

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 9, 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, filling Board vacancy, and conducting other County business, at Chatham Hospital, West Third Street, Siler City, North Carolina, at 9:00 a.m., then traveled to the site of the Chatham County Animal Shelter, Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 10:30 a.m., and then convened in the Health Administration/County Office Building Classroom, Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 11:30 a.m., on May 9, 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

Note: Commissioner Pollard joined the meeting at 1:35 p.m. after having been sworn in as Commissioner.

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 9:00 a.m., in the lobby of Chatham Hospital, Siler City, North Carolina.

Chief Executive Officer of Chatham Hospital Ted Chapin gave the Board a brief tour through the Hospital, including administrative, intensive care and emergency room sections. After the tour, the Board continued its meeting on the Hospital grounds.

Mr. Chapin thanked the Board for coming to the Hospital and stated that the objective of the presentation was to discuss the following: (1) Contract signed for staffing the Emergency Room by University of North Carolina physicians; (2) Continuity of Care Clinic; (3) Renovations; and (4) Request for \$150,000 in County contributions.

Hospital Board Chairman Michael Budd gave an overview of Chatham Hospital, including the closing of the Critical Care Unit, presented by Elizabeth Zeringue, RN, and reductions in staff, presented by Betty Foxx, DON. Mr. Chapin presented statistical data on the Hospital's contribution to the community in terms of the number of employees and annual payroll, number of medical staff, property taxes paid and local vendor utilization. He also stressed the Hospital's desire to keep patients within the community for medical treatment. Community Survey statistics were presented by Jenny Pleasants. Geraldine Hayes, JoAnn Willoughby, Annette Coble, RN, and Jim Adams, RN, gave testimonials for the Hospital and its Emergency Room.

Karen McCall and Ken Reeb, MD, outlined the proposed University of North Carolina affiliation, including UNC's interest in Chatham Hospital, the program goals, future interests, and the grant for telemedicine site at Chatham Hospital. Mr. Chapin, together with David Clinton, Architect, reviewed renovations which would be required in order to qualify for the UNC Hospital affiliation. Dr. Byron Hoffman presented information on their recent trip to Memphis, Tennessee, where he and Jim Fore toured a similar affiliation between a rural hospital and the University of Tennessee medical hospital. He stated that the affiliation had been extremely successful in offering patients local medical care with the benefits of metropolitan facilities. Mr. Jim Fore spoke

on the necessity of maintaining the best medical care possible in a local facilities, which, he stated, could be accomplished through an affiliation with UNC Hospitals.

Mr. Chapin concluded Chatham Hospital's budget presentation with a request for a County contribution to the Hospital for FY 1994-95 in the amount of \$150,000.00 to assist in the renovations of the Emergency Room in order to qualify for the affiliation with University of North Carolina Hospitals. He noted that this was a one-time, lump-sum request and would be utilized specifically for the required renovations to the Emergency Room facilities.

The Chairman recessed the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and stated that the Board would travel in various vehicles to the construction site of the Chatham County Animal Shelter.

CHATHAM COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 10:45 a.m. at the Chatham County Animal Shelter.

Environmental Health Supervisor Jimmy Collins and Animal Control Officer Lee Hearn took the Board on the tour of the new Chatham County Animal Shelter which is nearing completion. They pointed out the various state-of-the-art equipment and the benefits of the facility.

The Chair recessed the meeting at 11:30 a.m., and the Board traveled from the site of the Chatham County Animal Shelter to the Classroom in the Health Administration/County Office Building in Pittsboro, North Carolina.

The Chair reconvened the meeting in the Classroom of the Health Administration/County Office Building at 11:45 a.m.

BOARD VACANCY

The Chair announced that the next item on the agenda was the appointment to the vacancy on the Board due to the death of Commissioner Gus Murchison and requested nominations from the Board.

Commissioner Holmes noted that the sixty days allowed by law for the Board To name a successor had nearly passed. She further noted that the replacement would hold office until the first meeting in December of 1994.

Commissioner Holmes nominated Margaret Pollard. Commissioner Holland seconded the motion.

The Chair nominated Robert Murchison.

The Chair asked for further nominations.

