

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING WITH LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
FEBRUARY 19, 1998

The Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in special session with the County's Legislative Delegation in the Fearington House Restaurant, Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 7:00 PM on February 19, 1998, to discuss Chatham County requests for consideration by the General Assembly.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chair Margaret B. Pollard, Vice Chair Betty Wilson;
 Commissioner Henry Dunlap; County Manager,
 Charlie Horne; County Attorney, Robert L. Gunn;
 Finance Officer, Vicki McConnell; and Clerk to
 the Board, Sandra B. Lee

Also Present: Senators Howard Lee and Ellie Kinnaird; NC House of
 Representative Members Joe Hackney, Arlie Culp, and
 Verla Insko

Chairman Pollard called the meeting to order at 8:16 PM, welcomed the Legislative Delegation, and thanked them for joining the Board to discuss matters of concern to the County.

Chairman Pollard outlined the following Chatham County issues of concern and opened the floor for comments from the Legislative Delegation:

CHATHAM COUNTY ISSUES OF CONCERN

1. State Allocation of Funds for School Systems (County vs. District re: Teachers)
2. Sales Tax Refund: Schools
3. State Support for ESL Teachers
4. Community College Funding
5. Retirement Communities as Non-Profits
6. Urban vs. Rural: Assuring Some Equality
7. Rural Infrastructure Assistance
8. Expanding Revenue Options for Counties
9. Reimbursement for Low Level Waste Facility Struggle
10. In-Home vs. Institutional Care: Council on Aging
11. Lake Jordan Water Supply: State Allocation and Cary
12. Funding for County Streamlining Activities; State Networking Human Services.

State Allocations of Funds for School Systems (County vs. District re: Teachers):

A general discussion ensued regarding State allocations of funds for school systems.

Sales Tax Refund – Schools:

A general discussion followed with regard to sales tax refunds for schools.

State Support for ESL Teachers:

At the suggestion of the Legislative Delegation, the Commissioners decided that

a resolution should be drafted and sent to the Governor of North Carolina requesting State support for English as a Second Language (ESL) Teachers.

Community College Funding:

A general discussion was held regarding the Legislature's discontinuance of providing monetary support to community colleges based upon the percentage of students from outside the County. The 1997 General Assembly discontinued this funding for all community colleges except for one which was able to show its unique situation which the General Assembly found to justify continuing this funding.

Senator Lee indicated that in order to get this funding reinstated for the Chatham County Central Carolina Community College Campus, it would be necessary to show that Chatham's situation was different from the other counties for which this funding was eliminated. He stated that the difference would have to be sufficient to satisfy the Legislature in order to reinstate the funding since, generally no recurring expenditures are funded for the community colleges.

Retirement Communities as Non-Profits:

A discussion was held regarding retirement communities status as tax exempt, non-profits.

Representative Hackney suggested that the Board ask the Association to make this a top priority for consideration by the General Assembly.

Urban vs. Rural: Assuring Some Equity:

This item was deleted from the Agenda.

Rural Infrastructure Assistance:

Commissioner Pollard stated that the Lee County Airport will be located approximately one mile from Moncure; that she feels it will have tremendous economic, commercial, and industrial development potential. She asked what the County needed to do at this time with regard to this matter.

Senator Lee stated that work needs to be done to see what kind of economic development plan is in place; that he will review the bond package and let the Board know what is available; that he thinks Chatham will be very attractive with a new road system; and that the Board needs to have Oli Devaud, Economic Development Director, quickly review and update an economic development plan to be submitted to the Legislature at which time they will make a determination for which funds the County qualifies.

Expanding Revenue Options for Counties:

A discussion ensued regarding impact fees and land transfer taxes.

Reimbursement for Low Level Waste Facility Struggle:

Representative Hackney asked that he be informed of the amount spent on the low-level radioactive waste battle at which time he will pursue reimbursement to the County.

In-Home vs. Institutional Care - Council on Aging:

A discussion followed regarding Chore workers who provide in-home services for those needing care, how it affects those where in-home services are not available, and

how the County began paying for Chore services fifteen to twenty years ago. It was discussed that the in-home level of care was less expensive at one time, but that people are now living longer and the County has an added burden of a greater number of people requiring Chore services due to their longer life spans. It was discussed that additional funds in the amount of \$100,000 per year may be needed to support this program.

Jordan Lake Water Supply - State Allocation and Cary:

It was discussed that the County would ask Cary for help in securing water from Jordan Lake; that if this did not work, the Board would ask John Morris, DEHR Water Resources Director, and then proceed to the Corps of Engineers.

Funding for County Streamlining Activities - State Networking Human Services:

Legislators reported on proposed care for uninsured children which may become available to the County.

Charlie Horne, County Manager, stated that the County may need \$50,000 for Human Services Streamlining to be used, in part, for computer software allowing the County to access welfare, public, and mental health departments and exchange information and records between the agencies at the State level for better communications.

Representative Hackney asked for support for a bill involving appropriations for school systems who built a compound to house confiscated autos of DWI offenders.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Pollard thanked the Legislative Delegation and stated that no one has a better delegation than Chatham County.

There being no further business to be discussed, the Board thanked the Legislative Delegation for its support, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:17 PM.

Margaret Bryant Pollard, Chair

ATTEST:

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