

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 06, 2003

The Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the Agricultural Auditorium Building, 45 South Street, located in Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 10:00 AM on January 06, 2003.

Present: Chairman Tommy Emerson; Vice Chair Carl Outz; Commissioners Margaret Pollard, Bob Atwater, and Bunkey Morgan; 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 10:00 AM.

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 that a Closed Session be added to the end of the Agenda for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter and asked if there were other additions, deletions, or corrections to the Agenda.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Minutes Correction:

Commissioner Morgan asked that the minutes from the November 18, 2002 Board of Commissioners' Minutes be changed to accurately reflect the vote as follows:

Commissioner Givens moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to table the **Resolution to Attorney General Roy Cooper to Halt Rail Shipment of High-Level Nuclear Waste Across North Carolina.**

The motion carried three (3) to two (2) with Commissioners Phillips and Atwater opposing to table the resolution.

By consensus, the Board agreed that this was accurate and the minutes of the November 18, 2002

meeting be changed to accurately reflect the vote.

Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve the Consent Agenda with the noted request.

1. **Minutes:** Consideration of a request for approval of Board Minutes for meeting held December 09, 2002

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

2. **Cost-Per-Copy Program Contract:** Consideration of a request to award the Cost-Per-Copy Program Contract for Chatham County Departments, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

3. **Electrical Permit Fee Waiver:** Consideration of a request to waive the \$50 electrical permit fee for ice storm related damage from December 4-17, 2002

4. **Scheduling of Joint Public Hearing on 2003 Communication Tower Plan:** Consideration of a request to schedule March 17, 2003 as the date on which to hold a joint public hearing with the Chatham County Planning Board on the 2003 Communication Tower Plan

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

4. **Appointment to Travel and Tourism Board:** Consideration of a request to appoint Terri Perrin (Governors Club Sales and Catering Director-Representative Lodging), 11000 Governors Drive, Chapel Hill, NC, to replace Sandra Gallagher (previous Governors Club Sales and Catering Director)

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

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Janice Almond, PO Box 1151, Pittsboro, NC, Deep River Mediation Executive Director, reported on the outcome of the Board's referral with regard to the North Carolina Sports Arena difficulties. She stated that there had been extensive conversations and meetings with all parties; that she regretted to inform the Board that there had been no agreement; and that it would be the end of their involvement in the process.

The Chairman stated that he was very appreciative of the mediators' efforts and regretted the outcome.

Mark McBee, 235 East Raleigh Street, Siler City, NC, stated that he was a member of one of the LUPIC sub-committees; that he thinks that the LUPIC has been a great committee; that the people have worked together; and that there have been a lot of concerned citizens trying to do the right thing. He expressed concern that they do not have clear priorities, stating that they do not have clear goals for what they are trying to accomplish. He stated that what is happening is that each citizen who wishes to resolve an issue about which they are concerned, is able to enter it into the compact communities guidelines; that the developer cannot do everything; and that there has to be some trade-offs. He asked if the tax revenue should

all be spent on schools; that there is a laundry list of problems that they want to resolve; that they are running into problems; that he thinks that good quality developments are going to allow the ability to provide tax revenue infrastructure, etc. but that they are getting so bogged down on every issue that someone wants to resolve that he feels that it is going to wind up precluding them from having compact communities; that the restrictions are going to be onerous and the end result will be sprawl growth; that instead of having compact communities centered along four-lane highways with easy access to north Chatham, etc. they are going to limit them and the sprawl growth will come and that there will be big lot developments pushing into the farmland with collisions between the smells and by-products of farming and subdivisions. He asked what they were trying to accomplish with a compact community. He asked if they were trying to encourage or discourage compact communities along the four-lane highways. He stated that there is a laundry list of social, economic, and environmental problems that they are trying to accomplish all with one development; that Chatham County needs opportunity more than the companies coming in need the County; that the number one problem in Chatham County is economic opportunity for citizens that want to live and work within the County; that they need to promote what they want; that by encouraging growth along the highways, growth along the sides will be discouraged; that he feels that the tax revenue from those developments should be used for industrial development and to pay for schools and recreation; and that there needs to be priorities set to determine for what most of the money to be extracted from for the developer is to be used.