Commissioner Hanner moved that the nominations be closed. Commissioner Holland seconded the motion.

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

The Chair called for a vote on the nominations in the order in which the nominations were made and requested a show of hand for those voting for Margaret Pollard.

Commissioners Holmes, Holland and Hanner voted in the affirmative for Margaret Pollard. This being a majority of the Board, the Chair named Margaret Pollard as Chatham County Commissioner replacing the late Gus Murchison.

The Chair asked Ms. Pollard if she would like to address the Board. Ms. Pollard stated that she appreciated the confidence the Board had expressed in her and that she would do her best to serve Chatham County well.

The Chair asked the Clerk to make arrangements for the swearing in of Ms. Pollard as a Commissioner by the Clerk of the Court at the earliest possible time.

CHATHAM COUNTY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Commissioner Holmes stated that the Chatham County Education Foundation had requested that the Board hear its budget request at one of the up-coming budget meetings, and she asked that the Manager make arrangements for such a presentation.

JOINT MEETING WITH LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

The Manager requested that the the Board approve the date, time and place for the joint meeting between the Board and the County's legislative delegation.

Commissioner Holmes moved to set a special Board meeting for the purpose of meeting with the County's legislative delegation for Wednesday, May 11, 1994, at 6:00 p.m., at Carolina Meadows and noted that this meeting was open to the public. Commissioner Holland seconded the motion.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Holland moved that the Board go out of regular session and go into executive session, and that Commissioner Holmes be excused from the executive session due to potential conflict of interest. Commissioner Hanner seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Hanner moved to go out of executive session and return to regular session. Commissioner Holland seconded the motion.

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

LUNCH

The Chair recessed the meeting at 12:15 p.m. for lunch and announced that the meeting would reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

SWEARING IN OF MARGARET BRYANT POLLARD AS CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Clerk of Court Janice Oldham administered the Oath of Office for the office of Chatham County Commissioner to Margaret Bryant Pollard. The Board congratulated Commissioner Pollard and she joined the meeting as a member of the Board.

ORANGE-PERSON-CHATHAM MENTAL HEALTH - BUDGET REQUEST

Mental Health Director Peter Battis briefed the Board on the status of the Mental Health Center and the changes which have taken place over the past year as follows: Mental Health is attempting to move from a clinic based service to being more available in the community through out-reach programs; a shift in services to those

who have the greatest need in the community; case management services have grown, including child care management services; additional staffing to provide technical support in community for high-risk children, drug prevention staffing, mental health technician, a masters level intern two days a week, a fourth year psychiatry resident is on staff one day a week; and a case manager for rest home chronically mentally ill has been able to go to the rest homes; a group home setting for day use for the severely depressed is operating to help individuals with pre-vocational positions; a one-person home has been purchased and will be used as a residence for a chronically mentally ill person yet to be chosen; active client load has increased from 400 in 1991 to 600 at present; a new computer system has been installed with direct hook-up to OPC which is helpful in tracking clients and client needs; coordination with other agencies, such as the Department of Social Services and the school system, requires time and effort; and the increase in ancillary services.

OPC Executive Director Tom Maynard stated the needs of the Mental Health Center as follows: Out-reach and out-of-center services and collaboration with other services needs to be increased to get to people who need services but do not respond well to a clinical setting; Chatham County is now second in resources through OPC, Person gets the most per capita, Chatham second and Orange third, in order of socio-economic status and indicators of social distress; alcohol detoxification facilities need to be more equally distributed among the three; strategy has been to find resources by earning them, where possible, building up Medicaid income; OPC now serves 5,000 clients per year; there have not been increases in State appropriations; and OPC's pay plan has fallen below Orange, Chatham and Person Counties because funds are not available which is now causing recruiting problems.

The Chair asked for a up-date on the status of OPC's dealings with Chatham Hospital. Dr. Maynard stated that the relationship with Chatham Hospital has been a difficult one with a large division between the two organizations. He noted that now it is clear that Chatham Hospital wants a psychiatrist to come to the Hospital for consultation; however, OPC has not had a psychiatrist available for that purpose. He stated that OPC is now working with UNC psychiatric residency program in an attempt to provide these services to Chatham Hospital. He noted that it is difficult for the Hospital to have psychiatric patients without benefit of psychiatric staffing. He stated that if UNC can be convinced that a community training program would be in its best interest in preparing psychiatric specialist, there is a good chance that this program would work for Chatham Hospital.

