

**MINUTES**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**WORK SESSION**  
**APRIL 19, 2010**

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The Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the Henry H. Dunlap Building Classroom, 80 South Street, located in Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 2:00 PM on April 19, 2010.

Present: Chair, Sally Kost; Vice Chair, George Lucier;  
Commissioners Mike Cross, Carl Thompson,  
and Tom Vanderbeck

Staff Members Present: Charlie Horne, County Manager; Jep Rose,  
County Attorney; Vicki McConnell, Finance  
Officer; Sandra B. Sublett, Clerk to the Board;  
and Elizabeth Plata, Deputy Clerk to the Board

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the Work Session to order at 2:00 PM.

**Agenda**

1. **Rocky River Heritage Foundation Update:** The group will report on Foundation activities to date.
2. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory:** This is a joint effort report from UNC and Duke students researching greenhouse emissions in Chatham County. This will be an update of the group’s work.
3. **Judicial Building Discussion:** Discussion of up-fit of shell space in new judicial building for a third courtroom and related offices. Prior to the courthouse fire, the second floor of the new judicial building was to be left as shell space for a future courtroom:
  - A. Cost estimates--Presentation of preliminary cost estimates for second floor up-fit.
  - B. Architect contract amendment - Consideration of a contract amendment, required by funder USDA, with judicial center architects Corley, Redfoot and Zack to undertake the design work for the second floor up fit.
4. **Task Force to Study the Use of the Courthouse:** Discussion and consideration to create a task force to make recommendations as to how the courthouse will be used.
  - A. Representation of the task force
  - B. Charge to this group and
  - C. Timeline in which this group will do its work
5. **Public Insurance Adjuster Contract:** Approval of a contract to retain a public adjuster to represent the county’s interests in the courthouse insurance settlement

6. **Proposed Courthouse Documentary:** Discussion regarding possible funding and coordination of a proposed documentary on the history, fire and rebuilding of the courthouse, including a report on possible funding sources, community involvement and volunteer assistance
7. **Town of Pittsboro's Request to Establish a Steering Committee:** Review of a request from the Town of Pittsboro to have the County participate in the highway element of the Town's transportation plan

### **ROCKY RIVER HERITAGE FOUNDATION UPDATE**

Clyde Miller, representing the Rocky River Heritage Foundation, described the Foundation as a small, close-knit, 501-C3, all-volunteer organization with a sister organization, FORR (Friends of the Rocky River). The two have separate but overlapping boards, he said, and their primary goal is to preserve and maintain the Rocky River. Mr. Miller explained that 88 percent of Rocky River is in Chatham County and its watershed covers about 34 percent of the county. The river has significant natural habitat, he said, noting that it is within the top 15 percent of rivers to be protected nationally.

Mr. Miller stressed the importance of protecting the river's aquatic species and pointed out that some are endangered. He explained that large blooms of algae destroy fish habitat and destroy boating in late summer. Most of that is caused by the Siler City Wastewater Treatment Plant, he said, but noted that 52 sludge deposit sites within that water basin also cause problems. Mr. Miller mentioned three ways to clean the river:

- Upgrade the wastewater treatment plant.
- Conduct a study of the watershed to determine where the other nutrients are coming from.
- Implement recommendations from the Triangle Land Conservancy, such as having more access points and linear parks along the river.

Mr. Miller gave the following PowerPoint presentation:

## Welcome to the Rocky River



### **The River Chatham County Can Call Its Own!**

Chair Kost asked about the status of a project to monitor the river and identify what was causing the algae overload. Mr. Miller indicated a report in Commissioners' packets regarding primary research that the Foundation had funded. One study, undertaken by John Alderman, would be completed in July 2010, he said. Mr. Miller noted that the Foundation had also financed water quality studies by the NC State University Water Quality Group.

