

**MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
APRIL 28, 1994**

The Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in special session for the purpose of holding a budget workshop, in the Town of Pittsboro Meeting Room, located in the Courthouse Annex, Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 9:00 a.m., on April 28, 1994.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Dunlap; Commissioners Holland, Holmes and Hanner; County Manager Ben Shivar; County Attorney Robert L. Gunn; and Clerk to the Board Sandra B. Cape

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 9:00 a.m.

County Manager Ben Shivar stated that this budget workshop was scheduled in order to allow the Department Heads from the larger County Departments to verbally express their budgetary needs for the FY 1994-95.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Director of Social Services Robert Hall outlined the needs of the Social Services Department, stressing the importance and expense of the foster home programs (the state foster home fund and the AFDC program). He requested that the Board make the County's legislative delegation aware of the extraordinary expense and problems faced in caring for foster children who must be placed in institutional care. The Director of Social Services also outlined the personnel increases set forth in the Department's budget request. He noted that the Chore Program is not included in FY 1994-95 budget request because it is recommended that Council on Aging take over this program. He noted that the JOBS Program, Carolina Access and the Child Support Program all need additional personnel. The Social Services Director stated that he was extremely proud of the Social Services staff and the dedication and hard work shown by members of that staff. A copy of a summary of the Department of Social Services budget request is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - SOLID WASTE DIVISION

Public Works Director Mark Ashness presented various aspects of the solid waste fund, as outlined on the attached Summary of April 28 Budget Presentation and "Solid Waste Fund Presentation" attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. He noted that expenditures for the current year are slightly lower than anticipated and revenues are slightly higher than projected, therefore this fund will end up with approximately \$272,504 of additional revenue out of the operating year. With this excess, \$130,000 could be allocated toward the construction of the twelfth collection center which was by the Board. He noted that the solid waste fund balance at the end of next year is anticipated to be approximately \$386,560.

The County Manager stated that the County's enterprise funds tend to fair better than the overall general fund. He noted that the Board should consider reducing reliance on the sales tax for the enterprise funds.

The Public Works Director outlined the significant changes to the solid waste fund, noting that the Department was requesting an increase in the household charge from \$60 to \$80. He also presented information comparing Chatham County's program with the programs in place in other counties. He noted that the landfill closure has commenced and will be completed by October 9, 1994. He

suggested that this land be used in the future as a regional recreational facility.

A discussion ensued regarding the fact that the County is still considering an option, together with Lee County, for property which could be used as a landfill; however, the County's current method of using a transfer station is more economical and efficient at this time.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Don Whitt outlined the Sheriffs Department budgetary needs and stressed that the big issue, locally, regionally and nationally, is the increase in crime. He noted that there was a 28% increase in violent crime in Chatham County and an increase in calls of service by 40% since 1992, with the largest increase being in the northeast portion of the County where growth has been the greatest. He stated that the goals for his Department include an additional drug officer due to the fact that the increase in violent crimes is directly related to the increase in drug trafficking. A copy of a summary of the Sheriffs Department's budgetary request is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

The Sheriff described the team concept utilized by the Department, noting that the Department has five teams, four teams which act as patrolling officers and a fifth team which serves civil process. He requested that the Board consider personnel increases which would allow each team to have six members. These increases are needed to order to increase patrol of the county, to reduce response times, and to have adequate personnel for courts and school violence. The Sheriff stressed the need for additional personnel to handle such things as crime prevention, the expansion of the DARE Program to teach seventh and eighth-graders, and administrative support for the detective division.

A discussion ensued regarding cooperation with agencies, such as Council on Aging, to develop assistance programs for the citizens of Chatham County and determining if grant funds are available to assist in the cost of community law enforcement activities.

The Sheriff stated that in regard to top priority for the requests of his Department, the top priority would be the additional drug officer and three additional deputies. He noted, however, that he needed everything requested in order to provide services to the County's citizens.

The Sheriff noted that "on-call" pay for detectives is again a request of the Sheriff's Department. He noted that other departments within the County structure have approved on-call pay for various employees, and this is a morale issue with the detectives. He requested that the Board favorably consider this request. A discussion ensued regarding the use of vehicles by the detectives, the IRS regulations regarding automobile use, etc. The Manager recommended that salary increases be considered rather than adding on-call pay.

