

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 3, 1997

The Board of Commissioners ("the Board") of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in regular session in the District Courtroom, located in the Courthouse Annex, Pittsboro, North Carolina, the regular place of meeting, at 10:00 A.M. on February 3, 1997.

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

Absent: Commissioner Uva Holland

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 10:00 A.M.

AGENDA

The Chairman asked if there were addition, deletions or corrections to the Agenda.

Charlie Horne, County Manager, asked that a Closed Session be added to the Agenda as Item #16A; that Item #11, Economic Development Commission Representing the Town of Siler City Appointment, be deferred to another meeting; and that Item #6 be deferred until another meeting, depending upon the advice of the County Attorney.

Commissioner Pollard asked that Appointments to the Land Use Planning Committee be added to the Agenda as Item #13A.

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to approve the Agenda with the noted requests. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

CONSENT AGENDA

The Chairman directed the Clerk to the Board to read the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda as read by the Clerk.

1. **Minutes:** Consideration of approval of Board Minutes for Regular Meeting held January 23, 1997, Legislative Delegation Meeting Minutes for meeting held January 15, 1997, and Work Session Minutes for meeting held January 16, 1997

The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

2. **Tax Releases:** Consideration of a request for approval of Tax Releases, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

3. **Solid Waste Disposal Fees and Regular Tax Bills Paid in Error:** Consideration of a request for approval of refunds for Solid Waste Disposal Fees and Regular Tax Bills paid in error, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

4. **Resolution Extending the Cable Television Franchise:** Consideration of a resolution extending the cable television franchise to June 30, 1997, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

James Hadley, 321 Rectory Street, Pittsboro, NC, expressed concern and frustration regarding a small group of minorities not receiving adequate help through the County's social agencies.

Randy Voller, 28 Willow Terrace, Chapel Hill, NC, presented the Board with a map showing Chatham Drive Extension in Highland Forest located in North Chatham County. He brought to the Board's attention that Chatham Drive Extension has been graveled since August and paved for over two months; that the extension provides two roads to enter and exit Highland Forest and the adjacent subdivision, Daniel Ridge; that the new road makes it easier in normal and especially inclement weather for residents, emergency, and County vehicles to travel to and from these developments; that this new situation will be safer for all parties; that Voller Realty & Construction, LTD. working with some of the homeowners built and paid for this road; that they hope the new access will serve the County and its residents well.

Hilda Glosson, Chatham County Housing Authority, PO Box 637, Pittsboro, NC, asked that the Board consider consolidating the Work First (DSS), Job Link One Stop (JOCCA), and Family Self-Sufficiency (Housing Authority) committees due to efforts in trying to save time, energy, and be more efficient and effective for Chatham County. Stating that Commissioner Holland presently serves on the Job Link committee and Chairman Pollard serves on the Family Self-Sufficiency committee, she asked if they would both like to continue to serve on their respective committees, or if the Board preferred to have one Commissioner represent the Board on the combined committee.

PUBLIC WORKS

- Solid Waste Division

- Modular Building for Solid Waste Division: Consideration of a request to award a contract to Modular Technologies, Inc. for a modular office building for the Solid Waste Division of Public Works

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to award the purchase of the 28' x 52' office building to Modular Technologies, Inc., Kinston, NC, for the purchase price of \$44,936. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

TAX DEPARTMENT

- **Tax Payer Appeal for Interest Charged:** Consideration of a request by a tax payer to approve an appeal for interest charged on 1996 taxes for failure of payment arriving at Tax Office with properly dated postmark

Mr. Warren Strowd stated that he mailed his tax payment envelope at the U. S. Postal Service Center in Pittsboro during the evening hours on Sunday, January 5, 1997 at the inside postal receptacle. He stated that he received a letter from the tax collector, postmarked January 8, 1997, stating that she had received his tax bill on January 7, 1997 when she removed the mail from the postal box on Tuesday morning. He stated that the

tax payment envelope had to be in the proper place in order for the tax collector to pick it up on January 7, 1997. He stated that he does not feel liable for the tax payment envelope not receiving the proper postmark, as it was in the proper place at the proper time in order to receive the correct postmark. He asked that the Commissioners give consideration to his request that the non-dated envelope be included within the January 6, 1997 deadline.

Clinton Bryan, stated that he had always had a very satisfactory working relationship with the Chatham County Tax Department. Speaking on behalf of Mr. Strowd, he stated that he had conferred with the Lee County Tax Department who said that they would consider anything picked up from the US Postal Service on the deadline date at the post office to be considered arriving on time, with or without a postal stamp.

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to deny consideration of the release of the interest, based on the recommendation of County Attorney, Robert L. Gunn and based on the law. The motion carried four (4) to (0).

FINANCE

- **Proposal to Provide Consulting Services for Possible Increased Sales Tax Distribution:** Consideration of a request to approve a proposal from Dixon, Odom and Company to provide consulting services for possible increased sales tax distribution to the County

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to accept the proposal from Dixon, Odom & Company, LLP, to provide consulting services with regard to Sales Tax Refund Claims made by non-profit and other governmental agencies within Chatham County. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

PREFERRED SITE LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PSLAC)

- **Preferred Site Local Advisory Committee Mid-Year Follow-Up Report:** Presentation of the mid-year follow-up report and assessment of the Preferred Site Local Advisory Committee's mission and budget

Mary MacDowell, PSLAC Research Coordinator, reviewed the scenarios of possible project status over the fiscal year and PSLAC's recommended Chatham County response.

