

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING, NOVEMBER 02, 1998

The Board of Commissioners ("the Board") of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in regular session in the District Courtroom, Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 10:00 A.M. on November 02, 1998.

Present: Chairman Margaret Pollard; Vice Chair Betty Wilson; Commissioners Uva Holland, and John Grimes; County Manager, Charlie Horne; County Attorney, Robert L. Gunn; Assistant County Manager, Reneé Dickson; and Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Lee

Commissioner Dunlap was absent from the meeting.

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

AGENDA

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

The County Manager asked that a Resolution for a Bike Path on Old Highway 87 (Old Graham Road) be added to the Consent Agenda as Item #4A; that acceptance of grant funds from the Ronald McDonald House Charities of NC, Inc. be added to the Consent Agenda as Item #4B; and that consideration to accept the North Carolina Emergency Management Grant monies be added to the Consent Agenda as Item #4C.

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, 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 Holland, to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda as read by the Clerk.

1. **Minutes:** Consideration of a request for approval of Board Minutes for regular meeting held October 19, 1998 and work session held October 19, 1998

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

2. **Grant Funds Acceptance for Health Department:** Consideration of a request for approval to accept grant funds allocated to the Health Department for the Family Resource Center in the amount of \$900

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

3. **Naming of Private Roads:** Consideration of a request for approval from citizens for the

naming of private roads in Chatham County as follows:

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|---------------|
| 1) | Gnome Knoll | 4) | Rockwood Lane |
| 2) | Horseshoe Lane | 5) | Sunwood Lane |
| 3) | Mary Emma Drive | | |

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

4. **County Acceptance of Cooperative Extension Service Funds:** Consideration of a request for approval for County acceptance of Cooperative Extension Service funds in the amount of \$24,687.00 so that these and future funds will go through the County Finance Department

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

- 4A. **Resolution for a Bike Path on Old Highway 87:** Consideration of a request for approval of a **Resolution #98-39 for a Bike Path on Old Highway 87 (Old Graham Road)**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

- 4B. **Grant Funds Acceptance from Ronald McDonald House Charities of NC, Inc.:** Consideration of a request for approval to accept grant funds from the Ronald McDonald House Charities of North Carolina, Inc.

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

- 4C. **Emergency Management Grant Acceptance:** Consideration of a request for approval to accept the North Carolina Emergency Management Grant in the amount of \$6,475.00 to purchase a computer and EM2000 software as required by the grant

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

There was no one present who wished to make public comments.

HEALTHY CHATHAM PRESENTATION

Housing in Chatham County: Presentation on the housing situation in Chatham County

Audrey Schwankl, Basic Needs Coordinator for Chatham County Schools, shared housing data and informed the Board of the "Basic Needs for Children: Shelter and School Success Program". She showed pictures of some local residents' housing and described the inadequate living conditions.

Amy Powell, Executive Director for Chatham Habitat for Humanity, shared facts regarding Chatham Habitat for Humanity. A copy of the facts report is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

Andrea Hickle, Coordinator of Healthy Chatham, stated that housing is a critical community

issue in Chatham County as identified by both the Strategic Planning Development Committee and the Chatham Community Health Improvement Project (CCHIP). She explained that there are a limited number of low-income housing units available throughout the community and stated that with the recent influx of new populations, the limited supply of available housing has become even more constrained; that there is currently a waiting period for available housing through the Chatham County Housing Authority; that as a result, overcrowded conditions have become evident with multiple families often living in a substandard housing unit; that this situation can have a profound impact on the health and quality of life of families, including contributing to the spread of communicable disease such as tuberculosis, scabies, and lice.

She stated that as a result of CCHIP, a Housing Workgroup has been formed within Healthy Chatham to assess and address the issues surrounding housing in Chatham County; that the housing group, facilitated by the Healthy Chatham Coordinator, has been exploring the issue with participants from Chatham County Schools, Habitat for Humanity, and other local agencies, as well as community members; that the group requests an opportunity to present data on the current housing situation, look at strengths and needs, and consider options to pursue in improving low-income housing conditions in Chatham County.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Electronic Benefits Transfer: Presentation on the Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program

Robert Hall, Director of the Department of Social Services, explained that the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) is the technological structure that changes the delivery system for food stamp benefits from a paper-based system to an electronic system; that each qualified food stamp household will receive a plastic magnetic stripe card, much like a bank debit card, to use to make food purchases at U. S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) authorized food stores; that if the food stamp household has an authorized representative, the representative will get a separate card to buy food on behalf of the household; that like bank debit card users, food stamp recipients will have a private identification number, called a Personal Identification Number (PIN), which they will use when swiping the card in a Point-of-Sale (POS) device at food stores to pay for food; that this personal identification number assures the recipient's personal security for accessing their benefits; that the EBT does not change eligibility determinations, benefit levels, or application processing standards; that it is merely a different method for receiving access to food stamp benefits; that recipients will not get food stamps in their mail boxes any longer; that because of this, no one can steal them and since recipients won't have paper coupons in hand, they can't sell them; that the food stamp benefits are always in an account that is owned by the state and maintained at Citibank, the EBT contractor, on behalf of recipients; that EBT will eliminate trafficking of food stamps, and improve methods of identifying fraud and abuse and provide electronic data for use to prosecute abusers, both recipients and retailers; that EBT piloted in Cumberland, Lincoln, and Davie Counties beginning April, 1998; that the entire state of North Carolina will be converted from paper coupons to EBT by June, 1999; that all food stamp recipients will receive face-to-face training, given either under the direction of the County Department of Social Services or directly by the members of the Citibank EBT Team; that all the recipients will be allowed to select their own PIN at local County offices; that all qualified food stamp household can call a 1-888 toll free number twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week to check on their balance or to report a lost or stolen card.

