

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 06, 2009

The Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the Agricultural Building Auditorium, 45 South Street, located in Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 9:00 AM on April 06, 2009.

Present: Chairman George Lucier; Vice Chair, Sally Kost; Commissioners Mike Cross, Carl Thompson, and Tom Vanderbeck, County Manager, Charlie Horne; County Attorney, Jep Rose; Finance Officer, Vicki McConnell; and Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Sublett

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 9:07 AM.

AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The County Manager asked that the salary on Consent Agenda Item #10, Approval of Director of Nursing salary in the amount of \$72,000, be corrected to \$73,000.00.

Commissioner Thompson moved, seconded by Commissioner Kost, to approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda with the noted request as follows:

1. **Minutes:** Consideration of a request for approval of Board Minutes for regular meeting held March 16, 2009, work session held March 16, 2009, Summit Meetings held February 04, 2009 and February 05, 2009

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

2. **Resolution Proclaiming “Child Abuse Prevention Month”:** Approval of a request to adopt **Resolution #2009-31 Proclaiming April 2009 as Child Abuse Prevention Month**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

3. **Resolution Proclaiming “Sexual Assault Awareness Month”:** Approval of a request to adopt **Resolution #2009-32 Proclaiming April 2009 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

4. **Chatham County Building Permit Expiration and Refund Policy for Central Permitting Department:** Approval of a request to approve the Chatham County Building Permit Expiration and Refund Policy for the Central Permitting Department, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

5. **Chatham County Housing Authority Appointment:** Approval of a request to appoint Gary Cox to the Chatham County Housing Authority Board

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

6. **CCCC NC Green Building Fund Grant:** Approval of a request to provide a letter of financial commitment to support CCCC's NC Green Building Fund Grant Application, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

7. **Naming of Private Road:** Approval of a request for the naming of a private road in Chatham County as follows: Sylvan Cove Trail

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

8. **COPS Hiring Recovery Program Grant Application:** Approval of a request to apply to the COPS Hiring Recovery Program for a grant in the amount of \$279,826 to fund two new positions in the Sheriff's Office for three years, grant copy attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

9. **Director of Nursing Salary:** Approval of Director of Nursing salary in the amount of ~~\$72,000~~. (The Health Department has a person to fill the position of Director of Nursing. The salary range under the current classification is \$52,864-\$78,104. The midpoint of the salary range \$64,256. The candidate for the slot requests ~~\$72,000~~ to preserve external equity. The request is for authorization to go above step four so that we can offer the job to candidate selected by the Health Department.)

***The salary on this item was amended to read \$73,000.00.**

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

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

There was no one present who wished to make public comments.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS

Employee of the Month: Presentation of April Employee of the Month

Carolyn Miller, Human Relations Director, stated that the Employee of the Month program was instituted in FY 2009 to honor Chatham County employees for exemplary service to citizens and their fellow employees. She explained that the April 2009 Employee of the Month is Nelinda Benitez of the Family Outreach and Support Services Division of the Chatham County Health Department. She stated that Nelinda has been employed with Chatham County for over eight and a half years and is a community social services technician. An excerpt from her nomination form follows:

"Nellie is a Maternal Outreach Worker in the Family Outreach and Support Services Division of the Chatham County Public Health Department. She has been employed with the Chatham County Public Health Department since July 2000 when she began working as an interpreter at the Siler City Clinic site. In November 2002, she began working in her current role as a Maternal Outreach Worker. The Maternal Outreach Worker (MOW) program provides more intensive support services to at risk pregnant and parenting women by extending services beyond the clinical setting. The MOW facilitates access and utilization of medical care, provides health education, emotional support and advocacy services.

Nellie is diligent in her commitment to meet the needs of the children and families to whom she provides MOW services. Nellie's pride in her work is demonstrated by her commitment. I think one of the reasons for her level of commitment is because she genuinely cares for each and every client on her caseload and wants to see them succeed. Nellie's commitment to her clients extends beyond the normal 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. workday, as she often leaves home very early to pick up clients and provide transportation to various community organizations and agencies, and will also work late to meet the client's schedule and return clients home.

