

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 07, 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 3:00 PM on November 07, 2011.

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

Absent: Commissioner Pamela Stewart

Staff Present: Charlie Horne, County Manager; Jep Rose, County Attorney; Renee Paschal, Assistant County Manager; Vicki McConnell, Finance Officer; Sandra B. Sublett, Clerk to the Board; and Lindsay Ray, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Work Session

1. **Public Input Session**
2. **October Employee of the Month**
3. **November Employee of the Month**
4. **Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update**
5. **Judicial Facility Tile Options:** Presentation by David Taylor of Corley, Redfoot, Zack, Inc.
6. **Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) Annual Report**
7. **Presentation of Capital Improvements Plan (CIP):** Presentation of the recommended 2013-2019 Capital Improvements Plan and vote on date for public hearing on the Capital Improvements Program for November 21, 2011 at 6 PM and date for work session on the CIP for November 30, 2011 at 9 AM
8. **Explanation of Fire Insurance Rating** by Tom Bender
9. **Update on the Procurement of Grants for the County**

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman welcomed everyone in attendance and called the Work Session to order at 3:02 PM. He explained that Commissioner Stewart was out-of-town and would not be at either the Work Session or the Regular Meetings.

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

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

OCTOBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Carolyn Miller, Human Resources Director, stated that the Employee of the Month program was instituted in FY 2009 to honor Chatham County employees for exemplary service to citizens and their fellow employees.

The October 2011 Employees of the Month are Bill Bussey, Andrew Harrison, Rocco Richard and Lashonda Smith of the Recreation Department. They have been with Chatham County for a combined sixteen years. An excerpt from their nomination form follows:

Just six years ago, Chatham County Parks and Recreation had only one County park it was the baseball field at Bynum on 25 acres. Chatham County now owns nine facilities totaling 423 acres and 4.6 miles along the American Tobacco Trail, seven of these facilities are now in operation. In just 3 years, the youth and adult programs offered by the department have doubled. These accomplishments would have not been possible without the teamwork, creativity and innovation of Bill Bussey, Andrew Harrison and Rocco Richard.

Andrew developed the Parks and Recreation Community Service Award and established the County Primary Youth Sport Provider policy. And while managing the adult softball program, he increased that participation by 25%. He also implemented a tennis lesson program for youths and adults.

Rocco established the movies and music in the park events. He also initiated an aquatic program for swim lessons and water aerobics at Northwest Park. He implemented the One Stroke Art classes and increased the participation from 2 classes in 2008 to 8 classes in 2011. He also increased participation in the youth wrestling program by 12%.

Due to their teamwork, the staff relocated the summer camp to Northwest Park which allowed the department to accommodate 75 full day campers. While Andrew and Rocco worked on the programming piece and some improvements to the facilities, Bill was working hard with major improvements to the pool house by scraping, painting and applying epoxy to the restroom floors, sanding, caulking and painting restroom partitions. He also refurbished the ductwork in the dining hall.

Bill with his tireless energy, work ethic, and concern for other employees as well as the public has gone beyond the call of duty to get most of the facilities ready for programs and for the public in a timely manner. In order to reduce labor cost in the parks, Bill worked with the State inmate worker program and helped coordinate volunteer work days to clear debris, plant shrubbery and install safety fencing for Bynum Beach. Bill also coordinated with the State inmate program for projects needed to be completed at the Southwest and Northwest Parks.

In order to identify the effectiveness and efficiency of each employee's performance a department evaluation process was done. It was obvious that these employees are doing more with less, meaning the recreation department relies on teamwork to offer more programs with less staff and funding. This is evident by comparable recreation departments.

For youth athletics, the chart below states that Chatham County is providing more participants or youth sports provider opportunities than comparable counties as follows:

County	Est. Pop	Softball	Basketball	Football	Soccer	Volleyball
Sampson	65,396	No info available	450 (Max.)	480 (Max.)	360 (Max.)	Not Offered
Carteret	63,520	100	100	Not Offered	Not Offered	Not Offered
Chatham	60,881	165 (FY2009)	880 (FY2009)	YTH ASSNS.**	YTH ASSNS.**	Offered Previously*
Lee	57,500	100 (+/-)	350 (+/-)	Not Offered	Not Offered	No info available

For Adult Athletics, participation in adult athletics has remained stable or increased in the programs offered. The programs exceed offerings by all 3 comparable counties. One comparable county with greater population (Carteret) has had greater success with kickball than we achieved.

