

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
JULY 18, 2011

The Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) of the County of Chatham, North Carolina met in the Agricultural Building Auditorium, 45 South Street, Pittsboro, North Carolina at 2:00 PM on July 18, 2011.

Present: Brian Bock, Chairman; Walter Petty, Vice Chair;
Commissioners Mike Cross, Sally Kost, and Pamela Stewart

Staff Present: Charlie Horne, County Manager; Jep Rose, County Attorney; and Sandra B. Sublett, Clerk to the Board

Work Session

1. **Public Input Session**
2. **July 2011 Employees of the Month**
3. **Board of Education Presentation:** The Board of Education officials now have a firm number from the state concerning the gap that must be bridged to minimize the possibility of further Education financial issues. The Board of Education has a \$706,181.00 funding gap to fill.
4. **Guardians of Angels Presentation:** Rev. Terry Dorsey will be making an introduction to the Board of Commissioners about his plan to create a better facility for adoption of pets
5. **Chatham Transit Service Changes and Overviews:** Presentation by Amber Wagner
6. **Chatham County Bicycle Plan:** Melissa Gilbeau will present an update on Chatham County Bicycle Plan and has asked the Board of Commissioners to consider adoption of plan.
7. **Transportation Advisory Committee Presentation:** Brief presentation by the advisory committee on their work, mission and goals.
8. **Green Building and Sustainable Energy (GBASE) Annual Report**
9. **County Broadband Audit Report:** This is a summary report of a study of internet access in Chatham County presented by Action Audits.
10. **Soil & Water Conservation District Board:** Presentation and feedback on one-cent per 100 gallons for water quality protection. At their June 16, 2011 meeting, the Board of Commissioners began exploring the idea of implementing a one-cent per one hundred gallon surcharge (writers term) on water consumed by customers using the Chatham County utility system water. Staff estimates that this would generate about \$70,000 annually for such activities. During that discussion, the Board also asked staff to explore projects that might fit water protection guidelines. Representatives from the Soil and Water Conservation District will be present to talk about their ideas.
11. **Closed Session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition**

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM.

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Ann Granath, Stonehenge Drive, Pittsboro, NC, presented her comments to the Board and provided them in their entirety for the record as follows:

“The Friends of the Bookmobile are here today to urge you to reconsider your vote and reinstate the bookmobile on a reduced schedule. Savings could be made by service cuts from four to two days a week. This would be so important to those who have to rely on the bookmobile for library service.

I wish you could have been with me at the Pittsboro library when When Edna Johnson, our wonderful bookmobile librarian, started her first day there. A four year old boy came up to her and said: "I KNOW YOU. YOU ARE THE BOOKMOBILE LADY. MY MOTHER SAID THERE IS TO BE NO MORE BOOKMOBILE BECAUSE THERE IS NO MORE MONEY." "I AM SAD.”

We are all sad. Cutting budgets involves more than numbers on paper. It involves the people whose only access to the wonders offered by libraries is the bookmobile. LET'S MAKE SURE WE CONTINUE LIBRARY SERVICES TO OUR CHILDREN.

Judith Butt, 112 Stone Edge, Pittsboro, NC, presented her comments to the Board and provided them in their entirety for the record as follows:

“Education is vital in a democracy. It begins with little children before formal schooling begins. The bookmobile brings books and excitement to the children in pre-schools who often have no other way to get to the library and love boarding the bookmobile. It is their introduction to, hopefully, life-long library use. It also reaches the handicapped, seniors and those who live too far away from the libraries to make regular trips. The Board of Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities supports the bookmobile, and in particular, a compromise plan, which will reduce the original budgeted item by almost half for continuation of the bookmobile. We urge the Board of Commissioners to revisit their decision to discontinue the bookmobile.”

Kathy Vitaro, 2075 Otis Johnson Road, Pittsboro, NC, presented her comments to the Board and provided them in their entirety for the record as follows:

“I am Kathy Vitaro and I have been teaching Pre-K for 15 years. I know there are a lot of reasons to speak in favor of the bookmobile staying on the road, but I am only going to speak as to what I know. If I had to choose one thing so important to our preschool program that we could not prosper without, it would be love of books. Literacy is what sets apart the great students from the good students and the not-so-good. It is what truly sparks those students with lifelong love of learning.

Now I have books at school. In fact I have a lot of books compared to a lot of childcare centers. I also have access to the school's library. But what makes it really adds to our program is to see children have repeated access to a bookmobile and watch as they choose for themselves, the kind of book that brings the magic of not only reading, but of learning itself to their eyes. To hold a book, to thumb through to see if it's just the right one for them, to apply knowledge of what they know to what they want to know, to discriminate about what is truly exciting to them, that's love of learning. If you have never seen it, you need to take a ride on the Bookmobile first before you make your decisions.

You might say that I have all I need in the public schools, but I am also here to speak for all children in Chatham County. There are many that also need access to books. If you take away ¼ of the libraries (which you will be doing if you take away the bookmobile) you may also be taking way the only access to books that many have. Take them to the library you say. If you have ever tried to take a group of children, especially ones in childcare, anywhere, you know that this is no easy task. There is money for the transportation (the

bookmobile would have a discount on fuel), money to insure enough staff (none would be needed), time spent within the four walls (a stop can take just minutes), the red tape involved with the Division of Child Development, the just right size of that bookmobile (and the size of a big library), but more importantly the ease of access to books for these children is priceless, and it does translate into dollars and cents in the following years. Young children who have easy access to books are learners, and learners are thinkers, and thinkers are what we are going to need to pull this country back to the status it once had in the world as the leader in education. It might even provide us with that one great thinker who will help lead us out of the next economic crunch.

I know budgets are a mess right now. I work in the schools and we are reminded daily of just how bad it is. But for a small price we can benefit, our children can benefit so much from the bookmobile. Please keep the bookmobile running on whatever schedule you can, but please keep it running.”

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Employee of the Month: Presentation of the April 2011 Employee of the Month

Ashley Barriga, Human Resources Analyst, 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 July 2011 Employees of the Month are Corporals Chris Burger and Will Summers. Chris and Will have been with Chatham County for over 8 years combined. An excerpt from their nomination form follows:

Reason for Nomination:

On March 28th, Chatham Central dispatch received a call from a suicidal subject who said he was going to jump off the Deep River Bridge on US 87 South. Numerous deputies responded and found no one on the bridge and they began to branch out to other bridges in southern Chatham County, including the Deep River Bridge in Moncure. Deputies Summers and Burger responded to that location and found the suicidal male subject saying he was going to jump. He was standing in the middle of the bridge and near the edge. Both deputies kept a distance of about 40 yards from the subject and attempted to speak to him. The man then began climbing the 5 foot retaining wall on the bridge and both deputies ran towards him with the intent to save him from certain death. Deputy Burger got to the subject first and just as the man was going over, he grabbed him and was able to roll him off the wall and on to the road. Deputy Summers soon arrived and both quickly secured the man. He was later committed for mental evaluation.

In what way does this employee demonstrate Employee of the Month criteria?

The actions of both deputies were not only courageous but heroic. Both risked their own lives in saving another and there can be no greater sacrifice than that.

Congratulations Chris and Will!

Major Blankenship, on behalf of Sheriff Webster, stated that in public service, it is a rarity that they get recognized for things they do in a positive way. He stated that all you have to do is watch the news and there are times when they mess up. The men and women in public service perform actions like this a lot, many times risking their lives especially in law enforcement, rescue, and fire fields. He stated that he appreciates that these officers are being recognized in this way. He thanked the officers, and all the officers of his staff, especially these two officers on this day, for risking their lives to save another.

Chairman Bock congratulated Corporal Burger and Corporal Summers.