Commissioner Lucier verified that the John Alderman study was focused on the biological health of the Rocky River in comparison to other rivers, while the NC State study was a chemical analysis. He asked if there was sufficient background information to establish a trend. Mr. Miller replied that getting enough adequate data had been a problem. He said the Foundation had protested a permit that the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) had given to the Siler City Reservoir because they wanted a study done of the whole river. The DWQ did not agree to rescind the permit, but they did give the order that something needed to be done for Rocky River, Mr. Miller said.

Commissioner Lucier asked if Dr. Fountain of NC State was involved with the study, and Mr. Miller replied that Dr. Fountain was the lead. With Dr. Fountain's help, they plan to look at the reservoir first and then at the rest of the river, he said.

Commissioner Lucier congratulated the Foundation for working through the issues in order to get the kind of information needed. He ascertained that 55 percent of the 66 percent of Chatham County that was not in the Rocky River watershed was in the Haw River watershed, and approximately 15 percent was in the Deep River watershed. Commissioner Lucier verified that about 85 percent of the water that runs below Loves Creek is coming from the Siler City Wastewater Treatment Plant under drought conditions.

Commissioner Lucier noted that many of Chatham County's ordinances were designed to protect the Rocky River. He asked if the Foundation was pleased with what the County had done. Mr. Miller replied that it was absolutely the right direction and a wonderful first step. However, the Foundation would like more, he said, adding that he was not opposed to putting zoning in the entire watershed.

Sonny Keisler directed the Board's attention to the Foundation's executive summary. He praised the goals of the NC State study and highlighted some of the other endeavors that were underway.

Commissioner Lucier asked if having an access point off the business campus had been looked at in terms of how tractable it would be, what would be the best location, and where it would lead. The County Manager replied that the ultimate goal was to have an access with walking trails round the river.

Commissioner Lucier recommended looking at that access now. Chair Kost suggested looking again at whether the County survey of lots at the business park had allowed for continuing County ownership of the walking trails. It would be good to have that information before they begin selling lots, she said. Commissioner Vanderbeck remarked that having walking trails would make the area more desirable. Commissioner Lucier agreed, noting that it would increase awareness among those who work there of the need to protect the river.

Commissioner Lucier noted that a 319 grant application was due April 29, 2010. He made the following motion:

Commissioner Lucier moved, seconded by Commissioner Vanderbeck, that the County Board of Commissioners write a letter in support of the Rocky River Foundation 319 Grant to North Carolina State University. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

### **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY**

Cynthia Van Der Wiele introduced Betsy McCorkle, a 2010 master's degree candidate at Duke University and Amanda Campbell, a 2010 master's degree candidate at UNC, to make the following presentation.

Ms. McCorkle began by noting that she had addressed the Board in December 2009 and had incorporated some of their suggestions when arriving at a final gas emissions baseline for Chatham County. She pointed out that greenhouse gases were not inherently bad, since they keep the earth warm enough for humans to live on, but the problem was that they have increased by 35 percent since the Industrial Revolution.

Commissioner Lucier ascertained that the 1.9 billion vehicle miles traveled within Chatham County and 1.2 million tons of resulting carbon dioxide include emissions from cars driving through the County, not just Chatham County residents.

Chair Kost ascertained that dairy cows create more greenhouse gas than beef cattle because of the concentration of their feed. Commissioner Lucier ascertained that all of the numbers were carbon dioxide equivalents and had been converted. Commissioner Vanderbeck verified that emissions created within Chatham County were considered part of the County's inventory regardless of where they went afterward. Commissioner Vanderbeck verified that Ms. McCorkle's assertion that seven percent of the commercial sector's greenhouse gases are attributable to County government activities was based on 2009 data.

Ms. Campbell gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Carbon Balance in Forestry and Agricultural Soils (Current and potential storage and sequestration)".

Commissioner Lucier ascertained that 72 million tons of carbon had been sequestered in the County's forests and that the annual growth was about equal to the annual harvest. He asked how much more Chatham County would sequester if they never cut a tree for a year, and Ms. Campbell agreed to return with that information.

