

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 04, 2001

The Board of Commissioners ("the Board") of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the Agricultural Auditorium Building, 45 South Street, located in Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 10:00 AM on June 04, 2001.

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; Finance Officer, Vicki McConnell; and Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Lee

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 10:07 AM.

AGENDA

The Chairman asked if there were additions, deletions, or corrections to the Agenda.

The County Manager asked that three items be added to the Agenda, to be discussed under the Manager's Reports, as follows: 1) Consideration of a request to approve the Audit Contract; 2) Consideration of a request to approve Refunding Debt; and 3) Presentation on the Chatham Parks Foundation, Inc. by Don Lein.

Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Givens to approve the Agenda with the noted requests. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

CONSENT AGENDA

The Chairman asked if there were additions, deletions, or corrections to the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Givens moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

1. **Minutes:** Consideration of approval of Board minutes for Regular meeting held May 21, 2001

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

2. **Tax Releases:** Consideration of a request for approval of tax releases, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

3. **Refunds on Tax Bills:** Consideration of a request for approval of refunds on regular tax bills paid in error, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

4. **Private Road Names:** Consideration of a request to approve a request from citizens for the naming of private roads in Chatham County as follows:

- A. **A W Buckner Road**
- B. **Dabians Way**
- C. **Tori Lane**

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

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Gerald Totten, 108 Petty Road, Siler City, NC, thanked the Board for the abuse that they took during the past week at the budget hearings. He stated that he is an outspoken opponent of the budget for many reasons; that he doesn't say that everything in the budget is bad, however, there is enough that needs to be adjusted; that he appreciates the Board's patience and their listening to everyone, no matter what the individual messages were; that it seemed him that each Commissioner was listening intently and that he hopes the right decision will be made.

2001-2002 RURAL OPERATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

FY 2001-2002 Rural Operating Assistance Program: Public hearing to receive public comments on the FY 2001-2002 Rural Operating Assistance Program

Helen Stovall, Executive Director of Chatham Transit Network, explained that the North Carolina Department of Transportation Public Transportation Division (NCDOT/PTD) has combined their three operating assistance programs into one application process which includes: 1) Rural General Public (RGP); 2) Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program (EDTAP); and 3) Work First Transitional/Employment Transportation Assistance Program; that these funds are used to provide additional transportation services for the elderly and disabled, exceeding the quantity of trips provided prior to receipt of the funds; that the Work First Transitional/Employment Transportation Assistance program supports transitional transportation needs of Work First participants after eligibility for cash assistance has concluded and other general employment transportation needs; that Rural General Public funds must be used in a manner consistent with the local General Public Service Plan already on file with NCDOT/PTD; that county governments are the only eligible applicants for these funds; and that it is the responsibility of the County Commissioners to sub-allocate and distribute this funds to local agencies.

There was no one present who wished to make public comments.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Chatham County Human Relations Committee Appointment: Consideration of a request to appoint a member to the Chatham County Human Relations Committee by Commissioner Outz

Commissioner Outz moved, seconded by Commissioner Givens, to appoint Celeste Bryan, 394 Mt. Zion Road, Moncure, NC, to the Chatham County Human Relations Committee. The motion carried five (5)

to zero (0).

Child Fatality Prevention Team Appointments: Consideration of a request to appoint a Child Victim Services Worker and a Review Coordinator to the Child Fatality Prevention Team

Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Givens, to appoint Carmen Coley, PO Box 87, Pittsboro, NC, and Monica Street, PO Box 130, Pittsboro, NC, to the Child Fatality Prevention Team. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Region J EMS Advisory Council Appointments: Consideration of a request to appoint/reappoint members to the Region J EMS Advisory Council

This item was deferred until the next Board of Commissioners' meeting to be held on June 18, 2001.

MANAGER' S REPORTS

Audit Contract:

Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to approve the Chatham County Audit Contract, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Refunding Debt:

Commissioner Givens moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to proceed with Refunding Debt. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

County Attorney Recognition:

Commissioner Atwater recognized Bob Gunn, County Attorney, for his competence and patience in resolving the County personnel matters.

Department of Transportation Matters:

Commissioner Atwater thanked the Board for their support in working with the District Engineers with the Department of Transportation on the review of Farrington Point and Lystra Church Road intersections.

