

**MINUTES**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**WORK SESSION**  
**MAY 17, 2010**

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The Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the Henry H. Dunlap Building Classroom, 80 South Street, located in Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 2:00 PM on May 17, 2010.

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

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

**Agenda**

1. **Employee of the Month:** Presentation of May 2010 Employee of the Month
2. ~~**NC DOT Presentation:** Presentation on litter pick-up along Chatham County roadways work session. Reuben Blakely and others will be present to inform the Board about NC DOT’s litter program and how roadsides are selected for periodic clean-up~~  
  
This item will be returned to the Board at a later date.
3. **Northeast District Park Update:** Presentation on the Northeast District final plan. Consultants ColeJenest & Stone will be present to discuss final plans for the park
4. **Performance Building Renovations:** Bids received for renovations and installation of an elevator for the building came in higher than budgeted. (An additional \$350,000 is recommended).
5. **Courthouse Task Force:** The Board is considering applicants who have expressed interest in being part of the task force. The Board of Commissioners anticipates that the task force will report back in September 2010 with recommendations for use of the building. After BOC reviews recommendations, we anticipate that design work on functional aspects of the building will begin with construction documents to follow in the near future.
6. **Stericycle-Medical Incinerator Discussion:** Consideration of a request to ask the Board to join with other county commissioners in North Carolina to make sure that polluting incinerators such as Stericycle will be held to new, more stringent EPA rules sooner than the proposed date of October 2014.
  - Adopt Resolution Requesting the Adoption of State Rules Requiring Early Implementation of Federal Standards for Hospital, Medical, and Infectious Waste Incinerators

7. **Cary Wastewater Update:** Discussion and consideration of Cary's proposal regarding request by Western Wake Partners to extend a waste water outfall line across portions of Chatham County to Buckhorn dam area in Lee County
8. **Obesity Report:** Holly Coleman, Chatham County Health Director, will introduce Marissa Jelks who will report to the Board of Commissioners about ongoing work with obesity in Chatham County.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kost called the Work Session to order at 2:00 PM.

### **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

Presentation of May 2010 Employee of the Month

Human Resources Director Carolyn Miller said that the Employee of the Month program had been instituted in FY 2009 to honor Chatham County employees for exemplary service to citizens and fellow employees. She explained that the May 2010 Employee of the Month was Anne Lowry, of the Environmental Health Division of the Chatham County Public Health Department. Ms. Miller said that Ms. Lowry had been with Chatham County government for nearly fourteen years. An excerpt from her nomination form follows:

“As Onsite Wastewater Program Coordinator, Anne oversees the daily operations of the well and septic program. She makes sure the program goals are met, often by taking on additional tasks herself. Recently, I had a conflict with an inspection appointment I had made. As I was trying to get someone to make the inspection for me, Anne stepped right up and took the file from me and went to the appointment. She didn't make excuses. She realized I had a difficult predicament and did all she could to make the situation better. This type of action is Anne's standard operating procedure.

With the H1N1 flu outbreak besieging the nation, the health department activated the Incident Command System this past fall in order to protect as many citizens as possible from the sometimes deadly flu. Anne volunteered to assume the role of logistics section chief even though she only had minimal practical experience in the implementation of ICS. The logistics chief's job is demanding and time-consuming, but Anne managed to meet those obligations along with her day-to-day job requirements. She never pushed her regular duties off on anyone else. The flu clinics were very successful, and Anne played a large role in that accomplishment.

Because of Anne's efforts, Chatham County was awarded a tick grant from NCDENR. With the grant monies, the health department is educating the public about ticks and tick-borne illness by erecting tick kiosks in Chatham County parks. With Chatham County being a haven to so many ticks, and three environmental health staff members having suffered the effects of tick-borne illness in the past year, Anne certainly understands the importance of education. The tick-grant project currently in the works is the establishment of a deer baiting station. The hope is that the tick population will decrease where the bait station is established. If successful, I have no doubt that Anne will try to obtain funding for additional tick baiting stations.

