

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION, JUNE 26, 1997

The Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in special session for the purpose of holding a budget workshop in the Bryd's Administrative Building, Bryd's Classroom, Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 5:30 PM on June 26, 1997.

Present: Chairman Margaret Pollard; Vice Chairman Betty Wilson;
Commissioners John Grimes, Uva Holland, 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

Commissioner Grimes entered the meeting at 5:40 PM.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 5:30 P.M.

TAX ADJUSTMENT - ALLIED SIGNAL

- Ken Joyner explained that for the year 1996, Allied Signal has already made a payment of \$550,621.19; that after the adjustments, the remaining balance would be \$70,296.51; that Allied Signal has expressed interest in making this payment by June 30, 1997 to avoid additional interest and to keep the payment of tax in the proper year; that this is a reduction of \$43,890.47 in budgeted dollars for both the County and the Moncure Fire District; that of the \$41,800.45 lost by the County, approximately \$22,480.97 was made up interest because of the late payment.

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to approve the recommendation of the Tax Administrator for real property value for 1995-1997 appeals at \$9,700,000 and personal property value for 1996 at \$67,317,107 as recommended to the Tax Administrator by the North Carolina Department of Revenue. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

CHATHAM COUNTY SOLID WASTE PLAN

Commissioner Holland moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson to adopt the Solid Waste Plan as presented by the staff, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

CHATHAM COUNTY FACILITIES ARCHITECT

- Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, that the contract for the Facilities Plan, Phase I, be granted to Kurt Lent. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) FRANCHISE

- Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to find the three findings and issue the franchise with First Health to provide emergency medical services for Chatham County and to find the three findings as follows:

- 1) The applicant meets county/state standards and standards outlined in the franchise ordinance.
- 2) The proposed service will fit within the existing services as not to adversely affect the level of service or operations of other franchisees to render service.
- 3) A need exists for the rendered service in order to improve the level of service available to residents of the County helping to assure the provision of adequate and continuing service which preserves, protects, and promotes the public health safety and welfare and that granting the franchise is a reasonable and cost effective manner of meeting the need.

A copy of the franchise is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOL BUDGET

The County Manager, Assistant County Manager, and Finance Director reviewed the Chatham County School System's budget request, questions that had been asked of the school system, and responses to those questions.

A discussion ensued between the Superintendent of Schools, the School Board, and the Board of Commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Reed Snyder, stated that with over thirty years of school experience as a retired educator with the State of Maryland, he feels that Chatham County is at an educational crossroads; and that he feels integrity, trust, and accountability are key factors in the educational budget planning process.

Col. Gerald Totten, asked about the difference in the cash balance and a fund balance for the schools. He expressed concern that he had not seen an estimate come from the school system that has been close to what they have asked of the Commissioners.

Teresa West, stated that she was disappointed that the schools are not getting the necessary money to run the schools; that the teachers' supplement needs to be taken from the per pupil allotment; that the teachers' supplement should not be included in the budget; that the actual percentage of money going from the County budget to the schools is down by 8-9%; and that education has to be funded.

Ray Greenlaw, stated that he thinks the issue of accountability for the use of resources has been less than satisfactory from the standpoint as a tax payer; that submission of the budget needs to be done much earlier based upon specific assumptions and recent experience; and that the two Boards need to be in agreement with what constitutes an emergency.

Patsy Stanley, commended both Boards that have worked very hard through the budget process and stated that Dr. Mabe allows for each teacher within the school system to have input into the budget process; that the children's' future should be top priority for everyone.

Dr. Larry Mabe, addressed the issue of accountability and stated that he did not know of any agency in government that is more in the accountability mode than that of public education; that preliminary information has been received that all of Chatham County's ten elementary schools that are part of the elementary performance met their expected growth goals as determined by the State of North Carolina; that six of the ten have gone beyond at least 10% of what was expected; that he feels that this is reasonable accountability as established by the State's ABC Plan which was approved by the General Assembly. He further stated that he is extremely proud of what the schools have done.

- Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap, to approve the County Manager's Recommended Budget for the Chatham County School System. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

BREAK

- The Chairman called for a five-minute break.

The County Manager and Assistant County Manager reviewed changes to the budget made by Commissioners to date, recommended scenarios for reducing the deficit, and addressed issues still remaining.

FINANCE OFFICER APPOINTED AS ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

Commissioner Holland moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to name the Finance Officer as Assistant County Manager. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

BUDGET ORDINANCE

- Commissioner Holland moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to adopt the Fiscal Year 1997-98 Budget Ordinance with the deficit reduction measures, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

CLOSED SESSION

- Commissioner Dunlap moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to go out of Regular Session and into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel Performance. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

REGULAR SESSION

- Commissioner Holland moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to go out of Closed Session and reconvene in Regular Session. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

MANAGER'S SALARY

- Commissioner Dunlap moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to approve the cost-of-living increase for the County Manager.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Dunlap moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, that there being no further business to be discussed, the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was adjourned at 7:51PM.

Margaret Bryant Pollard, Chair

ATTEST:

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