

**MINUTES**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**WORK SESSION**  
**DECEMBER 08, 2003**

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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 2:00 PM on December 08, 2003.

Present: Chairman Tommy Emerson; Vice Chairman Carl Outz; Commissioners Margaret Pollard, Bob Atwater, and Bunkey Morgan; County Manager, Charlie Horne; County Attorney, Robert L. Gunn; Assistant County Manager, Renee Dickson; Finance Officer, Vicki McConnell; and Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Sublett

The Chairman welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

*Work Session*

Henry H. Dunlap Classroom – Begins at 2:00 PM

1. **Discussion of Judiciary Needs by Judge Buckner**
2. **Library Presentation**
3. **Water System Update - Small Water Line Extension Policy Discussion and Silk Hope School Water Discussion**
4. **School of Social Work Presentation**
5. **Chatham TAC – MTIP Issues 2006-2012**
6. **ABC Board Request**
7. **Letter to NC Division of Air Quality Supporting Controlled Burning**

**JUDICIARY NEEDS**

Judge Joe Buckner explained the specifics of operations of the judiciary system. He gave a broad overview of the court system and stated that there was a tremendous amount of time taken up by the various duties of the mandated court system. He stated that there has been a significant increase in court cases and have placed added pressure on staff and facilities. He distributed schedules of Judicial District 15B Chatham County District Court showing location and types of court. He reviewed the total number of filings and disposition statistics from reporting period July 01, 2002 through June 30, 2003 and court filings of criminal, motor vehicle, civil, juvenile delinquency, and Department of Social Services from years 1990-1991 and 2002-2003. He urged the Board of Commissioners to plan for extra judicial space so that he will not have to return to the Board in three years with an unmanageable crisis. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak to them stating that they are committed to do whatever they can to help with the situation. Copies of Judge Buckner's handouts are attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

Judge Buckner answered questions from the Board.

## **WATER SYSTEM UPDATE**

Tim Carpenter, Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates, P.A. Engineer updated the Board on the following:

### **Group "B" Projects:**

Ø Pea Ridge Road Water Main: The design of these mains is complete. There have been some design revisions made in the last two weeks relating to the environmental and NCDOT issues. The final plans will be submitted this week to the regulatory agencies. Final easement maps area being prepared and will be submitted to the affected property owners by the end of this week. Once the property owners have reviewed these easements and have approved them in principal then we will forward this information to the County and the County Attorney.

Ø Upgrade of the Jordan Lake WTP High Service Pump Station: The plans are about 90% complete for the High Service Pump Station. These upgrades will include the installation of one additional Filter Backwash Pump and one High Service Pump. The two larger pumps will include the addition of variable speed drives which will enable the pumps to operate under varying demand scenarios. The High Service Pump Station building will be expanded 15 – 20 feet to accommodate the installation of the new pumps. It is anticipated that this construction could begin as early as January or February of 2004 and should coincide with a scheduled shut down of the Water Treatment Plant for maintenance and repairs.

Ø St. Luke Water Main Replacement: The plans for this water main replacement are complete will be submitted with the Pea Ridge Road Transmission Mains.

### **Western Transmission Mains, Tank, and Booster Pump Station:**

Ø These transmission mains are currently in the design stage. The design of this project is approximately 85% complete. Contact has been made with landowners for the tank and booster pump station sites. A meeting is being arranged with these property owners for the week of December 8, 2003 to discuss the purchase options of these two sites. It is anticipated that this project will proceed approximately two to three months behind the construction of the Pea Ridge project. The Environmental Assessment is ongoing for this project and the schedule of the construction is dictated by the final review and approval of the Environmental Assessment.

### **Chatham County Water Districts:**

Ø In previous presentations to the Board of Commissioners, the Board had duly formed the Districts. The next step for proceeding with the Districts is to schedule a bond referendum that the residents of the Districts are to vote in. This referendum will determine if it is feasible to proceed with Water District Projects. Significant efforts of Chatham County will be required to promote the projects and a successful bond referendum.

By consensus, the Board agreed to hold a bond referendum in May 2004 on water districts.

### **Chatham County Water Treatment Plant:**

Over the past several weeks, the Chatham County Public Works Department and Hobbs, Upchurch, & Associates have been conducting various evaluations of the water plant with regard to its ability to meet the current and anticipated demands for the upcoming projects. These projects include the Pea Ridge Road and Western Transmission Mains which will transmit water to the existing southern and southwestern Chatham County Water Systems. These upcoming projects also include the planned subdivision development in the North Chatham Water System and the proposed Water District Development. All of the afore mentioned projects will have significant future impacts on the capacity of the Jordan Lake Water Treatment Plant.

The current plant is a surface water treatment plant that has the capacity to operate at 3.0 MGD. The current peak flow from the Water Treatment Plant is approximately 1.75 MGD with an average daily flow rate of approximately 0.950 MGD. As the above projects develop the first impact to the WTP capacity will be supply of the existing systems. The anticipated flow from the Southeast and Southwest systems will be 0.200 MGD and 0.320 MGD respectively for a total increase of approximately 0.520 MGD. This will equate to an average daily flow at the WTP of 1.47 MGD and applying a peaking factor of 1.5, the peak daily flows could be 2.2 MGD or higher. These projections of flows are based only on the County's existing customer base and do not account for the future development of Briars Chapel or other large scale planned communities.

