

**MINUTES**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**BUDGET PUBLIC MEETING**  
**MAY 23, 2005**

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The Board of Commissioners ("the Board") of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the Siler City Town Council Chambers, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina, 7:00 PM, on May 23, 2005.

Present: Chairman Bunkey Morgan; Vice Chair, Tommy Emerson; Commissioners Patrick Barnes, Mike Cross, and Carl Outz, County Manager, Charlie Horne; County Attorney, Robert L. Gunn; Assistant County Manager, Renee Dickson; Finance Officer, Vicki McConnell

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION**

Chairman Morgan invited everyone present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance after which he delivered the invocation.

The County Manager gave a brief overview of the proposed FY 2005-2006 budget.

The Assistant County Manager, Renee Dickson gave a brief presentation on how the revenue neutral tax rate was calculated.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Major Gary Blankenship gave a presentation on the Sheriff's Office budget request.

Captain Roy Allen and Jill Jacobsen, Safe Start Family Responder, made a presentation on the Family Crisis Responder request.

Bill Lail, Human Services Planner/Evaluator II, gave a presentation on the Community Emergency Response Team.

**PUBLIC MEETING COMMENTS**

Chairman Morgan opened the public hearing at approximately 8:15 PM.

**Paul McCoy**, 3557 Pea Ridge Road, New Hill, NC, stated that the revenue neutral tax rate was too high; that he was serving on the Board of Equalization and Review and did not believe that the Board would give the amount of tax relief as stated in the presentation on the calculation of the revenue neutral tax rate; that the County could not catch up in a short period of time; and that the Economic Development budget was too small and was not adequately supported by the County Manager.

**Genevieve Megginson**, Executive Director of Chatham County Partnership for Children, 2005 Sanford Highway, Suite 4, Pittsboro, NC, stated that the Recommended Budget did not include \$15,000 for Smart Start and \$10,000 for Child Care Networks. She stated that the County should make more of an investment in children. She requested an opportunity to make a presentation to the Board of Commissioners.

**Joel Hunnicutt**, Chairman of the Arts Incubator Project, 410 E. Raleigh Street, Siler City, NC, gave an overview of the Arts Incubator Project. He requested that the County contribute to the salary of the Executive Director.

**Richard Peter**, 256 Joe Brown Road, Bear Creek, NC, stated that he was concerned about property taxes, the County's assessment of farm equipment based on original purchase price, and illegal immigrants.

**Jimmy Collins**, 1867 Hanks Chapel Road, Pittsboro, NC, stated that he was representing FACT. He asked the Commissioners to be as conservative as possible, while still meeting the needs of the County.

**Jesse Albright**, 1423 Coleridge Road, Siler City, NC, stated that citizens need to take more responsibility for services. He stated that the Board should be discussing the cuts it would make instead of how much to increase the budget.

**Byron Oldham**, Siler City, NC, stated that he was concerned about taxes and illegal immigration. He asked the Board to be very conservative and frugal, but to fund needed services.

The Chairman closed the public meeting at 9:20 PM.

## **RESOLUTION**

The Board discussed the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources (DEHNR) resolution proposed by Commissioners Cross and Barnes regarding support for improved water quality for B. Everette Jordan Reservoir.

Commissioner Emerson stated that he would support the resolution generally, but only if it excluded agriculture.

Chairman Morgan requested that Commissioner Barnes meet with the County Manager to develop a more generic resolution on which the Board could take action by electronic mail.

A copy of **Resolution #2005-31 Supporting Improved Water Quality for B. Everett Jordan Reservoir** is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Outz moved, seconded by Commissioner Emerson, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried five (5) to zero, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Bunkey Morgan, Chairman

ATTEST:

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