

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 07, 2008

The Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the Agricultural Building Auditorium, 45 South Street, located in Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 9:00 AM on April 04, 2008.

Present: Chairman George Lucier; Vice Chair, Mike Cross; Commissioners Patrick Barnes, Carl Thompson, and Tom Vanderbeck, County Manager, Charlie Horne; Assistant County Manager, Renee Paschal; County Attorney, Jep Rose; Finance Officer, Vicki McConnell; and Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Sublett

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Thompson delivered the invocation after which Chairman Lucier invited everyone present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 9:05 AM.

AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Vanderbeck moved, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, to approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda as follows:

1. **Minutes:** Consideration of a request for approval of Board Minutes for regular meeting held March 17, 2008, work session held March 03, 2008, and Legislative Delegation Meeting held March 13, 2008

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

2. **Child Abuse Prevention Month:** Consideration of a request to adopt **Resolution #2008-___ Proclaiming April 2008 As Child Abuse Prevention Month in Chatham County**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

3. **Sexual Assault Awareness Month:** Consideration of a request to adopt **Resolution #2008-_____ Proclaiming Sexual Assault Awareness Month**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

4. **National Telecommunicators Week:** Consideration of a request to adopt **Resolution #2008-_____ Proclaiming April 7-13, 2008 National Telecommunicators Week in Chatham County**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

5. **Chatham County Census Day:** Consideration of a request to adopt **Resolution #2008-_____ Proclaiming May 01, 2008 as Census Day in Chatham County**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

6. **Naming of Private Road:** Consideration of a request from citizens for the naming of a private road in Chatham County as follows: A. Horseshoe Falls Road

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

7. **Tax Releases and Refunds:** Consideration of a request to approve Tax Releases and Refunds, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

8. **Human Relations Board Appointment:** Consideration of a request to appoint Marisol Jimenez McGee to the Human Relations Board by the full Board

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

9. **Waste Management Consulting Contract Award:** Consideration of a request to approve contracting with the engineering firm of Richardson Smith Gardner and Associates for Solid Waste Consulting Services and funding

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

10. **Facilities Study Contract Award:** Consideration of a request to approve contracting with Hobbs Architects, PA for comprehensive assessment of existing county facilities study in the amount of \$52,250.00

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

11. **Change Order for Telephone System for Chatham County Offices:** Consideration of a request to change system specifications for NEC phone system for Chatham County offices (Dunlap Building and Main Campus), attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

There was no one present who wished to make comments.

MANAGER'S REPORTS

The County Manager reported on the following:

Central Carolina Community College Board of Trustees Meeting:

The County Manager stated that he would like to confirm the date, May 8, 2008, for a meeting with the Central Carolina Community College Board of Trustees, early to mid afternoon.

By consensus, the Board agreed.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Governors Rapid Response Team Meeting:

Commissioner Thompson reported that he had attended the April 1, 2008 Governor's Rapid Response meeting regarding the closing of the Pilgrim's Pride plant in Siler City. He stated that the meeting was facilitated by Mr. Russell Jones of the State Department of Commerce, Division of Workforce Development; that it was a collaborative effort of several different organizations including the NC Employment Security Commission, Job Link Career Centers, Central Carolina Community College, Chatham County's Economic Director (Dianne Reid), Department of Social Services, and Mid-Carolina Workforce Development Director; that, as previously stated, the closing of Pilgrim's Pride will take place in early June; that the company indicated that they would provide several severance packages for all of its employees from one week to twenty-six weeks, depending on the length of service; that

the employees will also be able to maintain health insurance under COBRA; that the company also indicated that they were considering hiring a placement firm to assist their salaried employees in securing other employment; that Pilgrim's Pride has a plant in Morrisville and one in Sanford that are not closing; that they said that they would absorb a few of the workers in these plants and would do so as the workers left in small numbers; that there were several companies that expressed interest in hiring some of the displaced workers; that as a result of that meeting, one of the first things that the company will do is a Needs Assessment Survey of all employees; that once they have this information in place, it will allow the other agencies to be able to see exactly what the needs are; that by looking at the assessment, it will allow the different agencies to be able to more accurately assess what they need to do (i.e. training, education, etc.); that on April 14th, the Employment Security Commission will host an orientation session at the Western Senior Center to apprise people what benefits and programs are available, based on the information received from the assessment, that during the latter part of May, the Employment Security Commission will host a job fair at which time they will bring in employers and make available opportunities for employment; and that he will continue to keep the Board of Commissioners apprised of the situation.

Chairman Lucier asked the County Manager if there was anything more that could be done in terms of the poultry producers and the work for them.

The County Manager stated that this issue was still being discussed; that there has been other interest expressed in the sale of the company; and that as it now stands, he is aware of others who had expressed an interest in the facility; and that Pilgrim's Pride has reduced the number of flocks from their growers.

