

**MINUTES**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 03, 2008**

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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 September 03, 2008.

Present: Chairman George Lucier; Vice Chair, Mike Cross; Commissioners Patrick Barnes, Carl Thompson, and Tom Vanderbeck, County Manager, Charlie Horne; County Attorney, Jep Rose; Assistant County Manager, Renee Paschal; 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 9:03 AM.

**AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. **Minutes:** Consideration of a request for approval of Board Minutes for regular meeting held August 18, 2008 and work session held August 18, 2008

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

2. **Resolution Supporting Road Improvements:** Consideration of a request to adopt a **Resolution #2008-47 Supporting Road Improvements at NC 751 at SR 1731 (OKelly Chapel Road)**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

3. **Technology Grant:** Consideration of a request to accept funds from the State library in the amount of \$77,295 (with matching funds in the amount of \$19,324) to be used to purchase an automated, integrated library system for the Chatham County Public Library

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

4. **Resolution to Declare Surplus Property:** Consideration of a request to adopt **Resolution #2008-48 to Declare Surplus and Convey Property to the Family Resource Center**

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

5. **Appointment of Alternate ETJ Member of Town of Siler City’s Planning Board/Board of Adjustment:** Consideration of a request by the Siler City Town Board of Commissioners to appoint Patty Wall Poe to serve as an alternate ETJ member of the Town’s Planning Board/Board of Adjustment

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

6. **North Chatham Fire Department and Pittsboro Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department Five and Six-Mile Insurance-Rated Fire District Mapping:** Consideration of a request to approve the North Chatham Fire Department and Pittsboro Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department Fire and Six-Mile Insurance-Rated Fire District Mapping, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

7. **OPC Mental Health Board Reappointment:** Consideration of a request to reappoint George Greger-Holt to the OPC Mental Health Board by Commissioner Vanderbeck

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

8. **Appearance Commission Reappointment:** Consideration of a request to reappoint Sue Schwartz to the Appearance Commission by Commissioner Vanderbeck

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

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**PUBLIC INPUT SESSION**

There was no one signed up who wished to make public comments.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MATTERS**

**Employee of the Month:** Presentation of August and September Employee of the Month

Carolyn Miller, Human Resources Director, stated that Lisa West, grants writer in the Community Relation Division of the Manager's Office, is the first Employee of the Month (August); that she began her employment in September of 2007; that she is responsible for serving a variety of departments; that Lisa's success with grants and in carrying out other assigned duties in a way that exceeds expectations demonstrates both the pride in her work and her consistently high job performance; that Lisa had to work with very diverse teams (County departments, state agencies and nonprofits) on each grant proposal, with her leadership role being a key factor in getting the proposals prepared on time, completely and effectively; that three of the grants would never have happened without her commitment to teamwork, as she pulled teams together, developed timelines and task assignments for each grant, and worked through difficult challenges; that in at least two cases, the departments provided very limited budget information and she had to work with them to develop strong budgets; that Lisa is very successful in that she has brought in \$822,000.00 in grants since September, 2007; that 100% of the grants for which she has applied have been approved; that she has paid for her salary with fringe benefits twenty times over with her efforts; that some of her large projects include forming a large, non-profit foundation for the public library and the large PARTF grant for Parks and Recreation Department.

Ms. Miller stated that the September 2008 Employee of the Month is Joseph Parker, a Network Engineer in the MIS Department who began his employment with the County in February, 2005; that many feel that Joseph should be not only employee of the month but employee of the year; that he provides an extraordinary level of customer service to all employees therefore making him the "go to person" in all areas; that if he cannot handle the problem, he finds someone who can; that within the department, he is always willing to "jump in" and help with any project that the department is pulled into; that he is constantly trying to find new ways to improve network communication by researching equipment and software before making a recommendation; that he is continually improving his knowledge through reading, special training as well as "hands on" experience; that even when he was out on medical leave, he worked from home, solving network problems MIS were having at the time; that when there is a network problem or any type of problem, he does not mind spending the extra time after hours to resolve issue; that when asked if he will help with something, he wants to do it right then even when told it can wait until later; and that another example – on his day off, if he received an email via his blackberry which requires

immediate attention and he is not where he can take care of it, he will forward it to someone so the problem can be resolved quickly.

Ms. Miller stated that both employees are to be congratulated for their hard work.

Chairman Lucier expressed his appreciation for the efforts of both employees stating that he couldn't be happier with what the County is doing with "Employee of the Month" both for Ms. West's and Mr. Parker's efforts.

### **MANAGER' S REPORTS**

The County Manager reported on the following:

#### **Hurricane Hanna:**

The County Manager stated that the County began its early planning for the possibility of Hurricane Hanna arriving in central North Carolina on the previous day; that landfall is varying at this point; and that reports are for precipitation and wind or a combination of both either Friday night or Saturday morning. He stated that they will keep the Board posted as they make contact with the Weather Service and State Emergency Management.

Chairman Lucier stated that the hurricane seemed to be wobbling around in the Bahamas and that it may be headed this way. The County Manager stated that the reports they have received thus far were indicating up to six inches of rain with tropical winds and that it was headed toward the western side of the state.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

#### **Comprehensive Transportation Plan:**

Commissioner Vanderbeck stated that he had advised the Board that he would follow up from our last meeting regarding the Comprehensive Transportation Plan for the County; that currently Moore County is still waiting for their transportation plan; that Chatham is still waiting on an anticipated starting date for it; and that he expects to learn more in the work session.

