

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION, MARCH 15, 1999

The Board of Commissioners ("the Board") of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the Henry H. Dunlap, Jr. Building Classroom, located in Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 4:00 P.M. on March 15, 1999.

Present: Chair Rick Givens; Vice Chair Uva Holland, Commissioners Margaret Pollard, Carl Outz, and Gary Phillips; County Manager, Charlie Horne; County Attorney, Robert L. Gunn; Finance Officer Vicki McConnell; and Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Lee

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 4:02 PM.

Agenda:

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1. Preferred Site Local Advisory Committee Research Coordinator
2. Alston Presentation to the Board of Commissioners
3. Legislative Agenda
4. Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)
 - Judicial Center Recommendation
 - Department of Social Services
5. Stockyard Road Follow-up
6. Water System Application
7. CIP Update
8. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Committee
9. Board of Commissioners CIP Priorities
10. Next Work Session
11. Recess

Preferred Site Local Advisory Committee Research Coordinator

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A discussion ensued regarding Mary MacDowell, Preferred Site Local Advisory Committee Research Coordinator, her expertise in the low/high-level nuclear waste, decreasing her work efforts, and the economic resources involved regarding this project.

Members of the Board expressed concern about committing economic resources to continue this project but felt that the effort should be continued until the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) makes a determination. The Board asked that Ms. MacDowell exercise care in speaking on behalf of the Board; that she continue her fact-finding mission; that her continued involvement be supported, but kept at a lower profile in the political arena; and that her work be formally recognized as research and not as a drive to solicit funds.

Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, that Mary MacDowell continue to serve as staff to the Commissions of Orange and Chatham Counties and continue her fact-finding mission to provide the Boards with information which they might use in whatever way they deem appropriate. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Dr. Benjamin Luberoff, 261 Fearrington, Pittsboro, NC, stated that the nuclear issue is one that is not going to go away. He commended the Board on their position taken, and continued by stating that the Board should not allow the issue to be left up to Orange County. He suggested that Ms. MacDowell, when speaking publicly, state that she is speaking for herself and not the Board of Commissioners.

Alston Property:

- Robert Holden, Chatham County Solid Waste Manager, explained that in July, 1998, the Solid Waste Department received a letter from the North Carolina State Division of Waste Management in reference to the level of chemical constituents that exceeds ground water standards, stating that contaminants were found in Monitoring Well #4 which is near the facility property boundaries and in the vicinity of a private potable supply well. He stated that at this time, the State required the County to hire an engineer and a geologist to develop a "Plan of Action" to correct the problem; that the plan's goal is to insure public health and prevent any contaminants from leaving County property without significantly causing financial hardships upon the County; that the plan is to acquire the three properties adjacent to the west of the capped landfill; and that this plan has been approved by the State

Closed Session

- Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing property acquisition. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Regular Session:

- Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to go out of Closed Session and reconvene in Regular Session. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

After considerable discussion, the Board expressed concern regarding the property owners, John Alston, Raymond Alston, and Ada Alston, and stated that they want the transition to go as smoothly as possible.

The County Attorney was asked to explore options and handling of the acquisition of the properties and report back to the Board regarding this matter.

Resolution Regarding Legislative Items for Chatham County:

- The Board discussed asking their General Assembly Delegation to introduce and support enabling legislation for Chatham County as follows:

1. Local Revenue Options: Local option one-cent sales tax
\$1.00 per thousand land transfer tax
Vehicle registration fees (@ \$5.00 per vehicle)
2. Convert Chatham County's impact fee enabling legislation to an impact tax

3. Fully reimburse Chatham County's outlays in opposing the low-level radioactive waste facility being considered by the Board of Chatham County.

Commissioner Holland moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to approve **Resolution #99-10A Legislative Items for Chatham County**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to continue to solicit reimbursement of funds expended by the County for the low-level nuclear waste endeavor. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Capital Improvements Plan:

- **Judicial Center Recommendation**

- Kurt Lent, architect, gave a presentation on the options for expanding County facilities to satisfy the needs of the Department of Social Services, Mental Health, and the non-profits if the non-profits stay in County space, as a few have the option to do. He discussed the advantages of combining the Health Department with the Department of Social Services and Mental Health so that they eventually could be in one contiguous facility. He further stated that without knowing the disposition of the non-profits, it is premature to make any facility decisions.

- **Department of Social Services:**

There was no discussion on this item.

CIP Update:

- There was no discussion on this item.

Stockyard Road Sewer Project:

- After considerable discussion, the Board asked that information on this item be redistributed and that it be discussed at a later date.

Water System Application:

- Tim Carpenter, engineer with Hobbs Upchurch & Associates, presented an overview of projects for the County to consider for application to the High Unit Cost Grant Program.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Committee:

A discussion ensued with regard to the combining of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Committee and the Criminal Justice Partnership.

Work Session – March 26, 1999:

- It was decided, by consensus, that the next work session be scheduled for March 26, 1999 at 2:00 PM in the Henry H. Dunlap, Jr. Classroom.

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Rick Givens, Chairman

ATTEST:

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