

**MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
MAY 16, 2005**

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 May 16, 2005.

Present: Chairman Bunkey Morgan; Vice Chair Tommy Emerson; Commissioners Patrick Barnes, Mike Cross, and Carl Outz; County Manager, Charlie Horne; Assistant County Manager, Renee Dickson; Finance Officer, Vicki McConnell; and Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Sublett

Absent: Attorney Robert L. Gunn

The Chairman called the work session to order at 2:00 PM.

Work Session Agenda

1. **Budget, Budget, Budget**
2. **Easement Agreement/Attorney's Fee**

TRIANGLE J COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Chairman Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Emerson to reappoint Commissioner Mike Cross to the Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization/Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (TARPO RTAC). The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

BUSINESS INDUSTRIAL PARK

Commissioner Morgan moved to commit funds in the amount of \$10,000 to Attorney Jennifer Andrews for the legal fees incurred for work on the Stone easement at the Business Industrial Park in Siler City.

Commissioner Outz questioned why Ms. Andrews had done the work stating that he felt it was the County Attorney's job.

Commissioner Barnes questioned whether this might be a conflict of interest.

After considerable discussion, the Board deferred a decision on this matter until a later date.

SOUTHERN SUPREME

Commissioner Morgan stated that Southern Supreme in Bear Creek had dug several wells and wanted to look into the possibility of getting County water. He stated that there were approximately thirty-five potential customers who would also like to tap on to County water.

After considerable discussion, Commissioner Barnes moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to proceed with Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates to look for possible grants to run water mains to that area through the Department of Commerce. The approximate cost would run \$541,000 with a tap fee of \$1,750. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

WATER UPDATE

Silk Hope Water Main Extension:

Will Baker, Chatham County Utilities Director, explained that on May 10, 2005, a bid opening was conducted for the Silk Hope Water Main Extensions project; that at this bid opening were four responsive bidders; that bids ranged from high bid of \$1,037,772.50 to a low bid of \$898,652.00 submitted by J. F. Wilkerson Contracting; that the bid opening was a re-bid from the March 31, 2005 bid opening; that at the initial bid opening, the bids were significantly higher than expected; that as they recommended to the Board, these bids were rejected and the project scope was modified in an effort to reduce the project costs; and that this scope reduction consisted of the following:

- q Delete the directional bores across the Rocky River from the water main contract and bid this item as a separate project
- q Extend the contract time from 150 days to 180 days
- q Revise the rock quantities

He stated that as a result, the new bid prices did decrease by adjusting these items; that on May 10, 2005, they also attempted to hold the bid opening for the directional bore portion of the project; that there were eight contractors that received plans and indicated their intent to submit a bid for the project; that prior to issuing these plans, the scope of the project and the most advantageous and economical method for bidding the project was discussed with each contractor; that the bid documents were prepared accordingly; that after that effort, not one of the contractors submitted a bid for the project; that after contacting each of the perspective bidders, only two of the eight indicated that they would not be submitting a bid; that the remaining six bidders indicated that they had intended to bid the project but each had their own reasons as to why they could not submit a bid on the specified bid date; that they did indicate, however, that they would prepare a bid if it were re-bid which is scheduled for May 24, 2005; that they have also initiated contact with NCDOT requesting their consideration for a bridge attachment on the US Highway #64 Rocky River Bridge; that it is anticipated that if a bridge attachment were allowed, it would be considerably less expensive than the currently proposed method of crossing; that when starting the project, their initial indication for a bridge attachment was that it would most likely not be allowed.

He further stated that based on the bids received and the pending bids for crossing the Rocky River, Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates, P.A. recommends that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners make a contingent award of the water main portion of the project to J. F. Wilkerson Contracting in the amount of \$898,652.00; that this recommendation would be contingent upon the option and cost for the crossing of the Rocky River; and that if a bridge attachment were allowed, it would be their recommendation that Chatham County negotiate with J. F. Wilkerson Contracting for the installation of a bridge attachment.

Commissioner Barnes moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to award construction of the water main portion of the Silk Hope Water Main Extension project to J. F. Wilkerson Contracting in the amount of \$898,652.00 and to re-bid the Rocky River rock bore on May 18, 2005. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

A copy of the bid summary and bid tabulation are attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

North Chatham Tank and Booster Pump Station:

Mr. Baker informed the Board that the North Chatham tank and booster pump station will be bid on June 16, 2005 and that construction of the North Chatham water mains will begin May 16, 2005.

Commissioner Barnes moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross to bid the existing water taps, to advertise and bid for contractors to install water taps for those individuals who have paid and applied by the May 2, 2005 deadline, and that at administration's discretion whether to receive any further applications at reduced rates or to make available the \$500 reduced tap rate offer. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Resolution to Exempt:

Commissioner Barnes moved, seconded by Commissioner Emerson, to adopt **Resolution #2005-30 to Exempt**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

BUDGET

Renee Dickson, Assistant County Manager, presented information on the calculation of the revenue neutral rate.

Board of Education Chairman, Alan Zimmerman, asked the Board for additional funding for laptops for each student in the school system.

After the Board of Commissioners reviewed the Board of Education's funding request, they tentatively agreed to follow the County Manager's recommendation. The Board agreed that Chairman Morgan would discuss this with the School Board Chairman and report back to the Board of Commissioners at their June 06, 2005 budget work session.

Commissioner Outz thanked the staff for their work on the budget and stated that they had done a good job.

The Board asked that Tony Tucker, Economic Development President, present his budget at the next Board of Commissioners' work session on June 06, 2005.

Budget Input Session:

The County Manager reminded the Board of the scheduled budget input session to be held in Siler City on May 23, 2005 at the Siler City Courthouse at 7:00 PM.

Board of Education:

By consensus, the Board agreed to not fund laptops for the schools and relay to the Board of Education that the matter will be considered after July 1, 2005. Chairman Morgan agreed to discuss this

matter with the Chairman of the Board of Education.

Refund of Water Deposit:

A discussion ensued with regard to Cadle Cooper's request for a refund after having paid a deposit for a well-site inspection.

By consensus, the Board deferred a decision until the County Manager can research the matter.

RECESS

Commissioner Barnes moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross, that the meeting be recessed to the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners' meeting in the District Courtroom. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was recessed at 4:55 PM.

Bunkey Morgan, Chairman

ATTEST:

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