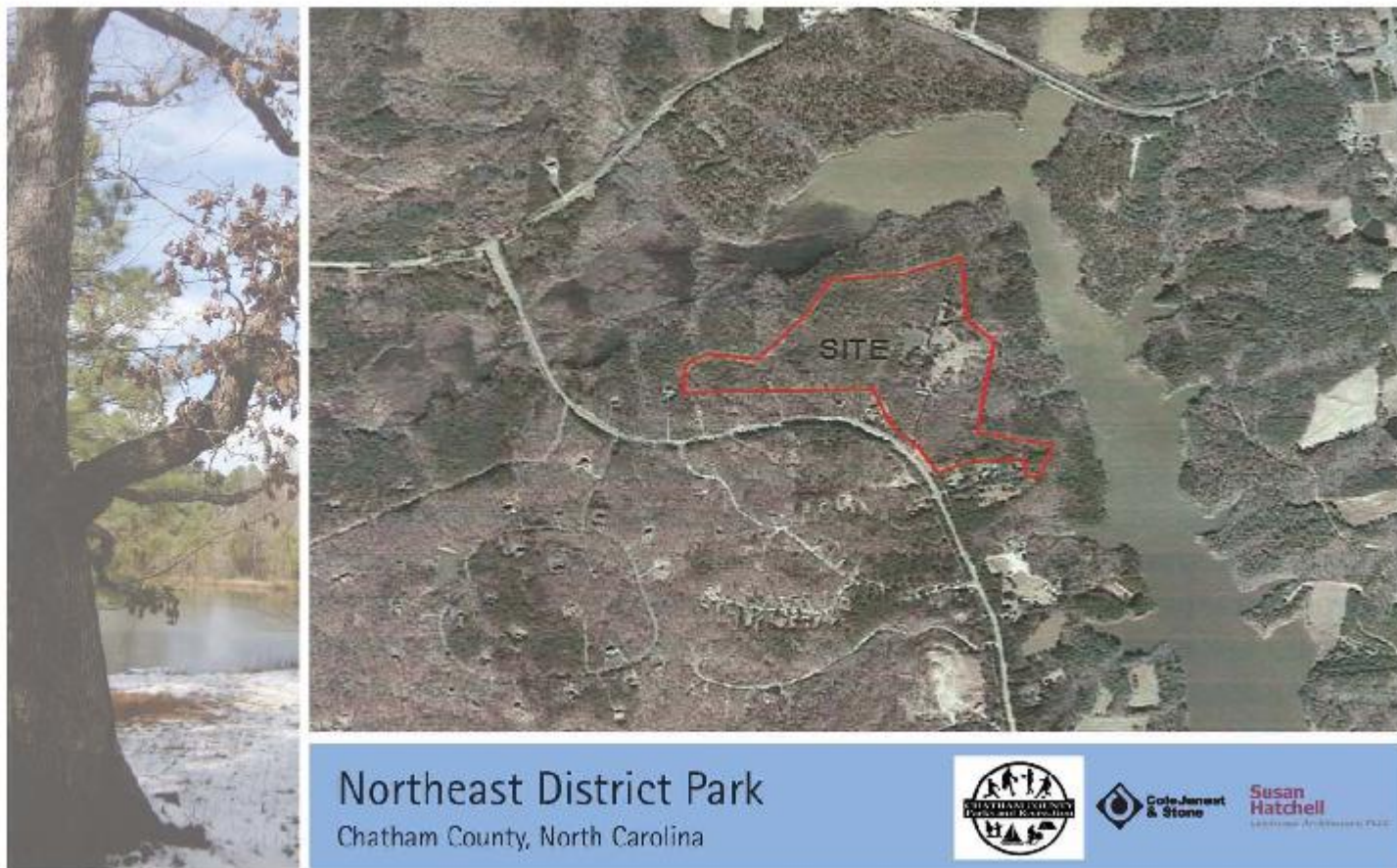
As you can see, Anne goes above and beyond the call of duty to provide outstanding customer service. She has a cooperative attitude that causes her to step up to the plate when needed. Under her leadership, Chatham County's environmental health division is doing even more to protect the health of our citizens.”

Chair Kost presented the certificate and congratulated Ms. Lowry on behalf of the Board. She noted that many changes had occurred over the past 10-15 years and said that just keeping abreast of state requirements and regulations was difficult. Having so many co-workers attend the presentation was a testament to Ms. Lowry's service to Chatham County, said Chair Kost.