REGISTER OF DEEDS

- **Contract Approval for Increased Automation for Register of Deeds Office:** Consideration of a request to approve contract with Logan Systems, Inc. for increased automation of the Register of Deeds Office

Commissioner Outz moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve a three-year contract with Logan Systems, Inc. to provide professional services to the Chatham County Register of Deeds Office for the management of permanent records maintained by the Register of Deeds' Office at a cost of \$4.25 per document. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0). The contract is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- **Environmental Health Division Fees Assessment:** Consideration of a request to approve plan review fees assessed by the Environmental Health Division of the Health Department for new or renovated food establishments

After considerable discussion, Commissioner Atwater moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to table the issue until further information is available and the Board has an opportunity to study the matter to be discussed during the next available work session. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

The Board asked that information be compiled on all fees collected by the County.

PRESENTATIONS

Travel and Tourism Update and Consideration of Name Change: Presentation by Neha Shah, Tourism Director

Neha Shah, Travel and Tourism Director, provided an update of Tourism's work during the past three years since full-time staff was hired in December 1999. The presentation illustrated the need for a name change for marketing purposes that would further enhance Tourism's abilities to broaden the tax base and

further promote the County's rich assets. Fast Facts provided about Chatham County's tourism strengths included: Home of Jordan Lake, one of North Carolina's top ten attractions (2001 attendance - 1.2 million); home of North Carolina's largest fruitcake producer-tours offered daily, annual holiday open house attendance was 4,100 (last weekend in October); home of North Carolina's only five-star, five-diamond inn, four-star restaurant; three golf courses (public or semi-private); Chatham County Tourism was awarded: Platinum Award for Communications and the CVB Rising Star Award, etc. A brief history on the Occupancy Tax levied in 1995 included: Tourism Advisory Board (comprised of representatives of tourism-related businesses) that was created to offer guidance on usage of the occupancy tax collections and a Florida public relations firm handled the promotion of Chatham County for four years. (Overview of Occupancy Tax Uses (Source: General Assembly of North Carolina, Session 1995, S 1, Senate Bill 472). The occupancy tax must legally be used to promote travel and tourism.)

A name change, for marketing purposes only, was proposed from Chatham County Tourism to Pittsboro-Siler City CVB (Convention & Visitors Bureau), Serving all of Chatham County, in order to serve the County's three main clients (visitors, media, film scouts) and to be recognized as the official destination marketing organization for Chatham County. Rationale included: Hotel/Air/Car reservations, online or by phone, are always booked through a city, but never under the county name. When telling others about vacations, before or after, they are very specific about the city (Las Vegas), region (Napa Valley), and/or major attraction (Disney), but never the county name. Names of other CVBs include: Asheville CVB - Buncombe, Fayetteville Area CVB -Cumberland, Outer Banks VB - Dare, Durham CVB - Durham County, Charlotte CVB - Mecklenburg, Greater Raleigh CVB - Wake, Cape Fear Coast CVB - New Hanover, Burlington-Alamance CVB - Alamance, Statesville CVB - Iredell County, Boone CVB - Watauga County, Kinston CVB - Lenoir County, Chapel Hill-Orange County VB, Winston-Salem CVB - Forsyth, Greensboro Area CVB - Guilford, High Point CVB - Guilford, Lake Norman CVB - Mecklenburg Lumberton VB - Robeson County, Greenville-Pitt County CVB - Pitt, and others. She stated that currently, many of the County's assets have a Chapel Hill address (Governors Club, The Preserve, Twin Lakes Golf) or Apex (Jordan Lake); that they want people to stay in Chatham County instead of Orange or Wake when they are visiting; that marketing the County properly gives all businesses the opportunity to take advantage of visitor dollars, including retail (incidentals, medicine, souvenirs, etc.), housing (those visiting their homes that are under construction, planning to relocate), services (dry cleaning, spa treatments/personal services, photo developing, etc.), automobile/transportation (service stations, camper/trailer equipment, oil, tire, repair), food expenditure and service (dining, grocery, convenience, drugstores), entertainment (cover charges, event admissions, parking fees); that day trippers are great for local businesses; that they are broadening the tax base, because while visiting, these tourists eat, shop, refuel, and possibly even relocate, etc.; that web searches for Chatham County often yield results for Chatham County in Georgia, New York, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maine and even Ontario, Canada and Chatham, Kent in England; that 2001 Economic Impact Travel generated a \$2.63 million payroll; that State and local tax revenues from travel to Chatham County amounted to \$1.37 million, a \$27 tax saving to each county resident; that Domestic Tourism in Chatham County generated an economic impact of \$16.41million prepared annually by the Travel Industry Association of America's Research Department using the Travel Economic Impact Model (TEIM); that revenues were generated as follows:

