

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 01, 2004

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 9:00 AM on March 01, 2004.

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; Finance Officer, Vicki McConnell; and Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Sublett

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 9:00 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 if there were additions, deletions, or corrections to the Agenda.

Chairman Emerson asked that a **Resolution Approving Refunding of School Bonds** be added to the Agenda as Item #17.

Commissioner Outz moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, 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.

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

1. **Minutes:** Consideration of a request for approval of Board Minutes for regular meeting held February 16, 2004 and work session held February 16, 2004

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

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

1. **Harry Burnette Road**

2. **Doggone Road**
3. **O'Neal Drive**
4. **Jerry Siler Lane**
5. **Emily Clare Lane**

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

3. **Funds Acceptance from NC Division of Public Health:** Consideration of a request to accept funds in the amount of \$13,400 awarded to the Health Department by the NC Division of Public Health

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

4. **Funds Acceptance from March of Dimes:** Consideration of a request to accept funds in the amount of \$24,054 from the March of Dimes Grant awarded to the Health Department

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

Consideration of a request to create a 50% Health Educator II limited-term position, effective April 1, 2004, utilizing the additional funds

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

5. **Funds Acceptance from NC Department of Health & Human Services:** Consideration of a request to accept Diabetes Grant Funds in the amount of \$59,000 awarded to the Health Department's Diabetes Today Initiative from the NC Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)

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

Consideration of a request to create a 50% Health Educator limited-term position utilizing the additional funds

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

Consideration of a request to create a 50% PHN III limited-term position utilizing the additional funds

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

Consideration of a request to utilize the additional funds to support an existing PA IV position

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

6. **Funds Acceptance from the Susan Komen Breast Cancer Foundation:** Consideration of a request to accept funds in the amount of \$34,975 from the Susan Komen Breast Cancer Foundation awarded to the Health Department

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

7. **Funds Acceptance from the NC Division of Public Health:** Consideration of a request to accept additional funds in the amount of \$2,259 from the NC Division of Public Health (DPH) awarded to the Health Department

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

8. **Funds Acceptance from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of NC:** Consideration of a request to accept grant funds in the amount of \$8,850 from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of NC for the Health Department

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

9. **Resolution Reaffirming the County's Support of Tobacco Allotment Buyout Program:** Consideration of a request to adopt **Resolution #2004-06 Reaffirming the County's Support of The Tobacco Allotment Buyout Program**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Mary Hayes Holmes, 1062 Old Graham Road, Pittsboro, NC, stated that that Pittsboro Library has 25,000 patrons; that there are two full-time and one part-time librarian; that last year, library hours were cut; that every month, approximately eighty more patrons come into the library; that they are literally crawling over each other; that the extra time is really needed; that the Friends of the Library have tried to support the librarians; that all it would take to make one part-time staff member full-time is \$2,342.00; that that amount is not much to improve services; that there used to be a full-time librarian who spent a lot of time on children's programs; that every county around Chatham County has a full-time children's librarian; that they are requesting the Board approve a full-time children's librarian which has been on hold for three or four years; and that this would cost \$31,000.00. She asked the Board to consider both of these funding requests.

Tracy Koch, 214 Julius Davis Road, Goldston, NC, stated that she had a couple of questions with regard to the Noise Ordinance. She stated that there had been a couple of meetings set up with the Sheriff's Department, but that they were not working. She stated that she was wondering when the Board was going to do something about it.

Chairman Emerson stated that he and Captain Allen had been planning to visit with the management of the NC Sports Arena; that he had received a call from the Sheriff Webster stating that Captain Allen's father had passed away; that he had been in Michigan; and that the visit had not come to fruition.

Charlie Horne, County Manager stated that he had talked with Darrell Poe, a resident of Chatham County, and had also called Aerospace Engineering; that he has not heard from the latter; that Mr. Poe has been very cooperative and helpful with trying to bring some ideas back to the Board regarding how to dampen the sound process within the building; that he is getting back with him this

week after meeting with OSHA; that they are going to investigate what, if anything, can be done to limit the noise to the building; and that he will get a list of reputable firms that are willing to assist with those types of sound-absorbing contributions.

Ms. Koch stated that it was more than just the building problem; that there is a problem with the Noise Ordinance; that there is also a problem with the Sheriff's Department enforcement of the law; that this past Saturday, she had to beg an officer to bring a meter to her house; that she was then yelled at by the officer because he is tired of her calling and complaining; that all she was doing was asking him to do his job; that when he finally came, all he got was errors on the meter; and that he left after that.

Chairman Emerson suggested that she speak with the Sheriff stating that he was responsible for his personnel and that he should be approached about any complaints and concerns she may have.

The County Manager stated that he hoped to have some definitive information from the consultant by the next Board of Commissioners' meeting.

Todd Atwater stated that he liked what the Board was doing and that he had learned a lot since his Dad had taken office.

