

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 21, 2003

The Board of Commissioners ("the Board") of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the District Courtroom, located in Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 6:00 PM on April 21, 2003.

Present: Chairman Tommy Emerson; Vice Chair Carl Outz; Commissioners Margaret Pollard, Bunkey Morgan, and Bob Atwater; 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 meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:07 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

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

AGENDA

The Chairman asked if there were other additions, deletions, or corrections to the Agenda

Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to approve the Agenda. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The Chairman read a Resolution Honoring the Service of Chatham County's Volunteers and asked that it be added to the Consent Agenda as Item #6A. He also asked that Item #5, Consideration of a request to approve Fiscal Year 2002-2003 Budget Amendments, be removed from the Consent Agenda and added to the Regular Agenda as Item #10A.

Commissioner Outz moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve the Consent Agenda with the noted requests.

1. **Minutes:** Consideration of a request for approval of Board Minutes for meeting held April 07, 2003

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

2. **Tax Releases:** Consideration of a request for approval of tax releases, attached hereto and by

reference made a part hereof.

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

3. **Refunds on Tax Bills:** Consideration of a request for approval of refunds on regular tax bills paid in error, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

4. **Road Names:** Consideration of a request to approve a request from citizens for the naming of a private road in Chatham County as follows:

"Moore's Crossing"

5. ~~**Budget Amendments:** Consideration of a request to approve Fiscal Year 2002-2003 Budget Amendments~~

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

6. **Funds Acceptance for Family Planning Outreach to Latino Population:** Consideration of a request to accept funds in the amount of \$12,500 presented to the Health Department by the NC DHHS, Division of Public Health, Women's and Children's Health Section, Women's Health Branch for Family Planning Outreach to the Latino Population

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

- 6A. **Resolution Honoring the Service of Chatham County's Volunteers:** Consideration of a request to adopt **Resolution #2003-11A Honoring the Service of Chatham County's Volunteers**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

William M. Patterson, 2145 White Smith Road, Siler City, NC, stated that he has kept primates for the last thirty-four years; that they are kept in cages without interaction with people; that he is concerned that people will pay for permits and then be policed by people who don't know what they are doing; that some owners should not have to carry a one million dollar insurance policy; and that the cages required in the ordinance would be useless for some animals. He asked that the Board be informed about the different types of animals that are involved.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Hearing:

"An Ordinance Regulating the Keeping of Wild or Vicious Animals Within Chatham County, North Carolina": Public hearing to receive public comments on revisions to "An Ordinance Regulating the Keeping of Wild or Vicious Animals Within Chatham County, North Carolina"

Dr. Bonnie Terrell reviewed proposed changes in the ordinance and advised the Board of a revision to a revision. She stated that the Carnivore Preservation Trust (CPT) has a system with regard to their double safety doors that is unique; that they have a safety cage system in which the inner door stays locked but the outer cage door is not locked; that the USDA licenses the Carnivore Preservation Trust; that she is requesting that the language be changed to reflect the difference and state that when a person was not going in and out of the cages, that both safety doors should be locked and that the ordinance should read, "when human entrance is not being made, the inner door must be locked at all times and the outer door should be fastened securely".

Shannon Liessner, Executive Director of the Carnivore Preservation Trust, expressed appreciation to the Board for their support of the changes and stated that they are very safety-minded at the Carnivore Preservation Trust. She asked the Board to consider voting on the proposed changes at the night's meeting.

Commissioner Outz moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve the Ordinance with the proposed changes, after proper public notice published twice in the newspaper, to be effective May 5, 2003. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0). The ordinance with the proposed changes is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

UNITED WAY PRESENTATION

United Way Presentation: Presentation by United Way by Jody Minor, Executive Director

Jody Minor, Executive Director of the United Way, thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak to them about the Chatham County United Way. He stated that they have just finished their application process which is the process by which member agencies are funded; that thanks to the partnership with the County, one application is sent from the County Manager's Office to all non-profit organizations within the County; that this allows them a one-application process which reduces their costs and facilitates a smooth application and that all non-profits have an equal opportunity to apply for funding from the United Way as well as the County funding consideration; that it has been a successful way for United Way even though they fell short of their goal; that their goal was \$520,000.00 and they reached \$485,000.00; and that it has allowed them to maintain a reasonably stable level of funding for their non-profit member agencies and funded programs. He stated that during the year, County employees set a record in their individual philanthropy which increased by more than \$2,000.00 with 99% participation and that the staff is one of the most gracious staffs with whom he has ever worked.