The short-term solution most economical for upgrade of capacity of the WTP will be to "High-Rate" the plant flows. This is a practice that Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates has successfully used on numerous treatment plants in the past. This process involves increasing the rate of flow through the plant. Based on the physical size of the Jordan Lake plant, it is anticipated that the plant capacity could be upgraded from 3.0 MGD to 4.0 MGD with relatively small capital expenses. The week of Thanksgiving, Steve Talbert, Joe McGougan, PE and Tim Carpenter met with representatives from NCDENR-Public Water Supply to discuss the "high-rating" process. In the coming days, Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates will submit a scope of this work to Chatham County. Based on the comments from NCDENR-PWS, the process of "high-rating" the plant will require a one-year pilot study. One part of the plant will be operated for this period of time at the higher flow rate and the results will be evaluated and submitted to NCDENR-PWS at the end of pilot study to determine its success. In January and February of 2004, there will be a shutdown of the WTP to make some planned modifications and repairs to the plant. At that time, backwash piping under the filters will be modified to accommodate the "high-rating" pilot study.

### **Lystra Road Pump Station and Tank:**

Over the past two months, the Commissioners have discussed hydraulic improvements to the North Chatham Water System. These improvements as previously submitted included the construction of a new Booster Pump Station, 0.50 MG Elevated Tank and 12" Ductile Iron Water Main near the intersection of Jack Bennett Road and Lystra Road and along Lystra Road. This construction was presented as a solution to the current North Chatham System pumping arrangement and to improve the future hydraulics

in the north Chatham Water System.

Commissioner Atwater moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to authorize Hobbs to& Associates, P.A. to proceed with design of this project.

After further discussion, the motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

### **Silk Hope Water Line:**

The County Manager reported that staff was continuing to work on a recommendation for the Silk Hope line and that it would be forthcoming sometime in January.

## **LIBRARY PRESENTATION**

Marjorie Hudson, President of the Pittsboro Memorial Library Friends Organization, stated that she has discovered through observation and going through reports that the library situation is turning into a crisis; that the County pays for staffing, books, materials, and some equipment; that the Friends raise money to supplement the books that the Commissioners don't have funds to buy; that their 300 members are extremely active; that they sometimes have five programs per month; that the facilities study recommended some construction; that the current library is crowded, lacks shelving to house adequately the present collection, has very little public seating, is not accessible to disabled persons, has limited parking, and inadequate staff work space.

She asked the Board to consider major facilities construction (long-term) and hiring a children's librarian and an expansion of a part-time position to full-time to cover lunch hours and sick time (short-term).

Edith Calhoun, Chairman of the Library Board, reviewed the Strategic Plan for Library Facilities for Chatham County, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

## **UNC SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

Natalie Towns, Tara Peele, Caroline Jennette, and Stephani Kilpatrick, from the UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work Citizen Participation Group, presented an overview of citizen participation in Chatham County Government. They explained their methods of gathering information, the Board of Commissioners' role in Chatham County, survey results, and barriers to participation.

They recommended that the Board of Commissioners' agenda be posted in Spanish, and that a pamphlet be published explaining the government process. They offered that it would be beneficial for microphones to be set up at the meetings and that a different arrangement of the meeting room be tried.

## **REVIEW HISTORY OF COUNTY HISTORY**

Kevin Wood, 532 Rocky Hill Road, Pittsboro, NC, reviewed topographic maps of the land on which 249 graves were being partitioned for disinterment. He asked that the Board deny permission to have the graves moved asking that they give consideration to those people buried there who no longer have a voice in the matter. He stated that he believes that the graves are an important part of Chatham County history.

## **NC DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY SUPPORTING CONTROLLED BURNING**

Commissioner Outz asked that the Board send a letter to the North Carolina Farm Bureau asking that

the current regulations for open burning of agricultural and forestland be retained and that the proposed changes be rejected.

Commissioner Pollard asked that the Board of Commissioners be allowed the opportunity to review the letter.

The matter is to be discussed at the Board of Commissioners' retreat on December 15 or 16, 2003.

### **ABC BOARD REQUEST**

The Chairman of the ABC Board could not be in attendance. This matter is to return to the Board for discussion, if possible, at a Board meeting in January 2004.

### **CHATHAM TAC-MTIP ISSUES**

The Board discussed and by consensus, approved the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan (MTIP) priorities ranked as follows:

1. A bus route from Pittsboro to Chapel Hill with a "park and ride" lot
2. Widening of NC #751 to four lanes with bike lanes
3. Completion of the American Tobacco Trail in Chatham County
4. Improvements to Jack Bennett and Lystra Church Roads from US #15-501 to SR #1008.

The Board did not specify what improvements to Jack Bennett and Lystra Church Roads but did not think that four lanes are warranted during the time period of the MTIP. Straightening the roads and turning lanes were discussed.

### **COUNTY MINORITY HIRING DISCUSSION**

Carolyn Miller, Chatham County Human Resources Manager, discussed the current methods for attracting applicants to County positions. She stated that the County had made progress in minority recruitment over the last four years; that the County's applicant and new-hire percentages closely mirror each other; and that the County is continually using all methods available to attract minority applicants for County positions.

The Board asked for a breakdown in organizational structure with regard to management and supervisors, policy changes, and procedure changes, and return to the Board with a report on same.

### **COMPACT COMMUNITIES ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING**

By consensus, the Board set Tuesday, January 20, 2004 as the date on which to hold a public hearing to receive public comments on the Compact Communities Ordinance, if information on affordable housing is received in ample time prior to that date.

### **RECESS**

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Atwater, that the meeting be recessed for the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners' meeting to be held in the District Courtroom. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was recessed at 5:44 PM.

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Thomas J. Emerson, Chairman

ATTEST:

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