BREAK

The Clerk asked for a short break due to technical difficulties.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Gary Leonard, School Board Member, thanked the Board for their previous help. He stated that they received word last week that they had some additional discretionary cuts which has put them in a bind at this point in time. He turned the presentation over to Mr. Logan, School Superintendent.

Mr. Logan thanked the Board of Commissioners for the opportunity to address them with their request. He stated that they had been advised by the State, as the General Assembly concluded their business this year, of the final cuts to public education. Discretionary cuts are something that the General Assembly started in early 2000's. They would determine the amount of money to be cut but leave it up to the locals what to cut. They allocate to them and then cut it which means they have to return something in that amount of money back to the State. They have already cut \$5 million for this school year. He referenced the Public Schools of North Carolina/North Carolina Department of Public Instruction/ Discretionary Reduction Summary Chart as follows:

	Fiscal Year	Discretionary Reduction	\$ per ADM
	2002-03	(42,613,922)	(32.12)
	2003-04	(44,291,248)	(32.98)
	2004-05	(71,951,248)	(52.57)
	2005-06	(44,291,248)	(31.72)
	2006-07		
	2007-08		
	2008-09 *		
	2009-10	(225,000,000)	(153.60)
	2010-11	(304,774,366)	(206.53)
	* 2008-09 the Governor required a reduction to public schools of \$99 million (\$67 per ADM)		

Mr. Logan stated that the State has made discretionary cuts to public education every year since 2002 except for the years 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09. He called attention to years 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12 and the amount of money that has been cut there stating it was close to a billion dollars. The total State cuts from education this year total about \$1.4 billion in reductions from public schools from the 115 school districts in North Carolina. With that type of reduction, it cuts deep into the core of what they do in schools. If one was to ask what type of impact would that have on our school system, their portion of the \$124 million for Chatham County Schools is \$706, 181.00 which is the additional amount of money that was cut after they prepared their budget, presented it to the Board of Commissioners, and had their budget balanced on the basis of what they knew at that time.

	Description	Amount
	Actual 2011-2012 Discretionary Funding Cut from State Funds \$289.67 x 7,952	\$ 2,303,420
	Projected 2011-2012 Discretionary Funding Cut from State Funds \$200.86 x 7,952 used for budget discussions	\$ 1,597,239

	*2011-2012 Budget Shortfall	\$ 706,181
23	Teacher Assistants @ \$30,300 each	\$ 696,600
23.5	Custodians @ \$29,972 each	\$ 704,342
16	Clerical @ \$42,870 each	\$ 685,920
	*These reductions would be in addition to the cuts identified during the 2011-2012 budget discussion totaling \$2,431,173	

Mr. Logan explained that the second chart shows the projected cuts for 2011-12 that they estimated \$1,597,239 million for their discretionary funding. The actual State cut was \$2,303,420 leaving a deficit of \$706,181. If that is equated to potential areas to cut, he did not start out by showing teachers. The Board has asked that as they try to balance these cuts, that they have the least impact on the classroom as possible. They did not show any teachers in this; however, it is still an option. They would have to enact a reduction in force (RIF) policy that is among the Board of Education's policies and authorization to do. If they look at it from the standpoint of how many teachers they would have to reduce, it would be 12 positions in 17 schools which would equate to a little less than one position per school. If they looked at teacher assistant positions, it would be 23 positions with an average salary of \$30,300 per teacher assistant; custodians would be 23.5 positions with an average salary of \$29,972; clerical it would be 16 with an average salary of \$42,870. He stated that they were requesting the Board's assistance with this for this year knowing that as we enter into 2013 and start the budget process, not only would they start it with the \$706,181 hole, they are also looking at the additional money of the fund balance of \$2.5 million that they have already cut and do not have to apply back to the budget. He stated that they know that going into next year, they have a \$3 million hole that they are going to have to attempt to balance next year.

Mr. Logan stated that they were asking for additional appropriations for the year because it is late. He stated that it is mid-July and most of the school staff is set. They have already allocated teachers, teacher assistants, custodial, and clerical to the entire district. Without assistance, they are going to have to go back and terminate people. That would mean doing so within a five to six week period before the start of school. They are going to have to tell somewhere between 16 and 24 people that they do not have a job. They have dealt with their attrition. Most of the people of which they are aware that are going to retire, resign, or leave, have done so. That balancing was done within the school system already. They are now looking at a true loss of people if this has to be absorbed from within. They are asking for a one-year funding that would continue against their allocation, in future years by requesting and receiving additional funds for this year as one-time money knowing that 2012-13 they are going to have to adjust their budget such that they absorb the \$607,000 plus the \$2.5 that came out of fund balance to help balance this year's budget. They do not have the money in fund balance to cover this at this time.

Water Bill:

Mr. Logan informed the Board that the Town of Pittsboro surprised them with a three year old \$98,000 water bill of which they were unaware. He stated that this would put their deficit for next year's budget at \$804,000. He stated that they were requesting assistance for all of that. He stated that the school system received notification from the Town of Pittsboro about four weeks ago that they were being billed for a three year old water bill. There is a difference in the water rate between the town residents and those receiving water outside the city limits which is approximately double. Northwood High School sits outside of the city limits but receives city water. Since the early 1970's, the school has been charged the city rate as if it was inside the city. They looked to see if there was any type of agreement, but

could not find one. In these tough budgetary times, everyone is looking for revenue. The Town audited its water accounts and water system and found that they had been charged close to thirty years the wrong rate. The law allows back billing for three years. They went back and applied the proper billing at the higher rate which came up to \$98,000.

Chairman Bock asked if they had discussed this with the town. Mr. Logan stated that he had talked with the Town Manager and the Board of Education Chair has talked with the mayor regarding the matter.

Chairman Bock encouraged Mr. Logan to try and work it out with the Town of Pittsboro before they come to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Cross stated that the Town of Pittsboro was interested in selling some town water to the County at this point which might also have some play in it.

Commissioner Kost asked if there was a County waterline nearby stating that she was thinking of leverage. Mr. Logan stated that he would be happy to take this to the Town of Pittsboro Board and talk with them about it. He stated that they understand the legality of it and it has gone to the counsel, and they were told that it is legal, but that there was not a lot of cooperation between agencies involved in something like this. He stated that he would be happy to address them and to make a request of some consideration.

Chairman Bock stated that he would make it more official than speaking with one or two people. Mr. Logan stated that he was aware that they had had some conversation about it when they directed the Town Manager to bill the school system.

Mr. Logan stated that with regard to the discretionary cuts from the State totaling \$706,181, they are requesting assistance on an allocation from the Commissioners to assist the school system through this shortfall for the 2011-2012.

Chairman Bock asked if this had been an official topic at a meeting of the Board of Education regarding the amounts and what the cuts might mean. Mr. Logan replied that their board had had conversation about it. They have not had a discussion regarding what to cut if they do not receive some assistance. There is a called board meeting tomorrow and at that time, the board does plan to have conversation about if they do not receive a favorable response or assistance this afternoon, what their next steps will be.

Chairman Bock stated that he felt it was premature to ask them for relief when the school board hasn't yet discussed it officially to find out what exactly it does need. He stated that several different scenarios have been mentioned and he would need more information on what they are proposing to cut. He urged them to stay as far away from the classroom as possible with regard to cuts.

Mr. Logan stated that it means they are going to have to cut something. Chairman Bock explained that they would need to define "something" and they, as a school board, would need to come up with something more concrete. He stated that he was unsure as to the amount they are asking.

