MINUTES CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MAY 17, 2010

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 6:00 PM on May 17, 2010.

Present: Sally Kost, Chair; George Lucier, Vice

Chair; Commissioners Mike Cross, Carl

Thompson, and Tom Vanderbeck

Staff Members Charlie Horne, County Manager; Jep Rose, Present: County Attorney; Renee Paschal, Assistant

County Manager; Vicki McConnell, Finance Officer; Sandra B. Sublett, Clerk to the Board; and Elizabeth Plata, Deputy Clerk to

the Board

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kost welcomed everyone present and called the meeting to order at 6: 01 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA

The Chair asked if there were additions, deletions, or corrections to the Agenda and Consent Agenda.

The Chair asked the following:

- Item #6, Approval of Green Building and Sustainable Energy (GBASE) Advisory Board Member recommendations be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the June 7, 2010 Board of Commissioners' Agenda
- Item #10, Approval of agreement for Broadband work with Action Audits, be removed from the Consent Agenda and returned to the Board for discussion at a later date
- Item #8, Consideration of a request to approve a debt write-off for the utilities department be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda for discussion after the Public Input Session

Commissioner Vanderbeck moved, seconded by Commissioner Lucier, to approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda with the noted requests:

1. **Minutes:** Approval of Board Minutes for Regular Meetings held May 03, 2010 and April 19, 2010, and Minutes for Board Summit held January 20, 2010

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

2. **Tax Releases and Refunds:** Approval of tax releases and refunds, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

3. **Funds Acceptance for Health Department:** Approval of a request to accept additional funds in the amount of \$2,000 for the nurse mentoring system

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

4. **Fiscal Year Budget Amendments:** Approval of a request to approve fiscal year 2009-2010 budget amendments, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

5. **Ten Year Solid Waste Management Plan:** Approval of ten-year Solid Waste Management Plan for Chatham County Update, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

6. Green Building and Sustainable Energy (GBASE) Advisory Board Member Recommendations: Approval of Green Building and Sustainable Energy (GBASE) Advisory Board Member Recommendations

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and will be returned to the Board at their June 7, 2010 Board of Commissioners' meeting.

7. **Naming of Private Roads in Chatham County:** Approval of a request to name private roads in Chatham County as follows:

Rainy Day Farm Drive

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

8. **Debt Write-Off for the Utilities Department:** Consideration of a request to approve a debt write-off for the utilities department

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

9. **Construction and Demolition Recycling Ordinance:** Approval of a request to adopt the Construction and Demolition (C&D) Recycling Ordinance, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

10. **Broadband Agreement:** Approval of agreement for Broadband work with Action Audits

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and will be returned to the Board for discussion at a later date.

11. **Set Date for Public Hearing on Occupancy Tax:** Approval of a request to set June 21, 2010 as the date on which to hold a public hearing on the occupancy tax

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

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Larry Ballas, 139 Indian Trail, Apex, NC, stated that he wished to comment on the Annual Report that was made a few weeks ago, more specifically on the schools. He stated that Chatham's rank, out of the one hundred school operations funding, is fourth which is fairly high. He asked if we are getting our money's worth i.e. for the amount of money we are putting in, are we getting back a significant amount of activity that is reflective of how