1995 -	\$1,447,818
1996 -	\$2,265,014
1997 -	\$2,798,009
1998 -	\$2,799,382
1999 -	\$3,086,026
2000 -	\$3,421,106
2001 -	\$3,172,151
2002 -	\$2,726,709

(Nov and Dec figures not available)
YTD revenues generated - \$21,716,215
Web Site: www.VisitChathamCounty.com

Toll-free line: 800-316-3829

A brief question and answer period followed.

Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Atwater, to approve the name change for improved marketing to "Pittsboro-Siler City Convention & Visitors Bureau" (CVB) with tagline, serving all of Chatham County by Chatham County Travel and Tourism. The motion carried four (4) to one (1) with Commissioner Morgan opposing.

LUPIC Update: Presentation of LUPIC update by Larry Hicks

Larry Hicks, Chairman of the Land Use Plan Implementation Committee (LUPIC) gave a presentation to the Board on the status of the compact community project referring the Board to the handout received in its information packet, which summarized the activities of the committee. He stated that the proposed compact community ordinance is being designed to comply with the requirements and desires of the Land Conservation and Development Plan, as adopted November 2001; that the proposed ordinance is intended to manage large-scale development; that it is not designed to encourage, nor discourage large-scale development, but rather to be neutral while ensuring a balanced approach to growth; that the committee itself is comprised of members from appointed County boards, and also includes a component for water quality; that appointed boards represented on LUPIC include the Agriculture Advisory Board, Appearance Commission, Economic Development, Recreation Board, Planning Board, Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Strategic Plan Steering Team, and Water Committee; that the chairs of the eight appointed County boards were asked to appoint a representative from their committee; that the design of LUPIC is structured to provide diversity of input and experience, and balance; that the selection process (where appointed boards select their own representative) was also designed to eliminate bias, perceived or otherwise, on the outcome of LUPIC's work; that in addition a water quality expert was invited to participate.

He stated that LUPIC is subdivided into three working groups, Open Space/Rural Character, Community Design, and Water/Wastewater/Stormwater; that each subgroup has in turn invited various stakeholders into its ongoing discussions; that others have opted to join in on the monthly discussions, which are structured to coordinate and combine the various group activities and outcomes; that a participant listing was provided in the packet; that LUPIC presented its progress to the Planning Board in November; that in addition, each member of the committee is requested to keep his/her appointed board apprised of progress; that a website, <http://www.co.chatham.nc.us/lupic/web/LandUse.htm>, was created to keep the community apprised of LUPIC's activities; and that feedback is encouraged, along with an open invitation to participate.

Mr. Hicks stated that in January and early February, LUPIC will bring its effort to the public, via public forums and meetings with various organizations; that the intent is to introduce options and rationales for discussion and feedback; that an example of a handout that LUPIC plans to distribute was provided in the packet; that LUPIC requests a work session with the County BOC, in late February; that at that meeting, the BOC will be asked to provide guidance on what options to pursue in developing a final ordinance; that following the February meeting, LUPIC will draft the ordinance language, reflecting the desires of the BOC, in accordance with the Land Conservation and Development Plan; that the Board of Commissioners has indicated the desire to have a public hearing on the proposed ordinance at its March 17, 2003 meeting; that while an exceptionally tight schedule, LUPIC will comply, provided a work session meeting with the BOC is held in late February.

