

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 01, 2002

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 April 01, 2002.

Present: Chairman Gary Phillips; Vice Chair Margaret Pollard; Commissioners Bob Atwater, Rick Givens, and Carl Outz; County Manager, Charlie Horne; Assistant County Manager, Paul Spruill; Finance Officer, Vicki McConnell; and Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Sublett

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 10:04 AM.

AGENDA

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The County Manager asked that Item #5 on the Consent Agenda, “Consideration of a request to set a date on which to hold a public hearing on proposed revisions to An Ordinance Regulating Communication Towers in Chatham County” be amended to include the public hearing date on April 15, 2002.

Chairman Phillips asked that a Resolution Establishing Check, Purchase Order, and Disbursement Voucher Signing Procedure be added to the Consent Agenda as Item #6A.

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

1. **Minutes:** Consideration of a request for approval of Board Minutes for Regular Meeting held March 18, 2002 and Work Session held March 18, 2002

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 Name:** Consideration of a request from citizens to approve the naming of a private road in Chatham County as follows:

Allen Pond Lane

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

5. **Request to Set Public Hearing Date on Communications Tower Ordinance:** Consideration of a request to set April 15, 2002 as the date on which to hold a public hearing on proposed revisions to An Ordinance Regulating Communication Towers in Chatham County

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

6. **Resolution Regarding the Bynum Post Office:** Consideration of a request to adopt **Resolution #2002-11 in Support of the Efforts in the Community of Bynum to Maintain the Bynum Post Office**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

- 6A. **Resolution Establishing Check, Purchase Order and Disbursement Voucher Signing Procedure:** Consideration of a request for approval of a **Resolution #2002-12 Establishing Check, Purchase Order, and Disbursement Voucher Signing Procedure**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Phillips read the Resolution on the Bynum Post Office.

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Jim Jablonski, 301 Piney Woods Lane, Apex, NC, stated that presently Ebenezer Church boat ramps and docks are open seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day; that a safety issue due to the turbulent wakes in front of the main ramps cause boats to violently bounce by the docks; that also driving or pulling boats onto trailers is, at times, impossible; that twelve pictures are enclosed to illustrate the present four no-wake buoys; that obvious evidence of turbulent wakes hitting the docks/ramps is evident; that the slashed lines represent the area that wakes are generated; and that also the prevailing winds from the south, southwest, and west accelerate these wakes.

He showed an exhibit stating that it shows the present four no-wake buoys; that the circled dot shows the proposed increase of the no-wake zone; that the southwest corner on a GPS reads 35 degrees 43.60N; 078 degrees 54.50 w; that the west border could be extended 50 further west if possible; that the Safety council

chaired by Ralph Duckson was presented the proposal; that the Council unanimously agreed that the increased no wake zone would increase safety greatly; that also over a hundred active boaters who use this particular boat ramp and docks have signed a petition to increase the no-wake zone as Ebenezer Church boat ramps/docks. The petitions are attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

He asked the Board for their approval to increase the "No Wake Zone" for the Ebenezer Church boat ramps/docks for safety of hundreds of boaters and their families and friends from many counties at Jordan Lake.

Chairman Phillips asked that staff take a look at the request and return to the Board as an official request.

Bobby Gales, PO Box 132, Bynum, NC, expressed his appreciation for the Board's support in adopting the Bynum Post Office Resolution. He stated that the Bynum Post Office has been serving the citizens for over one hundred years; that the citizens of the community have organized to band together to try to keep their post office; that they were not given much notice, due to the contractual agreement; that they can be closed within sixty days; that they have approximately 600 signatures against the closing; that they have had contact with their congressmen and senators. He read a letter that was sent to Ms. Tori White, General Manager of Retail in Greensboro asking her to reconsider the decision to close the Bynum Post Office.

Louise Harris, Bynum, NC, stated that she was interested in the changing of one of the proposed state maintained roads and the Bynum Post Office. She stated that she was opposed to changing Thompson Recreation Road in Bynum; that the road was named in honor of Earl Thompson who was interested in the children of Bynum; that he was a member of the Ruritan Club and a former County Commissioner; and that road name should be left as it is. She also stated that the community needs the Bynum Post Office; that her family struggled to keep the post office in 1970 and kept it in their store until 1992; and that it was then sold. She thanked the Board for their support.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Public Hearing:

Naming of Three State-Maintained Roads in Chatham County: Public hearing to receive public comments on the naming of three state-maintained roads in Chatham County

Cynthia Hermans, 138 Thompson Recreation Road, Bynum, NC, stated that for many years those who live on Thompson Recreation Road have had mix-ups in package delivery between their street and that of Thompson Street in Pittsboro; that this has involved delays (sometimes lengthy ones) in receiving their deliveries; that when the petition was done nearly a year ago, there was only one person living on the road who had a mailbox and a Pittsboro address; that this person did not feel that she had too much of a problem, but enough of one to sign the petition; that another new resident who has a mail box also has a huge problem and would have signed the petition had she been at home when it came around; that there were 18 signatures out of 25 possible signatures representing all and adjacent property owners to Thompson Recreation Road; that of the persons which did not respond to the petition, three were out-of-towners, two with no responses and one response by e-mail stating that they would support a name change; that of the other four that did not sign, two did not respond and one was willing to go along with the change, and one stated that she was too lazy to change her address but as long as she has a post office box, she would not mind a name change; that they chose "Bynum Hill" because it got the most votes at their meeting; that they realize that Earl Thompson was an important person to Bynum in securing funds for the ball park; that they have no intention in changing the name of the ball park so that his name would be preserved in Bynum, but that they simply would like to

have their name changed; that by changing the name to "Bynum Hill" they will be identified as being in Bynum; and that if they no longer have a post office, their address will be a Pittsboro address and people will have an easier time finding them.

