

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING, MAY 05, 1997

The Board of Commissioners ("the Board") of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in regular session in the District Courtroom, located in the Courthouse Annex, Pittsboro, North Carolina, the regular place of meeting, at 10:00 A.M. on May 05, 1997.

Present: Chairman Margaret Pollard; Vice Chair Betty Wilson;
Commissioners Uva Holland, John Grimes, and Henry Dunlap;
County Manager, Charlie Horne; County Attorney, Robert
L. Gunn; Assistant County Manager, Reneé Dickson; and
Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Lee

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 10:01 A.M.

AGENDA

The Chairman asked if there were addition, deletions or corrections to the Agenda.

Charlie Horne, County Manager, asked that Item #16 Chatham County Employees Health Insurance and Item #17 Behavioral Technologies, Inc. Treatment Program, be removed from the Agenda and that a report by the North Carolina Forestry Service be added to the Agenda under the Manager's reports.

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to approve the Agenda with the noted requests. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

CONSENT AGENDA

The Chairman directed the Clerk to the Board to read the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda as read by the Clerk.

1. **Minutes:** Consideration of approval of Board Minutes for regular meeting held April 21, 1997 and Budget Input Session held April 17, 1997

The motion was approved five (5) to zero (0).

2. **Tax Releases:** Consideration of a request for approval of Tax Releases, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

The motion was approved five (5) to zero (0).

3. **Refunds for Solid Waste Disposal Fees and Regular Tax Bills Paid in Error:** Consideration of a request for approval of Refunds for Solid Waste Disposal Fees and Regular Tax Bills paid in error, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

The motion was approved five (5) to zero (0).

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Gerald H. Totten, 108 Petty Road, Siler City, NC, stated that it was his belief that ample funds are allocated to the schools but that the funds are not used for the children. He stated that

at the April 30, 1997 education budget session, there were comments from PTA members stating that they had had to raise money to build playgrounds, to buy school supplies, and refinish floors due to needs and lack of funds; that it was his understanding that the entire school board attended a convention in California instead of sending one or two representatives to make reports upon returning home; that he estimated that the cost of the trip would have covered refinishing the floor with remaining funds to be used for supplies; that the purchase price of land for more access to the Siler City Middle School was more than three times the price paid for land purchased less than three months earlier by the seller; that \$60,000 was spent on parking at the administrative office while the Commissioners are being asked for fund another \$8,000 for teacher supplement pay; that prior budget submissions show over twice as much going to employee benefits as to classroom supplies; that schools overspent a 1989 \$15,000,000 authorized bond issue by \$800,000, spent \$4,00,000 of the 1993 bond referendum for other purposes and came up short for the authorized funding of the Perry Harrison School and the Siler City Middle School. He stated that it is time to require responsiveness from an unresponsive group when only 1/6th of the County's residents demand over forty percent of tax funds and then priorities are not set which require a test of responsibility and accountability.

TAX ADMINISTRATION

Mapping/GIS Project Administrator Contract: Consideration to approve the contract for the Project Administrator with C. M. Wester & Associates, Inc.

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to approve the contract for the Project Administrator with C. M. Wester & Associates, Inc., attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Mapping/GIS Project Contract: Consideration to approve the Mapping/GIS Project Contract

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to approve the contract for mapping services with American Geographic Data, Inc., attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Classification Appeal of MAPS Study for Tax Paralegal Position: Consideration of a classification appeal of the MAPS Study for the Tax Paralegal Position

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to approve the reclassification for the Tax Paralegal Position. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Match for "Out For Lunch Program": Consideration of County funding in the amount of \$4,200 as required transportation match for Chatham County Center of North Carolina Cooperative Extension

Service to receive \$30,000 for the “*Out For Lunch Program*”

Commissioner Holland moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to budget \$4,200 for the Cooperative Extension Service in FY 1997-98 to fund transportation for the “*Out For Lunch Program*”. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

Resolution #97-21 Right of Entry: Consideration of approval of Right of Entry Resolution

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to approve **Resolution #97-21 Right of Entry**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Rabies Report: Presentation of a report regarding rabies by Randee Linke, Chatham County Animal Control Officer

Randee Linke, Chatham County Animal Control Officer, explained the importance of the awareness of animals with whom the public comes in daily contact. She explained that rabies is a virus-induced neurological disease of warm-blooded animals which is fatal; that all warm-blooded animals are susceptible but that there are varying levels of susceptibility; that the most susceptible are skunks, raccoons, bats, foxes, wolves, and cattle; that raccoons are the number one carrier in the state; that those intermediately susceptible are dogs, cats, horses, sheep, goats, non-human primates and humans; that wild animals are the primary reservoirs for rabies, but domestic pets are the principle source of spread to humans; that in 1996, the state laboratory in Raleigh confirmed 736 cases of rabies; that in 1995, there were 466 confirmed cases; that rabies is a disease that is on the move across the state and is almost doubling yearly.

Ms. Linke explained the three signs of rabies, 1) prodromal stage, 2) excitative stage, 3) paralytic stage, and stated rabies can only be diagnosed with 99% accuracy through a special test done on brain tissue. She stated that Chatham County leads the state with 82 confirmed cases of rabies; and that there is a vaccination clinic scheduled between May 15-June 15, 1997 which should allow adequate time for everyone to have their animals vaccinated.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Declare County Property as Surplus: Consideration to declare County property as surplus

Commissioner Holland moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to approve the list, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, of County property as surplus and allow it to be sold by sealed bid with a May 29, 1997 deadline for submitting bids. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Board: Consideration of two appointments to the Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Board

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to appoint John Jabbusch and Oli

Devaud to the Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Board. The motion five (5) to zero (0).