well the system is being funded or do we need to look at new ways of spending the money or adding more money to the system. He stated that he tried to pull up some statistics, which are not necessarily up-to-date because none are available unless you sign-up and pay a lot of money for them. He stated that, in general consensus, what he will do, is show the budget system here and then compare Orange, Durham, and Chatham Counties, etc. and where they stand on a per-district comparison ranking put out by the State. Chatham is ranked presently 58 out of over 100 school districts and some school districts are only cities. The amount of money that the County is spending and the statistics on the 58th ranking are not exactly balanced when comparing 2007 and 2009/2010. Orange County, which pays a lot of money, was 38th, Durham County, which pays more than Chatham County, was 98th. The amount of money that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners is putting into the system is not necessarily reflective of how well the students are doing. Lee County is ranked 51st, Alamance County 65th, Randolph County 33rd, and Harnett County 81st. This is indicative even if you decrease the amount of the budget, you can still educate the students. We're all about the same, so the amount of money is not really reflective of how well the students are doing which is surprising. He stated that if we went into more detail on this, we would probably find an economic basis behind the numbers; that if specific schools are looked at from 2007-2008, (high schools specifically), North Chatham Elementary lost a little bit on rankings; that Moncure Elementary went up tremendously 659 points; that Bennett Elementary went up 755 points. He stated that our high schools went down quite a bit. Out of 500 high schools that were ranked, Northwood went down 108 points and Jordan Matthews went down 75 points. He stated that he thinks they have to look at the return on the budget money that's coming into the Chatham County Schools. He asked if it's just that we're adding more money to try to improve the system without examining where we need to improve the system. If it's economic based and the system isn't working right, do we need to do something to help the families out rather than help the schools out. There is a program in Durham where little kids learning to read don't have the opportunity to bring it home so they read to dogs. It has been set up where dogs are fairly calm where kids can read to them so that they can learn how to read. It is not a program that's going to work in Chatham County. The excitement of about education starts in kindergarten or prekindergarten. He wonders why when we get up to the high schools does the system fail. He stated that he brings that to the Board's attention so that we can look at the return we are getting on our money going into education and some of the other programs on which a lot of money is spent.

Chair Kost asked the source of the data from which Mr. Ballas received his information regarding the rankings. Mr. Ballas replied: SchoolDigger.com

Chair Kost stated that if Mr. Ballas would contact the Board of Education, the superintendent's office, they would provide more up-to-date scores.

Mr. Ballas replied that he didn't need it, that the County needed it. He stated that he didn't see any County report that was given; that he thought it would be nice to be able to ask for an explanation on some things and be able to say how much other things had improved; that you would then be able to see a return on the dollars that the taxpayers are giving the County.

Commissioner Lucier stated that he thought Mr. Ballas' comment was a good one; that it is the way that they should look at the budget; that they do actually do so with their lengthy budget sessions with the different departments in terms of cost of services to the taxpayer; that in terms of the high schools, more recent data does indicate that they have improved substantially; that the most recent rating now for Northwood, for example, out of 10,000 high schools in the country, Northwood was ranked in the top 1,500; that that is a significant improvement; that the dropout rate for Chatham County high schools three years ago was 30%; that the number now has improved to 21%; that a lot of the numbers seen are outdated; that he feels there has been a significant improvement in the quality of the schools since Robert Logan was hired; that Jordan Matthews is also ranked one of the top 1,500 schools also out of 10,000; that there is no doubt that schools are improving although they have a ways to go.

DEBT WRITE-OFF FOR THE UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

Consideration of a request to approve a debt write-off for the utilities department:

Commissioner Vanderbeck asked for an explanation of the policies for utilities write-off and why some of it dates back to 2000-2007 in varying amounts.

Vicki McConnell, Finance Officer, stated that there was no policy but there supposedly is a practice that we write debt off every year. She stated that she thinks the Health Department does have a policy, but this one "fell through the cracks" and it will be done from now on every year.

Chair Kost asked when taxes were written off and if it was governed by the General Statutes. The Finance Officer replied that taxes were written off every ten years and it was done according to the General Statutes.

Commissioner Lucier asked if this was done over a ten-year period and if we lose approximately eight thousand dollars per year from the write-off.

The Finance Officer explained that a lot of this debt was back when we were changing personnel and we didn't have enough personnel to cut off water every month; that most of the time a person would get three months behind and they would leave; that there is no way to collect it; that now the water is cut off every month so if someone happens to leave, they will be only two months behind. She stated that if the customer ever returns, records are kept so that they will have to pay the back amount prior to their new water service connection.

Commissioner Vanderbeck moved, seconded by Commissioner Lucier, to approve the debt write-off in the amount of \$83,291.84. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

COURTHOUSE UPDATE

Update on the Chatham County Historic Courthouse:

Chair Kost informed those not attending the afternoon Work Session, that the Board of Commissioners appointed members to the Courthouse Task Force who will be looking at the uses for the courthouse; that they have established a community forum to receive general public input on June 14, 2010; that tentatively, the first meeting of the Courthouse Task Force will be June 29, 2010.

