

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 17, 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 7:00 P.M. on February 17, 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, Reneé Dickson;
and Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Lee

Absent: Commissioner Uva Holland

Chairman Pollard stated that she had spoken with Commissioner Holland who stated that she would be unable to attend the night’s meeting. She stated that she knew those in attendance joined with the Commissioners in wishing her a very speedy recovery.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:01 P.M.

AGENDA

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

Charlie Horne, County Manager asked that a report by Cassie Wasko, Director of Council on Aging, regarding The Laurels of Chatham nursing home be added to the Agenda as Item #10A; that Items #17, Bad Debt Write-Off for General Health Services and Home Health Divisions of the Health Department, Item #19, Economic Development Commission Appointments, and Item #21, Combining of Work First, Job Link One Stop, and Family Self-Sufficiency Committees be removed from the Agenda.

Commissioner Grimes asked that an appointment to the Orange-Person-Chatham Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Authority (OPC) Appointment be added to the Agenda as Item #20A.

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 Dunlap, 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

February 3, 1997

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

2. **Resolution #97-07 to Proclaim February 16-22, 1997 as Health Educators Week:** Consideration to approve Resolution to Proclaim February 16-22, 1997 as Health Educators Week in Chatham County

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

3. **Acceptance of Additional Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) Funds:** Consideration to accept \$1,232 in additional funds from the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) of the NC Department of

Environment, Health & Natural Resources (DEHNR), **Budget Amendment #11**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

4. **Acceptance of Additional March of Dimes Funds:** Consideration to accept \$1,500 in additional funds from the March of Dimes, **Budget Amendment #12**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

5. **Acceptance of Special Appropriation from Child Development Division of the NC Department of Human Resources:** Consideration to accept \$5,000 in a special appropriation from the Child Development Division of the NC Department of Human Resources, **Budget Amendment #13**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

6. **Resolution #97-08 to Request Public School Energy Costs Be Fully Funded by the State:** Consideration to approve Resolution to Request Public School Energy Costs Be Fully Funded by the State, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

7. **Resolution #97-09 to Assist Local Governments in Reducing Costs of Emergency Medical Service:** Consideration to approve Resolution to Assist Local Governments in Reducing Costs of Emergency Medical Service, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

8. **Resolution #97-10 for State Fiscal Responsibility for Unfunded Mandates:** Consideration to approve Resolution for State Fiscal Responsibility for Unfunded Mandates (For State of North Carolina to Assume Financial Responsibility and Liability for All Social Programs)

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

9. **Request to Approve Purchase of Land by the Chatham County Board of Education:** Consideration to approve a request by the Chatham County Board of Education to purchase 1.25 acres of land needed for future use as a right-of-way for 46 acres off Alston Bridge Road

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

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Michael Randall, 1304 Old Graham Road, Pittsboro, NC, President of the Chatham Humane Society, stated that he feels with the oncoming rabies epidemic in Chatham County and the need for more animal control enforcement that now would be a good time to institute a dog and cat licensing with a price break for the animals that have been spayed or neutered.

Lynn Stephenson, 129 Lonna Court, Pittsboro, NC, stated that as a resident of Chatham County for five years, that she has become aware of the inaccessibility of the animal shelter to the residents of the County especially for those who work out of town. She asked that extra funds be

allocated to add staff to the animal shelter so that the shelter can be open on the weekends or weekdays after regular hours.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Public Hearing

Community Development Block Grant Business Loan Project: Public hearing to receive public comment on the Community Development Block Grant Business Loan Project sponsored by Chatham County for the construction and startup of a steel fabrication plant by Sanford Steel in the Town of Goldston

There was no one who wished to speak during the public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant Business Loan Project.

CHATHAM COUNTY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PRESENTATION

Chatham County Health Improvement Project (CCHIP): Presentation on the Chatham County Health Improvement Project (CCHIP) by Meg Molloy, CCHIP Coordinator

Meg Molloy, Chatham Community Health Improvement Project (CCHIP) Coordinator, provided an update of the CCHIP program, disseminated "The Health of Chatham" draft report for review, and described the next steps of the project. She discussed the opportunities for assuring priority setting, action planning, and implementation of steps for improved health in the county that may be conducted in a coordinated and inclusive manner.

Animal Control Officer (ACO) Position: Consideration of a request to approve expansion of a 25% Animal Control Officer (ACO) I position to 100% effective March 7, 1997

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap, to approve the expansion of a 25% Animal Control Officer I position to 100% effective March 7, 1997. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

Wayne Sherman, Chatham County Health Director, introduced Randee Linke as the new Chatham County Animal Control Supervisor.

Overtime Pay for Animal Control Officers:

Wayne Sherman indicated that his current animal control personnel have worked very hard and a lot of extra hours to help control the rabies epidemic now found in the domestic animal population in Chatham County. He asked that he be allowed to compensate these personnel with overtime pay for this work from September, 1996 for Randee Linke and from November, 1996 for the other two animal control officers through February, 1997 which comes to a total of \$2,640.94. He proposed to use the funds from his currently budgeted salary line item for this pay.

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Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to allow the Health Director to pay overtime in the amount of \$2,640.94 to the Animal Control Supervisor and two other animal control officers, funds to be taken from his currently budgeted salary line item. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Child Abuse Reduction Effort (C.A.R.E.): Presentation by the Randolph County Sheriff's Department on child abuse - CHILD ABUSE REDUCTION EFFORT (C.A.R.E)

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Sgt. Dennis Harrelson, C.A.R.E. Coordinator with the Randolph County Sheriff's Department, explained that the Child Abuse Reduction Effort (C.A.R.E.) program in Randolph County has taken a giant first step toward the care and protection of children, the community, and world, in a united effort to make this a better place to be. He stated that Randolph County's officers have gone beyond the call of duty, to motivate by genuine love and concern, to protect the future by guarding their children; that the sixteen week program is taught by specially trained, uniformed law enforcement officers; that through C.A.R.E., second graders, their teachers, and parents all learn to identify abuse; that the curriculum is well-designed and expertly taught; that the program promotes wellness and safety through several teaching strategies; that it gives the child the means to recognize abuse; that it lets the child know that they have a right to feel safe at all times, and gives the child a network of trusted adults to tell if abuse occurs; that C.A.R.E. is also used as a deterrent to any possible abuser because they are aware that the child has gained knowledge through C.A.R.E. to help protect themselves; that second graders really love C.A.R.E., not just because of the teaching materials, such as drawing, coloring, playing games or "Carey" the puppet, but because of the sincere concern of the C.A.R.E. officer; that the enthusiasm of students, parents, teachers, and principals is equaled if not exceeded by that of C.A.R.E. officers; that in training, they are challenged to professionalism, commitment to C.A.R.E. , and a commitment to young people; that as C.A.R.E. officers, they not only believe in it, they live it.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Laurels of Chatham:

Cassie Wasko, Council on Aging Director, explained that she was speaking on behalf of a group of family members who have older adults in The Laurels of Chatham nursing home. She stated that this group has been meeting since June, 1996 trying to find a solution to the problems which they perceived were occurring at The Laurels; that the Division of Facility Services (DFS), the state's regulatory agency, has made several visits in the last year because of the complaints received; that a report dated February 6 and released this week indicates that there are serious problems and the nursing home has been given several ultimatums by DFS; that remedies will be recommended for imposition by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) Regional Office if The Laurels has not achieved substantial compliance by February 28, 1997.

Ms. Wasko stated that the family group members are requesting that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners send letters to the Division of Facility Services, Chatham County's legislative delegation and the nursing home corporate offices regarding this matter.