Chaudhry Halal USDA Processing Facility:

Commissioner Vanderbeck stated that he attended the opening ceremonies for the new Chaudhry Halal USDA Poultry Processing Facility for pasture-based chicken, fowl, rabbits, etc.; that it was very well attended; that there is a lot of excitement; and that it could serve the region well and help to assist farmers in filling the local need in their markets.

Gerald Totten asked the time of the meeting on April 14th. Commissioner Thompson replied that it would most likely begin early in the morning.

Essentials of Economic Development:

Commissioner Barnes stated that he and Commissioner Cross would be attending the Essentials of Economic Development in Chapel Hill at the Institute of Government; that it will be two full days of updating on the school which they attended for an entire week two and one half years ago; that it is the first update that they have had since they attended the week-long school; that they also have a full day on May 22, 2008 featuring the "Future of Water Resources in North Carolina"; and that he would like to urge the entire Board to attend that seminar.

Legislative Short-Session Briefing:

Commissioner Cross stated that Commissioner Barnes and he attended the Legislative Short Session briefing with the North Carolina Association last week; that some of the short-session items were water resources initiated by the drought, public records related to e-mail, mental health issues, and minor costs being passed down to local governments; that in the budgets, most economists are predicting that a major recession will be avoided here, but that growth will certainly slow; that they will continue the chapter to reduce senior property taxes; that two bills are being discussed; one (S1180) (Dalton) passed the Senate by a high margin in final day and would prohibit us from having an Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance and related fee and (S1309) (Clodfelter) passed the Senate by 42-5 margin, but had a last minute amendment that would prevent us from taxing properties under development at market value while the development is underway but not yet finished; that it also would reduce property valuation of low-income rental property, which was the original bill intent; that the Department of Health and Human Services has now been recognized State-wide as being in a serious crisis; that there is an independent review of the entire situation through the Mercer Group who will make recommendation later this month; and

that the Governor has announced a major legislative plan that will impact local water systems; that there could be some funding to help with our new regional intake on Jordan Lake if adopted by the General Assembly and funded.

Commissioner Barnes stated that Debra Henzey had also attended this meeting and that she had prepared a very good summary of the meeting. Chairman Lucier concurred.

May Summit with Municipalities and County:

Chairman Lucier stated that a couple of months ago, Commissioner Cross and he had met with the Town of Siler City Board; that he had also met with the Town of Pittsboro Board; that he had also talked with several members of the Goldston Town Board; that there seems to be general agreement that a summit of County and municipal governments sometime in May; that the purpose of the summit would be to talk about three main agenda items: 1) Economic Development, stating that he felt it would be better to wait for the EDC report or the Strategic Plan is completed; that there are a couple of upcoming meetings on that this week; that the one on April 8th is in the Agricultural Building Auditorium at 7:00 PM and the one on April 10th is at the Siler City Senior Center at 7:00 PM; that based on that, the comments received at the meeting and other times, will be reviewed and revised by the Center for Competitive Economies and completed sometime in May; that he thinks as part of the completion date, a time should be established for the three boards to meet and talk; 2) Water Issues, stating that they need to discuss how they can further increase the connectivity between the water systems in Chatham County; 3) Sewer, stating that the County had received a Speculative Limits Letter from the Division of Water Quality for nineteen million gallons of water daily that could potentially be discharged into the upper Cape Fear River just below Buckhorn Dam; that this is something that requires a substantial discussion to try to address the municipal governments needs as well as those of the County; and that it needs to be looked at in a long-term range with regard to sewer and water conservation measures, reuse water, etc. He stated that there is no doubt that how it is used will determine the pattern of development in Chatham County far into the future; that this is something that the County has to work together with the municipalities; and that he feels it should be a major agenda item for the May summit. He suggested contacting the town managers to determine a potential May date.

By consensus, the Board agreed.

Commissioner Vanderbeck suggested that a facilitator with an infrastructure background be obtained and a charrette be done to develop a concept of what one would do and where one would send it which in turn would allow the Board to discuss options in greater detail with the municipalities and that it should be done before the summit is held.

Mr. Dave Klarmann asked if the Board would consider extending the existing moratorium for another three to six months.

Chairman Lucier asked that this be added to the April 21, 2008 Work Session Agenda.

Commissioner Thompson stated that he heartily endorses the Chairman's idea of the summit; that there has not been the greatest relationship between the County and some of the towns; that while the Board of Commissioners has tried to assist everyone in everyway that it can, he feels it is important to see where the County is; that the County is at a crossroads; that they are doing economic development planning as well as looking at infrastructure, water, sewer, etc.; that it is critical to have everyone on board; that it is difficult to move forward as a County leaving some people behind; that he knows this Board would not want to do that; that he thinks that the summit is an excellent idea; that he was pleased with the results and actions from the Economic Development breakfast meeting held in Siler City; that he thinks that they received a lot of positive comments; that this is a start with the boards working together as well some of the leaders in the western part of the County; and that he would like to continue in that direction.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Barnes moved, seconded by Commissioner Vanderbeck, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting adjourned at 9:29 AM.

George Lucier, Chairman

ATTEST:

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