

**MINUTES**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**AUGUST 01, 2011**

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The Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the Agricultural Building Auditorium, 45 South Street, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 6:00 PM on August 01, 2011.

Present: Brian Bock, Chairman; Walter Petty, Vice Chair; Commissioners Mike Cross, Sally Kost, and Pamela Stewart

Staff Present: Charlie Horne, County Manager; Tim Sullivan, Acting County Attorney; Renee Paschal, Assistant County Manager; Vicki McConnell, Finance Officer; and Sandra B. Sublett, Clerk to the Board

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Cross delivered the invocation after which the Chairman invited everyone present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bock welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Commissioner Kost asked that the following items be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda for discussion:

- Contract with Department of Social Services between Chatham County Department of Social Services and Carol Holcomb, Attorney-at-Law
- Tax Collector’s Annual Settlement and Order of Collection
- July 18, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Kost moved, seconded by Commissioner Petty, to approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda with the noted requests as follows:

1. **Minutes:** Approval of Board Minutes for the Regular Meeting held July 18, 2011 and Work Session held July 18, 2011

The July 18, 2011 Work Session Minutes were approved by a motion of five (5) to zero (0).

The July 18, 2011 Regular Minutes were removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda for discussion.

2. **Contract with Department of Social Services:** Approval of contract between Chatham County Department of Social Services and the Chatham Transit Network, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

3. **Contract with Department of Social Services:** Approval of contract between Chatham County Department of Social Services and Carol Holcomb, Attorney-at-Law

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda for discussion.

4. **Resolution to Declare and Convey Surplus Property:** Adoption of **Resolution #2011-38 Declaring Property Surplus and Conveying Property to Chatham Transit Network**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

5. **Transportation Advisory Committee Appointments and Terms:** Approval of two Transportation Advisory Committee (TAB) Appointments by the full Board with terms to expire on June 30, 2013:

**Alfred Forrest “Buddy” Denise, Jr.,** District #5, Large/Slow-Moving/Commercial Transportation and Public Safety

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

6. **Tax Collector’s Annual Settlement and Order of Collection:** Approval of Annual Settlement and Order of Collection

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda for discussion.

7. **Naming of Private Road in Chatham County:** Approval of a request from citizens for the naming of private road in Chatham County John Routh Drive

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

8. **Triangle Area RPO TAC Reappointment:** Approval of a request to reappoint Commissioner Sally Kost to the Triangle Area RPO TAC

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

9. **Environmental Review Board Appointment:** Approval of a request to appoint Delonda Alexander to the Environmental Review Board by Commissioner Kost

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

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**PUBLIC INPUT SESSION**

**Randy Dye**, 173 Olde Farm Road, Pittsboro, NC, presented his comments to the Board and provided them in their entirety for the record as follows:

“I am here tonight to offer thanks to the 3 commissioners that courageously dared to request details on how the over \$700,000 in additional funding that Superintendent Logan was asking for would be spent. It is common sense government in action even though it could be used against you politically by the liberals and media of our community. It is exactly this part of your job and it should be part of the Board of Education's job to ask these types of questions, especially because it is taxpayer money that is being spent. We the public taxpayers rely upon you to be good stewards of our money and we are grateful that you take this responsibility seriously.

It is amazing that with a little digging into their budget, the school board was able to not only find they had enough funds to cover the request for over \$700,000 but also found an additional amount that now gives them a surplus of about \$250,000. Just because the funding is

for the children of this community does not mean sloppy accounting or blank check discretionary spending should be tolerated. Thank you for holding them accountable on our behalf.

Secondly, I wish to raise a concern in regards to the blanket sharing of commissioner's emails with Mayor Randy Voller, or anyone for that matter. In my opinion this is an abuse of the open meeting laws that allow any citizen to request copies of minutes and emails. If Mayor Voller is concerned about a particular issue or occurrence, he should be required to request the emails specifically addressing his concerns. He is wasting our taxpayer funds by utilizing county staff resources by making this blanket request for all emails. This request requires someone from the county staff to manually forward each email and places an additional burden on the staff. In reality, this appears to be a fishing trip by Mr. Voller and the democrat party, in hopes they find something they can use against the commissioners. If Mr. Voller has a real concern about the processes or business of the commissioners, he should share his concerns and allow the citizens to aid him in determining if there is any issue to be corrected or concerned about and stop wasting valuable staff resource time.”

