

**MINUTES**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**WORK SESSION**  
**AUGUST 05, 2002**

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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, located in Pittsboro, NC, on August 05, 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; and Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Sublett

The Chairman reconvened the work session at 10:46 AM.

**Work Session Agenda**

- 1.) **Noise Ordinance Discussion**
- 2.) **Small Line Expansion Project: Finance Policy  
(Side-by-Side Comparison)**
- 3.) **Rural Planning Organization (RPO) – Roger Sheats**
- 4.) **Lease of Property**
- 5.) **Water Conservation Policy Changes**
- 6.) **Tampering with Water Lines**
- 7.) **Emergency Use Numbers**

**EMERGENCY WATER SERVICES**

The County Manager summarized the County’s efforts up to this point with regard to emergency water services. He reiterated the Public Works Department’s efforts to set up two emergency hydrants in southwest Chatham that are to be staffed by fire department volunteers until the Harpers Crossroads Convenience Center is equipped to sell bulk water on Saturday, August 3, 2002. The Manager continued, by describing the County’s plan to equip the Bonlee and Bennett Convenience Centers for bulk water sales within the next several days.

Commissioner Atwater indicated an interest in providing access to the water twenty-four hours per day/seven days per week if need be even though it may require more funds to do so.

Commissioner Outz suggested contacting County poultry companies to inquire as to what problems their farmers may be having.

Chairman Phillips asked that staff remain in close contact with the agricultural community to let them know of water accessibility arrangements.

**Amendment to An Ordinance Providing the Conservation of Water During a Water Shortage:**

Commissioner Atwater moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to approve the Amendment to the Ordinance Providing for the Conservation of Water During a Water Shortage and Restricting the Use of Water During More Severe Shortages in the Various Water Distribution Systems of Chatham County, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

### **TAMPERING WITH WATER LINES**

#### **Policy Statement Control of Operation of Water Valves and Fire Hydrants:**

Commissioner Givens moved, seconded by Commissioner Atwater, to approve policy statement control of operation of water valves and fire hydrants, including Water Valve Operation Permit and Water Service Interruption Notice, to include acceptance of liability, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

#### **Water Conservation Policy:**

Ron Singleton, Public Works Director, made a presentation recommending changes to the Water Conservation Policy taking into consideration the County's use of the policy regarding mandatory water restrictions.

Commissioner Atwater moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to accept staff recommendation to include the potential for civil penalties or fines should a citizen violate the Water Conservation Policy and to approve the alternate-day watering as described in the Water Conservation Policy that watering be permitted from 12:00 midnight to 7:00 AM as opposed to 6:00 AM to 7:00 AM. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

### **SMALL LINE EXPANSION PROJECT: FINANCE POLICY**

At the request of the Water Advisory Committee in their July work session, the Board of Commissioners revisited the Small Line Extension Policy in order to compare the difference between the policy the Board adopted and the original policy the Water Advisory Committee reviewed prior to adoption. The Board recognized the primary difference was that the adopted policy included an incentive for participating property owners to finance the cost of associated tap fees and extension costs should they agree to participate in a small line extension project up front. Members of the Water Advisory Committee discussed with the Board the possibility of a cap (i.e.: \$5,000) per property owner for the financing benefit in order to protect the County from participating in extension projects and carrying large amounts of debt over the required five-year payback period. The Board asked staff to review the suggestion and make a report at the next meeting.

#### **Emergency Use Numbers:**

Commissioner Givens moved to begin the two projects, Pea Ridge Road line and Raw Water Pump Station, and search for the money.

After considerable discussion, the motion died for lack of a second. Further discussion and a decision on the matter was tabled until after lunch.

### **LUNCH RECESS**

- The Chairman called for a one-hour lunch recess.

## **WORK SESSION**

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 1:11 PM.