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to approve PSLAC's

recommendation of an appropriate level of effort depending on state project's status including termination if project is abandoned and to authorize the carry-over of left-over consulting funds from the FY 1996-97 PSLAC budget and the funds be carried over and reappropriated for the FY 1997-98 budget year with the understanding that the funds be used for consulting purposes. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

Ms. MacDowell stated that at the last meeting of the generators with the compact, they stated that they were committed to having all of their meetings in North Carolina. She stated that it will now be a lot easier for them to attend the meetings; that there was a range of ideas proposed by generators as to how to fund this; that they ranged from "outrageous" to "scary"; that they proposed having North Carolina pay for completion of the licensing and the litigation expenses and then have the generators pick up afterward or have Chem-Nuclear fund construction; that they also proposed opening up the North Carolina site to other compacts and getting other states to come in and to pay for this additional cost; that the Connecticut has actually offered the State of Texas one hundred million dollars which is the approximate amount of money that they need to get into the Texas compact; that Texas refused, mainly because they wish to have complete control of the use of their compact; that there is a possibility that they may make the same offer to North Carolina which would solve their total financial problem.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Domiciliary Home Community Advisory Committee: Consideration of an appointment to the Domiciliary Home Community Advisory Committee

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to appoint Sheryl Dupont to the Domiciliary Home Advisory Committee. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

~~**Economic Development Commission Representing the Town of Siler City Appointment:**~~
~~Consideration of an appointment to the Economic Development Commission representing the Town of Siler City~~

This item was removed from the Agenda.

Chatham County Housing Authority Appointments: Consideration of two appointments to the Chatham County Housing Authority by Commissioner Pollard and Commissioner Holland

Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to appoint Mike Clements to the Chatham County Housing Authority. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

Due to Commissioner Holland's absence, she will make her appointment to this committee at a later date.

Chatham County Planning Board: Consideration of an appointment to the Chatham County Planning Board by Commissioner Pollard

Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to appoint Clara Ephriam to the Planning Board. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

Chatham County Land Use Advisory Committee: Consideration of an appointment to the Chatham County Planning Board by Commissioner Pollard

Commissioner Pollard moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to appoint Gary Cox and Brian Thompson to the Land Use Advisory Committee. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

Chatham County Travel & Tourism Board Appointment to the Chatham County United Chamber of Commerce Board: Consideration of a Chatham County Travel & Tourism Board appointment to the Chatham County United Chamber of Commerce Board

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to appoint Jennifer Nelson of the Chatham County United Chamber of Commerce to the Chatham County Travel and Tourism Board. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

MANAGER' S REPORTS

The County Manager informed the Commissioners of the following:

Chapel Hill Town Council Meeting:

1) Meeting with the Chapel Hill Town Council and the Board of Commissioners, March 13, 1997 at 6:00 PM, Public Library, Chapel Hill, NC.

Flood Control Ordinance:

2) Flood Control Insurance Ordinance - The Manager asked for direction from the Board as to what direction they would like to take, in regard to the Flood Control Insurance Ordinance. He reviewed specifics regarding elevations, how to handle extraterritorial jurisdictions of the towns in the County, and specific provisions of the ordinance what to use to adopt the ordinance. Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance necessary for County to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Keith Megginson stated that he did not recommend that the Commissioners participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. He stated that he felt as though it was counter productive in preventing flood damage. He addressed the following issues: 1) Currently if the County does not participate in the flood program, people cannot get Farmer's Home, Veteran's Administration, and Federal Housing Administration or conventional loans sold on the secondary market to build within a floodable area; 2) He feels that the Federal Government is encouraging participation in the Flood Insurance Programs so that premiums received from areas of infrequent flooding may be used for claims in the areas of frequent damage; 3) That it will be up to individuals to hire consultants to establish base flood elevations.

It was a consensus of the Board to participate in Flood Insurance Program.

FY 1997-98 Budget:

FY 1997-98 Budget - A discussion of the FY 1997-98 budget and performance budgeting ensued.

BREAK

The Chair called for a five-minute break.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

There were no Commissioner reports.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

~~EMS Bad Debt Accounts: Consideration of a request to approve a contract with National Revenue Corporation for collection of EMS bad debt accounts~~

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to remove the EMS Bad Debt Accounts item from the Agenda. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to go out of Regular Session and into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to go out of Closed Session and reconvene in Regular Session. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

LUNCH RECESS

Lunch with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service: The N.C. Cooperative Extension Service Annual Report will be presented to the Commissioners

during a luncheon held in the Agricultural Building Auditorium from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 P.M.

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to recess the meeting to a luncheon with the Cooperative Extension Service to hear a presentation of the North Carolina Extension Service Annual Report. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

An oral report focusing on organic production was presented by Mark O'Farrell. A brief written report highlighted accomplishments of the total 1996 Extension program.

REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to reconvene in Regular Session. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

A. On-Site Visit to Firing Range: Visit to the Sheriff's Department Firing Range

The Commissioners made an on-site visit to the Chatham County Firing Range where they witnessed a training exercise in qualification of service weapons by officers of the Chatham County Sheriff's

Department.

B. Fencing Around Firing Range: Consideration of a request to approve the use of two gates to secure the firing range and to obtain electricity for firing range

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to approve the use of two gates to secure the firing range and to obtain electricity for the firing range. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

ADJOURNMENT

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Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap, that there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Margaret Bryant Pollard, Chair

ATTEST:

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

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