

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

The Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the Agricultural Building Auditorium, 45 South Street, located in Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 10:30 AM on September 8, 2009.

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

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

Chairman Lucier welcomed everyone to the Work Session.

TICK CREEK 319 GRANT

Patrick Beggs, Watershed Education for Communities and Officials, presented a PowerPoint on "Collaborative Restoration of Rocky River Watershed High Quality Resources". He explained that the Watershed Education for Communities and Officials (WECO), a NC Cooperative Extension program received a US EPA grant in partnership with other NCSU Departments and local organizations to work on restoring and protecting resources of the Rocky River Watershed, which is in the Cape Fear River Basin. The project proposed convening a collaborative Rocky River Watershed management effort, while focusing restoration efforts on Tick Creek, a major tributary within the Rocky River Watershed that is rated as impaired by the State and Federal Governments. WECO conducted a situation assessment to determine whether a collaborative process might benefit the situation, and to identify stakeholders and issues of importance to stakeholders, which involved interviewing stakeholders who represented a range of interests in the Rocky River Watershed.

Issues of concern raised by those interviewed included protecting endangered and threatened aquatic species, reducing nitrogen pollution in the Rocky River from a variety of urban and rural sources, impacts of seasonal and drought induced low flows in the Rocky and its tributaries, ensuring adequate drinking water supply and quality, public access to the river for recreation, maintaining agricultural uses and minimizing impacts to water resources, supporting economic development and viability of business, conflict over Siler City’s wastewater treatment plant permit, and deep-rooted conflict across sectors of Chatham County.

A geographic disconnect between upstream and downstream users (Western and Eastern Chatham County) is compounded by a focus on positions that have prevented some stakeholders from communicating productively enough to understand each other’s interests. Understanding other stakeholder’s interests is the basis for collaborative problem-solving. Despite this lack of understanding, they heard almost unanimously that stakeholders across the various interests and geography want to hold a conversation so they can find common ground to work on together. They believe that common ground is possible, in particular because all stakeholders interviewed were contributing in some manner towards protection of water resources, and were interested in discussions.

He stated that they recommend using this PEA-funded project to provide opportunities for increased communication and understanding of each others’ issues. They

recommend forming a collaborative effort focused on protecting and restoring the Tick Creek watershed, setting the possibility of a Rocky River level collaborative effort on hold while they focus on smaller, more manageable outcomes. Their specific recommendations for this project are included in the following categories: 1) facilitate communication and education; 2) engage in joint fact-finding; 3) convene a Tick Creek collaborative effort; 4) reframe the issues around the Rocky River, and 5) meet participant needs through principled negotiation. He stated that their recommendations are primarily targeted towards our project partners, but most can be applied towards Rocky River stakeholders in general.

Mr. Beggs answered questions from the Board, staff, and citizens.

STATUS REPORT FOR BRIAR CHAPEL RECREATION AREA

Renee Paschal, Assistant County Manager, gave an update on the status of negotiations with Briar Chapel to take ownership of the park in order to more fully develop it into a more useful facility; that they intend to use the Recreation Fees that Briar Chapel has paid (approximately \$300,000) to make the improvements; and that they would be bringing it back to the Board in approximately one month for approval.

Chairman Lucier thanked everyone involved for working through the issues.

PROPOSED CALENDAR FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET PROCESS

Ms. Paschal explained that planning for Chatham County's Fiscal Year 2011 budget began with the critique of the budget process by the Board of Commissioners on August 3, 2009. She stated that in order to ensure adequate information for decision making, it is important to establish deadlines and targets for the process.

The Board discussed the process and gave feedback.

Vice Chair Sally Kost moved, seconded by Commissioner Tom Vanderbeck, to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Calendar and Budget Criteria, deleting the budget survey from the calendar and move to consider it on a bi-annual basis. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

BYNUM COMMUNITY GARDEN

The County Attorney explained the various options regarding liability issues surrounding the group's request to use County property for a community garden in Bynum.