### **Pea Ridge Road and Raw Water Pump Station:**

After further discussion, Commissioner Givens moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to accept staff recommendation and proceed with the project to include Pea Ridge Road and the Raw Water Pump Station. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

## **LEASE OF PROPERTY**

The County Manager explained that the corner property across the road from the Chatham County Public Works Department is tied up in an estate; that management has been looking at placing Child Victims Services and Child Planning Conference Services (Juvenile) in the building; that he has told the owners of the property that the County would not be interested in renovating the property unless it has some assurance that they would be interested in selling it; that the County could deduct the cost of renovations from the monthly rent; and that he has called the owner but that they have not responded.

By consensus, the Board decided that they would like to pursue purchasing the property rather than leasing or renting it. They discussed the agreed upon annual lease rate of \$1,750 per month with a \$500 monthly reduction for reimbursement to the County for expenses incurred due to the renovations.

### **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):**

The County Manager explained that federal regulations governing the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program require states to submit biennial plans that describe the operation of their TANF programs; that the primary TANF assistance program in North Carolina is the Work First Program; that Work First is administered locally in each county; that North Carolina Statute (GS 108A-27) requires each county to submit a County Work First Block Grant Plan every two years; and that the plan must be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Givens, that Chatham County remain "Standard County" status. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Chairman Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Givens, that Sandy Coletta be appointed the contact person for the Work First ~ Standard County. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Chairman Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Givens, to appoint the members to the Committee representing agencies as listed below, to appoint Darlene Cooley, who works with Substance Abuse Prevention with the Chatham County Schools (contingent upon her acceptance), to appoint a member of the business community and a member of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners:

<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Agency Representing</b>
Cindy Snipes	DSS-Work First Program
Sandy Coletta	DSS-Work First Program
John Scotton	Vocational Rehabilitation
Connie McAdams	Child Care Networks
Helen Stovall	Chatham Transit Network

Luther Lott	CCCC
Tom Velivil	Chatham Counseling Center
Darien Russell	Family Violence
Myra Adams	CASA
Elaine Doby	ESC
Faye Hall	JOCCA, Welfare to Work
Pat Petrie	DSS-Child Support Unit
Margie Ellison	DSS-Children's Services Section
Betty Wilson	DSS Board
Mary Linker	Health Department

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

### **RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RPO)**

Mr. Roger Sheats, Deputy Secretary for Environment, Planning, and Local Government, explained that the Rural Transportation Planning Organizations were a collaborative effort aimed at providing a cooperative unified voice for rural entities to request projects and the funding needed for these projects. Mr. Sheats further asked for Chatham County's participation in the local RPO, thereby allowing Chatham County a stronger voice regarding its transportation needs.

### **NOISE ORDINANCE**

After considerable discussion, Commissioner Givens moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, that the existing Noise Ordinance be amended to lower the acceptable decibel level from 70 to 60 decibels after midnight on Friday and Saturday nights, effective September 1, 2002. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

### **TOWN OF SILER CITY**

The County Manager explained that the Town of Siler City is proposing to expand the Rocky River Lower Reservoir in order to increase its water supply; that the surface waters associated with the existing Rocky River Lower Reservoir are currently classified as WS-III BS and WS-III CA waters; that as a result of the proposed reservoir expansion project, additional areas adjacent to the existing Lower Reservoir will be impounded and will require reclassification; and that in addition, the critical areas and the balance of the watershed associated with the proposed reservoir expansion will require recalculation.

Commissioner Givens moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard to send a letter of support for expansion of the Rocky River Lower Reservoir project to Tom Reeder of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0). A copy of the letter is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

### **LITIGATION BRIEFS**

#### **Communication Towers Moratorium:**

The County Attorney, Bob Gunn, reported that the judge found that the County's ordinance was clear that US Cellular did not have to co-locate on more than one tower, overturned the decision of the Board of Commissioners, and directed the County to issue the necessary approvals upon receipt of application and proper fees by the plaintiff unless the County wished to appeal the decision.

**Finn vs Chatham County and Governors Club:**

The County Attorney explained that there was mediation settled at no cost to the County in this case.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Givens moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, that there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was adjourned at 2:41PM.

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Gary Phillips, Chairman

ATTEST:

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