**Larry Ballas**, 139 Indian Creek Lane, Apex, NC, stated that he attended the Economic Development Commission (EDC) meeting last week and was pleased with the presentations by the presenter from the International Green Utilities Company. He stated that he thought it was a real positive event. He thanked Commissioner Petty for inviting him as he had positive input into what Chatham County can do to get its economic development going. He doesn't think that the EDC on its own would have been able to find him. It goes to show that the more people we have working on economic development, whether they are part of the group or not, is a real positive influence on the County being able to find jobs, make jobs, and keep jobs in Chatham County.

He also stated that schools are very important. Most people think that high schools should direct people toward college. Not everyone really needs to go to college. There are a lot of people who just want to be able to get educated up to the twelfth grade, find a job, and earn income, especially in today's market where the economy is so bad and it's going to be that way for a long period of time. College will not be affordable to a lot of people. As students get bored in high school because all they see in college courses, they tune-out and drop out. He stated that he believes we can decrease our drop-out rate by offering some other type of alternative education either with the new high school or switching an old high school. He stated that he has talked with the Board of Education regarding this matter. He feels that there are a lot of successful vocational high school in North Carolina and even more successful ones out-of-state that we can use as examples to educate students in fields in which they feel they may want to develop a career without going to college. He thinks it is a real advantage to be able to spend that money. College is going to be unaffordable except if the government pays for it in the future. If the government pays for it, they control one's life. If one wants to be controlled, then go that direction.

The Fourth Circuit Court has made a judgment on prayer at commissioners' meetings which was decided in Forsythe County. They decided that you can't say "Jesus". You can say a generic of an entity but you cannot say "Jesus". It is not settled law, it is only in the Fourth Circuit.

**Jim Pridgen**, 1108 Indian Creek Estates, Goldston, NC, presented his comments to the Board and provided them in their entirety for the record as follows:

“Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

My name is Jim Pridgen. I live at 1108 Indian Creek Estates, Goldston. When you denied the Chatham County Board of Education's request for an additional \$700,000 for their budget, I was pleased with your decision.

The children in our County deserve the best education possible and I understand there were many parents upset with you when the Board of Education stated that due to the denial of their request, the only place they could cut would include teachers.

However, you were doing exactly what the citizens of Chatham County elected you to do. That being to look at all expenditures using our tax monies, understanding how it will be used and making wise decisions as to how these monies are dispersed.

I understand from a reliable source that the Board of Education has taken another look at their budget and come up with other areas where cuts can be made without adversely affecting the teachers and classrooms and even having a little more to work with on top of the \$700,000 they were asking for.

Had you granted their request, I feel there would have been \$700,000 of our tax wasted because I feel sure they would not have gone back to scrutinize their budget but just taken the money and ran.

As for some of the Board of Education's members feeling that you should just give them money when they ask for it and not ask for an accounting of it, they are absolutely wrong.

You as our Commissioners have a responsibility to us citizens to make sure our tax money goes where it is needed the most and that it is spent wisely.

My question is why are there other counties in our State and in other states that are giving the students an education and getting test scores higher than ours and spending less money per student that our County does.

I would like for you as our Commissioners to ask the Board of Education for a detailed explanation as to why this is taking place and what their plans are to implement some of the procedures and programs being used by these other boards of education where students are getting higher test scores with less money being spent per student.

It is our tax money and you are authorizing it to be spent; therefore, you have a responsibility to make absolutely sure that we are getting as much as possible for every penny that is being spent."

## **BOARD PRIORITIES**

### **Contract with Department of Social Services:**

Commissioner Kost stated that when the budget was being prepared, she talked about how much they were spending for legal services. In this case, we are spending about \$165 per hour for attorney services for the Department of Social Services and she would like the Board to review all of their legal expenses to see what options they have to bring down the costs when they start on next year's budget.