Bobby Gales, PO Box 132, Bynum, NC, stated that with a Bynum Road and a Bynum Ridge Road, that to add a Bynum Hill Road would be more confusing; that another lady attending the meeting, presented him with a hand-written note that she was opposed to changing the road name; that a possibility to differentiate between the roads might be to rename the road Earl Thompson Recreation Road. He shared a letter written by Walter Harris, nephew of Earl Thompson, requesting that the name not be changed. The letter is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

Commissioner Givens moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to approve Henry Webster Road and Old Christian Chapel Road. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Thompson Recreation Road is to be returned to the Board for consideration at a later date.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Family Responder Position: Consideration of a request to create a Family Responder position established by Safe Start Program with Chatham County Sheriff's Department

Chatham County Sheriff, Ike Gray, introduced George Cole with Safe Start, stated that he was approached by Safe Start the prior month with a proposal about a Family Responder position which is a social worker who would be working directly with the officers when they go out on a domestic violence call; that the position would target children ages 0-8 who are at the residence at the time of the domestic violence incidence; and that the program would be funded through the year 2005.

George Cole, Safe Start evaluator, stated that he was working with Safe Start as its evaluator to determine whether or not Safe Start programs do what they are intended to do; that when they were considering applying for the Safe Start grant, which is a four-year, three million dollar federal grant to provide the Family Responder position, they did not actually know to what extent children in Chatham County are exposed to violence; that they did a study which determined that every year in Chatham County, there are at least four hundred children between the ages of 0-8 who are present at a violent incident in their home that is so severe that it results in a call to local law enforcement; that the reason behind the Safe Start program is that recent research has shown that these children experience both immediate and long-term problems as the result of chronically severe exposure to mainly domestic violence; that the most notable one is that when children grow up in a home where violence is the method for solving problems, they learn that that is the method for solving problems; that the ones that are being seen in these homes now are the same ones that law enforcement will be seeing ten years from now who are solving their own problems using violence; and that this is not just a problem for the children, it is also a problem for the community, as well.

He further stated that one of the things that was part of the grant, and has been usual with these types of programs, is that a great deal of money is spent in a short period of time and then the grant expires; that communities are then left with either a hole in their service base or their funding sources; that the director of the program, George Friday, was hired specifically because of her extensive fund raising experience; that one of her main responsibilities over the next three years is to find sources of funds so that these programs, should they be shown to be effective, can be continued without the Sheriff or others returning to the Commissioners asking that County funds be expended.

After considerable discussion, Commissioner Outz moved, seconded by Commissioner Givens, to

table the matter until the April 15, 2002 Board of Commissioners' meeting. The motion carried three (3) to two (2) with Commissioners Pollard and Phillips opposing.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Mid Carolina Workforce Development Board Appointment: Consideration of a request to appoint a member to the Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Board to replace Howard Stier

Chairman Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Givens, to appoint Evelyn Cross, 388 Crosspoint Road, Sanford, NC, to the Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Board. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Recreation Advisory Board Appointments: Consideration of a request to appoint two members to the Recreation Advisory Board, one each by Commissioners Outz and Givens

Commissioner Outz moved, seconded by Commissioner Givens, to appoint Jennifer Sipe, 225 Lake Stone Estates, Pittsboro, NC, to the Recreation Advisory Board. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Human Relations Commission Appointment: Consideration of a request to appoint members to the Chatham County Human Relations Commission by Commissioners Phillips, Givens, and Atwater

By consensus, the Board asked that the County Manager put together a description of the current complexion of the board including strengths, weaknesses, and gaps that the Commissioners might be able to fill by appointments.

Agriculture Advisory Board Appointment: Consideration of a request to appoint a member to the Agriculture Advisory Board to replace Harvey Harmon by Commissioner Phillips

This item is to return to the Board at a later date.

OPC Area Mental Health Board:

Commissioner Pollard stated that the Board had two appointments to the OPC Area Mental Health Board; that at present there are no Hispanics on that board; that she feels that when there is just person of an ethnic group, it makes it very difficult for that person; that if one Hispanic is appointed to the board, she would like to see two Hispanics appointed to the board so that there is not the weight of carrying that large developing community on one person's shoulders.

