

**MINUTES**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**WORK SESSION, DECEMBER 11, 2000**

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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 December 11, 2000.

Present: Chairman Gary Phillips; Vice Chair, Margaret Pollard; Commissioners Bob Atwater, Rick Givens, and Carl Outz, County Manager, Charlie Horne; County Attorney, Robert L. Gunn; Assistant County Manager, Paul Spruill; and Finance Officer, Vicki McConnell

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

**Work Session Agenda:**

- 1. Safe Start Presentation**
- 2. Extension Agent Request**
- 3. Salary Adjustment: Manager**
- 4. Franchise Agreement**
- 5. Equalization and Review Committee**
- 6. Capital Improvement Program**

**SAFE START**

Jenny Megginson, Executive Director of Smart Start, presented a brief summary of the Safe Start Planning Process stating that the Chatham County Safe Start Project established a Core Management Team and four work groups to be responsible for the overall development of the safe Start program; that the assessment phase of the project also provided initial steps in the planning process for development of the implementation plan since it defined the existing gaps in services and the areas where greater collaboration was needed among agencies; that the framework for the planning process was a model in which the goal would be to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors related to the impact of violence on children from zero to eight at three levels: systems, community, and individual; that through the research and activities of the work groups, the results of focus groups and interviews, and the products of three community forums, the planning process successfully enlisted the active involvement of a wide range of agencies and a number of targeted communities; that the process has benefited from a high level of collaboration among agencies, a commitment to building relationships and designing methods to involve community leaders, and the recognition that planning and evaluation will be ongoing components of the project.

Ms. Megginson explained the planning process and asked for a joint meeting between the Board of Commissioners and the Safe Start group possibly on January 16, 2001 prior to the Board of Commissioners' regularly scheduled meeting.

**EXTENSION AGENT REQUEST**

Glen Woolard, Agricultural Extension Director, stated that due to a \$1.8 million deficit, that the North

Carolina Cooperative Extension Service (NCCES) is abolishing all vacant SPA and EPA positions effective immediately; that an estimated fifty positions will be cut as positions become vacant; that a federal early retirement program will also be offered to help reach this fifty position reduction; that it was unfortunate that Chatham County had one Agricultural Extension Agent position vacant when this announcement was made; that the vacant Alternative/Organic Agricultural Agent position is one of the fifty positions to be cut by the State; that this has nothing to do with the need for the position but is totally in response to the NCCES budget crisis; that the position had already been advertised; that the closing date was October 15, 2000; that applications had been received and screened; and that they were ready to interview.

He asked that the Alternative/Organic Agricultural Extension Agent position be funded one hundred percent by the County in lieu of losing the position instead of paying 45% of the total cost for the position as the County is currently doing.

After considerable discussion, Commissioner Givens moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to fund the position as of January 1, 2001 which would require \$6,114 in additional County funds and that the position remain under the "Contracted Services" budget line item.

After further discussion the motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

### **MANAGER'S SALARY ADJUSTMENT**

A discussion regarding the proposed salary for the County Manager was held at which time specific information was requested with regard to manager salary comparisons in surrounding counties and cities.

This issue was tabled for discussion at a later date.

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Paul Spruill, Assistant County Manager, reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to be used as a tool for preparing the FY 2001-2002 budget. Major projects and future considerations were discussed in detail.

Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Chairman Phillips, to approve the Capital Improvements Plan, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Givens, to go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing a franchise agreement. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

### **REGULAR SESSION**

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

### **RECESS**

Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips to recess the work session to the District Courtroom for the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioner's meeting. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was recessed at 6:55 PM.

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Gary Phillips, Chairman

ATTEST:

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