The County Manager advised that staff is still plodding through the wording issues with the contracts with architects, etc.

Chair Kost asked where we are with the structural engineering.

The County Manager stated that it is designed and ready for work when we get through outstanding issues.

Resolution of Appreciation for Chatham County Responders: Approval of Resolution of Appreciation for Chatham County Responders

Chair Kost stated everyone that was at the fire knows the activity of managing the community events of such was incredible. She stated that there were State Highway Patrol, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, the Pittsboro Police Department, as well as the emergency responders from fifteen fire departments including those from Sanford, Durham, Cary, and Apex; that it was an incredible effort from many people who responded; that passing a resolution saying thank you does not seem to be adequate, for if it had not been for the folks on March 25th, Chatham County would not have a courthouse to rebuild; and that it was their efforts that really did save the building. She read the last part of the resolution as follows:

Whereas, the citizens of Chatham County recognize the value of history to our community and the importance of the historic Courthouse as a beloved icon in the heart of our Chatham County Community.

Therefore be it resolved that the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County expresses its heartfelt appreciation formally recognizing all those responders who worked so tirelessly during the fire. Further, we recognize that without the efforts of many, we would have lost the entire building so we are forever grateful that they saved the courthouse for future generations. We also want to express our appreciation to responders who played other vital roles during and immediately after the fire.

Be it further resolved that the Board of Commissioners proclaim May 27, 2010 as "Emergency Responders Appreciation Day" in Chatham County.

Commissioner Lucier moved, seconded by Commissioner Vanderbeck, to adopt **Resolution #2010-____ of Appreciation for Chatham County Responders**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Chair Kost stated that she will be attending the "Chiefs" meeting on May 27th on behalf of the Board of Commissioners to thank the fire departments for all that they have done. She stated that she will send a letter of appreciation to each department along with the resolution. She thanked the Fire Marshal for all of his efforts.

Tom Bender, Fire Marshal, thanked the Board of Commissioners, County Administration, and citizens for their support and assistance during and since the courthouse fire. He thanked Chair Kost for agreeing to come to their meeting on May 27th. He stated that he had worked for Chatham County for almost eighteen years and that he had never not been supported; that he loves Chatham County and has never worked at a better place in his life; and that most firemen did not look at the courthouse fire as anything other than doing their job.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' PRIORITIES

FY 2010-2011 Recommended Budget Presentation: Presentation of the recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011

• Set date for public hearings on Tuesday, June 1, 2010 (Pittsboro) and Wednesday, June 2, 2010 (Siler City)

Charlie Horne, County Manager, reviewed specifics of the budget. He explained that property values total \$8.6 billion; that staff is recommending a tax increase of 2.5 cents; that one penny generates \$836,504; that anticipated property tax revenue would be \$53,530,541; that the General Fund Fund Balance appropriated is \$3,907,708; that the Water Fund budget totals \$5,688,535; and the Waste Management Fund totals \$3,080,558.

He stated that the public hearings on the budget are scheduled for June 1, 2010 in Pittsboro and June 2, 2010 in Siler City.

Renee Paschal, Assistant County Manager, presented a PowerPoint of the FY 2011 Recommended Budget. She reviewed the budget process, economic conditions, new commitments, mandated services, revenue highlights, major funds, expansion, improvements to the budget document, Commissioners' goals, fund balance, the Capital Improvements Program, Chatham County Schools, and non-profit agencies. The PowerPoint follows in its entirety:

SUMMARY OF CHATHAM COUNTY FY 2011 RECOMMENDED BUDGET



Budget Process (Page 10) Staff is presenting the Manager's Recommended Budget—this is just the