School Awards:

Commissioner Phillips stated that while he was attending the County's budget meetings the prior weeks, his oldest son received an academic award from Jordan Matthews High School on Tuesday night; that his youngest son received an athletic award from Jordan Matthews High School on Wednesday night; that as all of the names were called of those who participated in so many ways with their school, he realized that for the first time, he was not in attendance to see them recognized for their accomplishments; that it made him realize how many volunteers there are in Chatham County who support and work ceaselessly for the children; that some of the athletic departments at Jordan Matthews are coached, staffed, and supported by the people of the community rather than people of the schools; and that he wanted to say publicly how thankful he was for the support the children receive from parents and other leaders of the community.

Commissioner Atwater stated that he was glad that the academic accomplishments as well as the athletic accomplishments of the schools were recognized.

Commissioner Givens stated that his son was most improved on the golf team at Chatham Central High School; that he was very proud of his son's accomplishments; that he too was at the budget meetings and missed attending this important event; that he attended the drama club play at Silk Hope School and was appreciative of the parent and community participation in this event; that he feels that the schools must be doing a good job which is due to teacher and parent participation and not the money received from administration.

FY 2001-2002 Budget:

Commissioner Givens moved to send the FY 2001-2002 budget back to the County Manager for a 56 cents tax rate. Commissioner Outz seconded the motion.

Commissioner Outz stated that he feels the Board needs to recognize that Chatham County, along with Moore, Lee, and Harnett Counties, is a poor County; that Chatham does not have the income that Wake and Orange have; that there are too many people in the County living on a fixed income; that he thinks it is ridiculous to approve a 75 cent tax rate; that a lot of County people will be run out of the County if a high rate is approved; that the Board needs to take a hard look at the budget; that he sees quite a few places where things can be cut; and that a 2% raise for County employees is ridiculous.

Commissioner Phillips stated that he would not favor throwing a number at the staff and asking them to prepare a budget; that he cannot support a 75 cents tax rate; that he feels that the staff is going to bring pertinent information to the work session; that he feels that they have to at least look at the budget they now have first and determine the areas that can be cut; that even if the staff has to be asked to prepare another budget, the Board has to look at the budget that it now has and set priorities where things can be cut; and that he is ready to start the process, to look for a way to proceed, to listen to what the staff has to say, and to use the information to set the budget

Commissioner Givens stated that he would like to have the budget figured at 56 cents; that he had refigured the budget starting with the last year's budget; that he didn't feel that it would take long to generate another budget; that he thought it was wise to take another look at the budget; that if the budget doesn't work with the new figures, the public will see why; that he doesn't want to cut a lot from education but that it does, in fact, receive the largest amount of the Chatham County budget; and that the Board owes it to the people to work for the lower tax rate.

Commissioner Pollard stated that she had come to the meeting prepared to review the budget department by department.

Commissioner Atwater stated that he had learned in the public hearings that a significant number of Chatham County citizens were economically threatened by the 75 cent tax rate; that he would like to investigate County operations and expenditures due to questions being raised by concerned citizens; that he would appreciate it if Commissioner Givens would consider postponing his motion until the afternoon work session so that the matter could be discussed with fellow Board members; that he finds the motion restrictive; that he has studied the budget, but has not had the opportunity to discuss it with fellow Commissioners; and that he hopes that the courtesy will be extended to fellow Board members to discuss the matter at the afternoon work session.

Commissioner Givens withdrew his motion.

Chatham Parks Foundation:

Don Lein, Executive Director of the Chatham Parks Foundation, stated that the Foundation was established to help the County reach its goals as defined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan; that the Foundation would diminish the direct cost of parks by raising money from outside sources, obtaining land more cheaply and by providing volunteer efforts in lieu of paying for these same services from outside sources; that the organization of the Foundation was discussed, including the Board of Directors, Officers, Steering Committee and standing committees (Finance, Publicity, Implementation). A brief overview of the operation of the Foundation was presented, and there ensued a brief discussion of the activity of the Foundation with respect to the four community parks, the district park, several neighborhood parks and the special purpose park at Bell's landing. Mention was made of other activities related to working with builders, as well as land donations that fell outside the purview of the Master Plan.

Further remarks were made with respect to other issues involving recreational facilities. There was a request made to the Board to appoint a committee to review properties that were offered to the Foundation, for which the Foundation had no direct use, prior to the Foundation seeking out-of-county disposition (Triangle Land Conservancy, land trusts, etc.). A brief question and answer period followed the presentation.

RECESS

Commissioner Givens moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to recess for lunch at RAFI, USA with the work session to follow. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was recessed at 11:34 PM.

Gary Phillips, Chairman

ATTEST:

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