Planning Board:

Commissioner Outz moved, seconded by Commissioner Givens, to appoint Jonathan Manning, 50 Pittsboro Elementary School Road, Pittsboro, NC, to the Chatham County Planning Board to replace Bunkey Morgan who has resigned his position. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

MANAGER'S REPORTS

The County Manager suggested that the Board continue with their work session in the Agriculture

Auditorium due to the anticipated short length of the agenda.

Exaction Fees Related to Recreation:

Keith Megginson, Planning Director, stated that a public hearing was held to amend the Subdivision Regulations or exactions and the Board established that they wanted to proceed with having 1/35 of the value of an acre per lot; that because there are various types of units created beyond the subdivision process, specifically through planned unit developments, through zoning or through mobile home parks, those texts also need to be amended; that at a presentation of the Agri-Business Council, he received a lot of questions about long-time residents who are passing on land to family members and if it would be covered; that he was asked after the meeting if some of them could be exempted; that the subdivision regulations could be written to exempt family subdivisions; that early in the process, the Planning Board talked about whether to exclude minor subdivisions any time five lots were created; that all additional dwelling units are creating a need for recreation; that they chose not to exempt straight, minor, subdivisions; but that even the smaller minor subdivision was not discussed; that if the Board wants to consider it, it could be addressed at the April 15th public hearing.

After considerable discussion, the Board agreed, by consensus, to proceed with the public input session on the issue at the April 15, 2002 Board of Commissioners' meeting that would address the issue of changing all the regulations that would need to be changed regarding exactions and to discuss the issue of exemptions for these exactions.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Caution Light in Bennett:

Commissioner Givens stated that he had been approached by residents of Bennett who requested that the Board contact the Department of Transportation with regard to placing a caution light in front of the Bennett Post Office to reduce speeding traffic in the blind traffic area.

Chairman Phillips stated that quarterly meetings with the Department of Transportation District Representative and District Engineer and appropriate staff have been productive and have seemed to work well with regard to eliminating problems.

Commissioner Pollard stated that when they are invited, the narrow roads previously discussed, (Glendon Road and the Moncure Pittsboro Road) should continue to be on the agenda with the Department of Transportation officials.

Commissioner Outz stated that he felt that Senator Howard Lee should also receive copies of the letters sent to the Department of Transportation.

Chairman Phillips stated that at the next meeting of the Department of Transportation, they may choose to invite them to attend a Commissioner Work Session.

Red Gate Road:

Commissioner Outz asked the Public Works Director about the status of Red Gate Road.

Ron Singleton, Public Works Director, stated that he hoped to have a draft policy ready at the next

meeting.

Chairman Phillips expressed concern that it be done in a way that is consistent with the policy the County already has or develop a new policy so that everyone is treated fairly.

Hispanic Population:

Commissioner Pollard voiced concern with regard to defining a process to reach the Hispanic population for representation. She stated that she thought about a public notice in their newspaper/newsletter or check with United Way; that getting someone who will attend meetings on a regular basis to that board is very important; and that if one meeting is missed, it is indeed troublesome.

Chairman Phillips stated that in working with the Hispanic liaison, he had discovered that there are a lot of folks in the County who would physically help but that he had not met many who could/would be able to sit through a three-hour meeting; that there are some people who are more prepared for that in their lives than others; that this has been very important to Ivan Remnitz on the Human Relations Board; that he feels that one of the next large thrusts will be leadership development in that community; and that he felt it would be very useful to the Board, in Spanish, to solicit members of boards that are appropriate and to send that contact information to all organizations that have direct interface with the Latino community.

Water Supply:

Commissioner Atwater stated that he would like to ask the Board if they would support his idea with regard to water supply question. He stated that he would like very much for the Board to consider establishing a short term commission to look at it as objectively and over a much time horizon than the Board generally gets to study the current allocation process; that he would like to make sure that the time line which they are on and the way they are approaching supply questions from Jordan Lake are in the best interests of the citizens in the future; that he has an idea of the question that should be addressed, but that he wants to somewhat preliminarily ask if they will support that notion; that he has ideas of some people who, quite objectively, might be able to get the information and bring it before the Board in a way that will allow the Board to know that they are doing all they can do as quickly as it can be done.

Commissioner Pollard stated that she supported the motion.

Chairman Phillips stated that he would want to make sure that it is coordinated with the County Manager, Ray Greenlaw and the Water Committee.

Commissioner Outz stated that he agreed with it with the exception that all available grants are researched; that water is an asset, not a liability, and will eventually return some income to the County.

Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center:

Chairman Phillips praised the efforts of the Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center who raised \$15,000 in their oral auction alone and probably another \$10,000 in their silent auction; that there were a lot of volunteers doing a lot of different jobs; and the event was very inspirational.

United Way:

Chairman Phillips stated that Chatham County has one of the most successful United Ways in the

southeast; that this year, more than any other year, small businesses came forward and made significant contributions; that small business in Chatham County made tremendous contributions to the United Way; and that the citizens have a lot in which to be proud that they live in a community where folks are willing to contribute to the common good of everyone.

RECESS

Commissioner Atwater moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, that the meeting be recessed to the Henry H. Dunlap, Jr. Classroom for the Work Session. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was recessed at 11:16 PM.

Gary Phillips, Chairman

ATTEST:

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