JAIL

The Sheriff stated that budgetary request for the jail are well defined in the Summary provided, a copy of which is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. He noted that the request includes one additional jailer. He stated that next year the Department anticipates that additional jail space would be required; however, he intends to contract with the Federal program for construction cost in exchange for keeping Federal prisoners.

LIBRARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Library Services Director Barbara Garcia and Central N.C. Regional Library Director Margaret Blanchard presented information regarding the budget request for the public library system as outlined on the attached Summary. The Library Services Director thanked the Commissioners for its support over past years which has allowed the public libraries to automate and noted that there were only a few items needed to fully automate the system. She noted that the top priority in this area is to connect the Goldston Library to the main computer in Burlington. The Library Services Director stated that the second goal for the library system was to open Goldston and Pittsboro Library one additional evening per week, which would necessitate an increase in two of its 24-hours-per-week positions by four hours per week. It was noted that volunteers perform services for the library system but do not normally work the circulations desk. She also noted a 10% increase in materials budget. Discussion ensued on the cost to process books, the possibility of leasing a building in north Chatham, the book mobile program, the Alston Fund book program, and the need to update the type of materials handled by the library system.

The Library Services Director announced that on May 15 Wren Memorial Library would be observing its 25th anniversary and invited the Commissioners to attend its celebration of this event.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health Director Wayne Sherman presented the Health Department's budgetary request as outlined in the attached Summary. He noted that the highlights of the request include personnel increases or changes for a 1% increase over current year. He noted that the total budget for the Health Department reflects an increase of approximately \$580,000 in revenue and expenditures, including non-local revenue increases of \$492,000 or 85% of that increase and a local contribution increase of \$87,000 or 15%. The large increase in non-local revenue is attributed primarily to higher fee reimbursement rates from Medicaid for Clinical Services and High Risk Coordination Services in the community and the growth in the Chatham Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults as a nursing home alternative.

The Health Director noted increases in personnel and reclassifications and the non-local revenue associated with these increases. He further noted the need for up-grading vehicles utilized by the Department.

The Health Director outlined the impact of the enhanced Animal Control program. The County Manager recommended that a visit be scheduled for the site of the new Animal Shelter during the coming week and stated that such a tour would be arranged. He noted that the initiation of a licensing fee for cats and dogs is being proposed and explained the benefits, administration structure and anticipated revenues from this proposed program.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS - Removed from Agenda.

BOARD DIRECTIVES

The Manager asked the Board for direction on what departments it wished to make future presentations. He noted that the staff had met with all departments. It was the general consensus that:

Cooperative Extension was heard during the initial budget public hearing. There was a discussion on obtaining statistics regarding results and the request for a full-time 4-H employee.

The need for cooperation between various agencies within the County, combining services and working together on similar programs.

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Mental Health (both Peter Battis and Tom Maynard) should be asked to give presentation.

Information should be given on reorganizational issues of the Tax Collector's and Tax Assessor's offices. Proposed changes in the GIS system will be summarized for the Board without the necessity of a presentation.

Emergency Operations and Emergency Medical Services should be presented, including volunteer programs.

A presentation on Economic Development and its future role in the County should be scheduled. The Board requested that Hal Siler be asked to appear before the Board on this matter.

The Manager's role with regard to the County employees utilized by Council on Aging should be discussed and the responsibilities of the County in this situation where a separate Board oversees the activities of the agency. The Health Department should also be discussed in this regard.

A method of evaluation for the Manager should be presented.

Standards need to be set for cooperation between the County and departments operating under the direction of independent boards in the matter of evaluating department heads.

A presentation should be given by the Public Works Director on the Water Department and Buildings and Grounds.

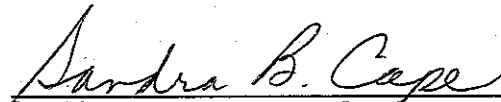
Schools budget will be scheduled as soon as possible after the School Board has submitted its budgetary request. It was recommended that the Board meet jointly with the School Board, perhaps for a lunch or dinner meeting.


Public Transportation should be discussed. Assistant to the County Manager Renee Dickson noted that this matter would appear on the agenda for the Board's May 16, 1994, regular meeting.

The status of the Recreation Department and the Recreation Board's plans for the future should be reviewed, including the park at Bynum.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

ATTEST:


Sandra B. Cape, Clerk to the Board


Henry H. Dunlap, Jr., Chairman