County Health Director Holly Coleman paid tribute to Ms. Lowry's dedication and efforts to provide service to the people of Chatham County. Ms. Lowry took on whatever was needed and was the perfect choice as the logistics officer for the NIHI initiative even though one does not usually think of that for someone with her job, Ms. Coleman said. She added that the Health Department wanted to express their appreciation as well.

### **NORTHEAST DISTRICT PARK UPDATE**

Chair Kost introduced Tracy Burnett, Chatham County Recreation Director, who asked the Board to approve construction documents plans for Phase I of the Northeast District Park. Ms. Burnett introduced Brian O'Haver, a project manager with ColeJenest & Stone, a landscape engineering and civil architectural firm in Raleigh, NC. Mr. O'Haver gave the following PowerPoint presentation:



Mr. O'Haver described the site, septic system, buffers, bio-retention areas, pond location, asphalt trail, tennis courts, picnic shelter, restrooms/concession stand and baseball field. He discussed grading and tree preservation. He said they had chosen a prefabricated building for the concession and restroom to reduce cost. Mr. O'Haver showed the proposed design and the playground equipment that had been chosen. He presented the proposed schedule, explaining that they were still waiting for approvals from NCDENR and NCDOT, but hoped to get approval from the Board tonight.

Chair Kost ascertained that DOT approval was for the driveway permit. They were not going to require any approvals in Phase I and probably not in Phase II either, she said.

Commissioner Vanderbeck asked about bike lanes, and Mr. O'Haver replied that there were none on the site, since they were trying to minimize the amount of pavement. However, bike lanes could easily be added if the Board felt it was important, he said.

Commissioner Vanderbeck noted that the lanes do not need to be paved. He asked if a walking trail or bike path could be put there. Mr. O'Haver replied that there was a walking trail

around the lake. A large portion of the site was in the Clean Water Management Fund and could never be developed, he said.

Commissioner Lucier explained that the County had originally received a grant to help develop the park. Those funds had been stalled due to the state budget crisis, he said.

Assistant County Manager Renee Paschal said that land values had dropped since the original agreement for the easement had been completed. The County still did not know when the state might release those funds, she said. Commissioner Lucier asked what the land was worth, and Ms. Paschal agreed to determine that figure. The idea, she said, was that the County would be more competitive if it revised the value of its land because others across the state were doing so.

Commissioner Lucier said he thought Chatham County had already competed for the grant and won. Ms. Paschal replied that they had. However, that was with respect to agencies who had been awarded the grant in 2008 and 2009, she said. State officials had said that the County needed to reduce its value if it wanted to be funded, Ms. Paschal explained.

Mr. O'Haver noted that there would be two NC State University study areas in the park. These would monitor impoundment areas and test how well they work, he said, adding that it would include run-off from the parking lots.

Mr. O'Haver returned to the bike path issue. He said that existing trails would be adequate, but the Board could add more. Commissioner Vanderbeck wondered about a trail/path in the woods where people could walk or ride a bike.

Chair Kost asked if there were any planned traffic-calming devices, such as swells or bumps. Mr. O'Haver replied that there were none at this time. He noted that the narrow street included bends that would inhibit speeding. However, that might be a legitimate concern and something could be easily added, he said.

Commissioner Lucier agreed that speed bumps, or other traffic-calming devices, should be part of the plan. He asked when construction would start, be completed, and when the park would open. Mr. O'Haver replied that they were hoping to go out to bid in June and that process would take a month or more. They plan to award the bid in August and have construction begin in September 2010, he said.

Commissioner Lucier pointed out that there was \$500,000 remaining in the Parks & Recreation Trust Fund Grant. He asked about the deadline for using that money and if the County was in any danger of losing it by missing the deadline. Ms. Burnette said she thought there was no danger of that.

Commissioner Lucier said that they had received funds in 2008 that must be spent by a year from now. So, it was important that the schedule not lag, he said. Commissioner Lucier recommended getting bids out and starting the process so the County would not put itself in the position of losing \$500,000 from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. Mr. O'Haver stated that they were right on schedule.

Chair Kost ascertained that Phase I did include lights and that extra care was being taken to insure that they were the correct type. Commissioner Lucier noted that lighting had been an issue with neighbors. It greatly helped to be able to say that they would adhere to their light ordinance and use fixtures that keep light from being intrusive, he said.

