

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 18, 2002

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 4:00 PM on November 18, 2002.

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. Sublett

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:16 PM.

Work Session Agenda

- 1.) County Signs and Picture Taking
- 2.) Transportation Issues Discussion
 - A. TIP
 - B. US #64 Corridor Study
- 3.) Recreation and Strowd Property

COUNTY SIGNS AND PICTURE TAKING

The Board gathered for an informal picture-taking session introducing the new "Welcome to Chatham County" signs which were designed by the Chatham County Appearance Commission.

RECREATION

Mr. Don Lein summarized three purchase options offered by the Strowd Estate to the County for the creation of a community park. He stated that the options include the offer of financing the purchase for up to three years at an interest rate of 6% compounded annually; that in addition to favorable financing, the land can be sold with or without the timber; that the timbered option would be a selective harvest, providing Chatham County with a very low initial investment and the option of "land banking" this tract until funds are available to invest in the development of park facilities. He reiterated options as follows: **Option #1:** Passive recreation only; **Option #2:** Active recreation entranceway onto Jones Ferry Road (10+ acres) transitioning to passive recreation (79+ acres); **Option #3:** Major active recreation node on Jones Ferry Road suitable for multiple ball fields and parking, providing gateway to passive recreation area.

Mr. Lein stated that these exceptionally attractive purchase terms and options are consistent with the Strowd Estate's charitable trust objectives. He asked that they receive some indication of the Board's intentions by year-end so that they can better manage their mission obligations.

After considerable discussion, Commissioner Pollard stated that she would like for the Board to encourage the Parks Foundation to purchase property described as Option #1 and Option #2 and place Option #3 on the agenda for discussion at the December 9, 2002 Board of Commissioners' meeting.

Commissioner Atwater stated that he would like to have the County Attorney authorized to enter into negotiations for Option #3 prior to the meeting.

The County Manager asked for further direction from the Board on Option #3.

Commissioner Pollard stated that she would like to get some idea as to how much money could be anticipated in development fees.

Commissioner Atwater stated that he felt the Board would be looking at the property for soccer fields; that they would not be interested in any type of restrictive terms in any contract that would force them to do something by a certain time; that it would show the Board's good-faith effort that it is the way they want to progress with it.

Commissioner Atwater moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to direct the Parks Foundation proceed with raising funds to purchase the land for use as a combination passive and active parkland (Option #1 and Option #2) and that the County Attorney negotiate the terms with Mr. Alexander for the purchase of Option #3 before the December Board of Commissioners' meeting. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP):

Keith Megginson, Planning Director, reviewed the 2025 Long-Range Transportation Plan for the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro (DCHC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He stated that the 2025 LRTP is to include all the highway, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and other transportation projects that are to be implemented through the year 2025; that the Transportation Plan is a long-range plan which is based on community goals, identifies multi-modal transportation projects and programs to be implemented by the plan horizon year - 2025; that the Plan, when adopted, will guide policy decisions on overall transportation investments in the DCHC metropolitan area; and that the proposed plan is the first step in a long process for planning, funding, designing, and constructing the projects.

US #64 Corridor Study:

The Planning Director explained that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is considering engaging a qualified and experienced consulting firm of consultants to provide professional services to conduct a comprehensive corridor study of US #64 from Raleigh to Charlotte and Raleigh to East of Statesville. He reviewed the Statewide Transportation Plan Update currently underway which he stated will help create a blueprint for prioritizing infrastructure investment for North Carolina and stated that as part of this blueprint, a strategic corridors concept has been introduced as a tool to help identify corridors of significant statewide interest in North Carolina.

Commissioner Pollard asked that the County Manager meet with whomever handles transportation for UNC Hospital and that she be a part of the meeting.

The Board had concerns with regard to the impact that the changes would have on the County. They

asked that the Planning Board be provided with a copy of the "Draft Recommended Financially Constrained 2025 Long-Range Transportation Plan". A copy of the "Request for Proposals, US #64 West Corridor Study" is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

RECESS

Commissioner Atwater moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, that the meeting be recessed to the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners' meeting in the Superior Courtroom. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was recessed at 6:49 PM.

Margaret B. Pollard, Vice Chair

ATTEST:

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