Mr. Logan replied that they are asking for \$706,181 for the discretionary cuts. He stated that when they met with the Board of Commissioners in June, they indicated that there would probably be additional cuts from the State; that at that time, the Board of Commissioners indicated that when they know what those cuts are, to return to them. He stated that they know now exactly how much the cuts are. The school system will have to reduce its work force which is all that is left to cut at this point. These are examples of what they will have to cut. There will be cuts; however, the Board of Education has not decided what to cut if they do not receive additional funding.

Chairman Bock asked if they went back to the June 20th budget resolution which was a total of \$39.1+ for the State allocation, it looks like they are actually receiving an allocation from the State of \$39.7 which is over \$500,000 more, where is that \$500,000 in all of this.

Mr. Logan explained that the State reduced class size in grades one through three and allocated additional teaching positions in the lower grades; that additional money will be utilized to reduce the class sizes the State has directed to do.

Chairman Bock reiterated that if the budget they submitted to the Board of Commissioners was based on \$39.1+ million, but they received \$39.7, it seems to him that there is \$500,000 in addition to what they had planned on so that they are not really \$706,181 in the hole; and that it may be \$200,000 or less.

Commissioner Kost stated that was not discretionary. She stated that they were told that they had to reduce the classroom sizes.

Mr. Logan explained that the additional money is earmarked and is specified as to what they have to spend it on. They have to spend it on those one to three grades/positions stating that they did not have the discretion to not utilize those resources in that way. A lot of what they receive from the State and feds, they have very little latitude over which the public does not understand. A lot of the resources are restricted.

Chairman Bock stated that he understands that. If there is \$500,000 more than in the budget resolution from June 20th, that \$500,000 has to be spent somewhere. He asked if that \$500,000 is being spent on any of these classified positions, teacher assistants, or where.

Mr. Logan stated that it was designated to reduction of class size. Chairman Bock asked what that meant asking if it was hiring more teachers to reduce class sizes or what. Mr. Logan stated that they would actually gain teaching positions in one to three grades to reduce the number of children that are in those grades. That was one of the initiatives in the Senate as they started to wrap up the budget. They stated that they wanted to maintain kindergarten and reduce one to three and they lifted the cap on grades four through twelve. However, they have attempted to keep those classes balanced and at the present class size. The additional funds received are not discretionary. They are earmarked and they do not have the latitude to use those in these cuts.

Chairman Bock asked if they were earmarked for additional teachers in grades one to three. Mr. Logan replied yes. Chairman Bock asked if we were actually gaining some positions in the one to three grades.

Commissioner Stewart asked if they were being paid for through that funding. Mr. Logan replied, yes, through the State funding.

Commissioner Stewart asked if we were not having to pay extra for those as they are being covered already. Mr. Logan replied yes.

Commissioner Kost asked if we would have local supplements for those new positions. Mr. Logan replied there will be. Commissioner Kost stated that they would have to absorb that and asked if they budgeted for it. Mr. Logan replied that they did not budget additional supplemental money for any additional certified personnel that they may bring on at this time; that they are not requesting that; and that was something they would have to attempt to absorb.

Commissioner Kost asked if they would have to absorb it. Mr. Logan replied yes.

Chairman Bock asked if classified positions were teachers. Mr. Logan stated teachers, custodians, teacher assistants, bus drivers, and clerical; and that teachers, administrators, counselors, media specialists are all considered certified. He stated that they know the impact of this. It is going to result in personnel reductions. The Board has not decided what to cut and he wanted to offer examples, which their board has seen, and they are going to discuss it on Tuesday if they do not receive help from the Board of Commissioners. Tomorrow's discussion will entail preparing to reduce these unless the Commissioners are saying that they want to know what the school board will cut before they indicate that they are going to help them.

Commissioner Kost stated that she sees a problem if they wait for the Board of Education to meet on Tuesday and the Board of Commissioners does not meet again until August 1st and the first day of school is three weeks away. She stated that that was really putting them into a time issue in that they have to respond by the first of the school year. She stated that she understands why they are having to do this out of order. It is where we are in the calendar since there was only one Board of Commissioners' meeting in July.

Ms. Little stated that she wanted to address the question of the \$500,000 difference in the resolution. She stated that at the time the resolution was prepared, it was based on estimates that they had at the time coming out of the General Assembly. A lot of things with the additional discretionary funding cut changed very rapidly and the actual allocations did not make it into the budget resolution. That will go into the budget reconciliation in the fall and all that will be recognized. It is very common because they have to do things so far in advance that their actual appropriations do not match to the penny what their estimates are in the State Public School Fund. That is the reason there is a difference. It wasn't an attempt to leave anything out it is just the timing of the way that information came to them.

Commissioner Stewart asked the average current class size.

Mr. Logan explained that it was all the positions in a school, art, music, core classroom subjects, career technical education, everything they teach. They pulled foreign language out of all grades except high school.

Commissioner Stewart asked if the discretionary reduction hit everyone and how other counties are absorbing theirs. Mr. Logan explained that all 115 school districts are dealing with this. He stated that he shared with the board, information about how it is affecting Wake County. It makes Chatham's \$706,181 look trivial. Their portion of the cut is approximately \$20 million and they are reducing teacher assistants, teachers, and laying people off. He stated that there was a huge difference in going to the commissioners and asking for \$706,181 as opposed to \$20 million.

Chairman Bock asked if they had looked at a couple of day furlough for each non-classroom person per year. Mr. Logan stated that they were presently furloughing school-based clerical and teacher assistants five days next year.

Chairman Bock asked what "school based" meant. Mr. Logan stating that was opposed to working in maintenance or transportation or central services.

Ms. Little explained that those cuts have been adjusted in other ways. Custodians were originally cut 10% in the allotment so they didn't cut salaries in addition to that.

Commissioner Stewart asked how much they were able to save with the five-day furloughs.

Commissioner Kost stated that she was uncomfortable talking about furloughs of positions since the Board of Commissioners has not talked about furloughs within the County side of the house. She stated that she was not advocating for it, but it seems that they are asking the school system to look at furloughing employees but the Commissioners haven't considered it.

Chairman Bock stated that he felt that the County is not coming back for another \$700,000. Commissioner Kost stated that that we were all in this together and they have a responsibility to the school system.

Mr. Logan stated that the five-day furloughs for all school-based clerical saves them \$20,660 and the five-day furloughs for teach assistants save them \$113,415 which would total \$133,000. It would take quite a few more days to furlough to get to \$706,000.

Chairman Bock stated that going back to cutting so many teachers or teacher assistants or custodians, there has to be some kind of combination of clerical, custodial and teacher that is not all or none of one. Mr. Logan stated that was possible.

Chairman Bock stated that was what he personally needs to see. Mr. Logan replied that was possible to come up with a mixture until they came up to the sum of \$706,000.

David Hamm, School Board Member, reminded everyone that in the simplest terms, the Board of Commissioners is to allocate money. And they should entrust to them, as the Board of Education, to make the decisions that are needed and not micromanage which positions which is their job. He stated respectfully, it is not the Board of Commissioners' job.

Chairman Bock stated that he agreed with that to a point, until they get to a point where they are coming back for more than is budgeted. Then, since they are asking for more than is budgeted, they do need to get involved as to how it is spent. He stated that he had rather not, but they are talking quite a bit more money. And the bottom line is they are the ones that are held responsible for spending the money; therefore, he feels they do need to get a little more involved in it.

Mr. Hamm stated that he understand that but at the same time, if the Legislature had done their jobs in a timely manner, they wouldn't be standing there. They probably would have come to the Board of Commissioners the first time with the \$700,000 cut to begin with and not have to come back. He asked that the Board trust them to make the right decisions.

Commissioner Cross stated that the bottom line is that they have the shortfall in the school budget for the coming year; that he doesn't think the citizens would like them to start hacking out at this late date in the school start-up part of the year; that they already know they have to do something to work off \$3 million for next year; and that he would be in favor of supplementing this year's budget by \$706,181 and let the Superintendent and the Board of Education manage it.

Commissioner Cross moved, seconded Commissioner Kost, to supplement the Board of Education budget by \$706,181 to be taken from Fund Balance.

Commissioner Stewart asked where the money would be coming from and if something else would be cut.

Commissioner Cross said that it should be taken from fund balance stating that is what it is for. He stated that it is the taxpayer's money and the County has more than it is required to hold. Some people would argue that it should be returned to the citizens or use it. This is an emergency and we should use it.

Chairman Bock stated that he could not support the \$706,181.

Commissioner Petty stated that the thing that concerns him is it is never a one-time thing. Once it is put there, it is added to the next year and the next year there is another one time. Every tax that was ever implemented in the history of the country was intended to have a limit to it and they have never been done away with. They still exist today from the past 100 years. Every time we allocate more money for one time, it never ends up being one time. That is the problem he has, he said. It will be considered standard protocol next year and then there will be another one time. To address Mr. Hamm's comments, he stated that he certainly didn't want to micromanage. That is one thing they have tried to avoid with County Staff whom he feels will validate that. He stated that when they are held accountable for the budget for the County, and they have to answer to the citizens for how their money is spent, at this point they have to start getting involved.

Chairman Bock stated that he would like to have seen, in the \$706,000 shortfall, they can cut the non-teachers, non-teacher assistants, and then still have an "X" number shortfall. Instead, they have taken the easy route out and asked for the entire shortfall. Budgets are tight everywhere.

Commissioner Petty said, not only that, all emphasis is placed on teachers and teacher assistants which is the most sensitive position in the entire group of school personnel and nobody wants the cut to take place there. There has to be other options. He stated that he has not been intimately involved but we can get involved.

Mr. Logan stated that he promised himself that he wouldn't go down the review route of what is taking place because no one wants to hear all of the gloom and doom. Over the course of the last three years of which he has been a part, they have done nothing but cut the budget. Nine million dollars has been cut out of the Chatham County School's budget over the last three years. He stated that they have lost with this year's positions, over 60 positions in the last three years. They have not come back and asked for more in this three-year period of time. Each year the Board of Education has absorbed these losses and this year their student performance is the highest it's been in this decade. Our people are continuing to do the work and they are doing it with less. They are now at the point that it is going to have an impact. He doesn't know what the impact will be as they have cut hundreds of thousands out of the transportation budget, athletic budget, custodial, maintenance, and all that is left are people. There is very little staff development money. They have no money to improve their process. There is no field trip money. Supplies and equipment money has been reduced. They are trying to maintain people because people are programs and education. It's the people that work with the children. That is where they get their greatest results. The General Assembly did allow one tax that would have helped the children to sunset which would have brought in approximately \$1.3 billion that could have helped the State avoid what is now going on in the school districts in North Carolina. In letting it sunset, it forced the cuts down to the local level so the superintendents and education boards are before their commissioners asking for help.

Commissioner Petty stated that they all realize that the problem did not start here, but they all have to work together to try to make it work out. It is not a personal issue; it is just what they have to deal with. He stated that he is not going to say that he couldn't be convinced to fund something different after looking at the overall impact. But to blanketly say that he would approve \$706,000, he could not do.

Chairman Bock stated that if they have to vote on it today, he could not support it.

Commissioner Stewart stated that Mr. Logan mentioned that over the last three years they have had to cut their budgets; however, Chatham County from a funding standpoint has increased its funding to the schools. She asked, if we have increased the money we are giving to the schools compared to other counties, but Chatham County Schools are having to continually cut, where else is the shortfall coming from.

Mr. Logan stated that the majority of the money that have been allocated to the school system since he has been here has been for specific things, such as opening Margaret Pollard Middle School (\$700,000+) and offsetting a charter school lawsuit (\$400,000). Those dollars have not been incorporated directly into the operations of the school system. They have been used to address specific situations that the school system has been dealing with. The additional resources were targeted.

Commissioner Stewart asked if technology was included. Mr. Logan replied that it was, but that it wasn't really additional money. It was money that was there and redirected. The County, when the Commissioners agreed to let them use a portion of it to offset the lawsuit with the charter school, in doing so, the money came out of capital that year. When it rolled back into the capital account, it was the money that was used for the technology. It wasn't new money, it was money that was redirected from one year for a different purpose and when it went back into capital, it was used for technology.

Commissioner Stewart asked if they had the use of \$300,000 that was the savings from the start up of Pollard and were they able to put it back into the budget.

Mr. Logan stated that they never accepted that. They did not take the additional money. There was a million that was initially set aside and they ended up receiving \$700,000. They did not receive the additional \$300,000.

Commissioner Kost asked if next year they are looking at a \$3 million shortfall. Mr. Logan stated that with the \$706,000 that they already know and the \$2.5 million they took out of fund balance, the fund balance is basically wiped out. In budgeting, they have to have \$700-750,000 cash flow to meet their bills every month. They receive funding from the State sporadically; they receive their County money in twelfths they have to keep that cash flow;

about \$750,000 sitting in the bank to pay their bills and make payroll. They are very close to being at that threshold. If the \$98,000 water bill is incorporated along with the \$706,181 State discretionary cuts, they do not have enough in fund balance to cover their deficit.

Chairman Bock asked if the Town of Pittsboro would cut off the water if they didn't pay their bill. Mr. Logan stated that he doubted it. Chairman Bock said hopefully they could work out something.

Commissioner Stewart stated that there was an \$80,445 central office administrative position that was cut; that it shows in 2010-2011; and that there is some question that that position was actually filled.

Mr. Logan explained that none of the central office positions that had been cut have been back-filled. He stated that this was probably the compliance officer's position and it has not filled. Those responsibilities have been distributed to other personnel.

Chairman Bock called the question. The motion failed three (3) to two (2) with Commissioners Cross and Kost voting for the motion and Commissioners Bock, Petty, and Stewart opposing.

Commissioner Stewart stated that she was inclined to agree with Commissioner Petty in seeing if there is anything else that can be done before they give out \$700,000 to fill in this gap. Going forward, they have to find solutions so they get a better handle on it so they know what to expect every year. She understands that this is an unusual year. It is unfortunate that she doesn't want to see any of the children suffer the consequences. She would like to see it get resolved one way or the other before it gets to the point that they are the ones that have to pay the price.

Commissioner Petty moved to revisit the issue with more information at the August 01, 2011 Board of Commissioners' meeting. He stated that they he could not accept giving a blank check for \$700,000 as they are obligated to the taxpayers. They are obligated to fund the schools, but they are also obligated to the taxpayers and how they spend their money.

Commissioner Kost asked when they would revisit the issue.

Chairman Bock replied the first meeting in August.

Commissioner Petty stated that it might mean starting the school year without the funding.

Commissioner Stewart stated that was better than saying no.

Chairman Bock stated that was their option.

Mr. Logan stated at this point, what his board will have to do, is balance their budget with the State budget by July 29th. They will have to make these decisions by the end of the month and a decision will have to be made before the Board of Commissioners next meeting.

Commissioner Kost seconded the motion stating that she didn't feel they needed to close this door if the majority of the Board feels like they need more information. There are five elected school board members who are held accountable for how they spend the taxpayers' money. She understands the issue of the Board of Commissioners being accountable as well.

Chairman Bock called the question. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

AGENDA DISCUSSION

Due to the time, the Board discussed delaying some of the items on the Agenda until a later date. Those were:

Transportation Advisory Committee Presentation
Green Building and Sustainable Energy (GBASE) Annual Report
Soil & Water Conservation District Board Presentation

GUARDIAN OF ANGELS PRESENTATION

Rev. Terry Dorsey thanked the Board for their time and consideration.

