

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 01, 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 December 01, 1997.

Present: Chair Margaret Pollard; Vice Chair Betty Wilson;
Commissioners Uva Holland, 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

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

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Chairman

County Manager, Charlie Horne, presided over the organization of the Board. He opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Wilson nominated Commissioner Pollard for the office of Chairman of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners.

Hearing no other nominations, the presiding officer called for a vote. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Vice Chairman

The floor was opened for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Commissioner Pollard nominated Commissioner Wilson for the office of Vice Chair.

Hearing no other nominations, the presiding officer called for a vote. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

SILER CITY ROTARY CLUB:

The Chairman praised the fund raising efforts by the Siler City Rotary Club for the Chatham Hospital. She stated that funds in the amount of \$35,000 have been raised this year.

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK TO THE BOARD

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to reappoint Sandra B. Lee as Clerk to the Board. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY ATTORNEY

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to reappoint Robert L. Gunn as

the County Attorney. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

AGENDA

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

The County Manager asked that the sale of property be added to the Agenda as Item #18A and that a Closed Session for the purpose of discussing litigation be added to the end of the Agenda.

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to approve the Agenda with the noted requests. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

CONSENT AGENDA

The Chairman directed the Clerk to the Board to read the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda as read by the Clerk. The Consent Agenda, with the vote on each item is as follows, and was read verbatim by the Clerk to the Board.

1. **Minutes:** Consideration of approval of Board Minutes for regular meeting held November 17, 1997

The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

2. **Chatham County ABC Board Stipends Increase:** Consideration of a request for an increase in stipends for the Chatham County ABC Board

The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

3. **Refunds for Solid Waste Disposal Fees and Regular Tax Bills:** 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 five (5) to zero (0).

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

The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

5. **Resolution #97-44 for the Addition of Streets or Roads to the North Carolina System of Secondary Roads – Margaret Daniel Lane, Diana Del Silva Court, and Danning Drive:** Consideration of approval of Resolution #97-44 for the addition of streets or roads to the North Carolina System of Secondary Roads – Margaret Daniel Lane, Diana Del Silva Court, and Danning Drive, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

6. **Cable Television Franchise:** Consideration of a request for approval of Charter Communications, L.P. to operate a cable system within the confines of Chatham County and on the terms and conditions set forth in the agreement

The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

7. **Surplus County Vehicle:** Consideration of a request to declare a 1986 Ford LTD as surplus and allow it to be sold at public auction on December 6, 1997

The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

8. **Resolution #97-45 to Release County's Share of Economic Development Monies from State Budget Office:** Consideration of Resolution #97-45 to Release County's Share of Economic Development Monies from the State Budget Office, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION HONORING ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Resolution #97-46 Honoring Michael Yarborough: Consideration of Resolution #97-46 Honoring Michael Yarborough as Animal Control Officer of the Year for the State of North Carolina, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to adopt Resolution #97-46 Honoring Michael Yarborough as Animal Control Officer of the Year for the State of North Carolina. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Commissioner read and presented the resolution to Mr. Yarborough. Each Commissioner expressed appreciation to Mr. Yarborough for his efforts.

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Oli Devaud, Economic Development Director, publicly thanked the Commissioners for their support and efforts in the recruiting process for Chaparral Steel.

REPORT ON PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO US HWY. #421

Report on Proposed Improvements to US Hwy. #421: Presentation of a report on proposed improvements to US Hwy. #421 in Chatham County by Mr. Jay McInnis, P.E., Project Planning Engineer

Jay McInnis, Project Planning Engineer, explained that the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Project R-2610 proposes the widening of US #421 to four lanes with a 46 foot grassed #421 median from the existing four-lanes at Gulf to the existing four-lanes at the Siler City Bypass, a distance of approximately 13.4 miles. He stated that the existing right-of-way along US #421 within the project limits is 200 feet wide; that this existing right-of-way is offset to allow the proposed median and additional lanes to be constructed on the west side of the existing roadway; that the proposed improvements will be constructed mostly on existing right-of-way, however, additional right-of-way or construction easements may be required at some locations; that exact right-of-way requirements are not known at the present time, as no detailed design work has been performed yet for the project; that the proposed improvements to US #421 will improve the traffic carrying

capacity and safety of US #421 within the project limits; that currently, planning and environmental studies for the project are being conducted; that the right-of-way acquisition is scheduled to begin in the year 2001 and construction is scheduled to begin in 2003; that the total estimated cost is \$21,250,000; that a citizens informational workshop for the project has been scheduled for December 3, 1997 between the hours of 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM in the Multi-purpose Room of the J. S. Waters School, located on State Road #1010 (Pittsboro-Goldston Road) at US #421 near Goldston; that this informal workshop will be open to the public; that Department of Transportation representatives will be present to answer questions and receive comments relative to the project; that information presented at the workshop will be general in nature, as detailed plans have not yet been prepared for the project; that comments received will be considered as project development progresses.

He stated that a public hearing will be held prior to right-of-way acquisition for the project; that this hearing will be scheduled following completion of environmental studies for the project; that more detailed information concerning the project will be presented at the hearing; that a transcript will be prepared and comments received at the hearing will be made a part of the public record. He further stated that anyone desiring additional information or those wishing to comment further on the project could contact the following address:

Mr. H. Franklin Vick, P. E., Manager
Planning and Environmental Branch
Division of Highways
NC Department of Transportation
PO Box 25201
Raleigh, NC 27611

Commissioner Pollard asked at what time the County needed to be in touch with the DOT if they wished to have connector pipes for water and other utilities installed under the roadway.

Mr. McInnis stated that the information would need to be presented to them as soon as possible; that the actual design work will be done in approximately one-year; but that the final notification time would be around the year 1999.

