



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes Board of Commissioners

Monday, February 3, 2014

11:00 AM

Historic Courthouse Courtroom

9 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Rollcall

Present: 4 - Chairman Walter Petty, Vice Chair Brian Bock, Commissioner Mike Cross and Commissioner Pam Stewart

INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Petty welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bock, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to approve the Agenda and the Consent Agenda:

13-0673

Vote on a request to approve Tax Lien Advertisement

This Agenda Item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairman Petty, Vice Chair Bock, Commissioner Cross and Commissioner Stewart

14-0675

Vote on a request to approve a Budget Amendment for Mobile Command Truck

This Agenda Item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairman Petty, Vice Chair Bock, Commissioner Cross and Commissioner Stewart

14-0676

Vote on a request to approve a Budget Amendment for Mobile Command Trailer

This Agenda Item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairman Petty, Vice Chair Bock, Commissioner Cross and Commissioner Stewart

14-0680

Vote on a request to Proclaim February 2014 as "We Love Seniors"

Month"

Attachments: [We Love Seniors Month Proclamation](#)

This Resolution, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, was adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairman Petty, Vice Chair Bock, Commissioner Cross and Commissioner Stewart

14-0681

Approve of a request to appoint Graham Swift to the Environmental Review Advisory Committee

This Appointment was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairman Petty, Vice Chair Bock, Commissioner Cross and Commissioner Stewart

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

No one was signed up who wished to speak.

BOARD PRIORITIES

14-0683

Discuss the vacancy and appointment process for Chatham County Commissioner District 1

Chairman Petty stated the statute outlines the process able to be used for the appointment to Commissioner Kost's vacant seat. The Board expects an appointment from the Chatham County Democratic Party by February 27, 2014. Anyone wanting to file must have done so by the end of February. Chairman Petty asked that the Democratic Party speed up that process. He asked that the Board have time to chose one and give anyone an opportunity to apply.

Vice Chairman Bock stated anyone the Board appoints would also have to file for the November election.

Commissioner Cross asked for clarification as to whether or not anyone the Board appoints also has to file to run for the election.

Jeffrey Starkweather of the Chatham County Democratic Party stated if the applicant wanted to run for the election they would have to file. If they get appointed but didn't want to run, however, they do not have to file.

Chairman Petty stated anyone can file to run at any time. Anyone the Board appoints, if they chose to run, would have to file by the end of February. If the Board appoints and they do not want to run, they do not have to file.

Vice Chairman Bock stated there could also be a primary.

Chairman Petty stated they only have to file if they want to serve past November. There has to be an election to serve past November. The Board does not need to wait until February 27, 2014 to appoint someone to the vacant seat.

Vice Chairman Bock stated there are still a lot of people in the county that don't know

and they have expressed an interest in being appointed. The County should run an advertisement for being appointed and forward their information to the County Manager.

Chairman Petty stated he did inquire with elections about the issue. He suggested they do something similar to what the Board of Education and Siler City Town Board did, open it up to anyone who is interested and give them an opportunity to interview.

The County Manager stated if the Board wants to interview the candidates to sign up, there is a time period to think about.

Staff stated the next Board meetings were the 17th of February and the 17th of March.

Chairman Petty stated he would like to have people send in applications to be interviewed prior to February 17 and then interview the applicants on February 17.

Commissioner Cross asked why the applicants would not apply to the executive committee of the party.

Chairman Petty stated it could come through the party, but should not be limited through the party.

Commissioner Cross stated the applicant still has to be a Democrat. The Board agreed that was correct. Commissioner Cross asked again why it could not be facilitated through the party.

Mr. Starkweather stated the Party plans to interview people and recommend someone and the Board has to consider who the Party recommends. The Board cannot appoint someone before the Party sends it the recommendation.

Vice Chairman Bock stated it makes sense to try to appoint someone before the filing period ends. If the Party does not get someone to the Board in time there is nothing that can be done about that.

Chairman Petty stated that was his point as well. The Board of Commissioners' meeting is February 17, 2014 and if the Party does not get the Board the information until February 27th, there will not be enough time to file.

Vice Chairman Bock stated there are a lot of people who might be interested to run who are members of the party who may not be active with the party.

Chairman Petty stated for a normal election process people have plenty of time to consider whether or not they want to file and this does not give them that same amount of time.