A copy of his proposal for a long-term adoption center for cats and dogs with a wildlife triage station in Pittsboro, NC is as follows:



PROPOSAL FOR A LONG-TERM ADOPTION CENTER FOR CATS AND DOGS WITH A WILDLIFE TRIAGE STATION CHATHAM COUNTY, NC

Guardians of Angels is a 501(c)(3) non-profit in Chatham County. The mission of Guardians of Angels is to build a Chatham County Adoption Center to place homeless dogs and cats with life-long guardians, to provide resources for affordable spay/neuter and medical care for adoption center animals, and to assist law enforcement with identifying neglect, abuse and mistreatment of animals in Chatham County.

Benefits of an Adoption Center:

- *Attracts visitors and consumers from surrounding counties*
- *Provides long term sheltering for adoptable animals*
- *Enhances the adoption process, matching dogs and cats with life-long homes*
- *Promotes community education and improves the care of all animals in the county*
- *Animal control is assisted in addressing cruelty, neglect and adoptions*
- *Allows for more rescued and fewer euthanized animals*
- *Builds community relations and provides learning opportunities for all ages*

Proposal Summary:

The Guardians of Angels (GOA) board of directors proposes to build and staff an adoption center in Pittsboro that would serve as a visible, accessible adoption facility where Chatham County shelter animals could be housed for long periods of time while they are matched with life - long homes. Currently, space restrictions in the county shelter make it difficult to house healthy animals for long periods of time until they can be adopted. An adoption center located in a high-traffic area would facilitate placement of healthy cats and dogs, freeing up space in the shelter, would be a more comfortable and low-stress environment for longer-term animal care, making animals more adoptable.

Proposed Size: 5,700 square feet on 5 acres

Estimated Cost: \$1.2 million

Funding Sources: Town of Pittsboro or Siler City (Donation of 5 acre site and 10%), Chatham County (20%), Community Campaign (50%), grants and corporate gifts (20%)

Timetable: 4 years – for completion in 2015

Basic Design

The Guardians of Angels Adoption Center would include areas for the long term housing of dogs and puppies, cats and kittens, food preparation, laundry, storage, pet viewing, and outdoor exercise. The heating, ventilating and air conditioning system should focus on odor control and disease mitigation. Plumbing systems should be designed to handle the large amount of water consumption that shelters require for cleaning, and drain lines should be oversized with convenient clean out points. The center would strive to be as efficient as possible in energy usage.

Housing

Canine

Dogs 23 kennels

Puppies: 5 kennels

Quarantine: 2 kennels

1 acre outdoor play and exercise area

Properly designed holding kennels will have 10 to 12 air changes per hour, 100% exhaust, air flow at dog level, acoustical materials in the room, sloped floors for quick drainage, oversized drain lines, durable floor and wall finishes, good lighting over the dog kennels, natural light from outdoors, gates with quick latches, and a means of removing the dog from the kennel on a daily basis for cleaning. Ideally, puppies should be housed independently from adult dogs for better disease control and less stress. Puppy pens should be easy to maintain and clean, and they should contain drain inlets, waterproof floors and walls. Large stainless steel cages can also be used, and they should be placed so that the animals are never directly across from each other. Acoustical control should be a high priority.

Feline

Cats: 18 rooms

Kittens: 12 rooms

1 Indoor playroom

1 Enclosed outdoor play and exercise area

There are many excellent cage manufacturers on the market that are designed specifically for cats and kittens. Features include fully rounded corners for easy cleaning, hidden litter box compartments with individual exhaust, transfer doors allowing free roam to adjacent cages, perch shelves and many color selections in high density laminates, engineered stone or stainless steel. Cat cages should never be placed across from each other where germs can spread through sneezing. Additionally, airflow in cat rooms should be carefully designed to prevent return air crossing other cat cages.

2 Get Acquainted/Adoption Matching Areas

These rooms should be provided for a potential adopter to visit with a pet they are considering for adoption with separate rooms for cats and dogs. Vision glass should be located around the room letting staff keep an eye on the visitation session and monitor activity. Furniture should be easy to clean and a sink in the room will help prevent disease spread. An outdoor play area provides exercise for the animals and a way for adopters to play and become acquainted with them.

Administration

An office for staff and volunteers provides space for administration, communication and files. Staff/volunteer restrooms with a shower will be separate from the public restrooms with an adjacent break room.

Food Preparation/Work Areas

A large food preparation and work area will be adjacent to the animal housing areas which will reduce volunteer travel time in the center and prevent the spread of disease.

Storage

Ample storage is key to the efficient function of an adoption center. Because of the diversity of items stored, the food storage room will be conditioned and sealed against the outside preventing rodents, mold, mildew. Litter, cages, bedding, cleaning and medical supplies require their own needs and space.

Laundry

The GOA Adoption Center will require two commercial washers and dryers that can handle the daily laundry needs. The laundry room will have counter space for folding, shelf space for storing and two deep utility sinks for special cleaning as well as floor space for rolling carts.

Future Medical and Wildlife Triage Clinic

As the spay and neutering of animals is key to controlling the pet overpopulation problem and the rehabilitation for those animals who might have otherwise been deemed unadoptable, it will be important to provide the space for a future medical clinic. Additionally, as Chatham County grows, so will the number of injured wildlife who will need assistance. Many shelters have active injury rescue programs and cruelty investigations that require the necessary veterinary back-up care.

Guardians of Angels Board of Directors

Terry Dorsey - pres@guardiansofangels.org - 542-3244.

President of GOA, Terry has more than twenty years of non-profit development experience with the United Way, The American Red Cross and SoulJourn Media that assists with branding, marketing and visual concepts for non-profits.

William Reppy - vp@guardiansofangels.org - 613-7053.

Bill is NC's leading expert on animal law and retired Professor of Duke Law School. As a 12-year member of the NC General Statutes Commission, Bill has been instrumental in the enactment of several significant reforms of statutes affecting animals.

Kathleen Conway - treas@guardiansofangels.org - 966-2110.

Kathleen is a cancer research scientist and a faculty member in the School of Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill. With several published articles, Kathleen is an expert grant writer.

Kevin Monce - pet_hospital@bellsouth.net - 851-4114.

Kevin is a Veterinary Internist and a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine at PetSound Animal Hospital and the founder of SPARR animal rescue.

David Collins is Chief of the Pittsboro Police Department. chiefcollins@nc.rr.com - 542-3200/33. At the Pittsboro Police Department for more than 28 years, David was instrumental in recently bringing the first police dog/K-9 unit to the Town of Pittsboro.

Rev. Dorsey stated that they are a humane society seeking to build an adoption center for cats and dogs in Chatham County. He stated that they had talked with the Town of Pittsboro and the Town of Siler City. He has spoken with both mayors and has previously addressed the Board of Commissioners. There are many benefits to a humane society and also to an adoption center. He doesn't like to compare to other counties, but this would keep on par with what is being done in Wake and Orange Counties where they have an SPCA and Paws4Ever. The benefits are self-explanatory. The shelter in Chatham County does a good job with what they have. They have very limited space and cannot house animals legally for more than five days. With regard to the euthanasia rate, about 50% of the dogs and 73% of the cats are being euthanized. It is their feeling, philosophy, and mission if they have a long-term adoption center in the future, they can house a lot of these animals and enhance the adoption and matching process. There are a lot of studies that confirm that adoption centers and humane societies are good for a community in terms of the relationship it builds. He has met with the community college who is excited about having a place where their vet tech students could practice. He has met with the provost of the college, Karen Allen, who is very interested in having the adoption center be located near one of the campuses. In other places in the country, this is an opportunity for seniors to receive some therapy from loneliness. On the proposal, he stated that they had asked the County and both towns to consider a donation of land and 10-20% toward the design. He stated that they would be joyous if they could find between 3-5 acres somewhere in the County to build. He stated that they are confident that they can raise the money they need through grants, corporate gifts, and the community campaign. It will take the burden off the animal shelter in many ways. One of the conversations that he has had with both mayors and the community college provost and others is that the Board might consider giving up a little of the acreage at the Chatham Business Park. It is the opinion of their board that once they have

a place, they anchor the effort and that is when the larger funding will come in. He stated that they would also like to have some input on the hiring of the next Animal Control Officer in the County which is common practice in many places.