~~**Solid Waste Advisory Committee:** Consideration of appointment to the Chatham County Solid Waste Advisory Committee~~

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This appointment was deferred until the May 19, 1997 meeting date.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MATTERS

Consent Order Approving Basic Service Tier Rate Increase: Consideration of a consent order approving basic service tier rate increase with Cencom Partners

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to approve the Consent Order Approving Basic Service Tier Rate Increase, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Emergency Medical Services Contract: Consideration to approve a contract with FirstHealth for provision of emergency medical services in Chatham County

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to adopt **An Ordinance Regulating Emergency Medical, First Responder, and Rescue Service and Granting of Franchises and Contracts for Operations in the County of Chatham**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to adopt **An Ordinance Granting an Ambulance Franchise to FirstHealth of the Carolinas, Inc.**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Commissioner Holland moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to approve the contract between Chatham County and FirstHealth of Carolinas, Inc. with noted amendments to the EMS agreement, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to approve **Resolution #97-22 Declaring Property Surplus and Authorizing the Sale of Said Property to FirstHealth of the Carolinas, Inc.**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

The County Manager explained that there will be an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council, up to nine members, to be appointed by the Board in the coming months.

RECESS

The Chairman called for a five minute recess.

~~**Chatham County Employees Health Insurance:** Consideration to approve Chatham County Employee Health Insurance~~

- This item was removed from the Agenda.

- ~~**Behavioral Technologies, Inc. Treatment Program:** Consideration to acquire suitable office space to house Behavioral Technologies, Inc. (BTI) for providing sex offender treatment program to Chatham County clients~~

This item was removed from the Agenda.

Chatham County Schools/Wastewater Improvements Request: Consideration to appropriate \$56,000 from the School Capital Reserve to fund wastewater improvements to the Bennett and Bonlee Schools

Dr. Larry Mabe, Superintendent of Chatham County Schools, addressed wastewater improvements to the Bennett and Bonlee Schools and answered questions from the Board.

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap, to release the \$56,000 in the School Capital Reserve funds for the Bonlee and Bennett School projects to go for the first and second stages as far as it will go on a reimbursement basis. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

MANAGER' S REPORTS

The County Manager informed the Commissioners of the following:

1.) **Chapel Hill Town Council Meeting:** The meeting with the Chapel Hill Town Council and the Board of Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 1997 at Best Foods Cafeteria in Siler City at 6:00 PM at which time a discussion of common issues will be held.

2.) **Legislative Briefing Meeting:** The meeting with legislators to be held after the Legislative Briefing on Wednesday, May 7, 1997 is to be decided and Commissioners informed. Those attending will be Commissioners Pollard and Holland and County Manager, Charlie Horne.

3.) **NC Forestry Service Presentation:** Kenneth Perry with the NC Forestry Service was unable to attend the meeting and the presentation will not be given.

4.) **Equalization and Review Process:** The Board of Equalization and Review will convene at 1:15 PM in the Agriculture Building Conference Room.

5.) **NACo 62nd Annual Conference:** The National Association of County Commissioners will be held in Baltimore, Maryland from July 11-15, 1997. Please advise the Clerk to the Board if you wish to attend.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Wilson stated that she attended some third grade classrooms to speak on county government at which time she was presented with handmade booklets prepared by the children on Chatham County who asked that they be shared with the Commissioners. Commissioner Wilson praised the efforts of

the children and commended the teachers, Mrs. Lydia Karstaedt and Mrs. Sue Harrison.

Commissioner Pollard stated that the meeting with the Chapel Hill Town Board and the Chatham County Board of Commissioners conflicts with the public hearing by the Town of Cary to be held on wastewater discharge into Jordan Lake. She asked that a letter be drafted and mailed to Mayor Booth expressing these concerns. She asked that Mr. Ray Greenlaw be asked to represent Chatham County at the public hearing.

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to approve a letter to be sent to Mayor Booth relaying various wastewater discharge proposals and that Mr. Ray Greenlaw be asked to represent Chatham County at the public hearing. A copy of the letter is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Commissioner Pollard expressed her thanks to the people who worked with the Strategic Plan Development Committee to make the "Joint Summit of the Governing Boards" a success. She asked that thank you cards be signed by the Commissioners and sent to the individuals responsible in this endeavor.

CLOSED SESSION

- Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to postpone the Closed Session until after the meeting of the Equalization and Review Board

LUNCH

- Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to recess for lunch until 1:00 PM. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to recess as the Board of Commissioners and convene as the Board of Equalization and Review.

The Board was administered the oath of office as members of the Board of Equalization and Review of Chatham County, North Carolina, by Janice Oldham, Clerk of Court.

Minutes of the Board of Equalization and Review are attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to adjourn as the Board of Equalization and Review and reconvene as the Board of Commissioners.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to go out of Regular Session and into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing personnel. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

REGULAR SESSION

- Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to go out of Closed Session and into Regular Session for the purpose of discussing personnel. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

ADJOURNMENT

- Commissioner Dunlap moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, that there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Margaret Bryant Pollard, Chair

ATTEST:

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