Commissioner Lucier wondered how the ratio between what had been used and what had been sequestered in the forest compared across counties. Ms. McCorkle replied that Durham and Orange Counties had not published a land use inventory.

Commissioner Lucier pointed out that several studies had indicated that residential development uses 10 times more fertilizer (and herbicides) per acre than agricultural does. He recommended placing more focus on changing residential use. For economic reasons, farmers do not fertilize nearly as much as homeowners who want their grass to be greener than their neighbors', he said. Commissioner Lucier expressed concern about compact developments because that is where the competition for green grass is strongest. Ms. Campbell agreed that this was an issue. She also agreed that it would be interesting data to have, but said it was a shortfall in the data that was currently available.

Commissioner Vanderbeck inquired about wood products, and Ms. Campbell replied that there were many protocols for measuring carbon for different products, such as wall board versus paper. Commissioner Vanderbeck wondered about the carbon market (\$10 per ton over 20 years) and asked about the life cycle of loblolly versus hardwood. Ms. Campbell replied that her research was based on loblolly. The number would be different with different forest sites, she said.

Chair Kost pointed out that this would be good information to have as the County updates its land use plan. She thanked Ms. McCorkle and Ms. Campbell on behalf of the Board of Commissioners for the outstanding work that they had done.

### **JUDICIAL BUILDING DISCUSSION**

The County Manager asked the Board to consider beginning construction on the new courthouse this fall. Chair Kost noted that a cost estimate for doing so had been put at each Commissioner's place.

Vicki McConnell, the County finance officer, reminded Commissioners that they had discussed finding a new source of revenue. The County was in the process of trying to secure stimulus money from the USDA, she said, adding that it would be a 40-year, low interest loan. This should enable the County to rebuild the jail and finish the second floor without any new source of revenue, Ms. McConnell said.

Chair Kost verified that the interest rate was a little lower than it would be in the private bond market. And the term is better, Ms. McConnell said, but she cautioned that the numbers before the Board were rough.

Chair Kost noted that the Board had already discussed the need for the courts to be intricately involved in whatever they decide as they move forward with planning.

Commissioner Lucier ascertained that courtrooms and offices would be on the third floor. Chair Kost verified that it would take 18-months, from start to build-out of the judicial center. She noted that the courthouse restoration would have to be completed in three years since the insurance money would have to be spent within that timeframe.

Commissioner Lucier noted that the new judicial building would be completed by about January 2012. The circle courthouse would be restored by the summer of 2013, he said.

Chair Kost said that staff wanted the Board to decide today whether or not to have the architect start the design process. Commissioners discuss how the design [process would slow the start date for the new judicial building down by two months or less]. Ms. McConnell said she was not sure they could start building without having the final plans for the second story. Commissioner Cross pointed out that it would be months before they would get past the first floor, so there should be plenty of time to do the architectural planning,

Judge Allen Baddour noted that the first floor offices would be where conversations among stakeholders would occur. He said they might need some input from stakeholders about what the courtroom would look like, such as room size and whether or not to add another courtroom, but not about complicated design ideas.

Commissioner Lucier expressed concern about slowing down the construction start date. They were under duress due to the fire and the resulting shortage of space, he said, and a delay might mean an extra six months of the court system being in an awkward situation.

Judge Baddour said he was not advocating for anything, but did not want to give the impression that they would have to go through months and months of stakeholder review. They could narrowly focus, he said.

Chair Kost verified that they could have the architect do the design, then meet with the stakeholders, and bid the second floor work as an alternate. Public Works Director David Hughes pointed out that this would mean spending some design money. Chair Kost noted that the money would not be wasted since the design work would still be valid even if they had to wait for three years.

Commissioner Lucier, noting that he was not advocating this idea, wondered if the second floor could be a superior courtroom. Mr. Hughes replied that the architect thought it could handle a larger space. However, they were not exactly sure how much space a superior courtroom would require, said Mr. Hughes.

Chair Kost asked if the Board wanted to go ahead and proceed with amending the architect's contract and deciding on when they would send it out to bid as an alternate.

