

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING WITH LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
JANUARY 15, 1997

The Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in special session for the purpose of meeting with the County's Legislative Delegation to discuss the County's requests for consideration by the General Assembly, in the Fearington House Restaurant, Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 6:30 PM, on January 15, 1997.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chair Margaret B. Pollard, Vice Chair Betty Wilson;
 Commissioners Henry Dunlap, Uva Holland, and John
 Grimes; County Manager, Charlie Horne; County Attorney,
 Robert L. Gunn; Assistant County Manager, Renee Dickson,
 and Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Lee

Also Present: Senators Howard Lee and Ellie Kinnard; NC House of
 Representative Members Joe Hackney, Arlie Culp, and
 Verla Insko

Chairman Pollard called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM, welcomed the Legislative Delegation, and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Chairman Pollard outlined the following Chatham County issues of concern and opened the floor for comments from the Legislative Delegation:

CHATHAM COUNTY ISSUES OF CONCERN

1. Reimbursement for costs incurred to defend Chatham County from the proposed low level nuclear waste site
 - A. local or state wide tax on use of the facility
2. Local bill on sales tax change regarding Cary's movement into the County
3. Annexation law changes
4. Use of impact fee generated funds to also be used as debt service on schools construction
 - A. make sure it applies to municipal construction (impact fees)
5. Use of Certificates of Participation in school construction
6. Issues surrounding the construction/ use of Lee County Regional Airport
7. Revenue generation options
8. Transportation issues
9. Health issues
10. Other

Reimbursement for Costs Incurred for the Proposed Low-Level Nuclear

Waste Site:

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County Manager, Charlie Horne, stated that the Preferred Site Local Advisory Committee (PSLAC) has requested that the County pursue reimbursement of the one million dollars debt incurred in defending the County from the proposed low-level nuclear waste site on the Chatham-Wake County line. He stated that Mary MacDowell, PSLAC Research Coordinator, also encouraged them to consider a state-wide tax on the use of the facility, similar to what South Carolina charges at a rate of \$235.00 per cubic foot of waste, stored at the site.

Local Bill on Sales Tax Change Regarding Cary's Annexation into the County:

A general discussion centered around the possibility of the County being able to get a local bill that would, in effect, retain the sales tax that would normally go to Cary for that part of the Cary population living in Chatham County. As it now stands, a portion of the sales tax that the County would now receive would go to Cary on a per capita basis.

Annexation Law Changes:

A general discussion was held regarding state association county commissioners on annexation laws and their positions. There was no outcome.

Impact Fees:

The Commissioners requested that the Legislative Delegation amend the impact fee bill so that impact fee generated funds could be used to pay debt service on County school construction. It was suggested that an impact tax could be used to generate funds by taxing a percentage of new home construction.

Use of Certificates of Participation in School Construction:

A discussion ensued regarding the ability to use Certificates of Participation in school construction, which is also part of the agenda packet for the Association of County Commissioners.

Issues Surrounding Construction and Use of the Lee County Regional Airport:

A general discussion was held regarding the possibility of infrastructure improvement in the southeast portion of Chatham County in close proximity to the forthcoming Lee County Regional Airport. The Commissioners asked about State assistance to improve the highway access to the new airport.

Revenue Generation Options:

The Commissioners asked that the Legislators pursue other options from the General Assembly to give the County greater opportunities to generate more revenue. Examples include: Entertainment Tax, Land Transfer Tax, Etc.

Transportation Issues, Health Issues, and Others:

These issues were not discussed due to time constraints.

Bond Referendum:

Chairman Pollard thanked the Legislative Delegation for the over seven million dollars generated

from the bond referendum.

Other:

Senator Howard Lee offered to search for an alternative to the sales tax to create some local legislation that would help the County and not adversely affect it with regard to school enrollment and school construction costs.

He also stated that there may be some way for the City of Cary to divert sales tax out of their city and into Chatham County and that he would check into its feasibility.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to be discussed, the Board thanked the Legislative Delegation for its support, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Margaret Bryant Pollard, Chair

ATTEST:

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