

**MINUTES**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**APRIL 04, 2005**

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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 April 04, 2005.

Present: Chairman Bunkey Morgan; Vice Chair, Tommy Emerson; Commissioners Patrick Barnes, Mike Cross, and Carl Outz, 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 meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 9:00 AM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION**

Chairman Morgan invited everyone present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance after which Commissioner Outz delivered the invocation.

**AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Chairman Morgan asked that an appointment by Commissioner Barnes to the Home and Community Block Grant Committee, that an appointment by Commissioner Emerson to the Housing Authority, and his appointment to the Recreation Advisory Committee be added to the Agenda and that an appointment to the Piedmont Conservation Council be removed from the Agenda. He also asked that the public hearing, on a request to apply for Community Development Block Grant – Economic Development funds, be deferred until the April 18, 2005 Board of Commissioners’ meeting.

Commissioner Emerson moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross to approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda with the noted requests. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Minutes:** Consideration of a request for approval of Board Minutes for regular meeting held March 21, 2005, Work Session held March 21, 2005, and Work Session held March 28, 2005

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:

A. Two Gate Road

B. Shadymont Drive

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

3. **Public Health Month Proclamation:** Consideration of a request to adopt **Resolution #2005-21 Proclaiming April 2005 as Public Health Month**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

4. **Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation:** Consideration of a request to adopt **Resolution #2005-22 Proclaiming April 2005 as Child Abuse Prevention Month**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

5. **Funds Acceptance for Health Department:** Consideration of a request to accept funds in the amount of \$2,000.00 awarded to the Health Department's Diabetes Project from the Wren Foundation

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

6. **Notification to Change Medicaid Rates:** Notification of changes to Medicaid rates for public health departments, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

7. **Conveyance of Property to Chatham County Council on Aging:** Consideration of a request to convey property (milk vending machine) to the Chatham County Council on Aging

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

8. **Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Budget Amendments:** Consideration of a request to approve Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Budget Amendments, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

#### **END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **PUBLIC INPUT SESSION**

**Loyse Hurley**, 12 Matchwood, Pittsboro, NC, stated that Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities (CCEC) urged the Board to keep the taxpayers of Chatham County informed about the reasons why they are voting the way they planned to vote on capital projects. She stated that since the Board is apparently planning to forgo a bond referendum on these capital projects, they need to provide taxpayers an opportunity to express their views on both their funding priorities and their method of financing them; that they request that a final vote on capital projects funding plan not be taken at the day's meeting; that they ask that they allow their financing plan and the factual material used in support of the plan be provided to the public via the County website and various media outlets; that the vote be delayed until the April 18<sup>th</sup> Board of Commissioners' meeting; that finding out about the comparison costs of the individual projects this morning and then voting on it the same morning does not give all of the Board an opportunity to carefully

consider the choices; that failing to include taxpayers in the decision-making process for the debt funding will result in a perception of a “rush to judgment”, where the citizens do not feel they were provided in advance legitimate reasons for such an emergency vote; that when citizens are treated as equals through informed, simple, direct information, they are more likely to be accepting of information that impacts them directly; that conversely, when confronted with actions in which they have been ill-informed, suspicions arise and they act against what is being considered out of anger and retribution; that their vote on financing these projects has a direct impact on each individual taxpayer; that the taxpayers need to be aware of the different alternatives for funding and understand the problems associated with each one; that this is an example of the type of open government process that citizens have been requesting; that it is also essential for County fiscal responsibility and accountability; that some explanation of the conditions facing the Board and their rationale for taking action is needed; that the one cent sales tax was sneaked in at the end of a long night and a lengthy meeting last month without any explanation to the public; that it appeared to be an example of “backroom politics” at its best; that that vote affects every man, woman, and child in the County; that this was reminiscent of the difficulties the Board experienced in getting citizen support for the water districts; that this is a better way to involve and explain things to the citizens; that some of these capital projects have been outstanding for a while; and that the additional two weeks should be taken so the citizens can be educated. She urged the Board that if a vote on the funding for the Business Park and Central Community College needs to be taken today, that the bulk of the projects be kept in abeyance until the evening Board of Commissioners’ meeting on April 18, 2005.

**Dennis Clark**, 19006 Stone Brook, Chapel Hill, NC, stated that Northwood has a serious over-capacity problem. He stated that the schools that would be impacted by the middle school do not have capacity at this time; that in the year 2010, both schools will have a problem; that he realizes that there is a twenty plus million dollar difference in the cost of the schools; that to him and his neighbors, it is a bit puzzling as to the decision to not solve the Northwood problem.

## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’ MATTERS**

### ***Public Hearing:***

**Community Development Block Grant – Economic Development Funds:** Public hearing (second of two) to receive public comments on a request to apply for Community Development Block Grant – Economic Development funds

This item was deferred until the April 18, 2005 Board of Commissioners’ meeting.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

**North Chatham Hydraulic Improvements:** Consideration of a request to award two contracts for the North Chatham Hydraulic Improvements

Commissioner Emerson moved, seconded by Commissioner Barnes, to approve the North Chatham Hydraulic Improvements - Contract 2 and Contract 3, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Charlie Horne, County Manager stated that the Silk Hope line was also bid, but that it came in high and may have to be re-bid.

