

**MINUTES**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**BUDGET INPUT SESSION, MAY 28, 2002**

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The Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the District Courtroom, located in Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 7:00 PM on May 28, 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; and Finance Officer, Vicki McConnell

The Chairman welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order.

The County Manager presented the Manager’s Recommended FY 2002-2003 budget.

**SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Ike Gray made a presentation to the Commissioners specific to the Law Enforcement Budget.

Without comment, the Board proceeded into the public input portion of the meeting.

**PUBLIC INPUT SESSION**

**Robert Leopold**, 555 Fearrington Post, Pittsboro, NC, offered comment on the elimination of funds for Triangle Radio Reading Service over the last 2 years. He pointed out that 4,000 people get services in areas beyond Chatham County; that he takes issue with the letter to the nonprofit that refers only to Chatham County as the potential service area; that he feels that the Board should consider the benefit to the larger populations outside of the County as well as those in Chatham County.

**Kim Caraganis**, PO Box 1101, Pittsboro, NC, thanked the Commissioners for the recommended appropriation and made clear Chatham County Together’s need for more support as a result of a \$25,000 reduction in funding from the Orange-Chatham Justice Partnership Committee. She went on to describe the range of services the nonprofit provides to youth who are often Court involved and dependent on Social Services.

**Elder Carrie Bolton**, followed Ms. Caraganis in an effort to support Chatham County Together’s need for more funding. She explained that for the first time in nine years, she will not be able to serve an average of 150 youth in summer programming due to her need to recuperate. As a result, she stated that she decided to come and speak on Kim’s behalf in order to make an effort to provide resources for someone to assist in taking the place of her programming. She mentioned that in these tight times, children have very little, but the future demonstrates children will have even less.

**Amy Powell**, PO Box 883, Pittsboro, NC, offered comments on the work of Habitat for Humanity. She spoke of the completion of thirty-two homes with four more under construction. She described the organization’s commitment to building six to seven houses per year. She pointed out, even at this pace, that

they will not meet the need of the community. She reported that they will continue to rely on Chatham County funding but not as a sole funding source; that they also use the County's support to leverage other funding; and that that funding to Chatham Habitat is also a returned investment in the form of tax base from the homes and mortgage payments into the economy.

**Edith Calhoun**, 295 Blacktwig Road, Pittsboro, NC, spoke in her capacity as a member of the Chatham County Library Board, and proceeded to explain briefly how thin the Chatham County Libraries are staffed. She documented twenty-two hours per week where the Pittsboro Branch is only staffed with one person. She also spoke of the limited staffing at Wren Library as the staff struggles to serve a growing number of patrons resulting from the Hispanic community and the addition of personal computer services in all of the branches. She asked that the Commissioners carefully consider this in their budget deliberations.

**Ray Greenlaw**, 2 Jordan Drive, Pittsboro, NC, commented that the Manager's Budget Message documents the long term dire financial condition of the County stating that the list of unfunded expansion requests also offers a sobering reminder of growing needs; and that for these reasons, he challenges the Board to be sure the resources that the County does have are being used effectively. He urged the Board to pay careful attention to the lists of departmental goals, objectives, and performance measures to ensure that progress is being made towards departmental mission statements.

With no further comment, the Manager asked the Board to schedule work sessions on the budget while he distributed the Special Revenue Funds supplement, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

### **BUDGET WORK SESSIONS**

By consensus, the Board agreed to hold budget work sessions as follows:

Wednesday, June 5, 2002	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Monday, June 10, 2002	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Wednesday, June 12, 2002	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (If needed)

Commissioner Pollard asked for statistical data on the number of users at each bookmobile stop.

Chairman Phillips commented on the statewide attention garnered for Chatham County's in-house training efforts that is saving the County money. He pointed out that the Board members are welcome to take courses, and stated that he would like the Board to consider any courses in which they may be interested.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further comments, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

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Gary Phillips, Chairman

ATTEST:

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