County	Est. Pop	Softball	Basketball	Flag Football	Kickball	Volleyball
Sampson	65,396	Not Offered	Not Offered	Not Offered	Not Offered	Not Offered
Carteret	63,520	Not Offered	Not Offered	Not Offered	12 Teams	Not Offered
Chatham	60,881	5 Teams (FY2010)	6 Teams (FY'08&'09)	Offered Previously*	Offered Previously*	Offered Previously*
Lee	57,500	No Info Available	No Info Available	Proposed	Not Offered	Not Offered

For Instructional Athletics like track and field and wrestling, our participation increased an estimate of 15%. For track and field in Person Co, they had 12 participants and Chatham County had 28.

The latest accomplishment that exemplified outstanding teamwork was the grand opening of our newest park, Northeast District Park. The preparation, set up and program was a success due to dedication from Bill, Andrew and Rocco.

Congratulations Bill, Andrew and Rocco!

NOVEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Ms. Miller explained that the November 2011 Employee of the Month is Neha Shah of the Pittsboro-Siler City Convention and Visitor's Bureau who has worked for the County for nearly twelve years. An excerpt from her nomination form follows:

Neha has quietly built one of the strongest and most successful CVB (Convention and Visitor's Bureau) offices in North Carolina. We are continually bestowed with awards from the tourism industry for our outreach, website design, use of social media, and electronic newsletter. The impact tourism has on our local economy is tremendous, and without such an accomplished and successful promoter of our local assets, that impact would surely be less.

Domestic tourism in Chatham County generated an economic impact of \$25.03 million in 2010. This was a 4.6% change from 2009. Total payroll generated by the tourism industry in Chatham County reached \$3.03 million, with more than 170 jobs directly attributed to tourism. State and local tax revenues from travel to Chatham County amounted to \$2.07 million. This represents a \$32.41 tax saving to each county resident. The continued promotion of Chatham County's tourism assets is due to Neha. She is constantly seeking new ways to better promote and increase tourism dollars in Chatham County. As a staff of one, her output is tremendous. By comparison, our surrounding jurisdictions have a much larger staff (Wake-26, Orange-6, Durham-10).

A snapshot of some of her accomplishments since the CVB came into existence follows:

- Co-authored a chapter of a newly revised textbook called, *Hospitality, An Introduction*, by Robert A. Brymer and Misty M. Johnson. She is the only non-PhD author. Chapter was on marketing with John C. Crotts, a professor from the College of Charleston. The chapter is part of a popular textbook for higher education programs and is in its fourteenth edition. It helps students identify and understand potential career options in the area of hospitality, such as managing restaurants or lodging facilities. The chapter contains a brief case study and other information that she developed on how to effectively use social media to market the hospitality industry. The textbook from Kendall Hunt Publishing will be available to students electronically for the first time, but will continue to be offered in printed form as well.
- Speaking at teleconference at NCSU on October 5. Topic – Mobile apps. Details: <http://cnr.ncsu.edu/rrs/MobileApp.html>
- Taking a PhD class. Jointly submitted a paper with her professor for the International Conference on Social Media Tourism. Paper was accepted and she is speaking at the conference in Italy at her own personal expense and on personal time. October 2011.
- Destination Marketing Association Awards:
 - o Rising Star Award – Awarded in first year of CVB’s existence (2000)
 - o Platinum Award – Communications/Public Relations (2000)
 - o Gold Award – Tourism ChitCHAT, Electronic News (2006)
 - o Platinum Award – Tourism ChitCHAT, Electronic News (2007)
 - o Platinum Award – Tourism ChitCHAT, Electronic News (2008)
 - o Gold Award – Visitors Guide (2008)
 - o Innovation in Tourism Award in Workforce Development – Ecotourism Certificate (2008)
 - o Innovation in Tourism in Media and Stakeholder Relations – Social Networking (2008)
 - o Innovation in Tourism in Media and Stakeholder Relations – Media Kit Template (2008)
 - o Innovation in Tourism in Workforce Development – Education (2009)
 - o Gold Award – Tourism ChitCHAT, Electronic News (2009)
 - o Destination Marketing and Communication: Tourism ChitCHAT – GOLD (2010)
 - o Destination Branding: Social Media multiple campaigns (Facebook, Twitter, foursquare brand pages): GOLD (2010)
- Master of Science in Tourism (University of FL) with a thesis option, thesis on the occupancy tax; Bachelor of Science in Bus Admin, Marketing and Management (University of FL). She graduated first in class at the University of Florida for her Master’s.
- Social Media – Neha uses social media to its fullest extent, and it is a priceless tool for a small budget CVB to compete fairly with neighboring CVBs with large budgets.