Commissioner Lucier moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to amend the architect's bid to work on the shell space in the new judicial building and to not delay the r the bid process or the ground breaking for the judicial building.

Chair Kost verified with Ms. McConnell that there was money in the budget to handle this.

The Chair called the question. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

### **BREAK**

The Chair called for a short break.

### **TASK FORCE TO STUDY REBUILDING OF THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE**

The County Manager introduced the topic and noted that the Board had agreed to have thorough citizen involvement, a specific charge, and a specific time period for feedback. He said that due to a shortage in staffing, staff was recommending having a facilitator work with the taskforce. The Manager introduced Warren Miller, president of Fountainworks, a consulting firm based in Raleigh.

Chair Kost explained that Board members wanted to decide today what the taskforce would look like, rather than who the actual committee members would be. She noted that each Commissioner had before him a draft of potential representation. Chair Kost recommended first coming to an agreement about the process and then discussing possible representation of various interests on the taskforce.

Mr. Miller presented a “game plan chart,” which included an ultimate mission of the taskforce, some of the issues the taskforce would address, the composition of who would be on it, and the various teams and resources. He indicated the steps in the process, the success factors, and the evaluation measures. Mr. Miller said that much of what was on the chart had come from conversations with staff and Commissioner Kost. He asked the Board to modify or add to it, noting that he would help facilitate that conversation.

Mr. Miller said the proposed mission was to identify a multipurpose function for the courthouse that would be an optimal combination of uses. He listed some of the things that the taskforce should address:

- How to make the space flexible
- How much to retrofit the space for technology
- Handicap accessibility
- How to accommodate pedestrian traffic in the circle
- Parking
- Signage improvements
- How to incorporate specific needs of county courtroom functions in the final recommendations.

Mr. Miller asked the Board to think about what product it wanted the taskforce to come back with and what needed to be clarified or added to the list.

The County Manager mentioned having it become a historic designation on the National Register.

Chair Kost pointed out that having the building in a circle causes parking constraints. But it still needs to maintain that historic designation, she said.

Commissioner Vanderbeck said he would like the restoration to be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified. Chair Kost wondered if LEED certification was something the Board wanted the taskforce to address. Commissioner Lucier said they needed to make sure that the charge was clear. He pointed out that the taskforce should discuss what should go in the courthouse, not how it should go in. The Board is not asking the taskforce to be architects, Commissioner Lucier said, and Chair Kost agreed.

Commissioner Vanderbeck mentioned landscaping, and Commissioner Thompson pointed out that other considerations would come up as more people became involved. Commissioner Lucier remarked that all would agree that they need a good sound system, and a projection system that would allow things to be shown in a more professional manner. The Manager noted that retrofit technology would improve acoustics regardless of the sound system.

Jeffrey Starkweather pointed out that converting a multi-purpose room into a performance space could incur additional costs. Chair Kost replied that cost had been in the first draft of the task force’s charge, but it had been taken it out because they wanted citizen input to be focused on function. If the cost is higher than the insurance settlement then the Board would

have additional decisions to make, she said, and perhaps include community fund-raising. Chair Kost added that cost definitely was a restraint.

Commissioner Lucier recommended being careful with the multi-purpose designation, noting that there would be a defined range of purposes and not an endless number.

The Board agreed, by consensus, that this was a clear enough direction to what they wanted from the taskforce. Mr. Miller pointed out that they would need to decide on a mission statement as well.

Chair Kost said that to include all who had an interest in this would lead to an overly large and unworkable taskforce. There had to be some restraint, she said, so the Board had decided on a 19-member taskforce with one non-voting member, who would be a Commissioner. The taskforce would include one member from each of the three towns (Pittsboro, Siler City, Goldston), one representative from the arts community, one from the Economic Development Corporation, one from Pittsboro merchant association, one youth, two from the courts, one from each of the two historic associations, one from the architects building trade, one from public safety/fire, one from tourism, and one non-voting County Commissioner. In addition, each Commissioner would nominate one citizen, she said. Chair Kost said that this was the maximum size of a well-functioning group such as this one, in her opinion.

