carver are to set up a meeting with municipality representatives.

BREAK

The Chairman called for a short break.

The Chairman asked that the Agenda be reviewed in reverse order: Green Roof and Wastewater Alternates for Central Carolina Community College, Pittsboro/Chapel Hill Express Service, update on Jordan Lake Boundary Rules, Green Economy Follow-up Regarding Assistance Request and NC Association of County Commissioners session.

GREEN ROOF AND WASTEWATER ALTERNATES FOR CENTRAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE(CCCC)

Ms. Paschal reviewed the Green Roof and Wastewater alternates. Cherry Huffman, architect, was present to answer questions from the Board.

Chairman Lucier asked questions and stated that the green roof lasts twice as long as a conventional roof, but noted that there will be an additional \$207,000+ up-front expense.

Cherry Huffman responded to the Chairman's question regarding exploring the possibility of looking at another roof option.

Commissioner Vanderbeck moved, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, to authorize the green roof for Central Carolina Community College sustainable technologies building and asked that Mr. Huffman revisit the issue of lessening the cost for the insulation for the roof. The motion carried four (4) to one (1). Commissioner Cross opposed.

Hal House, wastewater expert, explained the estimate for water and sewer savings and the payback period for the system.

Commissioner Vanderbeck moved, seconded by Commissioner Kost, to approve the IWS system wastewater alternate bid for the Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) Sustainable Technologies Building. The motion carried four (4) to one (1). Commissioner Cross opposed.

PITTSBORO/CHAPEL HILL EXPRESS SYSTEM

This item was moved to the Regular meeting which will begin at 6:00 PM.

JORDAN LAKE BOUNDARY RULES

Fred Royal, Environmental Resources Director, explained that on Tuesday, August 11, 2009, he attended the meeting where the Durham Planning Commission unanimously voted (12-0) to urge the County Commissioners to maintain the present zoning of land near Jordan Lake and join the city government in obtaining an independent survey of the lake's boundaries to establish/confirm the reservoirs normal pool elevation (NPE). He stated that he recommends that the Board of Commissioners discuss this issue with Durham County and the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) to determine the merits of maintaining the existing NPE and the implications of changing the critical watershed boundaries; that if Durham County elects to commission a new survey for the entire reservoir, Chatham County should be included as a partner in determining the best methodology and to determine the full impacts to the critical watershed areas in Chatham County prior to the work; that if the Board of Commissioners wishes, staff has researched best available LIDAR terrain data and a methodology to create a new NPE around Jordan Lake using highly accurate vertical elevation data; that this method is currently used by North Carolina Floodplain Mapping and could be performed internally by staff.

Mr. Royal suggested that another communication be sent to Durham County stating that the Chatham County Board believes that the existing NPE boundaries provided by the State are sufficient and that no new survey is warranted, unless the data accuracy and methodology can be improved upon and agreed to by impacted local governments and State agencies.

GREEN ECONOMY FOLLOW-UP REGARDING ASSISTANCE REQUEST

The County Manager gave a brief presentation on the Green Economy assistance request stating that staff met with the green economy subcommittee of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) and the Green Economy Task Force to begin sorting out areas where assistance will be needed. The "requests-for-proposals" (RFP) for stimulus funds is expected to be out in the next month. At that time, there will be more information available.

RECESS

The Chairman stated that the NC Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) session, the Agenda Finalization Process, and the Pittsboro/Chapel Hill Express Service will be discussed at the Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM in the District Courtroom.

Commissioner Vanderbeck moved, seconded by Commissioner Kost, to recess the Work Session to the Manager's Conference Room for dinner at 5:07 PM. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

The Board discussed the upcoming NC Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) meeting to be held in Catawba County on August 27-30, 2009 during dinner.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Vanderbeck moved, seconded by Commissioner Kost, to adjourn the Work Session. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0) and the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

George Lucier, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sandra B. Sublett, CMC, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners