

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 05, 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 October 05, 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; Assistant County Manager, Renee Paschal; Vicki McConnell, Finance Officer; Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Sublett; and Deputy Clerk to the Board, Elizabeth Plata

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Thompson asked for special prayer for the family of Margie Ellison who passed away on Friday, October 2nd which, he said, was an unexpected and devastating loss for the County. He 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

Commissioner Vanderbeck asked that the “Presentation of Safety Employees of the Quarter” be moved prior to the “Presentation of the October Employee of the Month”; that the Closed Session be moved to the end of the Work Session; that Work Session Item #2, Lake Jordan Sailing Center Presentation, be postponed until the October 19, 2009 Board of Commissioners’ meeting; and that Work Session Item #3, Performance Contract with Johnson Controls, be postponed until a later date.

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

1. **Minutes:** Approval of Board Minutes for Regular Meeting held September 21, 2009, Work Session held September 21, 2009, Joint Board of Commissioners/Planning Board Meeting held September 02, 2009, Chatham County/Cary Town Council Joint Work Session held September 17, 2009, and Work Session held August 17, 2009

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

2. **American Tobacco Trail:** Approval of agreement with Cary for New Hope Church Trailhead Park and American Tobacco Trail, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

3. **Abandonment of the Right-of-Way (ROW) of Old US Highway #15-1501 from the State Maintained System in Baldwin Township, Chatham County:** Schedule a public hearing for November 2, 2009 to consider the abandonment of the right-of-way (ROW) of Old US Highway 15-1501 from the State Maintained System in Baldwin Township, Chatham County and adopt **Resolution of Intent #2009-63 to Close the Right-of-Way to Secondary Road, Old 15-501**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

4. **Parks and Recreation Appointment:** Approval of request to appoint Lex Alvord to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board by Commissioner Vanderbeck

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

5. **Parks and Recreation Appointment:** Approval of request to appoint Ray Sugg, Jr. to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board by Commissioner Thompson

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

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Lawrence Newlin, 2535 Greenhill Road, Snow Camp, NC, stated that he has property in Chatham and Alamance Counties; that the purpose of his visit concerns residents who may be overwhelmed by some of the Board of Commissioners' agendas as to their property, lives, well-being, and quality of life; that some of this agenda is called "Impact Fees"; that this comes out of the United Nations Agenda 21 because their goal is to take away citizen's property of United States citizens for a new world order; that this is an agenda that seeks a communist takeover of the United States; that this particular leader of the County Commissioners is at one with that agenda; that he doesn't know how everyone feels but he imagines that everyone is not happy with this; that the Impact Fees take away from people's livelihoods, takes away from what they have worked so hard for all their lives; that the Board just wants to crush them; that this Board does not care about anyone except themselves and their buddies; that his second concern regards the sanctuary for illegal aliens; that this also is a Marxist communist agenda of multiculturalism to dilute the culture of this country to crush it, to destroy, it eliminate it; that they want to dilute it with an incompatible culture that causes the people not be able to stand up for what they have worked so hard to fill; that this Board, the Chairman in particular, wants to destroy that; that he is at one with the United Nations communist agenda; that he doesn't care about the ordinary folks in the United States and Chatham County in particular; that the Chairman needs to be voted out because he is doing nothing but damage to the community; that he doesn't care about the people; that he comes from Maryland and doesn't have the citizen's interests in mind; that the people need to stand up for what's right, what they want as a people, and what they have always wanted and valued: liberty, freedom, and free choice; that they do not want oppressive taxation that takes away from their livelihoods; that they do not need criminal, illegal aliens in their community spreading diseases, crime and everything that they do not want. He thanked the Board for their time and consideration.