Dr. Battis explained the Club Insight/Club Nova program which is a program for people with chronic mental illness who are often seriously handicapped socially and cannot work regularly; however, their need for social contact remains. He noted that this program is offered as a safe place for these people to go and interact with a small group of people and perform duties which are not stressful which helps keep the people orientated with the people around them through a structured, safe environment. Dr. Battis explained that there is currently a program of this type operating in Siler City with very positive interaction with the community and the members.

The Board thanked Dr. Maynard and Dr. Battis for the report and the understanding the Mental Health Center and OPC has shown toward Chatham County and its needs.

IMPACT FEE

County Attorney Robert Gunn reported that a local impact fee bill had been enacted by the General Assembly some years ago;

however, the County has never adopted an ordinance to put impact fees into effect. He noted that these fees were directed toward developers in relation to new development within the County and that he did not feel that the school system would be charged such fees for its new construction. The County Attorney stated that he would further research the status of this matter and will report back to the Board at a later date.

UP-COMING BOARD MEETINGS

The Board discussed the following up-coming meetings and/or events:

Wednesday, May 11, 1994, 6:00 p.m., Special Joint Dinner Meeting with Legislative Delegation, Carolina Meadows Meeting Room.

Thursday, May 12, 1994, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Board of Equalization and Review, District Courtroom, Courthouse Annex.

Thursday, May 12, 1994, 11:00 a.m., Board of Commissioners Special Budget Workshop Meeting, Health Administration/County Office Building Classroom.

Thursday, May 12, 1994, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Reception honoring Jim Ray Fore as North Carolina's 1994 Small Business Person of the Year, Siler City Country Club, Siler City.

AMBERLY DEVELOPMENT - CARY ANNEXATION

The Manager reported that a meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 1994, at 7:30 p.m., at the Carpenter Fire Station, in Wake County, about the proposed Amberly Development during which the developer will explain the development. He noted that the developer had agreed to hold a community meeting in Chatham County for the same purpose; however, a definite date and time had not been determined.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

The Manager stated that the Director of Social Services had asked that the Board reconsider the design of the proposed expansion of the Social Services building. He noted that this request for reconsideration was due to the fact that the bids on the proposed water plant were favorable and under estimated which makes additional funds available from the loan proceeds.

Kurt Lent, Architect, explained that the previously approved plan, although adequate, did not make maximum utilization of the land and, with approximately \$18,000 additional funding, the better version of the plan could be accomplished. Mr. Lent stated that this larger version would include the following: (1) additional office; (2) the two supervisors offices are larger to permit unit meetings to be held in them; (3) there is one central exit/entrance versus two with a smaller plan, which is a more efficient use of space; (4) allows use of a more centralized corridor arrangement which provides a more obvious path to the emergency exit; (5) the centralized corridor allows offices to be clustered off of the main passageway; (6) includes a covered entry/exit door; (7) includes a mezzanine for mechanical equipment and limited storage with a drop stair for better access; and (8) this addition makes greater use of the available site area versus the small project. Director of Social Services Robert Hall stated that if funds were available, he recommended approval of the larger building.

Commissioner Holmes moved that the Board approve the larger building addition of 1,800 square feet, at an additional cost of approximately \$18,000 over the previously approved addition to the Department of Social Services building. Commissioner Hanner seconded the motion.

The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

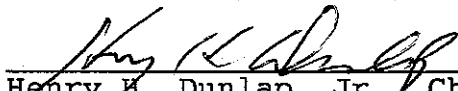
COMMISSIONER HANNER'S STATEMENT OF APPRECIATION

Commissioner Hanner expressed his appreciation for the help and support given to him during the election and stated that he would continue to strive to assist Chatham County in any manner he could.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hanner moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Holland seconded the motion.

The motion carried five (5) to zero (0) and the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.


Henry H. Dunlap, Jr. Chairman

ATTEST:


Clerk to the Board