Chair Kost ascertained from Ms. Burnett that the County had been looking at partnering with volunteer groups to build trails. Commissioner Lucier said they expect those trails to become the cross country track for the Jack Bennet High School, which probably would use the fields as well. He pointed out that the cross county coach had a group of very active volunteers.

## **PERFORMANCE BUILDING RENOVATIONS**

Public Works Director David Hughes pointed out that the bids were competitive, with the low three being \$571,000, \$572,000 and \$579,000. When bids are that close it indicates a good competition, he said.

Mr. Hughes explained that the seven bid alternates totaled \$75,800. These included: \$5,900 for a concrete sidewalk, \$7,400 for data/phone cabling and equipment, \$44,650 to install fire alarm system, and \$17,850 for a security system. Mr. Hughes pointed out that only \$400,000 was available in the construction budget.

Chair Kost clarified that the fire alarm system amount was for the entire building, but did not include sprinklers. Commissioner Vanderbeck verified that the restaurant would have a fire alarm over the cooking hood.

Mr. Hughes noted that the \$571,000 base bid plus alternates totaled \$646,800. He noted a recommended \$30,000 contingency fund, and said it would cost another \$5,000 to \$10,000 to make space for the elevator. The grand total would be about \$697,000, which is \$300,000 over budget, he said. Mr. Hughes said that the Appearance Commission had not yet provided input, and there might be additional landscaping expense, so the staff was recommending an additional \$350,000.

Commissioner Lucier verified that the payback period would be about nine years. Then they would have the building free and clear, he said, and he ascertained that the additional \$350,000 would likely extend that period to 10-11 years. Chair Kost pointed out that other variables had changed as well and that staff would have to redo the calculations.

Mr. Hughes said that they could try cutting the contingency. He noted, however, that the plan did not include extra meeting space in the back, did not include renovating the restaurant when the lease was up, and did not include renovation of the [9Y?]. However, it did include all of the second floor renovation, he said.

Mr. Hughes requested that the Board approve a notice of award. He noted that the 60-day period for construction bidding would expire the following week. The lowest bid was from Hodgin Construction Company of Greensboro, NC, he said.

Commissioner Lucier moved, seconded by Commissioner Vanderbeck, to accept the Base Bid in the amount of \$571,000.00, the proposed Bid Alternates in the amount of \$75,800.00 (Total \$646,800.00), and the contingency recommendation for Hodgin Construction Company of Greensboro, NC for the building renovation and addition at 964 East Street. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Commissioner Thompson moved, seconded by Commissioner Vanderbeck, to amend the budget by \$350,000 with the appropriation to be taken from fund balance. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Chair Kost remarked that the County had not realized at the time the budget was established that the elevator would have to be a separate tower. That was what caused the need to increase the budget, she said.

## **COURTHOUSE TASK FORCE**

Chair Kost introduced the item, and began discussing the list of applicants to the Courthouse Taskforce. She said she had received a timely application from Rita Spina, but it had not made the list before the due to a technical problem. Chair Kost suggested that the Board review the list and see if there were any issues.

Chair Kost said that the Town of Pittsboro chose to appoint Michael Fioco. The Board had asked the mayor of Goldston to make an appointment, but had not heard back from him, she said. She recommended appointing the mayor or his designee, and the Board agreed. Chair Kost

noted that Siler City had recommended Richard Szary. The courts had chosen Allen Beddour, Page Vernon and Sam Cooper, she said. Chatham Arts had nominated Leslie Landis, and the Board expressed support for that. Chair Kost named Jeffrey Starkweather, from the Economic Development Corporation. She said they had not received anything from the Pittsboro Merchants Association but that there were several people who could be classified as representing them. Commissioner Lucier recommended Christine Miller, and Commissioner Vanderbeck agreed, noting that she lives between Bear Creek and Goldston, where there is not good representation.

Chair Kost explained that they had had difficulty trying to find a youth representative. She recommended deleting that designation and adding two at large nominations to the Commissioners' list. Commissioner Lucier agreed with the approach as long as it still left the door open for youth representation. He reminded the Board that the original intent was to get someone from the local community college. So, if someone wants to serve, especially from the community college, then they should be considered, he said. The Board agreed to do that but not hold the space open.