Chairman Bock asked if the mayors of both towns recommended the Business Park. Rev. Dorsey said it had been a process of elimination. When he met with the town last time, they were talking about the old landfill which needs some road and where there are multiplicities of environmental issues that go with being in a landfill. A lot of the costs of the adoption center are acoustics, ventilation, and plumbing. The reason for placing it there is that it would be near the hospital and the college near the intersection of Highways 421 and 64.

Commissioner Kost stated that she would have thought they were interested in having it more centrally located in the County. In Siler City, it would be convenient to the folks in the west. However, the bulk of the population in Chatham County is on the eastern side.

Rev. Dorsey stated that it is John Sauls, Animal Control Director's preference. However, that is not going anywhere.

Chairman Bock asked about the Townsend area that is being vacated. Rev. Dorsey stated that was a possibility. He stated that he had not thought of that. One of the reasons that they started talking about Siler City, was 1) location and 2) availability of land and also that they might begin to raise the bar a bit with regard to the proper care of pets and animals.

Commissioner Cross stated that the community college in Sanford has a pre-vet school. He recommended that either Siler City or Pittsboro college has any interest in doing something like that and that there might be a place on their campus.

Rev. Dorsey stated that Karen Allen, Provost, and he met with the head of the vet tech program and they are very enthused. Ms. Allen, whom he has known for a long time, is very interested in seeing this happen on or near one of the campuses. She told him that the Siler City campus has 40 acres. So far, he stated that everyone has applauded the idea. It is all in the execution. They do feel that this is a good investment and when he hears the numbers thrown around here, it seems to be a relatively affordable investment.

Commissioner Cross stated that he agrees that it should probably be placed in the Pittsboro area. Rev. Dorsey stated that was their preference. Chairman Bock stated that something was better than nothing.

Rev. Dorsey stated that as a mission developer, he has done a lot of marketing. Anything can be marketed. One would draw from different areas. If you had the kind of events and marketing that you need anyway, you would draw from Asheboro, Greensboro, and other places being off of Highways 421 and 64.

Chairman Bock asked if Rev. Dorsey was looking conceptionally to see if the Board of Commissioners supports the idea.

Rev. Dorsey asked if the Board would consider the County land at the Chatham Business Park and at the Central Carolina Community College and would give their endorsement and were enthused about the idea, they would like to carry the idea forward. The idea of a land donation was begun about three years ago. He stated that they would make it well-worth the County's investment, not only for the benefits of animals and people, but to make it a big draw. He said that Mr. Sauls said a lot of people do not adopt from shelters because it is a "kill" facility. They are not saying that they are going to be "no kill" as sometimes it is the most merciful thing to do. But where they are housed long-term, you can get handicapped and harder-to-place animals placed if you can give them time. In these hard economic times, the shelters are all full because a lot of people have to surrender their animals.

Chairman Bock asked what was long-term. Rev. Dorsey replied for them it means a year, two or three versus 5, 10, or 30 days.

Commissioner Cross asked if one was not adopted, reclaimed, and are euthanized, what is "other". Rev. Dorsey stated that when they did the stats, they ran them by Mr. Sauls and he sent back the verbatim wording. He would have to be consulted.

Chairman Bock stated that he likes the idea. Rev. Dorsey stated that he had not met anyone who doesn't like the idea. He stated that he was developing campaign materials now for the "splash" event to be held September 24, 2011 at the General Store; that everyone is welcome; and that it will be a nice night. He stated that he would send the Commissioners information on it.

Commissioner Cross stated that he would like to see more of a push toward the community college. He stated that if the college would like to see an annex of their vet program from Sanford to Pittsboro, that the college would have the authority to place a shelter on their land. He asked if that was correct.

Chairman Bock asked if the Board had any authority to say. Commissioner Cross stated that he didn't think so as they have their own board of directors.

The County Manager stated that CCCC has a master plan for the site and would need to make changes to it in order to add a shelter.

Commissioner Kost stated that on the financing, they went back and forth on who owns the land. Commissioner Cross stated that if the college didn't agree and was not going to work a program with it, he would not vote to make them give up 4-5 acres of land.

Commissioner Kost stated that it makes a whole lot of sense with the vet tech program at the community college. And, she said, that she is thinking the community college in Pittsboro as the shelter needs to be centrally located.

Rev. Dorsey stated that he totally agrees with the Board; that Pittsboro is their absolutely first choice; that the vet tech program wants externships; that they do not necessarily want to expand the program as their program is very tedious, not in a bad way, but it is very technical and very expensive. The director was more interested in having places where students could come and interact with animals on a daily basis as part of their externship requirements.

Commissioner Petty asked if it made sense for the next step to confront the community college about what they want on their facilities. Rev. Dorsey replied yes.

Commissioner Petty stated that if the answer was yes, then they have some direction; if no, then they have to talk about it some more. Rev. Dorsey replied sure; that part of his coming before the Board of Commissioners today was to introduce himself and the concept to the new Commissioners. He stated that he appreciated their time and will follow-up with them.

Commissioner Kost stated that it seems to her if this didn't work out at the community college; that this request needs to roll into the County's capital planning process; that they get their capital plan in December; and that it needs to meet with other priority projects within the County. She asked if the Board agreed that this would be something to consider as part of the CIP if they were to consider helping to purchase the land and 20% of the construction costs.

Rev. Dorsey said it would be basically design costs as they thought the Commissioners or CCCC might want to have input on it. He stated that they could negotiate on that as they could probably make up that difference and return to the Board when things were better.

Chairman Bock asked if he understood that they needed land, that they could raise money. Rev. Dorsey said that they could as it has been done in several places before; that when you have a piece of property, you become real to people.

Commissioner Kost stated that they went through the inventory that the County owns and there wasn't anything suitable for this facility as it does need to be connected to utilities.

Rev. Dorsey replied that water was a big issue. He stated that they would like to do this project with the Board of Commissioners. He stated that they would find them supporting the Board publicly; that they like to build relationships and communities; and that they'll keep talking.

AGENDA

The Board reviewed the items on the Agenda. Chatham Transit, Transportation Advisory Committee Presentation, Green Building and Sustainable Energy Annual Report, and Soil & Water Conservation District Board Presentation were deferred to a later meeting.

BICYCLE PLAN

Melissa Guilbeau, Sustainable Transportation Planner, updated the Board on the Chatham County Bicycle Plan. She stated that staff, including a transportation planning intern, has developed a Bicycle Plan for the County. The Plan was developed with input from many stakeholders, including the Towns of Pittsboro and Siler City, County advisory boards and several members of the public.

The purpose of the Bicycle Plan is to identify facility, program and policy recommendations to improve bicycling conditions in Chatham County. When adopted, it will become a part of the County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan, which will be completed in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Transportation over the next 18 months. Having an adopted Bicycle Plan will make it easier for the County to pursue funding for bike projects.

The final draft of the Bicycle Plan was available for public review and comment from April 27 to May 24, 2011. 24 comments were received, which staff incorporated into this final draft.