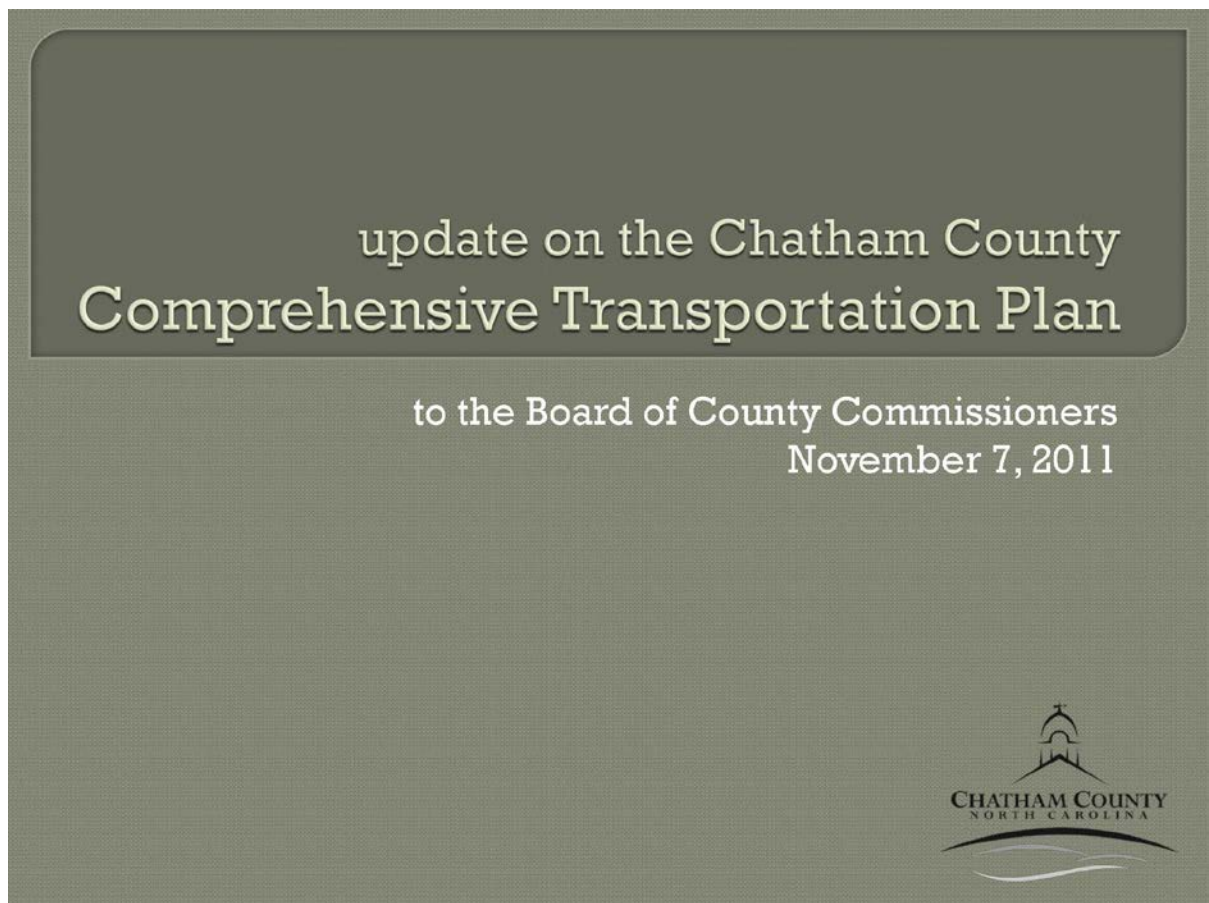
Congratulations to Neha!

Ms. Shah stated that it was an honor to be nominated. She stated that when she first interviewed with the County and people asked her afterward how it went, she stated that it was really tough, one lady asked a lot of questions, she was very thorough, she didn’t think she got the job and twelve years later, here she is. A lot, she stated, started with Renee Paschal and Charlie Horne who had faith in her and continued to encourage her and continued to allow her to foster creativity regardless of the idea and have been great. She stated that when she first got out of graduate school, she had envisioned a job in a cool place, with cool and classy people, that were professional and at the top of their gate, lots of vacation time, and a corner office on the top floor. She stated that she got all that and thanked everyone.

COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Melissa Guilbeau, Chatham County Transportation Planner, explained that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) requires that each county have a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), including Highway, Transit, Bicycle and Pedestrian Elements. The CTP will identify specific transportation priorities to support the county's vision for land and economic development. The CTP is necessary for the County to have projects identified when funding opportunities arise. Chatham's most recent CTP was adopted in 1983 and only included highways.

NCDOT has begun the process of developing a CTP for Chatham County. Ms. Guilbeau provided a status update on the project, including the work of the steering committee, a public survey and a tentative schedule for completion. Her PowerPoint, "Update on the Chatham County Comprehensive Transportation Plan" follows:



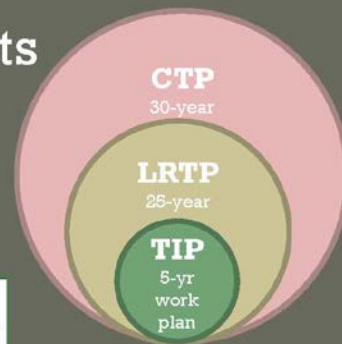
Overview of a CTP

Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)

- 30-year plan
- Not fiscally constrained
- Multimodal
 - Highway
 - Rail
 - Transit
 - Bicycle
 - Pedestrian
- Cooperative process
 - County
 - Municipalities
 - TARPO
 - DCHC MPO
 - NCDOT
 - Public

One Part of the Process

- Recommendations=concepts
- Local needs in context of statewide goals



Strategic Highway Corridors



www.ncdot.gov/doh/preconstruct/tpb/SHC

Chatham CTP

- **Steering Committee**
Transportation Advisory Committee
 - Separate Siler City Committee
- **Entire county; except**
 - DCHC MPO CTP in progress
 - Cary CTP adopted
- **Elements**
 - **Highway**
tbd + Pittsboro CTP
 - **Transit**
tbd
 - **Bicycle**
Chatham Bicycle Plan
 - **Pedestrian**
tbd + Pittsboro Pedestrian Plan

Tasks and Schedule

Timeframe	Task	Status/Comments
Fall 2011	Develop vision statement	Complete
Fall 2011	Identify roads to study	Complete
Fall 2011	Collect current year data	In progress
Fall 2011	**Public Survey**	Draft in review
Winter 2012	Build Siler City model	In progress
Winter 2012	Forecast future demand	
Spring 2012	Analyze future deficiencies	
Spring 2012	Develop alternatives	
Spring 2012	**Public Workshops**	Multiple locations
Summer 2012	Draft CTP	
Summer 2012	**Public Workshops**	Multiple locations
Fall 2012	Adopt CTP	

Resources

- **Project Manager**
Brendan Merithew
919-707-0943
bwmerithew@ncdot.gov


- **Project Webpage**
www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/tpb/planning/ChathamCo.html
- **County Transportation Planner**
Melissa Guilbeau
919-545-8337
melissa.guilbeau@chathamnc.org



The Chairman thanked Ms. Guilbeau for the update.