Chair Kost mentioned that Barbara Pugh had been chosen by one historic association, but the Board had not received a recommendation from the second one. The Board agreed to appoint Geraldine Degraffenreidt, or her designee. From the architect/building trades community, Commissioner Lucier suggested Taylor Hobbs, and the Board agreed. From public safety and fire, Commissioner Lucier said that Mike Roberson had applied and would be a good representative.

Chair Kost asked for suggestions for tourism, and Commissioner Vanderbeck said that Pam Smith had applied, was very active in the community, and could be very valuable in that role. The Board supported that suggestion as well.

The Board then shared their own nominations. Commissioner Cross nominated Paul Messick. Chair Kost named Rita Spina. Commissioner Lucier named Betty Wilson. Commissioner Thompson nominated Miriam Pollard, and Commissioner Vanderbeck nominated Joseph Thomas. By consensus, the Board accepted all of those nominations.

Commissioner Lucier suggested Mike Harrelson and Susan Little for the at large representatives, and the Board agreed. Chair Kost pointed out that the Goldston representative and the second historical nominee had not been selected, and that the door had been left open for a person of youth. She recommended appointing a Commissioner to serve on the taskforce as a non-voting member. Commissioner Vanderbeck nominated Commissioner Thompson. Commissioner Thompson said he would go to the community college and try to find a youth representative.

Chair Kost remarked that an outstanding group of people had applied. The experience and credentials of the applicants had made selecting the Taskforce difficult, she said. Chair Kost explained that the Board was trying to balance interests and bring diversity to the Taskforce.

Commissioner Vanderbeck said that two or three of the applicants were on other boards, or were applicants for boards. The County was going to utilize their talents, he said. Commissioner Lucier said that he had never before seen so many applicants for boards related to the courthouse. This speaks to the profound interest that Chatham County citizens have in the restoration project, he said.

Commissioner Vanderbeck noted that the County holds the applications of those who were not chosen. Chair Kost recommended letting those who were not selected know when meetings would be held. Those meetings will be open and the consultant will find a way to get input from all who attend, she pointed out.

Chair Kost said that the Board needed to assign a chair and co-chair. She would be willing to work with Commissioner Thompson, she said.

Commissioner Vanderbeck moved, seconded by Commissioner Lucier, to accept the Task Force membership with Commissioner Thompson serving as the County Commissioner representative. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Chair Kost noted that the consultant had given several dates and asked Commissioner Thompson if the third week in June would be okay. The County Manager listed the possible dates. Chair Kost said that there would be a community forum toward the end of the month.

Ms. Paschal provided an answer to Commissioner Lucier's earlier question about land values dropping for the Northeast District Park since the original agreement for the easement was completed. She said that the value had decreased from \$217,000 to \$208,000.

### **BREAK**

The Chair called for a ten-minute break.

### **STERICYCLE-MEDICAL INCINERATOR DISCUSSION**

Chair Kost introduced the resolution regarding the Stericycle permit. She noted that the Board was among many who had requested a public hearing on this permit by Alamance County. There would be a public hearing on May 25, 2010, she said, and she introduced Haw River Assembly Chair Elaine Chiosso to provide more information.

Ms. Chiosso showed Stericycle's location on a map, near the bridge over the Haw River on 85. She said that Chatham County was within the prevailing winds of that plant. Stericycle's two incinerators burn about 26 million pounds of medical waste a year, Ms. Chiosso said, adding that it contained heavy metals and other toxic by-products.

Ms. Chiosso explained that Stericycle's had had numerous emissions violations over the years and that its permit, which had been due for renewal in 2007, had been allowed to just sit. The EPA had new standards which would go into effect in North Carolina in October 2010, she said. If Stericycle receives a contract now, it would be grandfathered and allowed to put out those kinds of emissions for four more years, Ms. Chiosso explained.

Ms. Chiosso said that the Mecklinburg County Commissioners had passed a resolution in April asking the state to make all incinerators comply in two years rather than four. She said that Orange County would be taking up a similar resolution tomorrow night, and that the towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro would be doing so as well.

Chair Kost wondered if the urban area around the plant had been developed after the plant was built there. Ms. Chiosso replied that the area around it had been very rural and that building a subdivision downwind of the plant should not have been allowed.