Nellie works earnestly to help families access support services and to support families as they endeavor to help themselves and their child(ren). With Nellie's support, and encouragement, these families learn skills to help them know how to access community services. These skills are necessary so that they know how to help themselves when they are no longer eligible for Maternal Outreach Worker services.

Nellie works hard to meet the demands of her job functions and the needs of her individual clients. As a mother of three children, who works full time, she has first-hand knowledge of the struggle to maintain a household while providing for her family. I think because of her ability to relate to the women with whom she works, they trust her and in seeing her abilities, come to believe in themselves and their abilities.

Nellie works extremely well as a member of the care coordination team. As paraprofessionals, the MOWs must work with a family along with a case manager, either a Maternity Care Coordinator or a Child Service Coordinator, who develops a case plan with the family and provides guidance to the MOW regarding the needs of the family. Nellie's co-workers know that she can be counted on to do what she can in working with the family. Her co-workers respect her and have a high opinion of her and her abilities. Nellie consistently demonstrates a high level of performance. This attribute is demonstrated not only by her outstanding pay for performance agreements, but also by her integrity. She is honest and forthright in her communications with her peers, her clients and her supervisor.

Recently there was an incident involving one of her families where Nellie's actions were above and beyond the call of duty. Without going into details, the incident involved a crisis situation with one of her families and Nellie by chance ended up being in the right place at the right time and played a critical role in a situation that could have had a tragic ending. Nellie immediately took control of the situation and reacted quickly and rationally to make critical decisions which were necessary.

I am very proud to have Nellie as an integral part of our team where her positive attitude lifts the attitudes of those around her. I believe she is very deserving of recognition as Chatham County Employee of the Month."

Chairman Lucier congratulated Ms. Benitez and expressed his appreciation, on behalf of the Board, for her work efforts.

Safety Employees of the Quarter: Presentation of the Safety Employees of the Quarter

Marilyn Collins, Safety and Risk Manager, stated that three employees were being honored as Safety Employees of the Quarter. An excerpt from the Safety Committee nomination form follows:

"James Milliken, Leroy Swepson, & Rodney Wiley, Tax Appraisal Office employees, are the 2009 Safety Employees of the Quarter. Each day one of these employees escorts a co-worker to the bank. Their actions help to minimize the risk of robbery and/or assault and protect the safety of employees, as well as the financial resources of the County."

Chairman Lucier expressed appreciation from the Board to each of the recipients of the award.

Guardians of Angels: Presentation of Guardians of Angels by Rev. Terry Dorsey

Reverend Terry Dorsey introduced the concept of building an adoption center for animals in Chatham County. He gave a brief history of *Guardians of Angels* stating that they assist Chatham County in placing homeless cats and dogs in life-long homes, provide resources for affordable spay/neuter and medical care for Chatham County animals, implement education about excellent animal and wildlife care, and assist law enforcement with identifying neglect, abuse, and mistreatment of animals in Chatham County. He stated that this organization takes some of the load off of the Chatham County Animal Shelter; that in the process of spay and neuter of an adoption center, of working with the Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement in the County, they are attacking problems that people do not see (pet over-population, animal crimes, and education about good general animal care); and that that in correlation with Central Carolina Community College, courses are being offered free for sworn officers in legal investigative fighting. He requested time with the Board to talk this through, stating that they really wanted this to be a true partnership.

The Board thanked Reverend Dorsey for his input.

Resolution Honoring the Creation of an Ecotourism Certificate Program:
Approval of a **Resolution Honoring the Creation of an Ecotourism Certificate Program Offered by Central Carolina Community College**

Commissioner Thompson asked to delay this item until Dr. Karen Allen could be in attendance at the Work Session.

MANAGER' S REPORTS

The County Manager reported on the following:

Public Hearing Request to Zoning Board of Adjustment:

Jason Sullivan, Assistant Planning Director, explained that an appeal of a determination by the Zoning Enforcement Officer to the Board of Adjustment was received on April 3rd; and that the Board of Commissioners has 45 days to set a public hearing from the date of the receipt of the appeal.