Commissioner Lucier agreed, cautioning that 19 might already be too big. Commissioner Cross wondered if they really needed five additional citizens appointed by the Board, since the Board would be appointing 14 to begin with. Chair Kost said the intent was to make sure that citizens were represented geographically.

Commissioner Thompson agreed with Chair Kost that having geographic representation made sense. He noted that various sectors were represented on the taskforce. Having the Board appoint one each would address having average citizens as well as geographic representation, he said.

Commissioner Thompson agreed that 19 should be the maximum, adding that he could not think of any sector that was not included. Chair Kost noted that the Chatham County school system was not listed, but there was one youth representative.

Commissioner Cross noted that there would be four to five public input sessions, so citizens would have a chance to speak. Chair Kost pointed out that much of the work would be done over the summer, which was not ideal but was what they confront. Several people had already expressed interest in being on the taskforce, said Chair Kost.

Commissioner Lucier noted that the three members would be nominated by their town councils, but the Board needed to decide how to advertise for the others. Moreover, should they advertise for the courts or just tell the judges to suggest two people, he asked. Chair Kost recommended recruiting for the arts, youth, architect, commissioners' districts and maybe tourism. For the others, she proposed letting organizations choose their participants.

With regard to the courts, Judge Baddour said he thought they could work it out among themselves and propose a name. Chair Kost agreed, and Commissioner Cross remarked that Judge Baddour had volunteered to be one of those two people. He suggested appointing Judge Baddour and letting him come up with another person.

Commissioner Vanderbeck recommended including the timeframe in press releases and/or letters to the towns. He said the Board should emphasize that they do not want place-keepers on the taskforce, but want people who will be active and engaged. Chair Kost commented that even though there would be a 19-member taskforce, the Board would solicit larger citizen participation. Not being on the taskforce would not mean that one would not have ample opportunity to participate, she said.

Commissioner Lucier said he would like to see a taskforce consisting of people who were active, engaged, and willing to negotiate. He noted that the Board would also need to appoint a taskforce chair and vice chair.

Mr. Miller recommended being clear about expectations. The Board wanted those on the taskforce to understand that there would be a lot of work to do, he said. They reminded the Board that they needed to make sure there was a taskforce chair and vice chair. Chair Kost replied that the Board would appoint those. She emphasized that this should be a condensed process that would not go on for many months.

Chair Kost proposed making the appointments on May 17, 2010. Then, let the committee do its work in June, July and August, and have the public hearing at the regular meeting on August 16, she said. The Board could make a decision during the first or second meeting in September, said Chair Kost, and she noted that they would have three years from March 25, 2010 to rebuild the courthouse.

Commissioner Lucier verified that the architect's work would take about eight months. The construction process would take longer than normal because of the site restrictions, Chair Kost pointed out. Commissioner Vanderbeck asked if the non-taskforce design items might move along on a different track. Mr. Hughes replied that the Board would have to decide how much historic restoration would be done.

Commissioner Lucier pointed out that the probable schedule would barely meet the March 2013 deadline. Chair Kost said that was why she was trying to back up the process and get the work finished by August. If they can agree to appoint the taskforce on May 17, and they want the work to be completed in August, then they can fill in the rest of the time line, she said. The Board agreed.

Mr. Miller reviewed the basic steps in the process:

- Recruit the taskforce
- Create a well-defined charge to the taskforce
- Reach out to organizations.
- Officially appoint the taskforce on May 17, 2010
- Decide on project management support

Mr. Miller said that this would be the timeline for the next 30 days, or less. Then there would be a kick-off meeting, which would be the time to give the charge to the taskforce and get the process launched, he said.

Mr. Miller emphasized that it was important to clarify the superior county courtroom functions from a staff perspective. Commissioner Lucier agreed that this was critical, and Mr. Miller said it should be done before the taskforce is created.

