

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 05, 1998

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 January 05, 1998.

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 10:00 A.M.

Commissioner Grimes entered the meeting at 10:22 A.M.

AGENDA

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

The County Manager asked that Commissioner Wilson's appointment to the Economic Development Corporation be deferred until the January 20, 1998 meeting and that Appointments to the Chatham County Water Board be added to the Agenda as Item #10A.

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to approve the Agenda with the noted requests. The motion carried four (4) 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 December 15, 1997

The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

2. **Refunds for Solid Waste Disposal Fees:** 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 carried four (4) to zero (0).

3. **Tax Releases:** Consideration of a request for approval of Tax Releases, attached hereto and

by reference made a part hereof.

The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

There was no one present who wished to make public comment.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Chatham County Off-Premise Sign Ordinance: Consideration to set a date on which to hold a public hearing to receive public comments on the Chatham County Off-Premise Sign Ordinance

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to set January 20, 1998 as the date on which to hold a public hearing on the Chatham County Off-Premise Sign Ordinance. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CPS Child Welfare Positions: Consideration of the creation of one (1) Social Services Supervisor III position and two (2) Social Worker III positions contingent upon the State's notification of Federal approval of the State's amended IV-E Plan

Janice Edgerton and Daisy Womble, Department of Social Services Supervisors III, explained that the average caseload for a worker in Chatham County according to State recommendations should be twelve to fifteen cases per worker; that Chatham's average caseload per worker is forty-three; that there are sixty-nine children in custody; that the average thirty-six referrals for child protective services per month in addition to looking at the large case load sizes; that it is important to understand the dynamics of working with children and families in Child Protective Services (CPS) and Foster Care; that the Social Workers provide services to families with multiple and complex problems which require an enormous amount of time, constant assessment of risk, and a great deal of work with many public systems; that in the role as legal custodian of foster children, the Social Workers and supervisors act as surrogate parents which involves ensuring that the children receive mental health, (i.e. counseling) services, medical care, clothing and educational services; that this requires interfacing with the court system and other providers on a regular basis; that many times, due to large case loads, training requirements and the intensity of cases handled, supervisors play a large part in assisting with day to day case management and even investigations, causing a drain in the time available for supervision; that the Children's Services supervisors have fourteen and eighteen years of experience in foster care and CPS: that their observations of the kind of children and families coming into the system and the problems facing them are that they are so severe as to demand drastically increased amounts of time and services; that this sentiment is echoed by mental health providers, hospital physicians and school providers; that the State acknowledges this change and has been revamping the Children's Services guidelines for training and looking at staffing more closely, especially because of the high number of fatalities in the State and the rapid growth of more extreme situations facing children's service agencies; that the State has filed an amended IV-E Plan with the Federal Government and if approved, the definition of various codes used to account for the time a social worker spends working in the various areas or functions in delivering protective services, foster care, and adoptions will have been broadened, therefore allowing for a greater draw down of Federal dollars; that the State has said that it would participate in a 50/25/25 match rate up to a maximum amount of \$35,477 per year to support newly created position; and these would be ongoing funds.

Robert Hall, Social Services Director, stated that the new positions are critically needed; that the cost to the County to fill two positions and one supervisor III position would be \$27,368 under the State's participation; and that the cost to the County for three positions to be hired and start in March, 1997 would be \$9,114 for quarter March through June, 1997.

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland to approve the creation of one (1) Social Services Supervisor III position and two (2) Social Worker III positions in the Department of Social Services contingent upon the State's notification of Federal approval of the State's amended IV-E Plan with hiring for the position(s) to be no sooner than March 1, 1998. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Domestic Violence Program: Presentation of the Domestic Violence Program

Kit Gruelle, stated that domestic violence has been a crime in North Carolina since the late 1800's but that until recently, little was done to treat it as a violent crime; that it was seen as a private family matter; that law enforcement only intervened when injuries became severe, lives were lost or the community was threatened; that an aggressive approach to domestic violence is now taken in Chatham County; that officials believe that effective early intervention is the best tool for preventing catastrophic domestic violence as a serious crime, with immediate response to the call, thorough investigation and evidence collection, follow-up with the victim, and active participation in the prosecution.