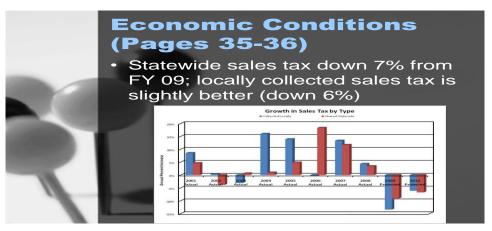
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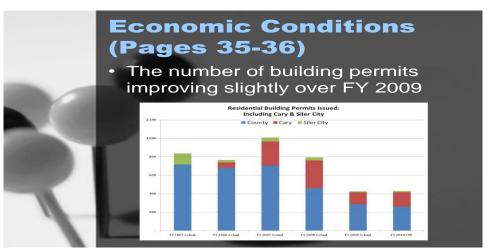
 Before the budget is finalized,
 - commissioners will:

 Hold 2 public hearings to hear from the
 - public

 Hold a series of budget work sessions in early June
 - Make changes based on public input, etc.
- Goal is to have the budget finalized on June 21

FY 2011...A challenging year • Revenues continue to decline • Local economic indicators improving, but slowly • Several new commitments in FY 2011, including opening 6 new facilities





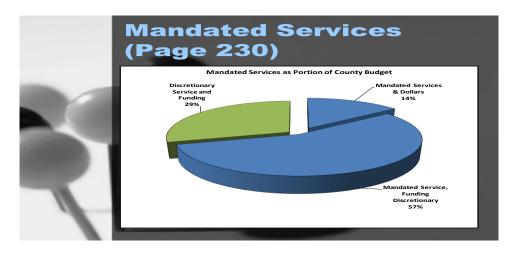
Economic Conditions (Pages 35-36)

- Property tax base expected to grow only 2.1% in FY 2011; motor vehicle values continue to decline
- State budget shortfall may mean more cuts to counties and schools
- County estimated shortfall in FY 2010 is about \$450K (0.5%)

New Commitments

- Margaret Pollard Middle School opens January 2011--\$788K
- Chatham Community Library opens fall 2010--\$362K
- Two new community college buildings open in the fall--\$91K
- Two new parks open--\$224K





Highlights

- Overall, revenues are expected to decline slightly in FY 2011, including:

 Interest down 52%

 Sales tax down 8%

 Without new commitments, the general fund budget was cut 4%

Revenue Highlights

- A 2.5-cent tax increase is recommended—generates \$2.1 million (less than the new commitments)
- Most fire departments requesting small increases in fire tax rates
- Fund balance appropriation recommended: \$3.9 million—all earmarked for one-time items
- Budget also reflects expenditures for 6% occupancy tax rate

Major Funds

- General Fund: \$84.6M, 2% increase
- Water Fund: \$5.7M, a 10% decrease
- Waste Management: \$3.1M, a 21% decrease

Expansion (page 26-29)

Recommended expansion (2.09 cents on tax

- Recommended expansion (a rate)
 1.83 cents for new facilities (Margaret Pollard Middle, Chatham Community Library, 2 community college buildings, and 2 parks)
 0.15 cents for new positions in Emergency Dispatch, Health, Sheriff, Sustainable Communities, and Social Services
 0.11 for other expansion (codification of ordinances, electronic tax listing, etc.)

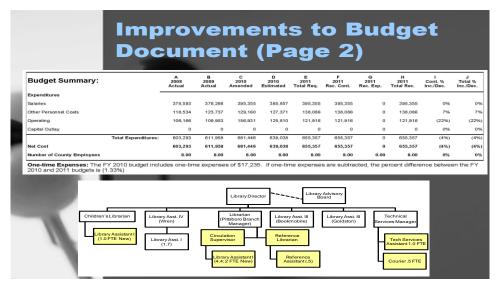
Improvements to **Budget Document**

- Made improvements to comply with Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Award:
 - Comprehensive budget message
 - Much improved department work plans focus on *key* measures
 - List of accomplishments achieved in FY 2010 and innovations planned for FY 2011

 - Summary of the Capital Improvements Program (CIP)













Commissioner Goals (Pages 4-7 & Appendix D)

- Schools
 - Increases base funding for Chatham County Schools to offset loss in state funding
 - Increases time for school health position in Health Dept.
- Other Goals/Issues
 - Includes \$4,000 in revenue from Town of Pittsboro to partner on storm water services