## **BOARD AND COMMITTEES**

**Cape Fear River Assembly Appointment:** Consideration of a request to appoint/reappoint a member to the Cape Fear River Assembly by the Board

Commissioner Barnes moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross to reappoint Connie Allred, 4908 Pleasant Hill Church Road, Siler City, NC, to the Cape Fear River Assembly. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

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

Commissioner Barnes moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to reappoint Mary Schoonard, 1260 Log Barn Road, Pittsboro, NC, to the Home and Community Block Grant Committee. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

**Recreation Advisory Committee:** Consideration of a request to appoint a member to the Recreation Advisory Committee

Commissioner Barnes moved, seconded by Commissioner Emerson, to appoint Duncan Murrell, PO Box 771, Pittsboro, NC, to the Recreation Advisory Committee. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

**Adult Care Home Committee Appointments:** Consideration of a request to appoint/reappoint a member to the Adult Care Home Committee by Chairman Morgan (1) and one appointment by the Board (1)

Chairman Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Emerson, to appoint Christine Brooks, 968 Cole Ridge Road, Siler City, NC, to the Adult Care Home Committee. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

**Housing Authority Board:** Consideration of a request to appoint/reappoint a member to the Housing Authority Board

Chairman Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Emerson, to reappoint Consuelo Barr, 921A Cottage Grove Avenue, Siler City, NC, to the Housing Authority. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Commissioner Emerson moved, seconded by Commissioner Outz, to appoint Lisa Shultz, 25 Creekside Circle, Apartment #24, Pittsboro, NC, to the Housing Authority Board. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

**Piedmont Conservation Council Appointment:** Consideration of a request to appoint a member (1) to the Piedmont Conservation Council

This appointment was deferred until a later date.

## **MANAGER' S REPORTS**

The County Manager reported on the following:

### **Upgrade of CAD System:**

Tony Tucker, Emergency Operations Director, explained that in May, 2003 the Board approved the hiring of a consultant for the CAD project; that they have been working on the project since 2002; that they were allotted \$80,000 for the consultants work; that they have now reached the limit and the project is

incomplete; that the project was broken into four phases; that they are now in the base of Phase III; that they have decided on the vendor and the consultant is negotiating the process for the best deal; that Phase IV is the consultants overseeing of the contract, making certain that everything is in place, that it is a turn-key job; and that the County accepts it; that the consultant has saved the County over \$54,000 on the initial price which did not include any hardware; that the new price does include the hardware; that on the maintenance contract, the consultant saved the County \$44,000 on a five-year contract and that it is now a six year contract; that even though the consultant has exceeded the initial price of his contract, he has saved the County money as he has proceeded.

Mr. Tucker asked the Board for an additional \$50,000 in 911 Funds for completion of the project and stated that the consultant is still negotiating and that there may be a possibility that a new records management system may be obtained for the Sheriff's Office out of these funds.

Commissioner Outz moved, seconded by Commissioner Barnes, to allocate additional 911 Funds in the amount of \$50,000 for the CAD System. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

### **Monthly Water Tap Fee:**

Commissioner Outz stated that he had received a call regarding a citizen's rental house to which County water was run; that the renter had vacated the property and that the landlord was still receiving a \$15.00 monthly bill on the connection hookup. He asked if this was the correct procedure.

Commissioner Outz was assured that this was standard procedure.

### **Well Permit:**

Chairman Morgan asked if all Board members had received a copy of Cadle Cooper's letter stating that Mr. Cooper had applied for a permit to drill a well; that in the meantime, the Town of Pittsboro adjusted their fees to run the line from \$4,000 to \$2,000; and that Mr. Cooper decided that he did not need the permit and had hooked onto the Town's water.

The County Manager was asked to check on the matter.

### **Representative Hackney:**

Chairman Morgan stated that Representative Hackney had informed him that they had put both bills in the House; that the bills were also supported by Representative Verla Insko; and that they did not have any idea as to how they would progress.

Commissioner Cross stated that he had spoken with Representative Hackney on Friday; and that he was going to continue his presentations and solicitations on these matters. He explained that for fifteen years, there has been an agreement between homebuilders and realtors to block any tax to deal with residential development; that the NC Realtors Association is the primary lobby on this; that they hired a full-time lobbyist; that they have a website and 34,000 members; and they have managed to block any requests for fifteen years. He stated that this would actually save the builders a lot of money and will help keep their industry healthy in Chatham County; and that it has been easy to obtain their support once it has been explained to them.

The Chairman expressed appreciation from the Board for all of Commissioner Cross' hard work efforts.

**Commissioner Barnes' Birthday:**

Chairman Morgan informed the Board that it was Commissioner Barnes' birthday.

**School Maximum Capacity Report Request:**

Commissioner Outz asked for a copy of the Board of Education's information on maximum school capacity.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Outz moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to adjourn the regular meeting to the scheduled work session. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 AM.

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Bunkey Morgan, Chairman

ATTEST:

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