Commissioner Dunlap moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that letters be written to the Division of Facility Services commending the agency on its investigative efforts and ask them to keep the Board apprised of the nursing home administration's efforts to comply, a letter to Chatham County's legislative delegation informing them aware of the serious nature of the issues and encourage them to support legislation to impose greater requirements that nursing homes provide quality, life-sustaining care to the residents, and a letter to the nursing home corporate offices emphasizing the need for quality care in a nursing home facility for Chatham County residents and strongly encouraging compliance. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

PLANNING AND ZONING

Request for Subdivision Sketch Approval for Subdivision of Eric Schwartz: Consideration of a request by Mr. Eric Schwartz for subdivision sketch approval for subdivision currently known as Subdivision of Eric Schwartz consisting of 9 lots on approximately 49.7 acres off SR #1700 (Pea Ridge Road) in New Hope Township

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to grant sketch design approval as submitted **with the condition that the private road right-of-way be extended to the 60.94 acre tract to the west belonging to Dr. Page Anderson and that a sign be posted stating that a road may be extended in the future.** The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

Request for Revision to Section H of Conditional Use Permit as Planned Unit Development by Carolina Meadows: Consideration of a request by Carolina Meadows for a revision to Section H of their conditional use permit as a planned unit development

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap, to approve the revisions to condition H. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

Request for Revised Detailed Sketch Design to Governors Village Apartments: Consideration of

a revised detailed sketch design to Governors Village Apartments

- Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to grant approval of the sketch plan. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

- **Chatham County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance:** Consideration of the Chatham County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

- Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to adopt the Chatham County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

~~**Bad Debt Write-Off for General Health Services and Home Health Divisions of the Health Department:** Consideration of a request to approve the bad debt write-off for the General Health Services and Home Health Divisions of the Health Department~~

- This item was removed from the Agenda.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

~~**Economic Development Commission Appointments:** Consideration to appoint three members to the Economic Development Commission~~

This item was removed from the Agenda.

Chatham County Housing Authority Appointment: Consideration to appoint a member to the Chatham County Housing Authority by Commissioner Holland

Chairman Pollard stated that when she had spoken with Commissioner Holland, she had asked that Robert Scurlock be appointed to the Chatham County Housing Authority.

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to appoint Robert Scurlock to the Chatham County Housing Authority to serve until March 5, 2000. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

Orange-Person-Chatham Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Authority (OPC) Appointment: Consideration to appoint a member to the Orange-Person-Chatham Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Authority (OPC) Committee

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to appoint Bessie Hedrick to the Orange-Person-Chatham Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Authority Committee. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MATTERS

~~**Combining of Work First, Job Link One Stop, and Family Self-Sufficiency Committees:** Consideration to combine Work First, Job Link One Stop, and Family Self-Sufficiency Committees~~

- This item was removed from the Agenda.

MANAGER'S REPORTS

Work Session Dates:

The County Manager stated that he would like to look at possible dates on which to hold short work sessions on different issues and set priorities in the County; and that one of the first sessions would be on the water system project and to invite Hobbs and Upchurch Engineers to join the meeting.

Commissioners agreed by consensus that the meeting would be held on March 12, 1997 from 1:00 till 4:00 PM with March 10, 1997 as a back-up date.

Budget:

The County Manager stated that the staff is still hard at work on the new budget; that he hopes that the preliminary budget will ready by mid to late March; that it will be ready to be distributed County-wide in April.

ATTORNEY REPORTS

- County Attorney Robert Gunn explained that the County filed suit last week on behalf of the Health Department regarding alleged failure to properly feed and bury dead cattle and requested a restraining order allowing the Animal Control Officer to do what is needed in order to properly care for the cattle.

Attorney Gunn also stated that there will be a decision rendered either Thursday or Friday of this week regarding Hearn versus Chatham County to determine whether the Health Director's decision regarding his recommendation of the State Personnel Commission will be upheld.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Wilson stated that she and Chairman Pollard would be attending a district county commissioners meeting in Durham on Tuesday, March 18, 1997.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

- Chatham County Sheriff, Don Whitt, distributed new booklets on drug abuse informing the reader of the different sections/departments within the Sheriff's Department and stated that merchants bore the cost of the booklet so there was no cost to the County for their preparation.

Chairman Pollard thanked the Sheriff for the many instances of collaboration and cooperation between the Randolph and Chatham County Sheriff Departments.

Sheriff Whitt introduced the Randolph County Sheriff, Litchard D. Hurley and thanked him for his efforts in sending Sgt. Harrell to Chatham County for the night's C.A.R.E. presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that there being no further

business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0), and the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Margaret Bryant Pollard, Chair

ATTEST:

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