Chairman Lucier thanked Mr. Newlin for his "not so kind" comments. He stated that with regard to Mr. Newlin's communist charge, this country is a nation of immigrants; that diversity is something that they honor in Chatham County and will continue to honor it as it is a strength; that he has followed his campaign pledges and honored them as he has gone along; that he has done what he said he would do and the people of Chatham County elected him to do it; that whether it comes to schools, time to build economic development, or plan for the County's future in a responsible way, that is what this Board of Commissioners is about and that is what they are doing; that regarding the Impact Fees, Mr. Newlin is sadly misinformed; that the Impact Fees do not address any concern by existing citizens as they are not paid by existing citizens, it is mostly paid by new people coming into the County; that he is also misinformed that the Board is proposing increasing the fee; that they simply have done a study that has determined what the maximum impact fee could be; that there was a public input session held on it; that the Board's question is, if the county needs new schools, how the County should pay for them: Impact Fee, property taxes, or some other mechanism; that they also asked about graduating the Impact Fee within their legal limits; that the only proposal the Board of Commissioners made regarding the Impact Fee was to reduce it if the Land Transfer Tax had passed or eliminate it if the transfer tax was set at 1%; and that Mr. Newlin was sadly misinformed about what the Impact Fee is and what the Board of Commissioners has done about it.

Commissioner Kost stated that she works side-by-side with Chairman Lucier; that Mr. Newlin had mentioned that this was his first Board of Commissioners' meeting and she feels he should attend more of them; that she thinks that what he would find, as he sees this

Board work, that they are working in what they feel is the best interests of the community because they all love the community very much; that he knows how hard the Chairman works; and that she would ask that Mr. Newlin form his opinions based on his own observations and not on second-hand information.

Commissioner Vanderbeck stated that Chairman Lucier does not act alone; that they act as a Board; that he is honored to be a part of this Board; that Mr. Newlin has spoken in the third party “we”; and that he doesn’t know who his “we” is, but he knows who this Board is.

Commissioner Thompson concurred with Commissioner Vanderbeck. He stated that while he thinks it is important for people to speak out and say what is on their mind, he would say that if Mr. Newlin looks at the facts, he will find that what he has been told is not true; that if the Impact Fee was imposed to take away citizen’s rights, then he thinks Mr. Newlin is a little late as it was imposed before this Board came into office; that when they came into office, there was an Impact Fee already here; that he doesn’t know if he had the same comments about prior boards, but the Impact Fee has been in existence for a while; that he may have been referring to an increase in the Impact Fee as opposed to having an Impact Fee; that he just wanted to clarify that issue and also say that he is proud to serve with the Chairman; that it is not an easy job, but he thinks he is doing an outstanding job..

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’ MATTERS

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

Marilyn Collins, Safety and Risk Manager, stated that two employees were being honored as Safety Employees of the Quarter. An excerpt from the Safety Committee nomination form follows: Doris Brady, Administrative Supervisor, Department of Social Services is the 2009 Safety Employee of the Second Quarter. Ms. Brady serves as the agency safety person at Social Services. She has taken the initiative to be proactive instead of reactive. She has developed a safety checklist tool to use when checking the building. She checks offices and hallways weekly for any safety hazards or concerns. If she has a question about something she picks up the phone and calls to get an answer.

Chairman Lucier expressed appreciation from the Board to Ms. Brady for making her department as safe as it can be.

Ms. Brady thanked the Board and stated that she felt like there was more that she could do in addition to her duties at the Department of Social Services; that because safety is an important issue, she wanted to do what she could; that she also considers her good health in making her safety round; that in doing so, she didn’t want to waste time, which would also waste taxpayer’s money. She expressed appreciation to her agency for recognizing her efforts and to the Safety Committee for the award.

Henry Outz has been accident-free since he started with the County in 1988. Mr. Outz is aware of his surroundings both in the field with livestock and heavy equipment; and in the office. He is aware of insect protection, such as ticks, when going out in the field. He inspects the no-till drill so that it is safe for our clients to use and to pull with vehicles. He is attentive to others around him as well as himself when it comes to safety. He is alert to any weather hazards prior to leaving the office to work in the field. He follows all safety rules and procedures as well as being sure others know them. He is active in the Chatham Animal Response Team for the County.

Chairman Lucier expressed appreciation from the Board to Mr. Outz for doing such a great job in the Soil and Water Conservation District stating that he thought the County had one of the best in the State.