Commissioner Lucier said there was no doubt that the Board needed to pass a resolution asking for compliance, sooner rather than later. He explained the life cycle of mercury and said that some of the fish caught in Jordan Lake had been declared unsafe. Commissioner Lucier said that the technology was available to minimize mercury, lead, cadmium and dioxins. It needed to be done now, he said.

Commissioner Lucier said that he had gone through the resolution and made changes to it. He had deleted paragraphs four and seven and added five paragraphs, he said, and he read those changes aloud. Commissioner Lucier noted that the prevailing winds would take those toxic emissions right toward Pittsboro in the winter.

Chair Kost said that the permit had been expired for two years. What is the role of the state, she asked. Ms. Chiosso replied that the NC Division of Air Quality monitors and tests every two years with announced inspections.

Commissioner Thompson ascertained that this was not the only business entity in the area that was of concern. Ms. Chiosso said that Mecklinburg County had entered into this hoping that the state would make an across the board regulation for all such facilities.

Commissioner Lucier said that medical waste creates more toxic pollutants than other incinerated products. Chair Kost asked what was being done with the ash. Ms. Chiosso replied that it was being buried in landfills. She said there was also a liquid by-product that ends up in wastewater treatment plants.

Commissioner Lucier moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to adopt **Resolution #2010-27 Requesting the Adoption of State Rules Requiring Early Implementation of Federal Standards for Hospital, Medical, and Infectious Waste Incinerators**, as revised. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

### **CARY WASTEWATER UPDATE**

Chair Kost opened the discussion a proposal by Western Wake Partners to extend the wastewater outflow line. Public Works Director David Hughes explained that Western Wake Partners wanted to obtain an easement for a 30-foot-wide greenway trail from the Tobacco Trail to the Cape Fear River. They were willing to pay for the acquisition and were relying on Chatham County to provide any condemnation that is required, he said.

Chair Kost wondered what would happen if they were not able to get an easement for the pipeline itself. She said the Board needed to think through all such issues and understand how it would work legally. Chair Kost said this was something the Board had asked of Cary because it was a little more than eight miles of potential trail for the future. There was an opportunity to do it when they were considering the pipeline, she pointed out.

Commissioner Lucier said the larger issue was whether or not Chatham County would grant permission for the pipeline. The question about the greenway was a subset of that, he said, since the greenway could not happen unless Chatham County grants permission. Chair Kost replied that the Board would make that decision when they had the proposed agreement from Cary.

Commissioner Cross spoke about doing more outreach with the community, stressing that the Board owed citizens a lot of information before holding a public hearing. He did not think the public in that area knew what was being proposed, he said. Those were busy roads and the Board did not know how long they would be closed, said Commissioner Cross.

Mr. Hughes agreed that public hearings should be part of the environmental review process. Commissioner Lucier said that the public hearings had so far all been in Wake County because that was where Western Wake Partners is located. He thought they assumed they could come across Chatham County and not have to think about it much, he said. Commissioner Lucier agreed with Commissioner Cross's suggestion to call a community input session.

Chair Kost said it would be very important to have Cary there as well, and she added that the session should happen soon, perhaps at a fire station or school. Commissioner Lucier said that the training room at the fire station would be ideal, and the Board agreed.

Ms. Chiosso said she thought people from the other side of the county line would come to the public meeting. Commissioner Lucier said that Chatham County citizens would be given priority when it was time to speak.

Commissioner Cross pointed out that the line in question was about five miles along the power line. So, if you call this a trail, power lines are not good places to hang out under, he said. Chair Kost replied that any time a large pipe is being laid there is an opportunity to at least get an easement. There is no current plan to do a trail, but the equestrian community often asks for more horseback trails and this would be a chance to at least get the easement so that sometime in the future a trail could be built, she said.



Commissioner Thompson said a public information session was a good idea. If they did not hold one, then there probably would be some comments from the community after the fact, he said.

Commissioner Lucier said the larger issue was whether or not to grant approval to go into Chatham County.

Chair Kost asked the staff to find out when Cary would be available for a community educational meeting. She suggested trying to have it at the Moncure Fire Department.

Chair Kost pointed out that there was no action for the Board to take, except to ask staff to find out when the Town of Cary would be available for a community meeting to provide an explanation of the project. This would cover topics such as who is using the land, the likelihood of a trail, and the impacts of construction. It should be an educational meeting, but also a time for the community to provide input, she said.

