

**MINUTES**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**SPECIAL MEETING WITH LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**  
**FEBRUARY 16, 2000**

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The Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in special session with the County's Legislative Delegation in the Fearington House Restaurant, Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 6:30 PM on February 16, 2000, to discuss issues of concern by Chatham County Board of Commissioners.

**ATTENDANCE**

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

Also Present: Senator Ellie Kinnaird; NC House of Representative Members Joe Hackney, Arlie Culp, and Verla Insko

Chairman Givens outlined the following Chatham County issues of concern and opened the floor for comments from the Legislative Delegation:

**CHATHAM COUNTY ISSUES OF CONCERN**

1. Impact Tax
2. Schools Construction (Johnston County Model)
3. Authorization to consolidate Human Service Agencies
4. Funds for Judicial Facility

**Impact Tax:**

The Board expressed their desire to move from a set impact fee to an impact tax stating that it would provide more flexibility. It was discussed that the impact fee was dedicated to funding new school construction; and that the North Carolina County Commissioners Association had endorsed this tax. The Board asked that the Legislative Delegation keep this matter at the forefront of their concerns in the next General Assembly.

Senator Ellie Kinnaird stated that Orange County had already asked the delegation to pursue the same measure on their behalf, and that the Board could lobby the Homebuilders Association for their support.

**Schools Construction:**

The Board asked the delegation to pursue an option for Chatham County similar to Johnston County in that the option would allow the County to use the same bid for multiple school projects instead of being required to bid each project individually.

**Human Services Streamlining:**

The Board asked the delegation to pursue giving the Board of Commissioners the authorization to streamline Health, Social Services, and Mental Health into one human services agency.

Representative Joe Hackney stated that this was a statewide bill; that the only two counties that currently have merged agencies have over 400,000 people; and that this issue was not raised in the last General Assembly.

**Judicial Facility:**

The Board asked if there were any funds available to help counties build new judicial facilities and stated that the projected cost of the project is four million dollars; that the County's facilities' fee is only forty-five thousand dollars; and that Chatham County is experiencing a space shortage to house the demand of the court system.

Senator Kinnaird stated that the State did not have any "rainy day" funds available, and that the proposed raises for teachers will be very expensive.

Representative Hackney stated that the flood hit the State reserves hard, and that there may be a better chance for funding in the year 2001.

Commissioner Phillips stated that Chatham County was moving ahead with responsible land planning and making positive, proactive decisions regarding growth.

Representative Hackney stated that there will be a big difference between the 2000 and 2001 General Assembly Sessions. He further stated that in 2000, there will not be a lot of legislation passed that will make waves; and that they are working on a bill to help prohibit development in flood plains in the future.

Senator Kinnaird stated that there will be a radical shift in the representation areas after the 2000 census, and that representative districts will change. She stated that an additional eight hundred million dollars has been requested from Congress for disaster relief, but that there have been other disasters since then in other parts of the United States.

**Adjournment:**

Chairman Givens thanked the Legislative Delegation for its hard work and willingness to meet with the Board to discuss their concerns.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:40 PM.

Rick Givens, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

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