BOARD AND COMMITTEES

Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee Appointment: Consideration of a request to appoint a member to the Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee by Commissioner Outz

Commissioner Outz deferred his appointment until a later date.

Human Relations Committee Appointment: Consideration of a request to appoint a member to the Human Relations Committee by Commissioner Morgan

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to appoint Lewis Phillips, 420 George Street, Siler City, NC, to the Human Relations Committee. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Adult Care Home Committee Appointment: Consideration of a request to appoint a member to the Adult Care Home Committee by Commissioner Outz

Commissioner Outz moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to appoint Mary Lou Cooper, PO Box 1096, Pittsboro, NC, to the Adult Care Home Committee. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Board of Equalization and Review Appointments: Consideration of a request to appoint members to the Board of Equalization and Review by Commissioners Emerson (1), Morgan (1), and Atwater (1), and full-Board (1)

Chairman Emerson moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to appoint Robert Britson, 374 NC 87 North, Pittsboro, NC, to the Board of Equalization and Review. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to reappoint Judith Peterson, 1942 Rock Rest Road, Pittsboro, NC, to the Board of Equalization and Review. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Commissioner Atwater and the full-Board deferred their appointments until a later date.

MANAGER' S REPORTS

The County Manager had no reports.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Nature's Trail:

Commissioner Outz asked about the resolution of the Nature' Trail mobile home matter. He stated that it was his understanding that they were concerned about the contamination of the well water located on County property.

Bill Lowery stated that the last time he was over there, the mobile home was on part of County land; that they had been given permission to be there by a former Public Works official who did not have the authority to do so.

Commissioner Atwater stated that he felt it might be wise to address the lines that run across the property even though they have been upgraded.

The County Manager was asked to direct the appropriate personnel to investigate, to address the question of the wastewater lines running across the property, and to report on the situation to the Board at a future meeting.

Resolution Approving Refunding of School Bonds:

County Attorney, Bob Gunn, stated that some time back, the Board initiated the refund of school bonds to save on interest; that before it was closed, the interest rates went up; that they are down again; that at a successful sale, with the Board's approval, the bond date will be April 1, 2004; that the resolution approves escrow agreement with Wachovia Bank and fixes all other details in order to complete the bond refunding; that it authorizes the Chairman and Clerk to sign all necessary papers to complete the bond refunding; that they hope to save approximately \$700,000.00; that

Commissioner Atwater moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to adopt the **Resolution #2004-07 Approving Refunding of School Bonds**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Department of Homeland Security: Consideration of a request to proceed with the request for proposals (RFPs) for the purchase of a vehicle and equipment to be used as a mobile command post and alternate communication's center

Tony Tucker, Chatham County Emergency Operations Director, explained that in October 2003, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners gave their approval to accept a reimbursement-type grant

from the Department of Homeland Security. He stated that this grant was to be used for the purchase of equipment, training, and exercises in order to be better prepared for a terrorism event; that this grant was divided into two parts: SHSGP Part I for \$45,515 and SHSGP Part II for \$151,837.00; that a meeting was held at the Emergency Operations Center on January 8, 2004 to discuss the spending of the Part II money; that the discussion was to determine the most efficient way to spend the money and be prepared for a terrorism event; that the Department of Homeland Security requires that all first responders County-wide including municipalities be included in these meetings; that the group voted unanimously to pursue the purchase of a large mobile command post that would serve several functions as follows:

1. Mobile Command Post for any large event in the County. This would include fire, EMS, law enforcement and/or rescue.
2. Alternate Communications Center for the County 911 center or the Siler City/Pittsboro Planning Department should any of these centers need to be evacuated.
3. Alternate Emergency Operations Center (EOC), if needed.

He stated that an equipment list was sent to the State for their approval; that the list included the vehicle and the basic mobile radio equipment needed to make the unit operational; that this equipment will also allow different response agencies to talk to one another (i.e. sheriff radio to fire radio); that this cannot be accomplished with the existing radio equipment; that the Emergency Operations Department looked at specialty vehicles built for this purpose and also looked at motor homes with interior modifications; that the motor home is thousands of dollars less and will give more usable room; that on February 24, 2004, the County received approval of the equipment list sent to the State; that the total SHSGP Part II grant was \$151,837.00; that the equipment list approved was \$154,925.00; that the \$3,088.00 over the grant amount plus other equipment that the group deem necessary to make this unit fully functional, can come from two other grants.

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Atwater, to proceed with the request for proposals (RFPs) for the purchase of a motor home to be used as a County-wide mobile command post including interior modifications and necessary radio and telephone equipment. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Atwater, to authorize the purchase of a mobile emergency unit and equipment, if a unit is located, provided the purchase price does not exceed the allotted funds. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

RECESS

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to recess the Regular Meeting. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was recessed at 9:41 AM for the Board to tour the Raleigh Mobile Emergency Operations Unit prior to the regularly scheduled Work Session.

Thomas J. Emerson, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sandra B. Sublett, CMC, Clerk to the Board

Chatham County Board of Commissioners