Chairman Petty asked if the Democratic Party would provide the Board with their recommendation by the February 17, 2014 Board of Commissioners' meeting so that they could consider the appointment at that meeting.

The County Manager suggested to the Board that if it is advertising and soliciting the Party, they may want to review the names prior to the February 17th meeting and consider the interviews as a work session item. He also said if there was a deadline they would need to have the applications by in order to adequately review them for the February 17th meeting.

Chairman Petty suggested receiving the applications by Friday, February 14th to

have time to review them over the weekend and conduct the interviews at the meeting on Monday, February 17th.

Vice Chairman Bock stated if the Board does not have enough applications it can put it off a little longer, but the goal should be to have them on February 17th.

Chairman Petty stated that it gives the Board about three weeks to get the word out.

The County Manager stated that actually only allows two weeks.

Vice Chairman Bock stated the Board would get it in the paper tomorrow and get it out in a news release and all the other appropriate places.

Chairman Petty stated the requirements for the appointment are that the person must be from District 1, they must be from the Democratic Party, and their application must be in by Friday, February 14th.

The County Manager asked if the Board was in agreement that they wanted all the applicants to come to the Board of Commissioners' meeting on February 17, 2014.

Chairman Petty stated the Board may not be able to reach a decision by the February 17th meeting and that is fine for the appointment, but at least the public will be notified that they can file and the word will have gotten out. Another problem would be getting them all through the interview process during the February 17th meeting.

The County Manager suggested the Board select an Option B Date for a special meeting.

By consensus, the Board selected February 20, 2014 an optional date for a special meeting for additional interviews.

Vice Chairman Bock asked Mr. Starkweather if he would get the message to the Democratic Party.

Mr. Starkweather stated he would get the message to the chair of the committee. He said they have to have a special meeting because they had already voted on a process for selecting the candidate.

Chairman Petty stated both the Board and the Party were after the same thing, to make the proper selection.

Mr. Starkweather stated it took the party two months to replace two state officers. He stated this district was going to be a difficult to find a candidate.

People in the district are retired and they are not as involved in county government. It would probably be easier to make a selection if the people had decided whether or not they were going to file.

Chairman Petty stated if the Board knows earlier in the month who it is going to appoint it may help determine if others are going to file.

Commissioner Cross clarified that the Board will have the applications by February 14th, then have the interviews at the February 17th Board of Commissioners' meeting, and finally have a back up date for additional interviews on February 20th. By consensus the Board agreed.

Chairman Petty asked how the Board felt and also asked if he could get a motion to

accept the process and also a vote.

Commissioner Bock motioned, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the process, the motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

Commissioner Cross stated he was not opposed, however, he hoped that the Board was giving the Party enough time to select a candidate.

Commissioner Stewart stated she would not be able to be at the work session early on February 17th.

Vice Chairman Bock clarified that the alternate date is to vote on the appointment .

Commissioner Cross stated that on the alternate date the Board will interview and vote if need be. The Board agreed.

The County Manager asked if there was a time the Board would like staff to advertise for the interviews on the 17th and the 20th.

Chairman Petty suggested 1:00pm and the Board would adjust accordingly.

Commissioner Stewart stated she would not get to the meeting until later in the afternoon.

Vice Chairman Bock stated the Board could handle other business first, and then conduct interviews.

Vice Chairman Bock asked if the Board should accept applications after the February 14th.

Chairman Petty stated they should not and they would set the Work Session start time on February 17th at 2:00 PM.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bock, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, to approve the selection and approval process for the Distric 1 appointment. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairman Petty, Vice Chair Bock, Commissioner Cross and Commissioner Stewart

MANAGER' S REPORTS

The Manager had no reports at this time.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Chairman Petty stated he had spoken with Goldston Mayor, Tim Cunnup and he also sent an email to Commissioner Cross. Mayor Cunnup is going to be prepared to make presentation at February 17, 2014 Board of Commissioners' meeting with concerns about the sewer lines in Goldston.

The County Manager stated he had also spoken to Mayor Cunnup and he is trying to determine how many septic systems the town is talking about.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chair Brian Bock , seconded by Commissioner Pam Stewart, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried:

Aye: 4 - Chairman Petty, Vice Chair Bock, Commissioner Cross and Commissioner Stewart

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND LUNCHEON