

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
JULY 19, 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 2:30 PM on July 19, 2004.

Present: Chairman Tommy Emerson; Vice Chair Carl Outz; Commissioners Margaret Pollard 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

Absent: Commissioner Bob Atwater

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 2:32 PM.

Work Session

1. Animal Control Issues
 - Emergency Operation’s Accident
 - Dangerous Dog Appeal
 - Emergency Operation’s Grant Request
2. Water Issues
 - Standard Operating Procedures
 - Intake versus West Side Intake
 - ETJ and Water Distribution
3. Planning: Highway #15-501 Corridor Discussion
4. Recreation: Southwest Park Update

The County Manager reviewed the Work Session Agenda listed above and added an application approval by Emergency Operations for a grant.

ANIMAL CONTROL ISSUES

Emergency Operations Center Dog Accident:

Lesia Chavis reviewed the events leading to the death of Ms. Joyce Kachergis’ dog.

The County Attorney stated that the insurance company had investigated and found that the County was not liable in this matter.

Mr. Karl Kachergis, Joyce Kachergis’ son, presented his view of the events.

After considerable discussion, Commissioner Morgan suggested that the insurance company discuss the matter through mediation. The County Attorney advised that he would contact the insurance company to discuss the possibility of mediation.

Mr. Kachergis asked for assurance that no County employees go on the Kachergis property.

The Chairman reiterated that the County would make a good-faith effort to not go on the Kachergis property with the exception of emergency vehicles and law enforcement; that the insurance company would be contacted about the possibility of negotiation; and that the County Attorney report their response with regard to the mediation.

A copy of the Ms. Chavis' report, the insurance companies reports, and the Chatham County Human Resource Manager's memorandum with regard to the accident involving the Kachergis dog is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

Dangerous Dog Appeal:

Consideration of a request to create an Appellant Board for determination of Potentially Dangerous Dog or animal hearings as required in the Chatham County Animal Control Ordinance revised November 25, 2003

After discussion of the matter, Commissioner Outz moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to appoint six members to an Appellant Board for determination of potentially dangerous dog or animal hearings based on the Chatham County Animal Control Ordinance revised November 25, 2003 as follows:

Dr. Bonnie Terll (Board of Health)
1319 Hadley Mill Road
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Dr. Jane Hollingsworth (Board of Health)
6 Jordan Woods
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Lt. Mike Roberson (Law Enforcement)
245 Oldham Place
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Krista Ritter (Public Member)
PO Box 97
Siler City, NC 27344

Carrie Griffin (Animal Welfare/Rescue)
31 Commons Path
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Melissa Semenov (Alternate Public Member)
1389 Hadley Mill road
Pittsboro, NC 27312

The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Emergency Operations Grant:

Tony Tucker, Emergency Operations Director, stated that the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management has received an extension of the EOP Grant to properly close out all Subgrantee (counties) accounts properly and to redistribute remaining funds; that no eligibility rules have changed for this grant; that all Memorandums of Agreement (MOA's) are still in effect; that in order to be eligible for additional funds, counties/jurisdictions will have to submit proposals for the funds; that emphasis will still be on the EOP enhancing, Continuity of Operations (COOP), and County Strategy; that proposals need to be submitted no later than August 1, 2004; that all counties with the original MOA's need to complete their payment/reimbursement packages and forward to NCEM no later August 1, 2004; that this will allow for the identification of unused funds and allow time for reallocation; that new MOA's will have to be signed based on the proposal and their approval; that the proposal should indicate the amount of time to complete the project but not later than November 1, 2004; that counties that have less than \$1,0000 left in their MOA's will be considered closed and funds reallocated; and that counties with more than \$1,000 will be contacted and a determination made as to the disposition of remaining funds.

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to give staff permission to apply for grant funds for Emergency Operations.

Commissioner Pollard asked that an addendum to the motion include a letter to be sent to the Governor of the State of North Carolina requesting extra security by the National Guard assigned to protect the Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant.

After considerable discussion, Commissioner Pollard withdrew the addendum to the motion.

The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

After further discussion, Commissioner Pollard moved to write a letter to the Governor of the State of North Carolina asking that the National Guard be strategically placed at the Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant to protect against a terrorist attack.

The motion died for lack of a second.

By consensus, this issue is to be placed on the Agenda at the next meeting.

RECREATION ISSUES

- Tracy Burnett, Chatham County Recreation Director, gave an overview of the progress of the Southwest Community Park from the beginning early clearing and grading stages inside the park, to road clearing, to complete grading leading to Phase Two.

Ms. Burnett informed the Board that Chatham County had received an "Adopt-A-Trail Program" grant awarded to the Chatham County Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$5,000.00 and is to be used for the trail project.

BREAK

The Chairman called for a ten-minute break.

WATER ISSUES

Standard Operating Procedures:

The Staff gave a report on standard operating procedures for the installation of water lines for the County.

Commissioner Morgan asked that this issue be placed on the August 2 work session agenda.

Intake versus West Side Intake:

The Board discussed investments in the intake on the east side (Cary site) of the lake and the potential need for the water plant/intake on the west side of the lake.

This issue will be revisited at a later date.

ETJ and Water Distribution:

The County Manager reiterated that the Board had met with the Town of Pittsboro regarding providing water service in the ETJ. He stated that traditionally the County does not provide service in the ETJ unless the municipality provides an allowance. He posed the question, "Should the County encourage private utilities to put in systems while the County-wide system is being formed?"

The County Attorney was asked to research the legal ramifications on this subject.

HIGHWAY #15-501/PITTSBORO BYPASS

Keith Megginson, Planning Director, explained the proposed corridor improvements to US Highway #15-501 around the Town of Pittsboro. He distributed a four-page newsletter from the NCDOT that describes the project as included in the NCDOT 2004-2010 Transportation Improvements Program (TIP) as Project #R-2628. He stated that the proposed project will evaluate ten alternative study corridors for the improvements to US Highway #15-501; that these corridors begin south of Pittsboro and continue in a northerly direction to the US #64 bypass; that the alternative study corridors range in length from 3.6 to 7.8 miles and are approximately one thousand feet wide; that alternatives are being studied on new locations either to the east or west of existing US Highway #15-501; that the required right-of-way has not been determined at this time and will most likely vary depending on which of the alternative study corridors is selected for detailed study. Mr. Megginson displayed the December 1, 2003 Proposed Thoroughfare Plan for the Town of Pittsboro showing various future roads and classifications.

By consensus, the Board asked the County Manager to write a letter to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) asking that they consider another US Highway #15-501 alternative, stating that the alternative would begin in the vicinity of the western terminus of US Highway #64 bypass and extend southward to connect with US #15-501 near the intersection with Charlie Brooks Road.

RECESS

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to recess the meeting for

dinner prior to the scheduled Board of Commissioners' meeting in the District Courtroom. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0), and the meeting was recessed at 5:10 PM.

Thomas J. Emerson, Chairman

ATTEST:

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