By consensus, the Board agreed to proceed with the lease agreement redraft with the following changes:

- 1) Reserve the right to terminate, with no reason, up to 90 days
- 2) 5-year term
- 3) Liability Issue - Have them to provide liability insurance, up to \$300,000, piggybacking on the County's policy, if possible

DEPARTMENTAL EVALUATION PROCESS

Ms. Paschal reviewed the list of Chatham County services for the evaluation process as follows:

Purpose: Many governments continue to provide the same services year after year without examining whether they are effective. Budgeting is incremental and focused on allocating additional resources to existing programs. Chatham County is a high-growth county and the needs of our residents are changing. County commissioners are committed to examining the relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency of current services in a comprehensive manner. The goal is to allocate resources to those services, new and existing, that achieve desired results

and can be operated most efficiently. For that purpose, commissioners have established a comprehensive evaluation process.

Process: Annually, at the beginning of the process, the board of commissioners will identify three to five departments to participate. Participating departments will provide the following information initially:

- An update on the progress towards achieving goals, objectives, and performance measures in the department's work plan
- A list of services provided (which should already be included in the departmental budget)
- An explanation for why the services are provided, the key results achieved, how these results compare with other programs, and whether the services are provided efficiently
- How services are interrelated with other departments? What are the key interactions and interdependencies? Could services be streamlined to be more effective?
- Major goals of the department (should be included in the departmental work plan—if not, department should add)
- What are the major barriers to the department being able to achieve its goals?
- Line items for the most recently adopted budget, compared to actual for the two previous fiscal years
- What services should the department be providing but cannot because of limited resources?
- What new services, projects, and innovations is the department proposing in the upcoming budget?
- A priority ranking of current services, services the department should be providing, and proposed new services
- A list of major accomplishments

The department head will present the information to the performance review committee consisting of two commissioners, the county manager, the assistant county manager, the finance officer, and the performance manager. The committee will review the information presented and identify additional issues to be addressed. The department will have one month to address the additional issues and present to the committee. Staff will prepare a summary of the committee's findings, along with information provided by the department, to the full Board of Commissioners.

Options for timing:

Option 1—Immediately after adoption of the budget (July 1 to September 1). This option allows the most time for incorporating the performance review committee's recommendations into the upcoming budget, as departments would have much lead time to address concerns, develop new programs, etc., and findings could be incorporated into the budget summit and commissioner goals. This option matches up best with the workload of the Budget Office and departments (regarding budget work), but has already passed for the current budget cycle.

Option 2—In preparation for the commissioners budget summit (October 15 to December 15). This option ties in well with the summit and would inform commissioner goals for preparation of the upcoming budget. Commissioners could earmark part of the summit to discuss findings. This option matches up well with the workload of departments (CIP has been submitted), but not as well with the Budget Office, which will be preparing the recommended CIP.

Option 3—In preparation for the department budget requests (January 1 to March 1). This option would allow departments to incorporate findings into their budget request. This option will work for the Budget Office, but will be burdensome for departments that will be working on operating budget requests.

Option 4—In preparation of the recommended budget (March 1 to May 1): This option would allow the manager to incorporate findings into the recommended budget. This option will work for departments (budget is due March 8), but not for the Budget Office, which will be preparing the recommended budget.

Option 5—After presentation of the recommended budget (May 1 to June 30): This option would allow commissioners to incorporate findings into the approved budget. This option will work for departments, but may not be as effective for commissioners who will be working on other aspects of the budget and the Budget Office, which will be responding to commissioners' request for information.

The Board made comments and offered suggestions.

Ms. Paschal stated that ideally, Option 1 matches up best with the workload of the Budget Office and departments (regarding budget work), but has already passed for the current budget cycle.

By consensus, the Board decided on Option #2. Staff is to return to the Board with up to three department evaluation recommendations.