SMART START PRESENTATION

Smart Start Report: Presentation on report of results of Smart Start efforts to improve child care quality in Chatham County and annual report of the Chatham County Partnership for Children

Jenny Megginson, Executive Director of the Chatham County Partnership for Children, stated that the Chatham County Partnership for Children applied for and was granted a Smart Start grant in the fall of 1994; that the annual Smart Start allocation for Chatham county is \$1,240,351; that a total of \$3,216,615 has been received and distributed in the County since December 1994; that the Partnership is a nonprofit organization founded in 1994 specifically for the purpose of developing and implementing early childhood initiatives in the County; that the Partnership works together with local agencies, organizations and families to create a healthy and wholesome environment that enable all young children to reach their greatest potential; that to realize this vision, the Partnership strives for long-term improvements in their system of care for young children and families through programs that help families help themselves; that in accordance with legislative requirements, the Partnership expends 70% of its resources to address quality improvements in child care and early childhood education; and that the role of the Chatham County Partnership for Children and recent changes in child day care opportunities available to Chatham County families are the primary focus of this

report to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners.

She distributed the Partnership's annual report containing information on resources and results from early childhood initiatives addressing health, family support, parenting, and community access to early childhood services. A copy of the Chatham County Partnership for Children 1997 Annual Report is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

She showed a Partnership video and answered questions from the Board.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Extension of a Moratorium on the Erection of Off-Premise Outdoor Signs: Consideration of an extension of a moratorium on the erection of off-premise signs in Chatham County

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to approve the extension of a moratorium on the Erection of Off-Premise Outdoor Signs in Chatham County until February 17, 1998. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

NC Statewide Emergency Management Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement: Consideration of a North Carolina Statewide Emergency Management Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to adopt the North Carolina Emergency Management Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0). A copy is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Chatham Trades Appointment: Consideration of a request to appoint/reappoint a member to Chatham Trades, Inc.

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to reappoint Commissioner Pollard to the Chatham Trades Board of Directors. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Recreation Advisory Board Appointment: Consideration of a request to appoint a member to the Recreation Advisory Board by Commissioner Holland

Commissioner Holland moved to appoint Mary Nettles, 80 Milliken Road, Pittsboro, NC, 27312 to the Recreation Advisory Board. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

CBA Advisory Committee Appointment: Consideration of a request to appoint a member to CBA Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland to defer the appointment to the CBA Advisory Committee until the December 15, 1997 Board meeting. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MATTERS

Arts Council Grant Application Endorsement: Consideration of an endorsement of a grant application for the Chatham County Arts Council

Sarah Maultsby, Arts Council Director, stated that the Chatham County Arts Council requested that the Commissioners endorse its grant application for funding to administer an “Art in Public Places” program. She stated that the grant application is due to the State by December 9, 1997; that the State Legislature appropriated \$4 million in grant funds to distribute to non-profits throughout the State for arts programs; that the Chatham County Arts Council is seeking \$24,000 in funding from this allocation and is requesting an endorsement from the Board of Commissioners; that the project scope is as follows:

- The project will be a joint venture between the Public Works Department, the Arts Council, and the School System
- The Arts Council will assign an artist to each collection center site.
- Through the County’s environmental educator and the schools, a group of children will be assigned to work with each artist to design the art item, which will be composed of recycled and/or scrap materials.
- The Public Works Department will assist by performing site preparation, signage, and maintenance of the object.

Ms. Maultsby stated that the grant requires a 50% match; that she estimates that the “in-kind” contributions from the public Works Department will be worth \$12,000; that she expects to match the remainder of the grant with \$12,000 in fundraising from community groups and businesses; that the \$48,000 total will pay for artist fees, site preparation, educational materials, signage, and administration by the Arts Council.

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to approve an endorsement of a grant application for the Chatham County Arts Council, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Allocation of Additional CBA Funds: Consideration of approval of allocation of additional CBA funds

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to approve the allocation of \$6,853 to JOCCA’s “At-Risk Youth Employment and Restitution Program”, with the stipulation that the local match be funded from the County’s existing allocation to JOCCA, provided that these funds are released. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

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RESOLUTION FOR SALE OF PROPERTY – G. M. ANDERSON BUILDERS, INC.

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to approve **Resolution #97-47 Accepting Offer From G. M. Anderson Builders, Inc. to Purchase a Parcel of Land and Authorizing Transfer of Title**. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0). The resolution is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

RESOLUTION FOR SALE OF PROPERTY - LARRY CRUM

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to approve **Resolution #97-48**

Accepting Offer From Larry Crum to Purchase an Easement Across A Parcel of County Land and Authorizing Execution of Said Easement. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0). The resolution is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

MANAGER' S REPORTS

The County Manager informed the Commissioners of the following:

Retreat Agenda: There are a couple of small water issues which need to be added to the Commissioners retreat agenda, one of which deals with the North Chatham process.

Commissioner Car for Christmas Parades: After a discussion regarding Commissioner participation in Christmas parades held within the County, Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to use the County's Economic Development vehicle for Commissioner participation in Christmas parades, in the event a vehicle is not provided. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

The Clerk to the Board and the County Manager were asked to prepare Commissioner identification signs for use on the car for the Christmas parade.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Wilson praised the Finance Department for receiving the Certificate of Excellence for financial reporting and stated that she did not want the recognition to be taken for granted since it had become fairly consistent.

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to acknowledge the efforts of the Finance Director, the Finance Department, and the County Manager by sending a letter of appreciation for their efforts. The motion carried five (5) 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 litigation. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

REGULAR SESSION

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

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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 five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 AM.

Margaret Bryant Pollard, Chair

ATTEST:

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