

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION, AUGUST 21, 2000

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 PM on August 21, 2000.

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

Absent: Vice Chair Uva Holland

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 4:00 PM.

Work Session Agenda:

- 1. Department of Social Services/Mental Health Space Needs**
- 2. Draft Water Agreement with Cary**
- 3. Dates for Economic Development Visits**
- 4. Other**
 - **Waste water treatment: Chatham Schools**
 - **Scattered housing funds**
 - **Chatham Group homes request**
 - **Dinner with Steering Team**
- 5. Closed Session to discuss land acquisition**
- 6. Adjournment**

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES/MENTAL HEALTH

Department of Social Services Position:

Robert Hall, Department of Social Services Director, asked that his budget request for a $\frac{3}{4}$ time Social Worker III position, which was approved in the FY 2000-2001 budget, be extended to a full-time position. He stated that the General Assembly approved \$7,260,000 for child welfare positions as part of the TANF Block Grant; that this was done in an effort to get every county up to the child welfare staffing standards; that the budget provision calls for these funds "to be allocated to the county departments of social services for hiring or contracting additional staff on or after July 1, 2000 to investigate and provide services in child protective services cases; to provide foster care and support services; to recruit, train, license, and support prospective foster and adoptive families; and to provide interstate and post-adoption services for eligible families"; that Chatham County's allocation is \$72,130; that the funds will more than cover the cost of the position; that it is additional revenue that was not anticipated; and that in addition, the money should continue in future years to fund the position unless the Legislature does something to counteract its use; that unutilized funds from any county will be reallocated to other counties; and that excess funds be used for contracted child welfare services.

Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to approve the full-time Social Worker III position based on the State's allocation to pay for this position and that any excess monies could be used to fund contracted child welfare services, effective September 1, 2000. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

Chatham Counseling Center:

Tom Velivil, Director of Chatham Counseling Center, stated that the Chatham Counseling Center is in desperate need of office space; that the community is growing and that as it grows, so does the health needs of its residents; that mental health is one of the hidden and stigmatized needs of this community and that it is their responsibility to provide adequate services; that in 1996, the active caseload was around 850; that there has been a 30% increase in active clients; that three positions were added to the clinic in an already crowded work environment; that in this area of managed care and shrinking resources, both State and other funds, that they could try to find creative ways to address the service needs without creating a waiting list by creating various groups and accommodating interns and residents from various universities, colleges or hospitals; that space constraint is a major issue in providing confidential and adequate services to the residents of Chatham County; and that the system of care has offered a case manager position in Chatham County based in the Siler City Clinic, but even with the recent expansions at the clinic, space is at a premium.

He asked that the Board study this situation, make Human Services space issue a priority, and approve adequate funding for the expansion project.

PUBLIC WORKS

- After considerable discussion, Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to move forward with the water intake service agreement with Cary, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Waste Water Treatment:

By consensus, the Board agreed to set Tuesday, September 12, 2000 as the date on which to visit landfill sites. Sites are to be determined.

Commissioner Outz moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to pursue direction with the schools with regard to upgrades to wastewater treatment systems. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

Commissioner Pollard suggested that the County Manager work with the Health Department Director to have Chatham County have a waiver of the recommendation so that we can apply county-wide what we are learning through the EMJ project.

Scattered Housing Funds:

Paul Spruill, Assistant County Manager, explained that the General Assembly had authorized a change in funding for scattered site housing rehabilitation projects; that beginning in 2001, Scatted Site funds will be granted on a non-competitive basis; that Chatham County is scheduled to receive an allocation of \$400,000; that to receive the funds, the County will need to prepare a Housing Implementation Plan involving municipalities in the County; that, if interested, the County must submit a letter stating its interest signed by the Chief Elected Official by September 1, 2000; that if the County is uninterested in administering the grant,

a municipality with the County may administer in lieu of the County; that a workshop is scheduled for October 31, 2000, Wake County Commons Complex, 4001 Carya Drive, Raleigh, NC, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, to discuss details

Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to apply for the scattered housing funds and that the County use a consultant as a way to administer it through the County system. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

Dinner with Strategic Plan Steering Team:

By consensus, the Board agreed to set Wednesday, September 6, 2000, as the date on which to have dinner with the Strategic Plan Steering Team.

Employee Recognition Day:

The County Manager reminded the Board of the Employee Recognition Day on September 5, 2000 to be held in the Agriculture Auditorium with hors d' oeuvres to recognize long-term Chatham County Employees. A work session will follow.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Givens moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to go out of Regular Session and convene in Closed Session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

REGULAR SESSION

- Chairman Givens moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to go out of Closed Session and reconvene in Regular Session. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

ADJOURNMENT

- Commissioner Outz moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard to recess the work session to the District Courtroom for the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioner's meeting. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0), and the meeting was recessed at 5:45 PM.

Rick Givens, Chairman

ATTEST:

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