Commissioner Kost moved, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, to approve the contract between Chatham County Department of Social Services and Carol Holcomb, Attorney-at-Law. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0). The contract is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

### **Tax Collector's Annual Settlement and Order of Collection:**

Commissioner Kost stated that she asked for this to be pulled from the Consent Agenda because she wanted to make a comment. She stated that if one looks at our Tax Collector's Annual Settlement, all group categories for collections is 97.73%; real and personal property, 98%, and registered vehicles, 92.14%. She stated those are amazing numbers. In looking over the last eleven years, this is the highest collection rate in at least the last eleven years and was achieved in a down economy. She thanked the Tax Collector's Office.

Commissioner Kost moved, seconded by Commissioner Petty, to approve the Annual Settlement and Order of Collection. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Frances Wilson, Tax Collector, stated that in order to come up with those figures, it does take a lot of work and not just by her. She stated that they issued approximately 2500 garnishments and collected over \$300,000 from garnishments; that they initiated 517 pre-foreclosure letters, of those they sent 172 to our foreclosure attorney; that the others either paid the accounts or made payment arrangements with us; that approximately 100 bank account attachments, rents from six tenants, and that they collected \$8-10K from Escheat funds from the State Treasurer. She stated that this year has been very difficult having been out-of-the-office due to the sickness and subsequent death of her husband; that staff hung in together and pulled us

through; that she is very grateful to the staff for their support; and that she appreciated the Board of Commissioners' comments regarding this matter.

### **July 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Minutes:**

Commissioner Kost stated that there was a comment made in the July minutes that another Commissioner made which she feels was attributed to the wrong Commissioner. She stated that she had talked with the Board members and that they were in agreement. The comment stated: "Chairman Bock advocated that she would advocate...." It should state that Commissioner Stewart stated that if we were to leave the \$25,000 in the budget, that she would not advocate for spending it on a reduced bookmobile schedule, but would rather see the hours of operation for the library increased extended to the weekend." It should further state, "Chairman Bock stated that would be micromanaging the budget which the Board had said it would not do."

Commissioner Kost moved, seconded by Commissioner Petty, to approve the July 18, 2011 Regular minutes as amended. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

## **BOARD PRIORITIES**

### **Historical Association Presentation**

Barbara Clark Pugh, President, Chatham County Historical Association, Inc. made her presentation to the Board and provided them in their entirety for the record as follows:

"Commissioner Chair Bock, Vice-Chair Petty, Commissioners Stewart, Kost and Cross,

Good Evening and thank you for giving the Chatham County Historical Association an opportunity to bring to you our plans and progress report for the historical areas to be in the rebuilt Historic Courthouse. I hope you'll find the packet of information I left for you will give you a taste of the work of CCHA and that you will share it with others.

*(Ms. Pugh introduced board members and exhibit committee members present. [Barbara Pugh, Jane Hinnant, Dan Perry, Walter Harris, Jane Pyle, Kenneth Crabtree, Susan Little, Patty Walters, Mimi Pollard].*

Fall of 2010 upon "official" direction from the Commissioners that the Historical Association would have museum space and workspace in the Courthouse, we pretty much hit the ground running. We had to bring to fruition what we had hoped for and what we were now charged to do.

We knew we needed help. So the search started to find a broad base of people who would commit to providing their expertise, input and hours to get this done.

An early decision of the Board was to have Susan Little serve as the Chairperson of the newly formed Exhibits Committee. Susan had previous experience in developing local museums and she lived right here in Chatham.

Working with Grimsley and Taylor Hobbs, the physical aspects took shape. We are truly indebted to them for their patience and guidance. They were certainly our lifeline in sorting out the responsibilities of the association in our areas and what would be part of the rebuilt structure. We've searched and researched other museums; how they were formed, how long in development, how much money, who paid, who runs . . . how did you get such fine exhibits? which led us to contracting with Mike Cindric of Design Dimensions in Raleigh for design work.