Fund Balance (Pages 7-10)

- Staff estimates we will use about \$450K in FY 2010 Stated goal is 20%; should be at 26% at the end of FY 2010
- the end of FY 2010
 Recommending an appropriation of \$3.9
 million in FY 2011; all earmarked for
 non-recurring expenses, including
 school capital outlay and CIP
 Staff estimates fund balance will drop to
 23% at the end of FY 2011
 Five-year model shows fund balance will
 be above 20 percent

Capital Improvements Program (CIP) (Pages 32-33 & Appendix E)

- Recommended changes:
 - Appropriate additional \$350K from fund balance for Performance Building renovations
 - Postpone emergency services building to FY 2013
 - Remove schools facilities condition assessment
 - Fund auditorium upgrades with QSCBs

Chatham County Schools (Pages 78-79)

- Staff from the county and school system worked closely to develop the recommended budget Keeps school CIP projects on track 7% increase in current expense

- Maintains teachers supplement

Non-profit Agencies (Pages 122-127)

- Manager made minor changes in panel recommendations
- Written recommendations from panels were provided
- Commissioners have \$10,000 to allocate directly

Public Invited to Participate • Public Hearings: - June 1, 6 p.m., Agriculture Auditorium, Pittsboro - June 2, 6 p.m., Siler City Courtroom • Copy of the budget available on the website: www.chathamnc.org (click on quick links) • Copies of the budget available in each of the county's libraries



Chair Kost thanked Staff for the budget stating that she felt they really listened to the changes that the Board of Commissioners suggested. She reiterated that this is the County Manager's recommendation and that the Commissioners have not discussed it (other than the Capital Improvements Plan).

Commissioner Lucier stated that regarding the school auditoriums for Chatham Central and Jordan Matthews, construction was scheduled for a few years later, but because the County received School Construction Bonds, it was moved up to this fiscal year. He stated that he was also happy to see the effort being made towards the schools and health issues; that they will be looking at it in more detail; that he suggests when the school system comes in, we schedule it back-to-back with the Health Department to examine the issues in more detail of which they were asked to look at last year.

He asked about the degree of uncertainty regarding revenue projections.

Ms. Paschal stated that they projected revenue as if the current downturn continued well into 2011. There is not a market upfront in the economy which she thinks that most experts agree is the case in that things will not turnaround that quickly. She stated that they had budgeted for a slow recovery but if things pick up quickly, we could have a different situation.

Commissioner Lucier stated that the conservative approach paid off last year when the economic downturn hit; that the result that the County was impacted far less than most jurisdictions by the economic downturns due to the conservative economic assumptions; that if things start picking up sooner then we think, we could revisit a couple of things in terms of lost positions, etc.

The County Manager stated that in terms of preparing the budget, we take a conservative, cautious approach; and that if things get better, there are opportunities for the Board to consider items that they may wish to fund at a later date.

Commissioner Lucier stated that he agrees with that; that it is better to add things rather than take things away.

Chair Kost added that last year, what really came into being was that the large 3M discovery. She stated that we are continuing to look for those types of discoveries; that those kinds are few and far between; that the effort continues; and that a large discovery like that could change all the numbers.

Ms. Paschal stated that she believes the discoveries made this year were approximately \$68 million. She stated that there had been a few questions from

Commissioners on items to follow up on; that she wanted to clarify the process, compile it, and make periodic recommendations, possibly weekly or every-other-week, depending on the volume.

By consensus, the Board agreed.

Ms. Paschal stated that part of the process was updating Commissioner goals, and that the Human Services folks would like for the Board to consider adding a "Human Services Goal".

Commissioner Lucier stated that the Board had agreed to do that at their last meeting.

Commissioner Cross stated that this was what was requested from the DSS Director.

Chair Kost stated that Staff was asked to compile a tentative schedule for the Board to look at as far as what they will do, how they will take the departments and agencies funded by the County and break it up into the work sessions; that it looks like they will need to spend some time just to finalize their goals; that at their last meeting, they had a good discussion; and now they need to capture the discussion and get it out.

