

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING WITH LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
JANUARY 30, 2001

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 6:00 PM on January 30, 2001, to discuss issues of concern.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chair 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; Human Resource Director, Carolyn Chandre; and Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Lee

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

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

AGENDA

- I. Additional Revenue Sources for Chatham County**
- II. Modification of Impact Fee Authorization**
- III. Proto-type School Construction**
- IV. Transportation Issues**
- V. Redistricting**
- VI. Alternative Wastewater Systems Use**
- VII. Legislative Support for large Clean Water Management Fund Grant to Protect Upper Cape Fear Basin and Lake Jordan**

Each of the issues on the agenda was discussed with follow-up to be forthcoming as requested.

I: Additional revenue sources for Chatham County

- .. Goal: To give the Board of Commissioners revenue options for consideration in lieu of ad valorem taxes
- .. One per cent Local Option Sales Tax = \$2,175,000
- .. One dollar per thousand Land Transfer Tax = \$214,000
- .. Vehicle registration fees (@ \$5.00 per vehicle) = \$275,000
- .. Thaw the freeze on State reimbursements to counties and give indexing based on inflation. (Intangibles, Homestead Exemption)
- .. Zip Code: Distribute sale taxes by county rather than by zip. (Chatham County has five zip codes with revenue Chatham should be getting, going to Chapel Hill, Sanford, Alamance, Randolph and Cary)

.. Non-profit: Assure retirement communities continue to pay their fair share of property taxes (re: Springmoor decision)

.. Supports legislation to revise statutes dealing with taxation of agricultural land based on its present value by:

-Changing the methodology for determining present use values by using cash rents rather than corn and soybean yields;

-Preventing abuse of the statutes for the purpose of land acquisition

.. Seek legislation to increase flexibility in the use of fees generated for emergency 911 services in order to expand the ability of counties to enhance these services

.. Seek legislation to phase out County cost-sharing based on Tier 1 counties cost sharing 1%; Tier 2 counties 2%; Tiers 3, 4 and 5 counties 3% without detriment to other local programs or services

.. Seek legislation amending General Statutes 7A-311(a)(1) to increase the fee for service of process to \$25.00

.. Protect State-shared revenues: North Carolina revenue and expenditure problems tend to make State shared revenues to local governments more attractive to the General Assembly. We seek commitments to protect existing local government revenue sources from degradation and/or repeal.

II. Modification of impact fee authorization

.. Goal: Convert Chatham County's impact fee legislation to an Impact Tax. Fee legislation creates inequity in citizens' ability to pay. The Board of Commissioners believes that a fee disproportionately burdens citizens at the lower end of the income strata.

.. If conversion is impossible, the Board seeks authorization to use Impact Fees collected to pay debt service on school construction debt; modify reimbursement language and increase time limits for funds expenditure.

.. Current language requires expenditure on new construction only.

.. If county must repay funds, reimburse at a rate not to exceed that being paid on public school impact fees deposited in accordance with NC GS 159-30.

.. Increase the time limits for spending collected revenue from five to ten years.

III. Proto-Type School Construction

.. Goal: More efficient school construction in Chatham County by using formatted design

.. Pattern: Expect to see savings in engineer/architectural fees, construction materials and possibly energy usage.

.. Chatham County supports legislation to reimburse funding of local school system utility costs.

IV. Transportation Issues

.. Support legislation requiring the NC DOT to develop alternative subdivision road techniques to preserve trees and limit land disturbances and erosion.

.. Seek funding for the establishment and implementation of Rural Transportation Planning Organizations throughout the state.

V. Redistricting

.. Support efforts to encourage the General Assembly, when developing the legislative redistricting plan, to use existing county lines and single seat districts whenever possible.

VI. Alternative Wastewater systems use

- .. Goal: Get state regulatory approval of, and create opportunities for, using alternative wastewater systems in Chatham County.
- VII. Legislative support for large Clean Water Management Fund grant to protect Upper Cape Fear Basin and Lake Jordan (\$2 – 4 million dollars)**
- .. Goal: purchase development rights and buffers along Haw River watershed
 - .. Create alliances with other jurisdictions to protect the lake; those sharing in water supply will contribute

Adjournment

Chairman Phillips expressed appreciation to the Legislative Delegation for their continued work on behalf of and support for Chatham County and its interests.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Gary Phillips, Chairman

ATTEST:

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