So, in the meantime, a schedule was laid out for getting the museum ready to coincide with the opening of the rebuilt Courthouse.

The Blue Book – Chatham County 1771-1971- is our Bible for the county's history in developing the museum.

Along the way, the work tasks of researching, writing, and illustrating the various sections of the county's history has been worked on by individuals spearheading each of our defined sections; in the hallway a history of the Courthouse (*Jane Hinnant*) and a comprehensive

map of the county (*Jane Pyle*), a wall in the Museum quadrant giving the timeline history of the county (*Susan Little*), a section of wall on Voices of Chatham representing groups of people as well as individuals important in the fabric of the county (*Patty Walters*) a section of wall on progress of education (*Ernest Dark*), a wall of community life featuring general store (*Kenneth Crabtree*), church and related community (*Shirley T. Edwards, Jane Pyle*), how we made a living through agriculture (*Barbara Pugh*), business and industry (*Kay Judge, Dan Perry, Walter Harris*). Each section has an individual leading the section with input from other committee members, and “advisors” for correctness of content and oversight on the inclusion of important or significant things. The corridor halls will house display units with changeable exhibits.

Presently the narrative for the exhibits and the artifacts and graphics are due to the designer by the end of August. He will then massage what we’ve provided and start to put it in order and do refinements. We will continue to seek rare and special pictures and artifacts to embellish the display. There will also be electronic enhancements to provide audio and visual support.

Of course, I’ve only mentioned half of what’s happening. While the Exhibit Committee has been working on the content of the museum, the CCHA Board Members have been working on fundraising. We are working on our fundraising in stages, from seeking member support, to now reaching out to public groups, businesses, and opportunities for grants from foundations. Initially the CCHA committed to \$35,000 from our treasury as for years we had been earmarking monies for a museum.

In the early development of a plan with Design Dimensions, a preliminary budget was established with some contingencies added. The budget of \$135,000 is our goal. We realize that we are not currently in the best of financial times for fundraising. As of today we have received \$31,000 this summer from individuals coupled with the \$35,000 from the association gives us a total of \$66,000 or about 48% of our goal. With the time and effort push that we’ve been putting in on the content of the museum winding down, we will put more pressure on the fundraising efforts. From the very beginning of the project, we felt it important to have a flexible plan to be able to do what we could afford when we could afford it. Should any of you have suggestions for sources for funding, we would appreciate your letting us know.

From the very beginning we’ve kept saying “What is best for telling the Chatham story.” And that history is a part of the cultural arts.

We appreciate the confidence you’ve shown in us. Our history is unique to us. We hope we can present it to reflect the hardships and strengths of Chathamites as they’ve called this place home and raised families here.”

Commissioner Cross thanked Ms. Pugh for their presentation. He stated that he doesn’t know if it is going away, but he would like to have some photos of the little brick building that used to be the County’s first Ag Building which is located on Highway 15-501. Ms. Pugh stated that they found an article in a magazine, written in 1947, which had that building in the background and had all the main principles of the agents and local community leaders standing in front of it. There was also another picture of them sitting around a desk. She stated that they celebrated when they found the picture.

Commissioner Kost stated that she had spoken with various members of the committee. The work that the Historical Association Committee has done has been very impressive. She stated that one wouldn’t know that they have never planned a museum before. They have done some very good things. She reminded her fellow Board members that there is a donation form in the pamphlet which was distributed.