Staff presented this final draft to the Transportation Advisory Board on May 24, 2011 and the TAB made a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to approve the Bicycle Plan. Staff also presented a draft of the Bicycle Plan to the Siler City Board of Commissioners on May 2, 2011 and to the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners on June 13. Staff has asked that the towns also consider adopting the Bicycle Plan.

The PowerPoint presentation follows:

Chatham County Bicycle Plan Presentation of Final Draft To Board of County Commissioners

Background

- First official bike plan for Chatham County
 - Bike map developed late 1990's
- Purpose: identify facility, program and policy recommendations to improve bicycling conditions
- Covers the entire county, including incorporated towns
- Plan developed fall 2010 to summer 2011
- UNC planning grad student for master's project; worked as county intern
- Public and stakeholder involvement *early and continuous*
- Electronic survey with 463 responses; Nov-Dec '10
- Presentations to advisory boards; Dec '10-Jan '11 Transportation Advisory Board, Recreation Advisory Board, Active Chatham
- Frequent communication with staff
- Public comments on final draft; May '11

Why a Bicycle Plan?

- Timing is right!

- Will become Bicycle Element of County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)
- Makes it easier to get funds for bike facilities and programs
 - NCDOT awards points for projects in an adopted plan

Highlights: Vision

- A viable part of the transportation system
 - For riders of all experience levels
 - Safe and accessible
 - For a healthier, more active population
 - As an alternative to driving
 - To improve the environment
 - To reduce congestion
 - For the local economy
 - For quality of life

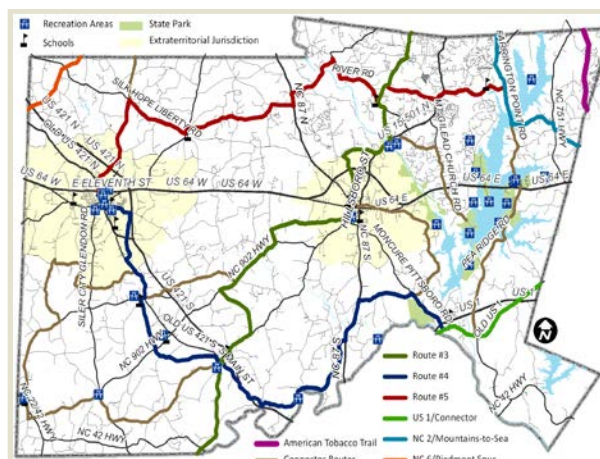
Highlights: Survey Results

- Most trips for recreation/exercise
- Willing to ride at least 1 to 5 miles
- Would ride more if...
 - More bike paths, lanes or routes
 - Driver and bicyclist education and enforcement

	Advanced	Intermediate	Beginner	Don't Ride	Total
Siler City	3	10	2	10	25
Other Chatham	67	89	14	30	200
Not Chatham	146	42	7	12	207
Did not answer	11	8	1	11	31
Total	227	149	24	63	463

Highlights: Existing Facilities

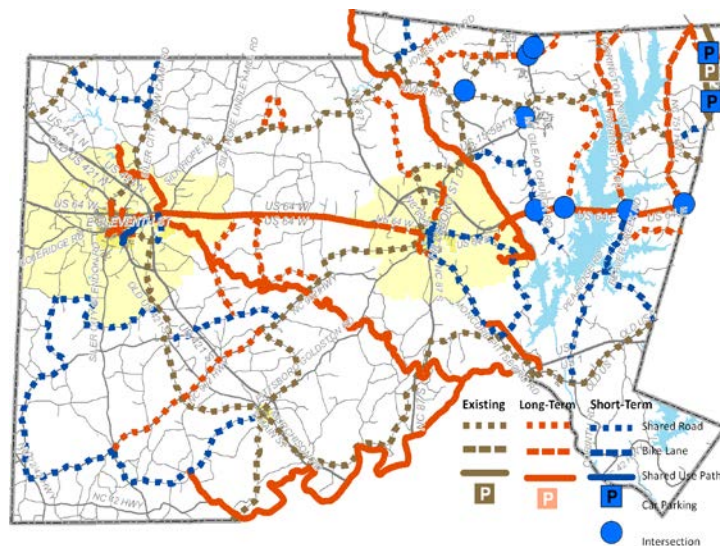
- Signed Routes: 131 miles
- Shared Use Paths: 4.6 miles



Highlights: Recommended Network

Facility Type	Existing (miles)	Future (miles)		Total (miles)
		Short-Term	Long-Term	

Shared Roads	0	93.4	52.5	145.9
Signed Routes on Shared Roads	131.3	0	0	131.3
Bike Lanes	0	2.5	36.2	38.7
<i>Total On-Street</i>	<i>131.3</i>	<i>95.9</i>	<i>88.7</i>	<i>308.7*</i>
Shared Use Paths	4.6	2.0	105.2	111.8
Total Facilities (miles)	135.9	97.9	193.9	420.5



Short-term (5 years)

- Love’s Creek Greenway
- US 15-501 Bike Lanes
- Hillsboro St and Sanford Rd Bike Lanes

Cost estimate for short-term: \$4.4 million

\$143,300 *without Love’s Creek Greenway, ATT @ New Hope parking and 15-501 Bike Lanes*

Long-term (30 years)

- Love’s Creek Greenway Extension
- Siler City and Pittsboro Bike Lanes

Cost estimate:

\$28.9 to \$47.7 million

\$17 million without shared use paths

Potential Funding Sources

- Identified for each project
 - Various state formula and competitive funds
 - As part of a road project

With projects identified in this Plan, we can take advantage of future funding opportunities as they arise.

Highlights: Programs and Policies

Education, Encouragement and Enforcement programs

- Safety materials, training programs and events
- School encouragement, awareness days, bike tours and updated bicycle map
- Enforcement of driving, bicycling and leash laws

Recommended Policy Changes

- Chatham

- Add “bicyclists” to Compact Communities Ord.
- Add requirement for development of bike facilities to subdivision regulations
- Siler City: UDO, Article XIV, Streets and Sidewalks: add language indicating bicycles as a road user
- Pittsboro: Add requirement for development of bike facilities in Major Transportation Corridor district

Highlights: Implementation

- Recommends a Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee of the County TAB
 - To coordinate and help implement action steps
 - Encourages participation by local groups
- Directs county and local staff to pursue project construction and make recommended policy changes

Public Comments

- Based on comments, staff:
 - Added mention of the East Coast Greenway
 - Added amenities (water) at car parking areas
 - Added economic impact as a performance measure
 - Added project at US 15-501 and Village Way
 - Clarified and made clear that bikes are legal on all roads
 - Added narrative and data on bike crashes
 - Added rumble strips and debris clearing to list of spot improvements
 - Added lowered speed limit as potential implementation

Commissioner Cross moved, seconded by Commissioner Petty, to adopt the Chatham County Bicycle Plan. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

Commissioner Stewart asked what can be done to discourage cyclists who are on unmarked roads and have very few passing lanes which create a very unsafe environment for drivers and themselves. She stated that they have a real problem in the rural parts of the County that are unsuitable for biking and are being utilized for that.

Ms. Guilbeau stated that she could not speak to anything that would specifically discourage the bikers because due to North Carolina law, they are legally allowed to ride there.

Commissioner Cross stated that the riders were going to ride where they want to ride whether there is a map or not; that they can legally do it; that they are already doing so; and this might encourage them to use the routes that we would prefer them to use.

