

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET INPUT SESSION, MAY 07, 1998

The Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in special session for the purpose of receiving public comment on the Manager's Recommended Budget in the Siler City Superior Courtroom, Siler City, North Carolina, at 7:00 PM on May 07, 1998.

Present: Chairman Margaret Pollard; Vice Chairman Betty Wilson;
 Commissioners Uva Holland, John Grimes and Henry
 Dunlap; County Manager Charlie Horne; and
 Finance Officer, Vicki McConnell

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:05 P.M.

Margaret Pollard, Chair, welcomed those in attendance, thanked staff for their efforts in the budget preparation process, and for attending the meeting to explain their requests to the Commissioners.

Charlie Horne, County Manager, presented an over view of the Fiscal Year 1999 Recommended Budget.

Vicki McConnell, Finance Officer, reviewed County revenue and fund balance.

HUMAN SERVICES

Department of Social Services

Social Services Director, Robert Hall, explained that the Department of Social Services major projects and activities include: 1) Implementation of electronic benefits transfers which will change the delivery of food stamp benefits to eligible recipients from a paper-based coupon system to an electronic system through the use of a magnetic stripped card, much like a credit card or debit card. and 2) Implementation of Work First – the County's effort, using the Work First Block Grant funds, to provide employment services, case management, eligibility

Health Department

Health Department Director, Wayne Sherman, outlined the mission and expansion items of the six division of the Chatham County Health Department as follows:

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|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Administration | 4) General Health Services |
| 2) CAP-DA | 5) Animal Control |
| 3) Health Education | 6) Environmental Health |

He informed the Board that several of the contract employees are being converted to limited term employees.

Public Input Session

Mary Lou Moore, 3489 Mt. Vernon-Hickory Mountain Road, Siler City, NC, a fifteen-year veteran of the school system, stated that she is appreciative of teachers and teacher assistants; that 32.7% of her students are low-income students; that the current level of appropriation will cause CCS to take a step backwards; that eight new positions were a conservative request. She asked that the Commissioners continue their support of the schools.

Barbara Myers, 180 Benjie Williams Road, Staley, NC, stated that education affects everyone; that early intervention and prevention efforts are required; that "Intercede to Succeed" helps students where there are no additional support services; that it reaches those that are hard to reach; that there are one hundred thirty volunteers involved with this program and that it has proven to be a success. She asked that the Board consider expansion of this program.

Johnny Butts, PO Box 319, Siler City, NC, stated that there was a one million dollar shortfall between what the schools requested and the County recommended; that this will result in a cut in services; that there was no mention of education in the Commissioners' priorities; that Chatham County was one of three hundred school systems to meet the goals of the ABC program; that there was no tax increase necessary; that the Local Government Commission recommends 8% fund balance and the County has 20%; and that if the funding proceeds as recommended, the schools will take one giant step backward.

Glenn Dunn, 115 Willis Dunn Road, Bear Creek, NC, President of the Board of Directors of Chatham Trades, stated that they helped developmentally and disabled handicapped people to be productive in the community; that what is accomplished at Chatham Trades is amazing with such a small budget; and that State funding is decreasing. He respectfully requested a \$7,460 increase in his budget.

Ruth Leight, 970 W. R. Clark Road, Pittsboro, NC, President of PTA at Silk Hope Elementary School, spoke regarding the education budget. She stated that Silk Hope School is bursting at the seams; that teaching positions are hard to fund; that the County Manager stated that school funding is adequate; that the PTA should not have to pay for essential supplies and teacher positions; and that if the Commissioners do not increase their level of funding, the school system will be forced to cut services.

Twig Wood, 546 Pine Forest Drive, Siler City, NC, thanked the Board for English as Second Language (ESL) teachers and stated that additional funding would be appreciated.

Rudy Johnson, 875 Brower Road, Siler City, NC, stated that as an In-School-Suspension coordinator, he understands the problems of stressed out teachers; and that more money is needed to continue the current level of services.

Ron Dameron, 11080 West Highway #64, Siler City, NC, stated Chatham County Schools have a low drop-out rate; that in order to keep the drop-out rate low, we need to continue at the current level; and that a good system will attract industry to the County.

Mike Sublett, 916 Pearlyman Teague Road, Siler City, NC, stated that he is a volunteer ESL teacher at Central Carolina Community College and Chatham County Schools; that the recommended funding level will present a real budget cut, and will not be adequate; if more money is not appropriated, it will affect other programs in the end, such as the Health Department and Social

Services.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Margaret Bryant Pollard, Chair

ATTEST:

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