**Advisory Committee Policy Update:** Updates and corrections to the Advisory Committee Policy

Debra Henzey, Director of Community Relations, explained that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners adopted a new Advisory Committee Policy and Addendums on June 6, 2011 that provides consistent policies and procedures for several County-created volunteer advisory committees. This agenda item is to provide clarifications or corrections related to:

- Clarifying that individual appointees can't serve on more than one committee under the policy, but neither can they also concurrently hold other commissioner-appointed seats on other entities not under the policy. This would include boards, commissions and committees not under the policy, but where the Board of Commissioners makes the appointment of the position.
  - Removing one volunteer group from being part of this policy so that it can transition to a non-appointed committee temporarily, with the goal of becoming a nonprofit in the future to raise funds for its programs.
1. **MULTIPLE COMMITTEE SERVICE:** We have had some confusion about the interpretation of the language in the adopted policy concerning appointees or candidates for the advisory committees who already serve on other county committees, boards, etc. A proposed amendment to the policy is attached which would clarify that the intent that the same person is not able to serve on an advisory committee under the policy if they also hold another commissioner-appointed seat, even if it is NOTs one of the advisory committees. They would have to choose between the service on the advisory committee or service on any other appointed seat(s). This would be effective Oct. 1, 2011.
  2. **REVISION TO ADDENDUM A:** The Grand Trees of Chatham was established on April 6, 2009. This group has not acted as policy advisory committee to the commissioners, but has been involved in creating and promoting programs to recognize some of our most significant trees. They also expressed the need to become a nonprofit so that they can seek and secure funding to continue their awards program. For these reasons, it makes sense to remove the Grand Trees of Chatham from this policy. The group will continue for now as a self-administered group with guidance from Cooperative Extension staff, until they can transition to a nonprofit.

Commissioner Kost asked that when this item comes back to the Board, Ms. Henzey shows what the impacts are to the various committees. She stated that she would like to see an updated list of committees/appointments/expired terms. She stated that she is concerned about continuity; and that she sees some advantages of overlap with regard to Economic Development Commission, and Workforce Development. She stated that if they appoint someone to serve, they could make a decision then if they think they are on too many committees, and that they need to know how many positions this will impact.

This matter will be returned to the Board at a future Board of Commissioners' meeting.

### **MANAGER' S REPORTS**

The County Manager reported on the following:

#### **North Chatham Fire District Tax Rate:**

The County Manager explained that at the last meeting, the Board discussed the North Chatham Fire District tax rate and the typographical error in the budget ordinance. After looking at it, it appears that there is an approximate \$80,000 difference between what the rate would have been at .68 and .66. Staff recommends leaving it as is and see how it rides out. If at the end of the term, if it looks like more funds are needed for the district, then Staff will report back to the Board.

Commissioner Kost asked where the money would come from when reporting back to the Board. The County Manager explained that it could be done two different ways: 1) Fund Balance; 2) Reduce the administrative fee.

Commissioner Kost asked how much they pay in administrative fees and asked if this would mean that the general taxpayers would be supporting one fire district.

The Finance Officer explained that she had talked with some of the board members who think that they will be okay. She stated that she would put a restriction on it that they would give them money if they could not meet their salaries or their debt.

Commissioner Kost stated that the Board could set the rate the following year and have the Fire District pay the County back.

The Finance Officer stated that they did look at the values again. Unfortunately, if you take what the State recommends on public utilities, their value is actually a little less than budgeted. The same happens with motor vehicles which is less than what we had.

Commissioner Cross stated that they should be advised very hard to make it work because they are not going to like it when they have to double up next year.

The Finance Officer agreed stating that they have had conversations with the fire department.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

#### **American Flag Location:**

Commissioner Cross clarified that approximately six weeks ago, there was someone present who mis-corrected our position of the American Flag. He stated that the American Flag should be positioned forward of the audience and to the right of the speaker. He stated that both are being done so the flag is positioned correctly.

#### **Solar Farms in Chatham County:**

Chairman Bock stated that he had been working with Betsy McCorkle with NC State. Several folks have inquired about solar farms in Chatham County. He stated that Ms. McCorkle called him last week with some grant opportunities and was present tonight to summarize that opportunity.

