

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET PUBLIC MEETING
MAY 16, 2006

The Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the Siler City Town Council Chambers, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina, 7:00 PM, on May 16, 2006.

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONER MATTERS

Public Hearing:

Chatham County Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Budget: Public hearing to receive public comments on the Chatham County Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Manager’s Recommended Budget

The County Manager reviewed specifics of the Chatham County Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Managers Recommended Budget as follows:

Chatham County
FY 07 Recommended Budget

Highlights

- Total property valuation is \$6.4 billion, 5.8 percent increase
- No change in tax rate proposed; one penny generates \$625,295
- Increase in water rates and water fees proposed
- Adjustment in environmental health fees proposed
- Use of fund balance tied to Capital Improvements Program (CIP); fully funds CIP items approved for 2007

Major Funds

- General Fund: \$65,472,982
- Water Fund: \$4,583,550
- Waste Management: \$2,548,420

Fund Balance

- Large appropriation in FY 2006; currently \$5,284,411
- Staff estimates we will NOT actually use fund balance, but may have to forego some capital transfers
- Stated goal is 20 percent; should be at 35.87 percent at the end of FY 2006

- Should be earmarked for one-time expenditures; not appropriate for recurring operating expenses

Highlights

- 13 new positions recommended; two existing positions increased to full time
 - 5 positions in public safety
 - 2 positions in planning
 - 2 positions in tax
 - Other positions in MIS, manager's office, water, and social services

Recommendations for Key Departments

- Social Services: \$11,470,737
- Health: \$5,503,704
- Sheriff & Jail: \$5,561,950
- Capital Transfers: \$4,326,476

Chatham County Schools

- \$23,207,699 requested, a 26 percent increase
- Recommendation (\$19,891,055, excluding debt) is based on funding formula, plus earmarking lottery proceeds for eligible capital projects
- Difference is equivalent to 5.2 cents on the tax rate

Administrative Priorities

- Making a Difference through Public Service:
 - Service to Customers and Residents
 - Employee Development and Retention
 - Resource Stewardship
 - Vital Communications

The Chairman opened the floor for public comments on the proposed budget.

Karl Ernst, 711 Red oak Drive, Siler City, NC, asked several questions regarding the budget. He asked the Board to consider rolling back taxes since the fund balance is healthy.

Charlie Johnson, 1430 Sandy Branch Church Road, spoke on behalf of the Council on Aging and asked the Board of Commissioners to support the Council on Aging's budget request.

Deb McManus, 11 Pine Forest Drive, Siler City, NC, spoke on behalf of the Chatham County Schools and asked the Board to support the Board of Education's funding request.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:58 PM.

ATTEST:

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