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to challenge the LUPIC Committee to have ready, with Triangle J for a March 17, 2003 public hearing, the changes needed for a compact community ordinance. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Mr. Hicks stated that in order to accomplish the directive, the committee would need to meet with the Board of Commissioners during the month of February.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MATTERS

County Attorney Report: Consideration of a report regarding the settlement of ST Wooten v County of Chatham

County Attorney, Bob Gunn, stated that in accordance with a consensus reached at a prior meeting and in accordance with the Board's instructions, both Wooten cases have been resolved. He stated that in case number 2002 CVS 83 petitioned for a declaratory judgment declaring the moratorium adopted on or about December 10, 2001 on the issuance of zoning and building permits for non-conforming industrial uses to be invalid; that case number 2002 CVS 325 questioned the validity of a zoning amendment to Section 9.4 of the County's Zoning Ordinance that read as follows:

"A non-conforming situation may be expanded if the expansion amounts to only a change in the degree of activity rather than changes in kind and where, in the opinion of the Board of Commissioners, such expansions would not substantially increase traffic volumes, air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution or in some other way adversely affect the health, safety or welfare of residents in the area. A change in the degree of activity of a non-conforming situation shall only occur after application and approval as set forth in chapter 1 of this ordinance."

He stated that it is established law that when deciding certain questions of application of zoning ordinances to specific parcels of property, due process requires a quasi-judicial process; that the decision must be based upon evidence presented at a formal hearing; that the amendment challenged provided for the decision to be made by use of the legislative process rather than a quasi-judicial process, and as such did not afford due process; that it was and is his opinion and also the opinion of zoning experts, including those at the Institute of Government that the procedure dictated by the quoted amendment did not afford due process, and was therefore unenforceable; that the suit asked for a Declaratory Judgment that the amendment was void ab initio (from its adoption), and that the court costs be assessed against the County; that had the County gone to trial and lost, in addition to Wooten being able to proceed with its plans to greatly increase the capacity and production of the facility, the County could have been ordered to pay all costs, and possibly any damages suffered by S. T. Wooten Company from being delayed; that by settling, the County not only avoided that liability, it also obtained an enforceable judgment that Wooten shall not produce more than 395,000 tons per year; that he believes that this is the amount for which the old plant was permitted; that Wooten has also agreed that permits to be issued by the County will require "off road" parking for vehicles in front of the facility; that the County also obtained a dismissal of the action contesting the validity of the moratorium; and that it is unlikely that it could have obtained a result as favorable had the County gone to trial.

A copy of the Consent Judgment entered in S. T. Wooten v. County of Chatham, et al, 02 CVS 325 and a copy of the Notice of Voluntary Dismissal in case number 02 CVS 83 is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

Chairman Emerson stated that he knew that there were a lot of unhappy people in the community

because of this decision; that he had been contacted by numerous citizens regarding the matter; that the public should be able to reach their elected officials and voice their concerns; that the Board was advised by the County Attorney that they did not have any chance, to speak of, of winning the suit because the ordinance was illegal; that they were also advised by the Institute of Government concurred with the County Attorney's analysis; that the third attorney on the Planning Board whom he considers to be a competent attorney advised the same thing; that the pending litigation had to be discussed in closed session; that the meeting was a legal meeting as permitted by law; that with all that said, they received some concessions (i.e. landscaping and parking for trucks and no increase in capacity of the present permit); that it was the logical decision made by the majority of the Board; and that the Board is accountable to the public with regard to that decision.

Commissioner Morgan stated that he was on the Planning Board at the time the ordinance was enacted; that he would like to see an ordinance written in the proper way as there needs to be protection; and that the Planning Board needs to address a new ordinance written the correct way.

Chairman Emerson explained that he did not mean any criticism of the Planning Board in his comments. He stated that he, too, felt that it would be a good idea; and that it would be worthwhile for the Planning Board to go back and readdress the matter and that any presentation is legally bound.

George Lucier, Planning Board Chairman, stated that there is virtually no county in North Carolina that does not have this type of protection; that in 1996 the Board actually removed the protection and then they intended to reestablish it in 2002; that as it now stands, Chatham is about the only county in North Carolina that does not require public hearings when expansions of industrial facilities occur in non-conforming areas (i.e. predominately residential areas); that as it now stands, nearby citizens and adjacent land owners are not even notified that such an expansion will occur; and that this seems wrong.