The Human Services drafted language follows:

Human Services

Overall goal: Ensure that there are sufficient supportive services available for the most vulnerable residents.

- 1. Encourage and support efficient collaboration and non-duplication of services among Health, DSS, COA, Mental Health, and other Human services agencies and non-profits to meet the basic needs of vulnerable residents.
- 2. Foster good relationships with the Court System, Sheriff's Office, DSS, Schools to ensure that children, adults and elderly residents are protected, and proactively educate and advocate for the well-being of all citizens.
- 3. Comply with Executive Order 52 to assess the readiness of the state/local government for the increasing aging population.
- 4. Provide adequate staffing for county departments to respond to the economic needs of families which have been most severely affected by the economy. (This may be covered under their personnel goal.)
- 5. Support efforts to recruit and license local family foster homes.
- 6. Implement solutions to barriers to transportation for those seeking health care, basic needs of everyday life, education and secure employment.
- 7. Support efforts to assure that county agencies are resourced and trained to assist residents in need of sheltering and support during natural and manmade disaster events.

Chair Kost called for a motion to set the public hearings.

Commissioner Lucier moved, seconded by Commissioner Vanderbeck, to set Tuesday, June 1, 2010 (Pittsboro) and Wednesday, June 2, 2010 (Siler City) as the dates on which to hold public hearings on the FY 2010-2011 Recommended Budget at 6:00 PM. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Resolution in Support of Local Bill for Chatham-Cary Land Use: Approval of a **Resolution in Support for Local Bill for Chatham-Cary Land Use**

Chair Kost stated that the reason they are requesting this is that the Town of Cary and Chatham County are now working cooperatively together to the benefit of the citizens; that Boards change, Board of Commissioners change, town councils change; that to ensure that mutual cooperation that is agreed to now continues, this would require that changes to the Land Use Plan or changes to the Design Standards and all aspects with which they are required to agree with Cary and vote on in December, require approval of both Cary and Chatham; that she would ask, in making the motion, now only do we approve this resolution but that the Board authorize the County Attorney to work with her and the Cary Attorney and staff to draft the legislation. She stated that it is due on Wednesday.

Commissioner Lucier asked how we are coordinating with Cary on this, stating that it was not going to move forward in the short session unless the legislature has clear evidence that both Cary and Chatham County are agreeing to this.

Chair Kost stated that she had communicated with both the Speaker and Mr. Atwater about that issue; that a copy of Cary's approved legislative agenda has been provided to them; that she has also spoken with the Mayor Pro Tem and she is not only cooperating, she has also asked their local delegation also sign on as a sponsor of the bill. She stated that it may be the western Wake delegation that sponsors the bill.

Larry Ballas, citizen, asked if this had anything to do with annexation. Chair Kost replied that they were not doing anything with annexation as far as location legislation is concerned.

Commissioner Lucier moved, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, to adopt **Resolution #2010-**___ in **Support for Local Bill for Chatham-Cary Land Use**, and authorize the Chair to work with the County Attorney and other necessary parties to draft the legislation, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

MANAGER'S REPORTS

The County Manager reported on the following:

Chatham County Planning Director

The Sustainability Director announced that Jason Sullivan has been afforded the title of Chatham County Planning Director.

The Board praised Mr. Sullivan's efforts and congratulated him on his new title.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Goldston Sewer:

Chair Kost reported that Goldston has held a community forum; that there is another scheduled for May 25, 2010; that Commissioner Cross has agreed to attend the meeting on behalf of the Board; that it is important to let the Goldston residents know of the Board's commitment in helping to address that issue.

Chatham-Cary Subcommittee:

Chair Kost stated that the Joint Chatham-Cary Subcommittee will meet at the Cary Fire Station on Carpenter Fire Station Road on May 18, 2010, 8:30 AM, to complete a lot of the discussions with the Land Use Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2010, REGULAR MEETING PAGE 14 OF 14 PAGES

Commissioner Cross moved, seconded by Commeeting. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and t	
	Sally Kost, Chair
ATTEST:	
Sandra B. Sublett, CMC, NCCCC Clerk to the Board Chatham County Board of Commissioners	