

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
JUNE 17, 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 June 17, 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 4:09 PM.

Work Session Agenda

1. **CP&L Request to Discuss Completed Analysis of the study provided to the Board by NC State Students on Air Quality in Moncure**
2. **Presentation on Homeless Education for Chatham County Children by Mary Harris**
3. **Salary Adjustment Considerations for Sheriff, Register of Deeds, and County Manager**
4. **Water Conservation Policy**
5. **Budget Ordinance**
6. **Budget Amendments**
7. **Sales Tax Letter**

SALES TAX LETTER

Discussion centered around the Board’s request to have staff research the appropriate process to gather public input and consider the adoption of the third one-half cent sales tax which is currently scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2003.

The County Manager explained that the Board would need to officially set their date of public hearing on July 15th; that that item was presently on the night’s Consent Agenda during the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners’ meeting; that the public hearing would be advertised ten days prior to its occurrence; that current legislation allows the Board to hold the hearing on July 15th, gather input, and make a decision that same night; that should the Board decide to adopt the one-half cent sales tax (which will otherwise sunset), a resolution will then be submitted to the Department of Revenue.

Commissioner Atwater moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to allow staff to send a letter to Norris Tolson (Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Revenue) expressing the Board’s interest in participating in accelerated collection and distribution of sales tax proceed beginning as early as August, 2002 from the third one-half cent sales and use tax. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0). A copy of the letter is

attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

CP&L

Kathy Hawkins, Community Relations Manager (Northern Region) with CP&L introduced Mike Kennedy, with the CP&L Environmental Services Section, and Danny Wimberly, Operations Superintendent at the Cape Fear fossil plant.

Mr. Kennedy reviewed and analyzed the study prepared by North Carolina State Students regarding the air quality in Moncure and Chatham County.

Mr. Wimberly reviewed ROFA (Rotating Opposed Fire Air Technology) and the actions taken by CP&L to reduce air emissions.

Ms. Hawkins thanked the Board for the opportunity to share with them about the study and their efforts, and stated that they welcome questions or visits to the plant.

The County Manager informed the Board that the Division of Air Quality will be at the July 15, 2002 Board of Commissioners' Work Session.

BASIC NEEDS FOR CHILDREN: SHELTER AND SCHOOL SUCCESS PROGRAM

Mary Harris, Basic Needs Project Director, explained their program entitled, "Basic Needs for Children: Shelter and School Success" which has been in operation since 1997. She stated that the Chatham County Schools had been awarded funding from the Department of Public Instruction via the Steward B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act-Education for Homeless Children and Youth; that over the past eight to ten years, Chatham County's homeless population has increased dramatically; that the Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center, which serves homeless women and children reports that the shelter served seventy-five families who may not have requested assistance from this resource; that they feel that the numbers are much higher; that their program entitled, "Basic Needs for Children: Shelter and School Success" seeks to provide assistance with the following by ensuring that homeless students are enrolled in school, appropriately evaluating and placing students, involving and assisting parents of homeless students, improving transportation to social service agencies, by providing student transportation to and from existing after-school tutoring programs; and by bringing about coordination between school and/or community agencies to ensure that students moving from one location to another receive continuous educational services.

Ms. Harris introduced Beverly Wicker, Basic Needs Coordinator, who was hired to implement the objectives of the program as follows:

- Ø To better identify homeless children and families
- Ø To improve the academic success of homeless youth
- Ø To ensure that families of homeless children connect with community resources

Ms. Wicker shared handouts with the Board and explained the education of children and youth in homeless situations. She reviewed funding, the number of families/children served in September to May statistics, and goals of the program.

SALARY ADJUSTMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The Board of Commissioners discussed salary adjustments for the three positions for which they are required to determine the salary levels: Sheriff, Register of Deeds, and County Manager.

Commissioner Pollard moved to approve a salary increase of 6% for the Sheriff's and Register of Deeds positions.

After considerable discussion, the motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Outz moved to approve a salary increase of 6.2% for the Sheriff's position.

The motion died for lack of a second.

- **Register of Deeds:**

- After further discussion, Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to approve a 6.2% salary increase for the Chatham County Register of Deeds. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Sheriff:

Commissioner Givens asked to be excused from voting on the Sheriff's salary.

Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Chairman Phillips, to excuse Commissioner Givens from voting on the Sheriff's salary. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to approve a 6.2% salary increase for the Chatham County Sheriff. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Givens moved, seconded by Commissioner Atwater, to go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing personnel. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Givens moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to go out of Closed Session and reconvene in Regular Session. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

County Manager:

Commissioner Atwater moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to approve a 6.2% salary increase for the County Manager. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

The Board of Commissioners chose salary increases in each of the three departments that are concurrent with and similar to the salary increases of the employees as a way to support equity and as a way to be as frugal as they possibly could with the County's money.

The County Manager expressed his gratitude for the increase in salary during the hard economic times and stated that he would have understood if it could not have been implemented.

LIBRARY FEES

The County Manager reviewed two items in the Budget Ordinance that were being recommended for approval. He stated that there are two items up for approval; that the first item is an increase in library fees to reflect the overall Regional Library System change; that the other items is for the County Manager to be able to expand the hiring rate to mid range from the previous Step 4 without Board approval; and that each item will be included in the Budget Ordinance up for approval at the night's meeting.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Finance Officer, Vicki McConnell reviewed budget amendments to be added to those on the Consent Agenda during the night's regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners' meeting.

UPDATE ON WATER CONSERVATION POLICY

Ron Singleton, Chatham County Public Works Director, gave an update on the drought-ridden water situation in the County and introduced a new conservation policy ready for adoption by the County.

Commissioner Atwater moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to approve **An 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).

RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The County Manager asked if the Board was interested in the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) and stated that it was authorized by the State in the prior year; that the General Assembly approved creating the RPO for rural counties; that it was basically like a Municipal Planning Organization but rural; that it creates transportation plans for the Department of Transportation to consider; and that the Board had expressed an interest in creating one in the past. He asked if the Board would like to go through Triangle J Council of Governments, linking up with Lee and Moore Counties, or if they would like to join with Orange County.

The Board advised that they would like to further pursue joining with Orange County.

NOISE ORDINANCE UPDATE

The Assistant Manager stated that staff had checked with Guilford County on their regulation of bass; that they have a noise ordinance which does not address bass undertones; that he also checked with High Point and their county attorney is to return his call this coming week.

The County Manager stated that ordinances have been assembled from Chapel Hill, Orange, Lee, and Pitt Counties but none address the bass situation.

After considerable discussion, Commissioner Pollard asked if people with mediation skills were available to intervene.

The County Manager explained that dispute settlement was offered but was refused.

RECESS

Commissioner Givens moved, seconded by Commissioner Atwater, that the meeting be recessed to the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners' meeting in the District Courtroom. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was recessed at 6:39 PM.

Gary Phillips, Chairman

ATTEST:

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