Chairman Emerson stated that he did not hear any expression, before the matter was tabled, that anyone was against the principle of reviewing the permitting process; that the concern was the technicality and legality of this particular ordinance.

Commissioner Atwater stated that he was supportive of Commissioner Morgan; that he shares his desire to have another level of protection for the citizens so that, in a balanced way, each party will feel that they have had due process; and that the matter needs to be restudied and that to be as reasonable as possible with all parties would be smart on their part.

Nancy Brown requested that the Board formally, in writing, ask the North Carolina Department of Transportation to continue and complete the mandated clean-up of the toxic waste site located on the S. T. Wooten Asphalt Plant site; that since the County decided to settle with S. T. Wooten Corporation and not challenge their lawsuit; that this action can only serve to show the citizens of Chatham County the Board's continued concern for the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; that copies of the Board's letter should also be sent to the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the State Attorney General's Office so that the action would be enforced and carried out within a reasonable time frame; that considering that S. T. Wooten Corporation has already begun construction at the Sugar Lake Road facility; that decisive action should be taken as soon as possible and in the form of a resolution registered in the minutes of the next Commissioner's meeting on January 21, 2003. She thanked the Board for their consideration in this health and safety matter.

Commissioner Atwater moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, that the minutes of the Closed Session regarding this matter be made public. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was an update available on how the State is progressing with the

cleanup.

The County Manager stated that they were continuing with the cleanup but that he is uncertain of the status.

Commissioner Atwater stated that he would be very supportive of the action the Board would take on this matter; that Lee Paving, the prior owner of the property, is not responsible for the poisoning; that the State of North Carolina is responsible which makes it all the more proper that the Board is extremely aggressive and assertive in getting the State to attend to the problem they created in Chatham County; that it has helped consequences; that they need to find a way that progress can be checked; and that the Board needs to insist on the maximum progress in this area including the inspection of the ground water in this area.

MANAGER' S REPORTS

Taxation of the Property of Brooke Ronald Johnson & Janet D. Mousley:

The County Manager explained that the question concerning the real property of Brooke Ronald Johnson and Janet D. Mousley is whether the property is subject to taxation in Chatham or Orange County; that the property had for several years been listed and taxed in Orange County; and that it was acquired by the present owners in 1993 (after the boundary line agreement was entered) but that it was not put on the Chatham County tax roll until the most recent valuation was accomplished when it became clear that the property was located in Chatham County.

The County Attorney explained that for many years the exact location of the Chatham-Orange County line was not fixed with specificity and it could not be determined for certain whether subject property was in Chatham or Orange; that other questions of taxation of property lying partly in one county and partly in another has been dealt with from time to time and on a case by case basis; that in some instances, the assessors agreed, that when a part of a parcel of land was located in one county and part in another county, that it would be taxed in the county where the majority of the land was located, and possibly in other cases it would be taxed in the county where the residence was situated; that, however, he had been unable to find any law to support that position; that around 1989 the Board of Commissioners of each of the counties adopted a resolution fixing the common boundary between Chatham and Orange Counties; that at about the same time, the County Commissioners of both Chatham and Orange Counties adopted a resolution providing in part, "Owners of property on or near the newly located boundary between Orange and Chatham County, and which property is recorded in both counties' Registries may continue to list and pay ad valorem taxes and receive governmental services allowed by law from the county in which the said property was listed in January, 1989; that this policy shall apply irrespective of the actual location of any such affected owner's residence as determined by the newly located boundary." He further stated that the Chatham County Tax Administrator has interpreted the quoted provision as applying only to the owner of the property at the time the resolution was adopted; that there is in the second "Whereas" of the preamble to the resolution the following statement: "WHEREAS, each County wishes to make the impact of the location of said boundary upon adjacent property owners minimal; and"; that this language seems to be consistent with the Chatham Tax Administrator's interpretation that it only applied to persons who owned the property on the date the boundary was fixed.