Chair Kost said this should happen quickly because it was getting close to the time when the Board needed to make a decision, probably within the next month.

Commissioner Lucier noted that they would also talk about the local bill for the Chatham/Cary Land Use Plan tonight. Commissioner Vanderbeck said that they could not tarry on that, since it must be turned in by Wednesday at the latest.

### **OBESITY REPORT**

Chatham County Health Director Holly Coleman introduced the Chatham County 2009 Obesity Prevention Retreat Final Report and Recommendations. She noted that one of the Board's 10 goals was to coordinate efforts of organizations concerned about obesity. The Health Department had responded to that by bringing stakeholders together around this issue, Ms. Coleman said.

Marissa Jelks said they had chosen Chatham County to take the lead because there was obesity intervention but little coordination between agencies. They thought the best way to address the Board's goal of coordinating efforts was to get stakeholders together and talk, she said. Ms. Jelks explained that the purpose was to gather an inventory of current efforts, discover and address gaps and overlaps, and develop ideas for recommendations to the BOC.

Commissioner Lucier asked if there were groups that had been asked to participate but had not. Ms. Jelks replied that there were. They had asked Pittsboro, Siler City, Cary and other municipalities, but had not been able to get anyone to attend, she said. Ms. Jelks outlined the results of the first three meetings. The consultant had greatly helped them use their time efficiently, she said, and she reviewed the resulting four recommendations:

- New County Position Focusing on Obesity. This position would be responsible for facilitating a county-wide obesity prevention coalition of stakeholders.
- Community Social Marketing Campaign. Use marketing principles to target health behaviors and encourage people toward healthy lifestyles.
- Infrastructure to support healthy lifestyles. This is for physical activity, nutrition, and a built environment.
- More cooperation between schools and the community, such as a joint use agreement where a community could use school property during non-school hours.

Commissioner Vanderbeck asked if there had been overlap between these efforts and what Phyllis Smith was doing, and if the proposed new position could help with that. Ms. Jelks replied that the Health Department had worked with Phyllis Smith on prior taskforces and grants.

She was addressing the same issue, but worked with different populations, Ms. Jelks explained, adding that they definitely could collaborate.

Commissioner Lucier said he was a bit surprised by the fourth recommendation and by some of the comments because he had always used school facilities when coaching teams and thought that interactions had been quite good regarding use of gyms and other school facilities.

Ms. Jelks replied that school facilities were being used, but on an individual school basis. There was no district-wide policy that would make things easier, she said.

Commissioner Lucier mentioned Bynum Community garden, and said the Board was thinking about offering sections of parks to residents who live in the area to use as community gardens. Ms. Jelks replied that such ideas were exactly the kind that they had hoped would come from their recommendations. The new position would be able to coordinate all such efforts, she said.

Commissioner Lucier said he was glad that the group had taken up the issue of obesity because it was a major issue, especially with youth, and it contributed to many diseases, such as diabetes, asthma. The effect on quality of life, as well as the healthcare system, was huge, he said, and it was important to do anything they could about it.

Chair Kost mentioned a recent article in the Raleigh News and Observer regarding school lunches and how businesses had lost money when the schools started serving healthier food. How does one balance that, she asked, noting that catering businesses were in a bind financially. Ms. Jelks replied that she could not answer for the school system, but knew that lunches had been healthier. It was a problem at the high school level, and Chatham County was trying to address that, she said.

Chair Kost asked how the new position would work with the school system to address that issue. Ms. Jelks replied that the new person would work with the school nutritionist. She said a school liaison had been working with the school system on issues including lunch menu. The new position would help that liaison build a relationship with the nutritionist and others in the school system to address that, Ms. Jelks said.

Commissioner Lucier said he agreed with the report's comments regarding County planning issues. He said the Board looks at maintaining open space when subdivisions are approved. The Board encourages greenways and bike trails, and many new developments were including those, he said. Commissioner Lucier noted that the biggest issue now was that kids sit at the computer after school and the only thing that gets exercise is their fingers.

Ms. Jelks mentioned prime time afterschool programs that encourage physical activity. One of the things they would work on would be forming partnerships and getting additional funding, she said.

