

**MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING, JUNE 20, 1994**

The Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in special session in the District Courtroom, located in the Courthouse Annex, Pittsboro, North Carolina, the regular place of meeting, at 5:00 p.m., on June 20, 1994.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Henry H. Dunlap, Jr.; Vice Chair Uva Holland; Commissioners Mary Hayes Holmes, Margaret Bryant Pollard and E. T. Hanner; County Manager Ben Shivar; County Attorney Robert L. Gunn; and Clerk to the Board Sandra B. Cape

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 5:15 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE

The Manager introduced Sandra B. Lee and stated that Ms. Lee had been hired to replace the Clerk to the Board/Administrative Support Specialist. He noted that Ms. Lee was attending this meeting for training purposes and would be officially appointed to the Clerk to the Board position at a later meeting.

The Manager also introduced Kim Bush who started to work this date as the County's Human Resource Manager.

The Board welcomed these two employees.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Cooperative Extension

The Manager explained that Cooperative Extension had requested that a full-time 4-H person be transferred from another county into the requested position with the County; the fact that this is an experienced 4-H person means that the associated salary is higher than it would be if an inexperienced person was hired in this position; the Board had previously expressed concern over the level of qualification required of this position; the benefits expressed by Cooperative Extension is that this person would not require training but could immediately take over the program.

The Board discussed the benefits of the 4-H program; the statistics regarding 4-H participants who are considered "at risk" children; and economic statistics regarding the program. It was noted that Chatham County Together is involved in the 4-H program and that plans are being formulated to expand the 4-H program into additional "at risk" programs.

SCHOOLS

The Chair recognized School Board Superintendent Larry Mabe.

Mr. Mabe thanked the Board for its support of the school system and requested that the Board consider budgeting an additional \$100,000 over the amount recommended by the Manager in the Preliminary Budget. He noted that the funding of the waste water project was very much appreciated. He stated the following: the Board of Education is requesting an additional \$100,000; \$40,000 of this \$100,000 would go to increase teachers supplement; this would help Chatham County schools compete with surrounding counties; the other \$60,000 deals in the area of current expense; the schools are working with increases in salary increases for teacher assistants, clerical personnel and state mandated personnel; the additional \$60,000 will allow the Board of Education

to meet a salary schedule which has been developed; this salary schedule deals with what responsibilities an employee has and the employee's length of service; in beginning of year 1990-91 there was an increase of 5,782 students average daily membership; that is 99 over previous year; the figures for 1990-91 through 1993-94 are actual students, not projections; 1994-95 figures are projections; it is projected by the Department of Public Instruction that Chatham County will have 6,319 students in 1994-95; the schools allotment is based on this figure; that is 185 students over the actual number of 6,134; it is clear that Chatham County will have more students which requires more on the part of the schools; it is projected that the difference between 1992-93 and 1997-98 is going to be about 10.2% K through 12; that amounts to a difference between 1993-94, a number of 5,918 students, versus in 1997-98 a total in K through 12 of 6,672 students; that difference is 10.2%; same thing occurs 2002-2003, K through 12, which is projected to increase 14.8%; Chatham County schools will continue to grow; this does not include an influx of people which may or not be received; a site is being considered in the northern part of the County; once a school is sited, it will draw people to that area; if the proposed Amberly Development is realized, it will necessitate a growth in school facilities; the \$60,000 will help the schools meet competition; and the \$40,000 in teachers supplement will help. Mr. Mabe thanked the Board and the Manager for working with the School Board and for the consideration of the Board on this matter.

Discussion ensued regarding the necessity for these funds; the percentage of County's investment in education as compares to other counties and the County's ability to pay; the school system's aggressive pursuit of grants; percentage (12.2%) of high school graduates going into the workforce; school programs geared toward workforce readiness and the difficulty of initiating and developing such programs; school's efforts to have students college-level ready; joint program with Central Carolina Community College to prepare students to go beyond high school level; the number of students entering college who need remedial assistance; the fact that Chatham County students who need remedial assistance is decreasing in number; per student expenditure for Chatham County is high compared to other counties; Chatham County ability to pay is ranked low in comparing with other counties; Chapter I services; and the schools plans for "at-risk" initiatives.

Mr. Mabe thanked the Board for the opportunity to come before it with this request.

Jack Wilkie, Chairman of the Chatham County Board of Education, thanked the Board for its support and requested that the Board act favorably on this request for an additional \$100,000 over the Manager's recommended Budget.

Cooperative Extension

4-H Personnel

The Board discussed the requested 4-H position and noted that the County's obligation would be for 45% of the salary, which would represent approximately \$17,000 for ten months. The Manager noted that the total salary would be upper \$30,000 to lower \$40,000 for an experienced person as requested. The Board discussed what authority the Board has in regard to whom is chosen for this position due to the State involvement. The Board voiced concern over results of the current 4-H program and the population being served.


Schools

The Board discussed the after-school programs currently being offered.

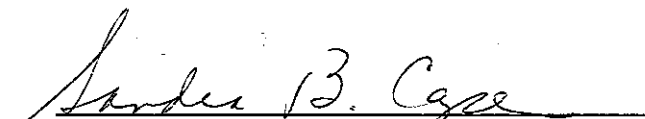
The Assistant to the County Manager presented information on school expenditures as compares to other counties.

ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting for the purpose of conducting a budget workshop was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.


Henry H. Dunlap, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:


Clerk to the Board