BROADBAND AUDIT REPORT

Cynthia Pols, Action Audits Consultant, presented a PowerPoint of the long-term broadband plan and reviewed short-term planning steps as follows:

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN FOR CHATHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENTATION BY
CYNTHIA POLS & CATHARINE RICE OF ACTION AUDITS, CARY, NC

LONG-TERM BROADBAND PLAN

Deploy a community-designed fiber optic backbone network

- Ubiquitous network - as many laterals as possible into the County
- Long-term cost controls and a future-proofed broadband infrastructure
- Fiber optics is the preferred transmission medium because of its almost unlimited information-carrying capacity and the ease of upgrading

3 major goals for the proposed network:

- Take advantage of the collective buying power of area public institutions and more effectively deploy existing resources
- Provide a bridge to affordable, scalable, and reliable middle-mile service (MCNC network)
- Establish a pluggable, scalable, and expandable network that provides a platform for development of new wireless and wire line networks

First step: Identify resources currently devoted to telecommunications and broadband by governmental entities and other public institutions

- Must be sufficient to cover borrowing costs & operational costs for replacement services
- Deploy these resources in a more targeted, planned, and effective way to develop a community-based broadband infrastructure
- Preliminary estimates of direct expenditures (County and school district): \$625,000 starting point – add indirect expenditures on staff, vendors, and technical assistance to the mix
- Possible public sector partners include the towns of Siler City, Pittsboro, and Goldston – they likely spend another \$100,000 or so per year
- Other possible public sector partners: Central Carolina Community College and the new Chatham Hospital in Siler City

Second step: Identify other project partners:

- New wireless and wire line connections for smart grid for Progress Energy, Central EMC, and Randolph EMC
- Infrastructure for Chatham Park Investors: possible deployment of state-of-the-art smart community technology in the new 30,000-person planned community
- Look at partnership opportunities such as the partner becoming an anchor tenant for the proposed fiber backbone

Third step: Rough out a basic technical design for the network

- Sufficiently versatile to support both wireless and wireline providers on a pluggable basis

Fourth step: Define cost parameters for network:

- Assumptions: network would (1) connect key Chatham institutions and facilities together; and (2) provide the basic connections and platforms necessary to improve service in unserved and underserved areas to eventually support next-generation services throughout the County
- A feasibility study prepared by a third party who would develop a 10-year *pro forma*

Fifth step: Legal options as to ownership structure (3 main options):

- A public-private partnership between the County and an infrastructure provider – County owns the infrastructure but third party constructs and/or operates
- A public-private partnership between the County and an infrastructure provider – provider owns the infrastructure, with the County centrally involved in developing the system
- A nonprofit or similar organization develops and operates the infrastructure – governed by a representative cross-section of community interests and representatives

SHORT-TERM PLANNING STEPS

First, work with each of the 7 existing wire line providers to look for cooperative opportunities:

- Major focus on CenturyLink (largest provider)
- Randolph TMC (advanced technology and new legal authority to “edge out” into Chatham)
- AT&T (big footprint)
- Two local cable providers, TWC and Charter – modest expectations – no interest in expanding their footprint in the County
- But their “business group” divisions are more flexible and nimble – Charter Business Group pulled together a tri-county network for Central Carolina Community College

Second, begin long-term planning discussions with possible smart grid providers:

- The County's three power companies (Progress Energy, Central EMC, and Randolph EMC)
- Natural gas (PSNC Energy)
- Providers of water and sewer service (Chatham County, Siler City, Pittsboro)
- Other pipelines

Third, work with the Chatham Park Investors on their plans for new community to ensure a state-of-the-art broadband infrastructure and look at cooperative arrangements

Fourth, review communications tower ordinance:

- Current ordinance limits the taller towers (300 feet) to US 64 West and US 421 and permits shorter towers (199 feet) on several other transportation corridors (US 1, US 15/501, NC 87, NC 751, NC 902)
- Full inventory of other facilities and sites for transmitting sites for the next generation of wireless service

Fifth, update the inventory of County-owned fiber and other communications lines:

- Identify all other County facilities that should be connected by a County network
- Facilities not currently connected to the County network include: waste management facilities on Landfill Road; sheriff's substations in Goldston, Governors Village, and Moncure; County facilities in Siler City (sheriff's substation, Health Department, Council on Aging)
- Other facilities not connected: a possible 911 back-up facility in Siler City; water distribution facilities scattered around the County; EOC towers; park and recreation facilities; the Goldston and Siler City libraries; and the 7 fire departments (and their 16 fire stations)

Sixth, work with the towns of Pittsboro, Siler City, and Goldston to develop a similar list of town and related facilities

Seventh, compile a detailed list of all direct and indirect expenditures by County, governmental, and other public entities on telecommunications and broadband

- Chatham County Schools and Chatham County: direct expenditures total \$625,000 (\$437,521 for Chatham County Schools; \$187,812 or so for Chatham County)
- Identify all other expenditures

Eighth, require coordination among public agencies in the County regarding the purchase of communications services and equipment

Ninth, require current providers to comply with their legal obligations:

- Require Charter to comply with its existing County cable franchise (runs until August of 2012) (connect schools and public buildings in the Siler City area to Charter's cable system)
- Enforce similar requirements that apply to all state cable franchisees (connect all public buildings to the cable system that are within 125 feet of the cable system)
- Require compliance with PEG access requirements (existing County franchises require Charter and TWC to carry the County's channel and CCCC's channel)
- Charter and TWC recently came into partial compliance with these requirements for CCCC's educational channel but are carrying it on the more expensive and less accessible digital tiers in violation of FCC policies
- Requirements to carry PEG channels also apply to state cable franchisees – monitor compliance by CenturyLink, AT&T, Randolph TMC, and TWC

Tenth, establish a simple complaint process for community feedback on broadband service problems and gaps in service:

- Accessible on-line and via the telephone
- Simple and clear questions designed to collect information about service availability, speed, affordability, reliability, and consistency
- Document and map out (using its GIS capabilities) service patterns in the County and pinpoint serious service problems

Eleventh, proactive advocacy programs at the state and federal level:

- Ensure recognition of broadband as a key infrastructure component of the future
- Work with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) and the National Association of Counties (NACo)

Ms. Pols answered questions from the Board. She stated that they recommend that the Board find some way to get more control over what is going on in the County. The best way they feel to do that is to build a fiber network through the key routes in the County. They recommended a public-private partnership. They are too early in the process to say what that public-private partnership would be but if the network is built, you can build in cost controls, design it in a way to accommodate the new, promising wireless technology, and could accommodate other entrepreneurs who might be willing to come in and build out. The starting point, she stated, is that the County take advantage of the collective buying power that is already there in the public sector of the County but is dispersed; that the Board look at those resources as something that they could marshal to finance out-provision networks which is what a lot of cities and counties do, build their own. She stated that they don't suggest that the County get into the business of selling to customers which would be done more to serve the County and the schools and other public entities that might be willing to participate.

Commissioner Stewart stated that Dana Mitchell had mentioned a more detailed report and has asked to see it. She stated that one of the problems they have had is that the County is a rural county but not rural enough to receive funding; that CenturyLink and Time Warner have mentioned that they are working on new projects which will involve putting in six new towers in Chatham County; that there are things that are happening; and that hopefully they will know the right time and what the right technology is.

Ms. Pols stated that the schools would perhaps be the most critical partner in this as their facilities are spread around the County in very strategic locations so that when you're going to them, you're reaching throughout the County

Commissioner Stewart asked that the detailed report be sent in.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Petty moved, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, to go out of the Work Session and convene in Closed Session for the purpose of discussing matters of property acquisition and an attorney/client matter. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

WORK SESSION

Commissioner Cross moved, seconded by Commissioner Petty, to adjourn the Closed Session and reconvene in Work Session. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kost moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was adjourned at 5:08 PM.

Brian Bock, Chairman

ATTEST:

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