

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORK SESSION, JUNE 13, 2001

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 9:30 AM on June 13, 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 9:40 AM.

Agenda

1. **Budget Work Continuation**
(Work through Revenue Questions)
 - A. **Commissioner Givens' question re: Natural Growth**
 - B. **Fund Balance**
 - C. **Other**
2. **Projected Revenue**
2. **Department of Social Services Presentation**
by Betty Wilson, Chair DSS Board

BUDGET REVIEW

- A review of the Fiscal Year 2001-2002 Recommended Budget by individual departments was reviewed by the County Manager, Assistant County Manager, and Finance Officer. Discussions ensued.

RECESS

- The Chairman called for a five-minute recess.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Mrs. Betty Wilson, Chair of the Department of Social Services Board (DSS), stated that she has found the employees of DSS to be the committed and hard working people; that she has spent a lot of time with the director and his staff wrestling with cuts for the 59 cent tax rate which equates to a 14% cut; that the agency would have to terminate 19 employees which would be one third of the staff; that less than half of the employee wages are paid by the County, so they would be losing more money than they would save in salaries; that elimination of nineteen workers would put a number of employees fore existing case loads below State standards for DSS agencies; that there would not be enough staff left to carry out mandated

programs; that remaining staff would be overloaded with clients and would seek jobs in other counties; that a 14% cut in the DSS budget could cost the County more in the long run; that the loss of the Child Support Position would reduce child support collections and cost the County \$9,500 in projected revenue from incentives and tax offset; that the Work First Program would be butchered; that during the past year, 62 clients have been placed in full employment; that loss of this employee would reduce this number and the clients would stay on program longer, thereby increasing the cost to the County; that the Adult Medicaid employee would cause delays to eligible clients for their benefits and overload of cases on remaining employees, resulting in errors costly to the County; that Families and Children Medicaid would result in unmanageable caseload of 660 cases with the loss of a worker; that a cut in In-Home Services would cost the County \$500 per month in Medicaid reimbursement which would jeopardize the ability to meet State mandated requirement for services; that this position currently manages a caseload of 39; that this would also mean the likelihood that these clients would have to go to rest homes, costing the County more; that many of these clients would have to sell their property valued at more than \$6,000, therefore, they would be unable to leave their property to their children; that a Fraud Investigator collects \$10,000 per year in revenue through prosecution and discourages attempts at fraud; that Child Care Networks (CCN), contracted by DSS, would drastically cut services for child care which would translate to single mothers no longer being able to work, which would send them back to DSS for support services; that currently CCN serves 516 per month; and that cuts would force 240 children out of daycare, causing them to leave jobs which would in turn put child care providers out of business.

Ms. Wilson thanked the Board for their consideration and completed her presentation by quoting Winston Churchill stating, "It is a mark of civilization that we take care of our most vulnerable."

EXPANSION REQUESTS

The County Manager reviewed and explained expansion requests.

Commissioner Atwater asked other avenues of funding for the Department of Social Services be researched.

Chairman Phillips stated that he was interested in finding out the total legal fees incurred by the County.

LUNCH RECESS

- The Chairman called for a lunch recess, and the meeting recessed at 12:06 PM.

RECONVENE

The meeting was reconvened at 12:35 PM.

FUTURE BUDGET SESSIONS

- By consensus, the following dates were set for future work sessions:

Monday, June 18, 2001	4:00 PM
Tuesday, June 19, 2001	9:00 AM

RECESS

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The Chairman called for a short recess.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Outz moved, that there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Givens seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Gary Phillips, Chairman

ATTEST:

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