Betsy McCorkle, Economic Development Coordinator, NC State University, NC Solar Center, thanked the Board for allowing her to speak. She gave a brief overview of the program stating that it is called "The Department of Energy (DOE) SunShot Initiative" which is a grant opportunity for local governments to streamline their permitting processes for solar projects. The DOE estimates that 40% of the cost of a solar project has to do with paperwork. The grant opportunity allows industry, government, and non-profits to work together to streamline those processes and also look at land use opportunities that may be restrictive of solar projects as well as come up with creative financing and third-party arrangements that are sometimes necessary for solar projects. Chatham County has expressed some interest in participating with some other local jurisdictions in the area in coming up with best practices that would allow these projects to move forward at a quicker rate. There is a significant amount of economic development potential in a project like this for both the design and installation that participate here in the Triangle as well as homeowners that are able to take advantage of a lot of the lucrative and incentives that are tied up with solar projects right now.

Chairman Bock asked about matching contributions, if any, does the County have to provide in order to get the funds.

Ms. McCorkle stated that the County does have to provide a cost-share in order to participate. The cost-share is between 10-13%. It can be an in-kind contribution. It does not have to be cash. It can be staff time. It can be a staff member that wishes to participate in the project, or maybe hire an intern, or a fellow to oversee the projects. It is only a one-year project in Phase I. They would then go on to apply for more funding in Phase II, but you can use in-kind resources such as staff time or existing resources such as someone on staff who is a great web developer. One of the things that they may do in this project is design an on-line permitting process to expedite things. Web-time may be a contributed.

Commissioner Kost asked if this includes going through the existing zoning ordinances and regulations to see what barriers there are and then if there are barriers beyond local government that are at the state or federal level, are recommendations made regarding those.

Ms. McCorkle answered yes to both of those. She stated that she feels as though the DOE got this one right. They have put together a "market assessment" which is a twelve-page document that explains all of that including, "Where are you at this point?" "What is the



permitting that is in place?” “Are there homeowners associations that are restricting things?” “What kind of financing is available?” “Are there grant programs?” “Is there a rebate program?” Basically, she stated, one analyzes where they are at the baseline. Then they have a year to improve. The DOE, at the end of that year, looks to see how well they did. If they do well, then they get to move on to Phase II or actually take what has been learned in the small group of local governments (There are five that are currently contemplating taking part in Phase I.) and broaden that into a statewide program which is when they really have influence after participating in Phase I to go to State government and ask them to look at the regions, the growth that has happened because they are able to do Item A or Item B. The Utilities Commission regulates a lot of things related to renewable energy. Some of those things are prohibiting projects from moving forward. The hope is that in Phase II, they would be able to address some of those State issues.

Commissioner Kost asked how large the in-kind or cash, whichever they chose, and what is the typical size of a grant. Ms. McCorkle stated that the grant, the whole project, is between \$500,000-\$1,000,000 which are the parameters they have been given by the DOE. For Chatham County, it would probably come in around \$70,000.

Chairman Bock asked who would do the work. Would someone be hired to do the work with that money?

Ms. McCorkle stated that it was up to the Board. If the Board has someone who handles economic development, if there is someone to handle building codes, that handles sustainability, maybe a team of three people that all decide to move the agenda forward together in a public/private partnership. They have to be told what they are going to do with the money as it has to be written into the budget and is not a blank check. She stated that we would be free to do what works best for the County. The City of Raleigh is participating and is in a position that they have such a large staff, that they can ask for 10% of one person's time, 15% of another person's time, etc. and they are not going to hire someone new. In a county like Chatham County, where there is not a lot of excess staff time or staff that can be moved around with the expertise, they may need to hire someone.

Commissioner Petty asked if the hiring process could be done on a contract basis. Ms. McCorkle replied, yes, stating that is what she would advise as it is only a one-year guarantee. They will apply for funding again in years two and three.

Chairman Bock asked if Chatham would be one of five jurisdictions participating. Ms. McCorkle replied that that is the idea now. They have had five that have expressed interest and they are going through the process with them. The actual grant application deadline is August 29, 2011. At that point, they will have to have firm commitments in order to move forward.

Chairman Bock asked if Ms. McCorkle had been working with Sybil Tate on this matter. Ms. McCorkle replied, yes.

Chairman Bock stated that he had interest in this and asked if the other Board members had an interest to proceed stating that it was money that is going somewhere in North Carolina and it would be nice if Chatham County participated. Ms. McCorkle stated that it was going to go somewhere in the country. It is \$12.5 million from the DOE who is going to award up to 25 projects. Chatham County would be one of those 25 projects competing for that pool.