AMBERLY PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

The County Manager explained that the Town of Cary has requested an additional 36.6 acres to the existing 151.5 acre Amberly Planned Development District that is outside of Cary's extra-territorial jurisdiction.

Jason Sullivan, Interim Planning Director, explained that a letter was received from the Town of Cary regarding the Amberly Planned Development District expansion off of Pittard Sears Road. He stated that this is part of the annexation request that was discussed during the Board of Commissioners' meeting on July 20th; that there are several components to the request to annex that include amendments to the Cary comprehensive plan and an initial zoning; that the discussion during the work session on July 20th was to discuss the annexation and Cary's Northwest Area Plan amendment; that this information is in regards to the initial zoning of the property within the Town of Cary's corporate limits, if the annexation proceeds; and that the Cary Town Council held a public hearing on August 27, 2009 to consider this request.

Commissioner Carl Thompson moved, seconded by Vice Chair Sally Kost, to support the rezoning of the property with the caveat that the Board will ask for 50 ft. undisturbed buffer along Pittard Sears Road. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

The Board asked that a letter be sent to Cary informing them of this action.

CHATHAM CARY JOINT PLAN

Commissioner Kost gave an update on Joint Chatham County/Town of Cary Subcommittee Meeting held on August 31, 2009 in Cary.

The next meeting of the joint boards will be held on September 17, 2009 at the North Chatham Elementary School, Multi-Purpose Room, 3380 Lystra Road, Chapel Hill, NC, 7:30 PM.

Commissioners Thompson and Vanderbeck expressed appreciation, on behalf of the Board, for the Chair and Vice Chair's efforts.

GRAND TREES RECOGNITION BOARD

Al Cooke presented a roster of nominees for Grant Trees Board as follows:

GTOC – Board – 10 members (4 from towns)

Initial 3 year term – expiring 2012:

Siler City – Helen Buckner
250 South Estes Drive, #43
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919.260.4341

Jill Coleman
437 Rosswood Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
919.843.3246; 919.218.4487
jcoleman@fac.unc.edu

Walton Haywood
501 Oak Island
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
919.933.3869
waltonhaywood@gmail.com

Initial 2 year term – expiring 2011:

Cary –Lesla McGregor
703 Allforth Place
Cary, NC 27519
919-461-2391
LM1175340@aol.com

Goldston – Jody Harris
8343 Old Hwy. 421
Bear Creek, NC 27207
919.898.4626; 919.370.7308
4harris@embarqmail.com

Sharon Garbutt
595 Pokeberry Lane
Pittsboro, NC 27312
jcgarbutt@mindspring.com

Stephanie Lily
Audubon Tree Service
1924 River Road
Pittsboro, NC 27312
919.933.2502; 919.542.0180
audubontree@yahoo.com

Initial 1 year term – expiring 2010:

Pittsboro – Paul Horne
Planning Department
Town of Pittsboro
PO Box 759
Pittsboro, NC 27312
919.542.4621, ext. 62
phhorne@nc.rr.com

Stacy Gray
2190 Walter Bright Road
Sanford, NC 27330
919.699.1293
stacylaughters@yahoo.com

Margaret Tiano
188 Hawthorn Place
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
919.542.0391
ptgs2@earthlink.net

Commissioner Tom Vanderbeck moved, seconded by Vice Chair Sally Kost, to approve the slate of nominees for the Grand Trees Recognition Board as listed. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

LUNCH RECESS

The Chairman called for a lunch recess with the meeting to reconvene at 12:30 PM.

CLOSED SESSION

Vice Chair Sally Kost moved, seconded by Commissioner Tom Vanderbeck, to go into Closed Session for the purpose of attorney/client privilege and to discuss property acquisition. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Mike Cross moved, seconded by Commissioner Carl Thompson, to adjourn the Work Session at 2:02 PM. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

George Lucier, Chairman

ATTEST:

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