Jep Rose, County Attorney, stated it would be a quasi-judicial matter and should not be discussed outside of the hearing room by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Kost moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to hold the public hearing on May 04, 2009 by the Board of Adjustment on an appeal of a determination. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

National 9-1-1 Education Month:

Commissioner Kost moved, seconded by Commissioner Vanderbeck to adopt **Chatham County Communications Resolution #2009-33 Establishing April as "National 9-1-1 Education Month"**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Library Board:

Commissioner Kost stated that she was the liaison to the Library Board; that at their Monday meeting, they voted to amend their bylaws; that the five-member board serves six-year terms which are non-recurring; that she would like for the Board of Commissioners to adopt their revised bylaws at the next Board of Commissioners' meeting.

Empowerment:

Commissioner Vanderbeck stated that they had received permission from the Empowerment Board accepting the agreement on the initial affordable housing units in Briar

Chapel; that they were working on a development agreement and a deed of conveyance; that it needs to be formalized at the April 20, 2009 Board of Commissioners' meeting.

Chatham County Interfaith Council:

Commissioner Thompson stated that he had been meeting with members of the community to discuss forming a Chatham County Interfaith Council; that the idea behind the formation is to help meet the basic needs of citizens of Chatham County during the harsh economic times; that they have had several meetings to date; that there has been a lot of interest from churches and citizens throughout the County; that at the last meeting, it was decided by the majority of the group that they should move forward to formalize it; that a subcommittee was appointed to look into establishing the group through a mission statement, goals, etc., and to make a report at the next meeting on May 7, 2009, 6:00 PM, Central Carolina Community College Multipurpose Room; that he invites the public and Commissioners to attend the meeting; that they have good representation from churches of all faiths, the public sector, ethnic groups, etc.; that they expect to attack hunger in Chatham County and needs of clothing, etc.; and that they encourage attendance and invite ideas.

Establishment of Green Building Group:

Chairman Lucier mentioned the establishment of a Green Building Group to make sure that the County was not missing out on federal stimulus funds that might become available; that this was a group that was meeting ad hoc; that they wanted the Board of Commissioners to consider formalizing the group; that he hoped that there would be a more formal proposal at this meeting as to whom would be on the committee and what their formal charge would be; that the basic charge would be to look at ways in which they can effectively complete for economic stimulus funds related to green building and alternative energies. He asked that the County Manager follow-up with Dr. Karen Allen and Jeffrey Starkweather who helped draft the initial proposal; and that it be returned to the April 20, 2009 Board of Commissioners' Work Session.

Joint Meeting with Cary:

The County Manager stated that he had contacted officials, by email, but had not had a response from them regarding a meeting date.

Budget Public Hearings and Budget Work Sessions:

The County Manager explained that proposed dates for budget public hearings and budget work sessions would be suggested at the April 20th Board meeting.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Meeting:

Chairman Lucier stated that Commissioner Vanderbeck and he met with the head inspector of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC); that he shared his responsibilities regarding safety of the Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant; that they talked about a number of things including the government accounting office report about potential safety issues, methodologies, risk assessment, and the process; that it was a worthwhile meeting; that they will follow-up with additional information based on their questions which will be shared with the remainder of the Board and make it public to anyone else who wishes to have the information.

Western Wake Wastewater Partners:

Former Commissioner Barnes stated that the second public hearing on the Project Delivery Team will be held on May 14, 2009 at either 6:00 PM or 7:00 PM in Apex Town Hall; and that this is the Western Wake Wastewater Partners (Cary, Apex, Morrisville, and Holly Springs) regarding the construction or approval of the environmental assessment for the wastewater treatment plant that would be in the New Hope area.

Thelma O'Daniel's Property:

Commissioner Kost asked that Thelma O'Daniel's family subdivision be discussed at the end of the Work Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Thompson moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to adjourn as the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting adjourned at 9:43 AM.

George Lucier, Chairman

ATTEST:

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