

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 02, 2009

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 February 02, 2009.

Present: Chairman George Lucier; Vice Chair, Sally Kost; Commissioners Mike Cross, 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 asked Item #10, consideration of a request to apply for Electronic Monitoring Initiative Grant, be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda for discussion.

Commissioner Vanderbeck moved, seconded by Commissioner Kost, to approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda with the noted request as follows:

1. **Tax Lien Advertisement:** Consideration of a request to approve advertisement of tax liens

The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).
2. **Proclamation “We Love Seniors Month February 2009”:** Consideration of a request to adopt **Proclamation #2009-11 “We Love Seniors Month – February 2009”**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).
3. **Naming of Private Roads in Chatham County:** Consideration of a request from citizens for the naming of private roads in Chatham County – Leila Place

The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).
4. **Grant Application for Waste Management:** Consideration of a request to apply for “Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant for Forklift/Ramp Purchase” in the amount of \$25,000, application attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).
5. **Human Relations Month Proclamation:** Consideration of a request to adopt **Chatham County Human Relations Commission Proposed 2009 Human Relations Month Proclamation #2009-12**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

6. **African American History Month Proclamation:** Consideration of a request to adopt **Chatham County Human Relations Commission Proposed 2009 African American History Month Proclamation #2009-13**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

7. **Resolution for Addition of Street to NC System of Secondary Roads – Deer Mountain Road:** Consideration of a request to adopt **Resolution #2009-14 for the Addition of Streets or Roads to the North Carolina System of Secondary Roads – Deer Mountain Road in the Deer Mountain Subdivision**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

8. **Human Relations Board Reappointment:** Consideration of a request to reappoint Reverend David Scotten to the Chatham County Human Relations Board by Commissioner Thompson

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

9. **Human Relations Board Appointment:** Consideration of a request to appoint Norman Clark to the Chatham County Human Relations Board by Commissioner Kost

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

10. ~~**Electronic Monitoring Initiative Grant Application:**~~ Consideration of a request to apply for ~~Electronic Monitoring Initiative Grant~~

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda for discussion.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Cross questioned the procedure for placing appointments to various boards on the Consent Agenda.

Chairman Lucier explained that for any appointment, a Commissioner will nominate a person to serve which will then approved by the Board of Commissioners.

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS

Electronic Monitoring Initiative Grant Application:

Consideration of a request to apply for Electronic Monitoring Initiative Grant

Commissioner Vanderbeck asked for more information on the application stating that it requires a match and is over a couple of years old.

The County Manager explained that the grant application is a crime commission match process. He stated that the match would be in-kind using the supervisory services of the Sheriff's Office deputy that will be working with him.

Commissioner Vanderbeck asked about the budgetary impact.

The County Manager explained that the in-kind match will be through a currently employed captain or deputy who will be supervising; that there will be no further outlay other than what is now being done.

Commissioner Thompson stated that what they are doing with the grant could save lives when it comes to violence against women in particular; that the grant pays for monitoring offenders; that it pays for ankle bracelets where prisoners are actually monitored twenty-four hours per day; that the more we can do this, the more women can feel safe in their own homes; that he feels it is a good project; and that he thinks it is an excellent project and hopes it can be continued and funding increased as some point in time.

Commissioner Vanderbeck stated that he agreed with the benefits of the program, but just needed a little more information.

Commissioner Kost asked if the court system had been involved in applying for the grant. The County Manager stated that he could not answer the question; that he believes that the Sheriff's Office has done so and that they could be asked to come and verify it. Commissioner Kost asked that before the grant is accepted, she would ask that that we make sure we have "buy-in" from the courts because the only way that the program is going to be effective, is if it is used.

Commissioner Vanderbeck moved, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, to approve the request for Electronic Monitoring Initiative Grant, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Employee of the Month: Presentation of February Employee of the Month

Carolyn Miller, Human Relations Director, stated that the Employee of the Month program was instituted in FY 2009 to honor Chatham County employees for exemplary service to citizens and their fellow employees. She explained that the February 2009 Employee of the Month is Jackie Williams, Administrative Assistant, of the Chatham County Facilities Department. An excerpt from her nomination form follows:

"She is a spectacular human being, who is always ready to provide excellent services, and does her job consistently. The fleet department and Chatham County are lucky to have her. She is the best and always helpful. She takes great pride in her job, and her actions are way, way, way beyond the call of duty. She always has a cooperative attitude, and she is super creative and super friendly. In an environment where things can change quickly, she is flexible and open minded. I cannot think of a better person that embodies what we all strive to do—provide great customer services."

Commissioner Thompson stated that Ms. Williams, along with her pastor husband, do an outstanding job in their community; that with everything else that she does, she has a church family and is doing exciting things in the Bear Creek area.

