

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING WITH LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
DECEMBER 20, 2006

The Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in special session with the County's Legislative Delegation at the Flamingo Restaurant, 964 East Street, Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 5:30 PM on December 20, 2006.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Carl Thompson; Vice Chair, George Lucier; Commissioners Patrick Barnes, Mike Cross, and Tom Vanderbeck; County Manager, Charlie Horne; Assistant County Manager, Renee Paschal; and Finance Officer, Vicki McConnell

Also Present: Senator Bob Atwater and NC House of Representative Member Joe Hackney

Dinner was held from 5:30 to 6:30 PM at the Flamingo Restaurant.

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:30. He thanked Senator Atwater and Representative Hackney for all of their efforts to date on the County's behalf and for meeting with the Board of Commissioners to discuss issues for the upcoming legislative session.

Senator Atwater and Representative Hackney made opening remarks.

LAND TRANSFER TAX

Chairman Thompson presented the issue of the land transfer tax. The Board discussed this issue at length with the delegation. Senator Atwater and Representative Hackney pledged their support, but noted that interest groups would likely fight this issue. Both also noted that the State and Local Fiscal Modernization Study Commission would likely provide local governments with a menu of revenue options and that the land transfer tax might be included as one of those options.

RECREATION FEE ISSUE

Assistant Manager, Renee Paschal, presented the recreation fee issue. She explained that county authority, under GS 153A-331, to spend funds generated by the recreation exaction fee was unclear. She stated that Paul Messick, Attorney, had recommended that the County seek a local act to clarify our authority as follows:

Act to clarify the County's authority to impose and spend the recreation fee for both acquisition and development of recreation, park and open space facilities, and for debt service on such land and facilities and to clarify the County's authority to spend the funds within the recreation districts established by the County as within the "immediate area" referred to in the statute.

Representative Hackney indicated that it might be difficult to get this authority. Both he and Senator Atwater pledged their support to introduce the local act.

POYNER-SPRUILL

Vice Chair Lucier moved, seconded by Commissioner Vanderbeck, to approve the Poyner-Spruill Letter of Engagement and retain Poyner-Spruill as the County's interim attorney.

After considerable discussion, the Chairman called the question.

The motion carried three (3) to two (2), with Commissioners Barnes and Cross opposing.

CHATHAM TRADES

Chairman Thompson explained that Chatham Trades had made a request for an advance on next year's allocation if the agency experiences cash flow problems.

Vice Chairman Lucier moved, seconded by Commissioner Vanderbeck, to advance up to \$20,000 of Chatham Trades' FY 2008 allocation during FY 2007, if the agency needs the funds, and that any amount advanced would be deducted from the FY 2008 allocation. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Lucier moved, seconded by Chairman Thompson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Carl Thompson, Chairman

ATTEST:

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