TAX DEPARTMENT

Boundary Line of Chatham-Orange Counties: Consideration of a request to approve the Chatham-Orange boundary line description in order that the final boundary plat may be recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds and in the Secretary of State's Office

Commissioner Outz moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve the Chatham-Orange boundary line description in order that the final boundary plat may be recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds and in the Secretary of State's Office. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0). The description is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof

TRIANGLE LAND CONSERVANCY PRESENTATION

Triangle Land Conservancy Presentation: Presentation by the Triangle Land Conservancy by Lorelei Costa, Associate Director

Kate Dixon, Executive Director of the Triangle Land Conservancy, presented a report entitled, "State of Open Space 2002" to the Board reporting on the work that the Triangle Land Conservancy is doing and the region-wide work that is going on in open-space protection. She stated that they work in six counties: Chatham, Durham, Johnston, Lee, Orange, and Wake Counties; that the report allowed them, for the first time, to track the rate of land protection; that to date, they have protected more than 4,500 acres of land in 48 preserves, the smallest an acre and a half and the largest 426 acres; that the first big project they did was purchasing the land known as "White Pines" in Chatham County at the confluence of the Deep and Rocky Rivers; that that is a great example of the kind of work that they do; that they try and focus on important open-land space; that "White Pines" is considered one of the most important natural areas in the country because it has two federally listed endangered species: 1) a plant species called Harperella (a member of the parsley family) and 2) a fish called the Cape Fear Shiner; that it is a beautiful place; and that there are approximately 2,000 protected in Chatham County. She reviewed areas in Chatham County that the Triangle Land Conservancy has purchased and protected.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Budget Amendments: Consideration of a request to approve Fiscal Year 2002-2003 Budget Amendments

After discussion, Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to approve Fiscal Year 2002-2003 Budget Amendments, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

MANAGER' S REPORTS

The County Manager reported on the following:

Strowd Property Discussion:

Chairman Emerson moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to decline the purchase of the Strowd Property on which to build a park for recreational purposes. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Impact Tax Discussion:

The Chairman explained that he had been contacted by a citizen regarding changing the Impact Fee to an Impact Tax. He explained that what the County now has is a "one size fits all" tax; that he had previously discussed it with someone who told him that it was not a favorable time for such local bills; and that he had asked the County Manager to research the matter.

The County Manager explained that it was explained to him that it was dismal the previous time the matter was discussed and would be more dismal this time to try to get a bill passed.

The County Manager was directed to write a letter with regard to the impact tax to the Legislators and forward a copy to the Johnston County Board of Commissioners.

Pittsboro Volunteer Fire Department:

The County Manager explained that the Pittsboro Volunteer Fire Department had asked that the Board grant permission to hold a public hearing on the question of filing for a tax exemption on the interest of the loan obligation which would be incurred by the purchase of land on which to build a new fire station.

Commissioner Outz moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to appoint Kenneth Perry to conduct a public hearing on the question of filing for a tax exemption on the interest of the loan obligation which would be incurred by the purchase of land in the name of the Pittsboro Volunteer Fire Department in accordance with the requirement of HR4333. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Boards and Committees:

The Manager explained that there is a list of Boards and Committees that are inactive or marginally inactive. He stated that these would come before the Board at a future meeting for Board direction or dissolution.

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee Appointment:

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to appoint Commissioner Pollard to the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

State Mental Hospital:

Chairman Emerson explained that Representative Joe Hackney had introduced the Board's Bill on the State Mental Hospital. He asked that Board members contact members of the House Finance Committee to gain their support in the placement of the State Mental Hospital in Siler City. He stated that he would obtain signatures on a letter from Edward Phillips, Goldston Town Mayor, Nancy May, Pittsboro Town Mayor, and Charles Turner, Siler City Town Mayor expressing their support of the siting of the State Mental Hospital in Chatham County.

Noise Ordinance:

Commissioner Morgan stated that he had received an e-mail regarding the Grassroots Festival. He stated that the noise was excessive and although it was a one-time-per-year festival, the Noise Ordinance needed to be addressed before it returns next year.

The County Manager stated that a copy of the e-mail had been sent to the Sheriff.

The Chairman is to address the issue in a letter to the citizens.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT PINEY GROVE CHURCH'S OFFER

The County Manager explained that Mr. Richard Taylor had expressed an interest in his church performing the maintenance on the cemetery; and that the Board needs to adopt a resolution to that effect.

Chairman Emerson moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to adopt **Resolution #2003-12 to Accept From Piney Grove Church to Perform Maintenance and Upkeep of the Cemetery**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Commercial/Industrial Property Development:

Commissioner Pollard stated that since the Board is planning to put in a main water line, she thinks

that it might be timely to look at the economic development potential where the Board might identify commercial and industrial properties.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Morgan 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 7:55 PM.

Thomas J. Emerson, Chairman

ATTEST:

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

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