Commissioner Vanderbeck mentioned poverty and the need for some to purchase a cheap meal. If you go to the supermarket, you can find a special meal to feed a family of four for under \$11, he said, adding that it might include a can of spam and other similar things. Such equity issues needed to be addressed, said Commissioner Vanderbeck, adding that the coalition's recommendations were impressive.

Ms. Jelks said the Health Department was working on that issue as well. Through community gardens, for example, they hope to make fresh fruits and vegetables accessible to as many people as possible.

Commissioner Lucier asked about the process by which the coalition was formed and what advice they would give to other coalitions based on lessons learned. Ms. Jelks said they started with the Healthy Chatham steering team and brainstormed a list of names of different partners. Then they sent invitations out and continued to think of people who should be represented. They tried to be as inclusive as possible, Ms. Jelks said.

Commissioner Lucier asked if they had approached the Board of Health and others and asked for recommendations. Ms. Coleman replied that this was more of a stakeholder group that was involved in physical activity, nutrition, planning and land use. They had tried to get a broad spectrum of those people, she said. There had been a recommendation that a coalition be formed, but this was more of a stakeholder group around this particular issue, she explained.

Ms. Coleman said that they had not gone through the Board of Health or the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Lucier said that Board might not have had anything to offer, but maybe they would have. It might have been a good idea just to say that they had been thinking about doing this and ask the Board's thoughts are on it, he said. Commissioner Lucier added that doing so might have broadened participation and awareness.

Ms. Coleman replied that it was great that tackling obesity had been one of the Board's goals. She said that they appreciate being able to present the report and talk with the Board about how involved many people are in the community. Commissioner Lucier said he appreciated what the coalition had done and would look at the report and think about the recommendations.

Chair Kost asked if recommendations that would have fiscal impact had been incorporated in the budget request. Ms. Coleman mentioned the request for a new position.

Chair Kost noted that obesity was a big issue that required a lot of coordination and that throwing a position at it might not do any good. She wanted to have more discussion about the position, and the coalition, and whether or not that was the best way to address this, she said, adding that one position might not be enough.

Ms. Coleman said that they understood that. The creation of a position to coordinate efforts countywide came out of the stakeholders meeting, she said. She said that she had always found that if you do not have a paid person to nurture and facilitate it is difficult to keep a plan going. Ms. Coleman said she understood about budget constraints and that this probably was not the right time to ask.

Commissioner Thompson inquired about grants. Ms. Coleman replied that several people were always writing grants and receive small grants all the time. She said that this was a big national issue and that money was being thrown at it, so they probably could fund the position.

Commissioner Vanderbeck asked if they had worked with the School of Public Health to get graduate students or interns to flesh this out. Ms. Coleman replied that their staff had already been fleshed out in the many organizations that do community based work. What they really needed were people who were experienced and qualified, she said.

Commissioner Lucier said there was nothing that would reduce health care costs in Chatham Country more than significantly reducing the incidence of obesity. What they could do locally, they should do, he said.

Jeffrey Starkweather said there was a feeling that there really needs to be grassroots support for this, beginning with the schools and the PTA. Part of the new position would be a community organizer to expand the coalition, he said. Mr. Starkweather said that it would not work to tell people how they should eat. Good health and nutrition had to be ingrained in the community, he said.

Ms. Coleman said there was also a healthy foods policy, and she introduced Megan Bolejack to address that. Ms. Bolejack outlined an initiative to improve healthy eating in Chatham County that she had been working on since 2007. The Board of Health was the first to adopt the policy, she said, and she listed several other organizations that had also done so. Ms. Bolejack asked the Board to consider adopting such a policy for the entire County government. They could still have their regular food, she said, but they would need to add healthy options.

Commissioner Lucier suggested considering that at the next meeting, and Chair Kost agreed.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Vanderbeck moved, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, to go out of the Work Session and convene in Closed Session for the purpose of discussing personnel. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

**REGULAR SESSION**

Commissioner Thompson moved, seconded by Commissioner Lucier, to adjourn the Closed Session and reconvene in Regular Session. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

**RECESS**

The Chair recessed the meeting to the County Manager's Conference Room for dinner at 4:41 PM.

The Board discussed the new culinary program at Central Carolina Community College.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Thompson moved, seconded by Commissioner Vanderbeck, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

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Sally Kost, Chair

ATTEST:

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