She stated that a number of activities which have contributed to the changing attitudes and practices in the Sheriff's Department are as follows:

- Officers at all levels of responsibility in the department, from patrol deputies to the Sheriff, have attended intensive domestic violence training in Nashville sponsored by Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services' BRIDGES Program
- Development and implementation of a pro-arrest domestic violence protocol
- Acquisition of Polaroid Cameras through the BRIDGES Program and the Governor's Crime Commission to enhance documentation of victims' injuries for evidence
- Receipt of donated cellular phones, pre-programmed to dial 911 only, that are loaned to victims in extreme danger
- Active participation and support of the Criminal Justice Task Force on Domestic Violence, now part of the Zero Tolerance Coalition, to work to coordinate our efforts with other law enforcement agencies, the DA's office, magistrates, probation and parole officers, and victim advocate organizations
- A decision to provide leadership and aggressive investigation and prosecution of domestic violence cases

She stated that as a result of these changes the Sheriff's Department is having more domestic violence cases successfully prosecuted in Chatham County; that Officers are better equipped to respond to violent crimes against women using a coordinated approach through the entire process of reporting, arrest, investigation and prosecution; that victims are getting the relief they need—immediate intervention, victim

support services and protection by the criminal justice system; that batterers are getting the help they need through court-referred intervention programs; and that Chatham County is becoming a safer place for all its citizens.

Ms. Gruelle distributed an Agency Profile on Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. She also played a video of an actual domestic violence E-911 call.

Nuisance Abatement Civil Laws: Consideration of approval for County Attorney to issue and defend civil actions for abatements

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to approve the request to allow the County Attorney to issue and defend civil actions for abatements. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

PUBLIC WORKS

- **Chatham County Office Renovation Construction Contract:** Consideration of approval of contract for Chatham County Office renovations

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to approve the contract for Chatham County office renovations with Inland Construction in the amount of \$331,869 for the completion of office renovation. The contract is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

- **State Drinking Water Revolving Fund Application:** Consideration of a State drinking water revolving fund application

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to approve the County application for SRF funds for the Silk Hope School line project. A copy of the application is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- **Economic Development Corporation Appointments:** Consideration of a request to appoint new members to the Economic Development Corporation

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to appoint Patrick Miller to the Economic Development Corporation at the recommendation of the Small Business Association. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

- **Chatham County Water Board Appointment:** Consideration of a request to re-appoint a member to the Chatham County Water Board

Commissioner Wilson re-appointed Mr. Ray Greenlaw to the Chatham County Water Board. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MATTERS

JOCCA Request for Release of 1997-98 Appropriation: Consideration of a request from JOCCA for release of 1997-98 appropriation

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to release only the portion of funds necessary to provide the local match for the program funded by CBA, that those funds be used only for the CBA grant, and that it be deducted from their 1997-98 fiscal year budget appropriation. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

It was decided, by consensus, that the Board of Commissioners would meet with the JOCCA Board of Directors on the afternoon of February 2, 1998.

MANAGER' S REPORTS

The County Manager informed the Commissioners of the following:

Swine Ordinance Public Hearing: The public hearing on the swine ordinance will be held on January 20, 1998 at 7:00 PM.

Legislative Delegation Meeting: A meeting with the Legislative Delegation will be discussed at the afternoon work session.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

There were no Commissioner reports.

LUNCH RECESS

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson to recess for lunch. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to reconvene in the Byrd's Classroom for the afternoon work session. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

WORK SESSION AGENDA

- - 1) Revisiting the Budget & Priorities Since December Retreat
 - 2) Water System Priorities Regarding Grant Application(s)
 - 3) Meeting with Town of Pittsboro
 - 4) Substance Abuse/How is it worked into Budget?/Monetary Focus/

Prioritization of Water Projects:

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to have the Public Works Staff develop potential water projects and prioritize the projects for the Board of Commissioners. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

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State Revolving Fund Application:

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to proceed with the State Revolving Fund application and to fast track projected engineering costs for the Asbury/Carbonton water projects. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, 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 3:20 P.M.

Margaret Bryant Pollard, Chair

ATTEST:

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