Chairman Lucier expressed his appreciation for Ms. Williams' efforts, stating that she is a wonderful person and a wonderful employee and Chatham County is lucky to have her.

Liquor-by-the-Drink Discussion: Discussion of the information needed to decide on whether or not liquor-by-the-drink should be on a voter referendum ballot

Chairman Lucier explained that the County held a public hearing on January 26, 2009 on this matter in which a large crowd attended; that approximately half the people who spoke in favor of putting it on the ballot; that the Board has received a lot of emails regarding the issue; He reviewed information supplied by Debra Henzey regarding alcohol traffic fatalities and other issues related to economic activity. He stated that all eight counties that border Chatham County have liquor-by-the-drink in some form; that the question before the Board is whether or not to put liquor-by-the-drink on the ballot in order for the citizens of Chatham County to have the opportunity to vote on the issue; that there are three places that currently have liquor-by-the-drink in Chatham County: Governors Club, Ferrington, and Siler City County Club. He reviewed questions on which he would like answers and asked for additional information prior to voting, but stated that it is up to the Board to decide how to proceed. Chairman Lucier stated that they had received requests from the Town of Pittsboro, ABC Board, Economic Development Corporation, Chamber of Commerce, and Pittsboro Merchants Association asking the Board to put liquor-by-the-drink on the ballot. He stated that Siler City and Goldston had declined to take action as to whether it should be placed on the ballot.

Commissioner Vanderbeck stated that the County invested over \$100,000 with UNC to develop an economic development strategic plan; that one of their recommendations was that liquor-by-the-drink would be beneficial; that when this was presented to the County, Pittsboro, Siler City, and Goldston, they approved the plan.

Commissioner Thompson asked if a town was to vote specifically for that particular town, could they extend the boundaries to go beyond the city limits into the ETJ. The County Attorney stated that the answer was no.

Commissioner Kost stated that she would like to have the additional information before she votes, particularly the information dealing with the town.

Commissioner Kost moved, seconded by Commissioner Vanderbeck, to wait until the February 16, 2009 Board of Commissioners' meeting to make a decision on whether or not liquor-by-the-drink should be placed on a voter referendum ballot.

Commissioner Cross stated that he would like to have further information about how it works, stating that even though people did accept the Strategic Plan, Siler City took no action on liquor-by-the-drink and he would like to know that if it is approved, does it mean Siler City or other municipalities have to accept it.

Chairman Lucier stated that he had the same questions. He stated that if the Board passed it, is it automatically in the entire County including the towns unless they take some action to say that they do not want it or do they have to take action agreeing with the outcome of the ballot. He asked if anyone had communicated with Cary on this matter as it should probably be done. The County Manager stated that they had not talked with Cary at this point, and that he would be glad to do so.

MANAGER' S REPORTS

The County Manager had no reports.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Community Meetings:

Commissioner Thompson stated that a community meeting was held in Goldston this past Thursday evening, January 29th; that Commissioners Cross and Vanderbeck attended; that there was some lively discussion; that several issues were raised; that there will be a follow-up meeting on February 19th to hear other concerns; that he hopes from the two meetings that they will bring citizens together to form a task force and solve some of the issues and work with the Board of Commissioners in doing so; that one thing mentioned by several citizens was that the people want to hear from Board members; that while the Board, through their hearings and regular meetings try and make the time and effort to hear from people, the people at the meeting seemed to want the entire Board of Commissioners in attendance; that there was an explanation regarding the way that they formulated the meeting and the meeting format; that he told them that he would suggest to the Board that they hold one of their meetings in their area; that while they can't move around the County on a regular basis, it might be a good idea to take the Board meeting to different areas some of the time.

Commissioner Kost stated that she had been a proponent of moving the Board meetings, at least four times per year, to each of the corners of the County and hold their regular meeting out in the community; that when they begin talking about their goals and objectives for next year, that is one of the things that she plans to do.

Chairman Lucier stated that the Board could talk about that at their Summit Meetings; that they need to schedule the meetings in advance; that he knows it is not as easy to cart everything to different locations but that if there are no technical reasons to prohibit the move, it seems like a good idea.

The County Manager stated that it would be a matter of logistics and that he felt it could be accomplished.

Commissioner Kost suggested that the change in locations be done on lighter meeting dates and the time limits at those Public Input Sessions be increased.

A discussion ensued regarding the length of the Public Input Session. The County Manager suggested that the Public Input Session could also be added as an agenda item.

The Chairman explained that the Board of Commissioners has a luncheon meeting with the Cooperative Extension Service at noon and consideration of their Annual Report. He stated that the upcoming Work Session will be held in the Henry H. Dunlap Building Classroom.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cross moved, seconded by Commissioner Kost, to adjourn as the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting adjourned at 9:37AM.

George Lucier, Chairman

ATTEST:

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