He stated that in considering the question of taxing situs, he researched the law and found that it is dealt with in a general fashion by NCGS 105-301; that the first sentence of that section reads, "All taxable property that is not required by this Subchapter to be appraised originally by the Department of Revenue (primarily property of the utility and railroad companies) shall be listed in the county in which it is situated."; that he found no other authority after considerable research; that there is no legal authority for county officials, including Boards of Commissioners, to provide for taxation of property in a county other than where

it is situated; that therefore, any agreement providing otherwise is suspect and probably would be unenforceable; that likewise, serious questions come to mind as to application of collection remedies by a county other than the county where the property is situated; and that in light of the above, it is his opinion that the subject property is taxable in Chatham County.

Commissioner Atwater stated that in 1989, there was some question as to which county the property was situated; that before the gentleman bought the property, he was under the impression with both authorities, that the property was going to be taxed by Orange County; that he purchased the property based on the resolution; that it needs to be handled in a professional way with the Orange County Board; and that any accommodation that can be made to the property owner within the State law should be explored.

The County Attorney stated that in 1993, there was no question in which county the property was located.

After considerable discussion, Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Atwater, to send a diplomatic and compassionate letter to the Orange County Board of Commissioners (with a copy to the land owners) stating Chatham County's position in terms of where the land lies, with a copy to the landowner, regretting Chatham County's disagreement on the issue. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0). A copy of the letter is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

Cooperative Extension Service Annual Report and Luncheon:

The Cooperative Extension Service Annual Report presentation and luncheon will be held on Monday, February 3, 2003 for the Chatham County Board of Commissioners from 12:00 – 2:00 PM.

Certified Local Government Purchasing Officer:

Robin James, Chatham County Purchasing Agent, has successfully completed all requirements and passed the written examination to become a Certified Local Government Purchasing Officer (CLGPO). She successfully completed five core courses including Basic Purchasing, Intermediate Purchasing, Uniform Commercial Code, Principles of Supervision and Construction Contracting which involved over 160 hours of classroom training. Chatham County joins nine other counties in North Carolina that have a CLGPO administering their purchasing program. Ms. James will be recognized by her peers, pinned and presented her certificate at the Carolinas Association of Governmental Purchasing (CAGP) Annual Spring Conference scheduled for March 5-7, 2003 in Durham, NC.

The Board of Commissioners congratulated Ms. James on her achievement.

Ice Storm Update:

The estimate for the ice storm damage, as of Sunday, is approximately \$90,000; that the total is now approximately \$99,365 to date; that the bulk of that has come from continued cleanup efforts; and that the County has applied for and expects FEMA assistance.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Water Advisory Board Appointment:

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Atwater to reappointment Mr. Bill Lowery to the Chatham County Water Advisory Board. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Joint Meeting with the Towns of Pittsboro, Siler City, and Goldston:

Commissioner Outz mentioned holding joint meetings with the Towns of Pittsboro, Siler City, and Goldston sometime in January to discuss mutually beneficial problems.

Sheriff's Department Vehicle Purchase:

Commissioner Outz stated that he had received several telephone calls regarding the purchase of fifteen vehicles for the Chatham County Sheriff's Department; that he thinks that the Board needs to be better informed with regard to those issues when large purchases are made; that he believes that part of the cars could be used for another year or two; that he feels that due to budget constraints, if they can, they need to be used; that the Board needs to clamp down on some things where they have some authority; and that he feels that it would be beneficial to have a full-day planning session to look at ways to save expenditures.

Grants:

Commissioner Outz stated that he felt that it would be beneficial to receive a list of all County grants and the date of their expiration so that it can be determined who will pick up the expenditure after the grant has been exhausted.

Commissioner Emerson asked if this could be studied at the upcoming Board Retreat on January 22-23, 2003.

The County Manager stated that this was already part of the Board Retreat.

Return of Clerk to the Board:

Commissioner Atwater, joined by the other Board members, welcomed the return of the Clerk to the Board from an extended absence due to her husband's heart surgery.

LUNCH RECESS

- Chairman Emerson adjourned the meeting for lunch at 11:54 AM to be followed by the afternoon Board of Commissioners' work session.

Thomas J. Emerson, Chairman

ATTEST:

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