#### **New School Liaison:**

Chairman Lucier informed the Board that Debs McManus was in attendance and will be the new liaison between the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners; that she will be working efficiently between the School Board and the Board of Commissioners; that it is so important in terms of forward thinking of school construction programs, dealing with school renovations, and all of the things that have to be done with the schools, including recruitment and retaining good teachers, teacher supplements, etc.; that the School Board sets new policies and makes recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for funding; that it is the Board of Commissioners' job to fund them; and that it is important that these two board work together well.

Ms. McManus stated that they appreciate the relationship they have with the Board of Commissioners and would like to maintain it.

#### **Wastewater:**

Chairman Lucier stated that the Board has talked about, on a few occasions, how to best use our speculative limits letter received from DWQ regarding 19 million gallons a day for wastewater; that the County doesn't have a wastewater sewer system in the County; that he thinks everyone agrees that the most efficient use of this, as the Board plans for the future and to perhaps develop a request for approval for a wastewater system in the County is to work with the municipal governments, Pittsboro, Siler City, and Goldston; that that is where it would be most efficient to have a sewer system rather than thinking about running it through Chatham County which would probably not be cost effective; that he proposes to organize a summit of all four elected bodies, Pittsboro, Siler City, Goldston, and Chatham

County to develop preliminary plans for how to best use the wastewater; that he thinks that long-range water needs and how to best share water needs should also be added to the agenda; that there are now four separate water systems in Chatham County, the County system from Jordan Lake, Pittsboro from the Haw River, Siler City has the reservoir upstream on the Rocky River, and Goldston from the Deep River; that there are four great water systems, but they are not interconnected as well as they could be; that he proposes developing a summit with the municipal governments and the County in the not too distant future to start the process to see how the allocation can best be used to serve the citizens of the County.

By consensus, the Board agreed to organize a summit of all four elected bodies, Pittsboro, Siler City, Goldston, and Chatham County to develop preliminary plans for how to best use the wastewater for Chatham County citizens.

Commissioner Vanderbeck asked if there was a plan for a needs assessment regarding wastewater and drinking water.

Chairman Lucier stated that there is no needs assessment that has been done for the wastewater; that that has been done when there are things outside of municipal government either by septic tank or spray field; that for water, it was done by as part of the last "go-round" before they became Commissioners in terms of what Hobbs and Upchurch did in terms of estimating future needs based on developments that had been approved and the developments that are in the mill in their various estimates that were derived based on the expected growth; that there are also some preliminary estimates that were done based on the TJCOG estimates that the eastern part of the County would grow to 117,000 people by 2035; that if that's the case, the County will need a lot of water if those people were to be served by the County or municipal water system; that he feels a formal needs assessment should be done; that, in some respects, the math is straightforward; that if you figure 200 gallons per day per household and there are 40,000 new households, the math would equal eight million gallons per day; and that the current water treatment plant can provide a maximum of three million gallons per day.

David Hughes, Public Works Director, stated that the County has contracted with TJCOG for growth projections; that they generally have an idea of what they will need at certain times; that that is depending on population projections.

Chairman Lucier stated that while he believes that a more formal needs assessment, he doesn't feel that the summit should wait the needs assessment.

Commissioner Vanderbeck stated that that was fine; that there was a discussion about it some months ago; and that he is happy to get there.

Chairman Lucier stated that he felt the question asked was do they bring in the entire boards or just representatives from each of the boards; that his preference would be to bring everyone together which means that there would be 30-35 people involved including staff, etc.; that everyone could give advice on what they hear; and that at some point, they could move into smaller groups to start developing the plan. He asked Ms. McManus if she thought the Board of Education should be involved in this process.

Ms. McManus stated that she didn't feel that they had a lot to contribute. Chairman Lucier stated that they were the recipient of the growth. She replied that was true, and with regard to water and wastewater, that while they were interested, they might want to send a representative instead of the entire board.

The County Manager stated that they might want to get representatives from the different boards to come to the initial meeting and grow out of that to determine levels of interest. He stated that the earliest it could probably be done was December due to the number of people involved and their schedules.

Chairman Lucier stated that he wanted to get people, chairs and vice chairs, Planning Director, County staff, etc., together as soon as possible and develop an agenda that could be used for the summit.

The County Manager stated that he could contact the municipals, managers, and/or representatives for the third week in October and that they could then go from there.

Chairman Lucier stated that he had already talked with representatives, John Grimes and Mayor Turner from Siler City, a couple of people on the Pittsboro Town Board, and Goldston Board representatives, and everyone seems to think that it is a good idea.

The County Manager stated that there are a lot of things that can constructively grow out of this conversation.

**Long Range Transportation Plan Public Hearing:**

Chairman Lucier asked when the public hearing was to be held on the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan to be held in Durham.

The Planning Director stated that he was unsure. General consensus was that it was to be held in October. Chairman Lucier stated that notification should be sent to any interested and impacted Chatham County residents. He asked if this information could be placed on the Chatham County web site.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Thompson moved, seconded by Commissioner Vanderbeck, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 AM.

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George Lucier, Chairman

ATTEST:

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