Mr. Outz stated that they had an excellent Soil and Water staff. He thanked the Board, those with whom he works, for their recommendation and stated that he wants to continue with his safety record.

Employee of the Month: Presentation of October Employee of the Month

Carolyn Miller, Human Resources 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 October 2009 Employee of the Month is Sadie McLaurin, Deputy Director for Aging Services, of the Chatham County Council on Aging. She stated that Ms. McLaurin has been employed with Chatham County for over fourteen years. An excerpt from her nomination form follows:

“Sadie exemplifies the highest professional, technical and customer service performance as an employee of Chatham County. Her almost fifteen year tenure at her position demonstrates her commitment to Aging Services in Chatham County and to the operation of the Council on Aging on behalf of the citizens.

As the Deputy Director for Aging Services, she has all the financial management responsibilities for the Council on Aging. She manages more than \$1.8 million in cash flow from numerous sources on an annual basis, tracking not only dollars spent but also units of service for a myriad of programs. She is “the” employee for all financial management, accounting and payroll duties. Her performance is audited annually by a public accounting firm, and the management letters have consistently found her work to be accurate and professional. She is also the benefits manager, coordinating and managing all health insurance and vacation / sick benefits for Council on Aging employees.

As a leader at the Council on Aging and key manager for staff at both senior centers, she provides excellent customer service beyond the scope of her primary job responsibilities. She is compassionate toward the needs of our staff and the public, and will always put service and inquiries first, above what she is doing at the moment, to provide assistance, information and support. Sadie is the kind of person who, if she does not know the answer to something, can be relied upon to find solutions and carry situations through to resolutions.

Sadie also shares risk management responsibilities, including not only the insurance portfolio but also actively engaging in staff safety training, client emergency response training, and emergency shelter training and preparation.

Sadie’s patience and humor are demonstrated every day, for sixteen years, as she provides excellent customer service to the citizens, businesses and authorities of Chatham.”

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

Ms. McLaurin stated that it had been a pleasure to work with the County in this capacity; that she was hired by Cassie Wasko years ago; and that she appreciates what the County does for the Council on Aging.

MANAGER’ S REPORTS

The County Manager had no reports.

COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS

October Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

Commissioner Vanderbeck stated that he read the County’s resolution regarding October Domestic Violence Awareness Month; that there was a good turnout. He asked that everyone remember that violent actions deeply affect the community and to do what they can in addressing this crisis in the County.

Volunteer of the Year Awards:

Chairman Lucier stated that he was honored to present the eleven awards for United Way’s Volunteers of the Year; that during these difficult, financial times, the non-profit agencies and volunteers in Chatham County have worked especially hard; that this year it has been even more important because of the pressures they have received from the Department

of Social Services and other agencies; that the demand has far exceeded the ability to deliver some of those services; and that they are very appreciative of the work of the non-profit groups and the volunteers who have provided services that County and State governments have been unable to provide.

JOCCA and Planning Board Vacancies:

Chairman Lucier stated that there were vacancies on both the JOCCA and Planning Boards and appointments would be forthcoming at the October 19, 2009 Board of Commissioners' meeting.

Jack Bennett School Wastewater Permit:

Chairman Lucier stated that on the Jack Bennett School site was approved, the approval for the wastewater permit did not include the school site. He suggested that the paperwork be done so that when the school is built, all permitting will be complete.

Environmental Review Board:

Chairman Lucier stated that he had received comments from the Environmental Review Board on the Joint Chatham/Cary Plan; that they received Plan #5 on which the Board decided to move forward with the public process; that they have comments for the Board; that he and Commissioner Kost will be meeting again with the subcommittee to keep the process going; that the next step in the process will be a community meeting which will then be followed-up with a more formal process with a public hearing, Planning Board review, and Commissioner's final approval.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Thompson moved, seconded by Commissioner Vanderbeck, to adjourn as the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting adjourned at 9:34 AM.

George Lucier, Chairman

ATTEST:

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