Mr. Miller said that public participation should be on both front and back ends of the process. Because it will be summer and people will be on vacation, the Board probably would want to have two public forums, he said. In addition there are other ways, such as email, for people to offer ideas, Mr. Miller said.

Mr. Miller recommended keeping the process fairly condensed. Then, on the back end, the Board should take the taskforce's work and go back to the community for summary review and perhaps have them look at options, he said. After that, the taskforce would finalize its recommendations, said Mr. Miller.

Chair Kost asked if the Board wanted to have the taskforce do any sort of priority ordering. Commissioner Lucier suggested hearing the taskforce's priorities from their perspective, and other Commissioners agreed. Commissioner Thompson said there would likely be much input from the public, so it would be good to have the taskforce narrow that down and prioritize it.

Mr. Miller said that the Board would then finalize the recommendations, probably with a report from the taskforce and a presentation from the chair or vice chair. There would likely be another public hearing and the Board could aim for approval in September, he said. Mr. Miller



noted that there was much to accomplish in three months, so the Board needed to define expectations and set up a project schedule.

Commissioners discussed including key elements of the process and a timeline when advertising. Commissioner Thompson pointed out that some might not know the taskforce's recommendations unless it is publicized. Mr. Miller suggested doing outreach work in addition to advertising.

Chair Kost stated that the Board was in agreement with having 19 voting members, with the process as they had just outlined, and with the amendments.

Commissioner Vanderbeck moved, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, to approve the committee makeup of nineteen members, the outlined process (create a charge, advertise and reach out, appoint the taskforce, decide on project management support) and the amendments. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Loyse Hurley clarified with Chair Kost that the timeline might need to be adjusted but that the Board had established the basic structure for the advertisement and press release.

### **PUBLIC INSURANCE ADJUSTER CONTRACT**

The County Manager noted that it was in the County's interest to have representation during settlement of the courthouse fire. They had chosen Wes Baldwin, of The Baldwin Company (Charlotte NC), he said, and he introduced Mr. Baldwin. Mr. Baldwin introduced his associate Steve Weiss, who is based in Raleigh, NC.

Mr. Baldwin, who is a public insurance adjuster/property loss consultant, said that property claims of this size were extremely complex and that the burden of proof rests on the insured party's shoulders.

Chair Kost asked Mr. Baldwin to explain to the Board what the co-insurance means. Mr. Baldwin replied that it was a method that the insurance industry used to get people to insure the value of the property. The insurance company tells the consumer that, for a discounted premium, they can insure their property to 80, 90 or 100 percent of its value. So, if a building is worth \$1 million and you have a 90 percent replacement cost co-insurance policy, then you should carry a policy equal to \$900,000 or greater, he said. Mr. Baldwin pointed out, though, that if for some reason you decided to insure the building for \$600,000, and you suffer a fire, you might have a loss that you and the insurance company agree to be \$500,000. However, you would not receive \$500,000. You would receive \$333,000 (two-thirds of \$500,000) because the \$600,000 that you carried was two-thirds of the \$900,000 that you were supposed to carry, Mr. Baldwin explained.

Commissioner Lucier said that sounds like a law that the insurance companies helped write. Mr. Baldwin said that his advice is to always insure the value.

Mr. Baldwin said that he could make suggestions for strengthening the County's policy when it comes up for renewal. If you ever have another problem, it won't be another minefield to walk through, he said. Mr. Baldwin outlined what his company would do for the County:

- Prepare a property claim
- Review the claim with the Board for approval
- Submit the claim to the insurance adjuster
- Discuss the claim with the adjuster
- Bring any offers of settlement back to the Board.

If the County were to run into coverage problems, however, then the Board would have to get counsel to advise them, said Mr. Baldwin, explaining that he was not an attorney.