Chairman Bock asked if Ms. McCorkle's organization would work with Chatham County in order to get the grant written. Ms. McCorkle stated that the NC Solar Center and the State Energy Office would provide the expertise in helping the jurisdictions fill-out their market assessment, understand some of the complex language that is involved in this industry, provide the technical side of things, but it will be up to the local jurisdiction to have a champion on the ground to come to meetings and work with buildings and work with land use plans to try to influence the process. All the work will not be on the Solar Center but all of it will not be on the local jurisdictions. It will be a team effort.

Commissioner Petty stated that he had been through the permitting process. They have looked at trying to get solar panels on top of poultry houses stating that it is an unbelievable process. Last week, stating that Commissioner Cross and he that they had a meeting with one of the utility providers, and they were told that they were mandated to buy a certain percentage of

renewal energy somewhere. If we can provide that here in Chatham County, he feels it would be a step in the right direction.

Ms. McCorkle stated that they need a letter of commitment from Chairman Bock to say that they are interested, that they agree to the cost share requirements, and that they plan to have a local champion within the government to work on this project.

Commissioner Petty stated that most had an opportunity to meet with the Green Energy Council who has the staff and the know-how to hit the ground running. He stated that if some of them would take on this task, they would not lose a lot of time trying to learn the ropes. He stated that he felt they should be considered them as the “spear-header” of the process.

By consensus, the Board agreed to the letter.

Chairman Bock thanked Ms. McCorkle for attending the Board of Commissioners’ meeting.

Commissioner Petty stated that he appreciated everyone’s participation in the Green Energy Meeting last week. He stated the presentation was made to the joint elected officials’ boards. A businessmen’s forum was then held on Friday morning where approximately 30 people attended, and a lot of interest was shown. There was so much information presented so quickly that it was hard to absorb it all. He stated that there had already been a lot of response as a result of the visit. There has been some interest with one of the utility companies about cleaning up the ash pond, a remediation process regarding the landfill, local individuals that are interested in digesters, help with the Biofuels stating that he had already met with Senators Burr and Hagan, Congressman Price and Elmers, and has been very active on our behalf of Chatham County. He asked if a letter of thanks could be sent to Ralph Avalone for coming, stating that we appreciate what he is doing. He will be providing an assessment of what he found.

#### **American Tobacco Trail Parking:**

Commissioner Kost stated that she met with the Town of Cary staff regarding parking along the American Tobacco Trail. She stated that they made some progress. Cary will be working on the trail in the September/October timeframe and will be using the intersection to be installed on the trail and New Hope Church Road as a staging area for that work. After the work is done on the trail, it could become parking spaces for approximately 20 cars. The issue is that the grant funds cannot be used for parking. It has to be specific to the trail. She stated that they talked about the issue of signage and directing signs. Cary is still working on that. She stated that Chatham County gave \$60,000 to the Town of Cary to address permanent parking for the year 2014. They asked that Chatham County write a letter to the mayor/town council stating that Chatham was ok with using the \$60,000 for any parking. They will not be asking Chatham County for more money but that they be given the flexibility that they could use that money if they needed to do any grading or graveling. In addition to that, the Rails-to-Trails folks are looking at parking on Pittard-Sears Road on the northwest corner and are in dialog with NCDOT about being able to do that. The Rails-to-Trails would pay for that. She asked the Board to write a letter, which she will draft, regarding the concept that Chatham County, if they can do it, that Chatham County is okay with using the \$60,000 to address temporary parking. She stated that if there is parking on Pittard-Sears Road and parking on New Hope Church Road, we will be okay until the permanent park is built in 2014. She stated that she thinks some folks are still hoping that a parking lot on O’Kelly Chapel would become a reality, but she doesn’t see it stating that the road is dangerous.

By consensus, the Board agreed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Cross moved, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.

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Brian Bock, Chairman

ATTEST:

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