TAX DEPARTMENT

Charging Off 1988 Tax Bills: Consideration of approval to charge off 1988 tax bills

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to approve charging off the 1988 property taxes, with the exception of those under judgement. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

RECREATION

Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan Contract: Consideration of approval of a contract for the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan to Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern (HSMM)

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to approve the Recreation Advisory Board and Steering Committee recommendation to award the contract for the Comprehensive Master Plan for Chatham County in the amount of \$38,500. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to authorize the appropriate County officials to execute the contract, pending approval by the County Attorney. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Interagency Domestic Violence Unit: Consideration of a request to approve a sergeant position to supervise the Interagency Domestic Violence Unit

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to approve the request for a sergeant position to supervise the Interagency Domestic Violence Unit, contingent upon the grant match fund availability from lapsed salaries. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Strategic Planning Steering Team Appointments: Consideration of a request to appoint member(s) to the Chatham County Strategic Planning Team

Commissioner Holland stated that she would make her appointment to the Strategic Planning Steering Team at the November 16, 1998 Board meeting. She also asked that the Strategic Planning Steering Team appointment roster show that her appointments to the committee are Brenda Jean Thompson and Nancy Jenkins.

Commissioner Grimes stated that Donald Tarkenton be shown as an "alternate" on the committee roster.

Complete Count Committee (Bureau of the Census): Consideration of a request to appoint members to the Complete Count Committee (Bureau of the Census)

Commissioner Wilson appointed Keith Brown, 101 Tripp Road, Pittsboro, NC, to the Complete Count Committee (Bureau of the Census). Commissioner Grimes seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MATTERS

Resolution to Set Commissioners' Meeting Dates and Holiday Schedule: Consideration of a request for approval of **Resolution #98-38 to Set Commissioners' Meeting Dates and Holiday Schedule**

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to adopt the **Resolution to Set Commissioners' Meeting Dates and Holiday Schedule**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

Proposed Clocks for the Chatham County Courthouse: Discussion of the proposed clocks for the Chatham County Courthouse

Jeff Hughes, Public Works Director, stated that proposals for the County courthouse clocks were forwarded to the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources State Historic Preservation Office for review and comments; that Mr. Paul Fomberg, Senior Restoration Specialist, completed his review and listed several concerns with the proposed project. A copy of the letter is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

Cindy Edwards, member of the Chatham County Historical Association, voiced concern that the historic integrity of the courthouse might be compromised since it has been designated a historic building and has been placed on the national register.

An additional copy of a letter regarding the courthouse clocks received by the Clerk to the Board is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

MANAGER' S REPORTS

The County Manager reported on the following:

1) **CDBG Housing Grant:**

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to award each dwelling to the lowest responsible bidder as follows:

Dwelling 97-2	Award to Conner Home Improvements for their bid amount of \$28,560.00
Dwelling 97-3	Award to Spruill Construction for their bid amount of \$27,900.00
Dwelling 97-4	Award to Conner Home Improvements for their bid amount of \$25,050.00
Dwelling 97-8	Award to Spruill Construction for their bid amount of \$29,225.00
Dwelling 97-10	Award to Conner Home Improvements for their bid amount of \$26,275.00

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

2) **Staff Retreat:**

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to hold the staff retreat at follows:

Thursday, November 19, 1998 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Friday, November 20, 1998 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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

3) **Dinner for Board Members:**

The Chair asked the Clerk to the Board to work on finding a time and place on which to hold an appreciation dinner for the Board members who will be leaving office and to contact Commissioners by telephone to confirm date and time.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS

County Attorney, Bob Gunn, stated that there should be an answer to the swine suit due today and that he will keep the Board advised.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Achievement in Financial Reporting Award:

Chairman Pollard presented a plaque of "Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting" to Vicki McConnell, Finance Officer, and expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board of Commissioners for the Finance Department's excellent work for the ninth consecutive year in comprehensive annual financial reporting for fiscal year ending June 30, 1997.

WORK SESSION

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Holland, to recess the meeting to the Byrd's Classroom, Health Administration Building for the work session. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to reconvene the meeting for the work session. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

Silk Hope School Water Line:

A discussion ensued regarding the numerous water quality problems that will exist if a water line is constructed from Siler City to the Silk Hope Elementary School.

Commissioner Grimes moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to follow Engineering & Environmental Science Company's recommendation to pursue construction of a new well or improvements to the existing well at Silk Hope Elementary School before constructing a water line

Ductile Iron Pipe:

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Grimes, to require the use of ductile iron pipe for all water lines that the County is required to service. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

Local Emergency Planning Committee:

Commissioner Pollard moved to appoint herself as the Commissioner representative to the Local Emergency Planning Committee. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

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 12:00 PM.

Margaret Bryant Pollard, Chair

ATTEST:

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