Chair Kost said there already had been questions regarding recovery of the court records and who was responsible. She thought there would be some questions about what was covered and what was not simply because of the nature of the building and the functions that were in it,

she said. Mr. Baldwin commented that the records that were in the County's care, custody and control should be covered, in his opinion. He said that the County had a historic building with special materials that are no longer made. The County was entitled to the money to put the courthouse back with like kind and quality, Mr. Baldwin said.

Commissioner Lucier said it was absolutely essential to have a third party adjuster, and he was glad that Mr. Baldwin was going to help them.

Chair Kost pointed out that the Board needed to approve the contract today.

County Attorney Jep Rose outlined the contract and explained that it set out services that the Baldwin Company would provide. He reviewed and explained the fee schedule as well.

Commissioner Thompson ascertained that the County had funds set aside to pay for services of this kind. Chair Kost remarked that the County would come out ahead, even after paying the fees, because it would cost much more in the long run if they tried to do this themselves. She said that Mr. Baldwin's fees were reasonable.

Commissioner Lucier moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to approve the Chatham County and The Baldwin Company Agreement, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Commissioner Vanderbeck inquired about a time frame. Mr. Baldwin replied that all parties at this juncture were holding their cards close to their chests. He pointed out, however, that he would not get paid until Chatham County did. Commissioner Vanderbeck verified with Chair Kost that the time clock had started on March 25, 2010, the date of the fire.

Judi Anderson asked what the culpability of the contractor was as far as insurance was concerned. She noted that there was a large lawsuit pending and wondered how that fit into what the County would do. Mr. Baldwin replied that he understood that Travelers Insurance Company was investigating that and had put the contractor's liability carrier on notice.

#### **TOWN OF PITTSBORO'S REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A STEERING COMMITTEE**

Melissa Guilbeau discussed a letter from the Town of Pittsboro regarding an agreement with NC Department of Transportation (DOT) to do a Highway Element of a Comprehensive Transportation Plan. She said this would be integrated into the County's plan. Ms. Guilbeau noted a request for a Commissioner to sit on that steering committee.

Ms. Guilbeau explained that a large development was the reason for this and that the DOT wanted the town to narrow down where a 15/501 bypass would go through it. The developer had agreed to pay for the study, she said.

Commissioner Vanderbeck said he might be the logical choice, since he was involved with transit and traffic issues.

Commissioner Thompson moved, seconded by Commissioner Lucier, to appoint Commissioner Vanderbeck as the Board of Commissioners' representative to the Highway Element of Pittsboro's Comprehensive Transportation Plan Steering Committee. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

#### **PROPOSED COURTHOUSE DOCUMENTARY**

Lisa West, Chatham County's grants writer, reviewed the "Potential Funding for the Courthouse Documentary Project" and provided the following PowerPoint presentation:



Funding for Courthouse Documentary Final.ppt

Ms. West said that a documentary project could involve Chatham County's social and ethnic diversity and how everyone had come together. It would have to be a broad theme that others can learn from, she said.

Commissioner Lucier said the process itself was educational in terms of the loss of the courthouse and the various groups coming together to work on something that is important to the larger community. There is an educational component when you have Pittsboro, a town of 3,000 people in a small rural agricultural county, addressing something of great importance to them and to the culture of the County, he said. Commissioner Lucier said that this project had an educational aspect, a cultural aspect, and a community building aspect.

Chair Kost asked that each board member think about whether or not they want to be committed to such a project. She suggested trying to determine how much a documentary like this would cost.

Commissioner Lucier noted that there were a few people in Chatham County who produce such documentaries. Jeffrey Starkweather said that Linda Booker, of the Chatham Arts Council, had done a documentary series.

Chair Kost recommended putting the issue on the agenda for the Board's May 3, 2010 work session. In the meantime, The Board should figure out what kind of budget would be needed, she said.

### **RECESS**

The Chair recessed the meeting to the County Manager's Conference Room for dinner at 5:10 PM.

The Board discussed signs and the Metawave Agreement during dinner.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Vanderbeck moved, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was adjourned at 5:54 PM.

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Sally Kost, Chair

ATTEST:

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