JUDICIAL FACILITY TILE OPTIONS

David Taylor, Project Architect with Corley, Redfoot, Zack, Inc. presented the slate and marble sample options for the new Judicial Center.

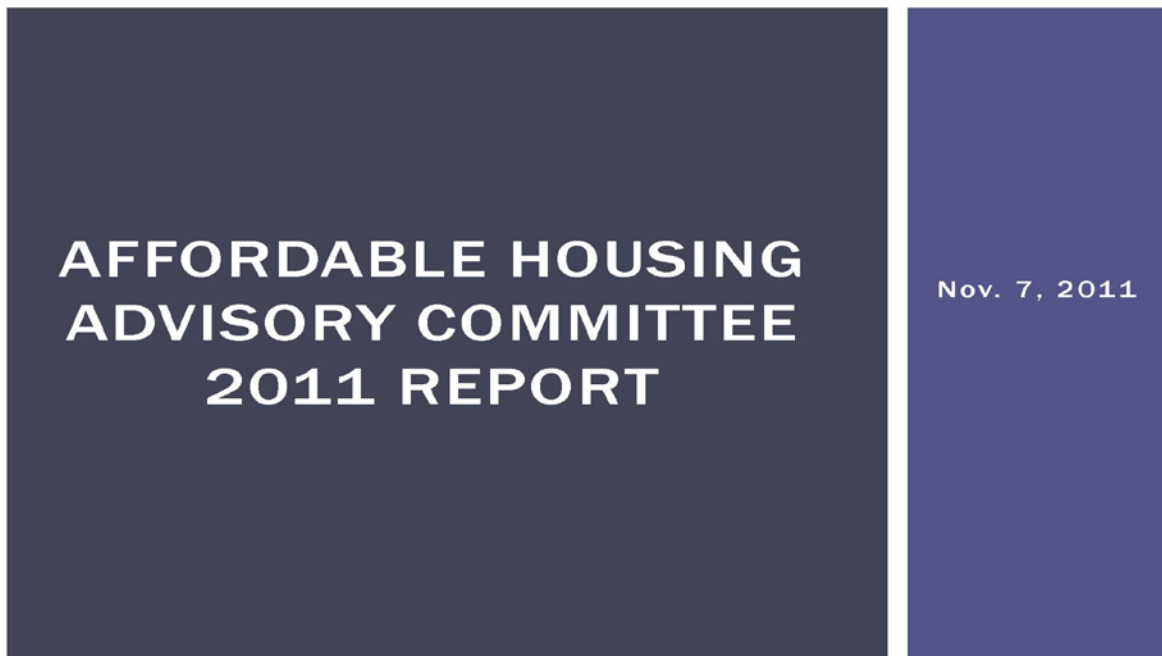
Commissioner Kost expressed concern regarding the color stating that it probably won't show dirt because it will just look dirty. She asked the architect about the two different surfaces, one matt finish and the other glossy.

Mr. Taylor stated that using the glossy in an accent pattern, he doesn't see a problem as the travertine is only a six inch section and will be grouted with a darker grout.

By consensus, the Board agreed to use the porcelain tile "Forest" from the "Wild Lands" Collection by Caesar Tile.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AHAC) ANNUAL REPORT

Bill Leroy, Affordable Housing Advisory Committee Chairman, presented the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee 2011 Report, reviewed accomplishments, and their priorities in moving forward in a PowerPoint as follows:



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Organized and followed the task force recommendations to form study groups:
 - ❖ Organizational structure
 - ❖ Inclusionary housing
 - ❖ Special needs
 - ❖ Substandard housing

- Updated the affordable housing market study to reflect the post 2007 housing bubble into our mission (i.e. homeless, seniors, people with disabilities, etc)

- Explored possibility of joining a regional consortia to leverage Federal HOME dollars

DEFINITION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- The generally accepted definition of affordable housing is “for a household to pay no more than 30 percent of its annual income for housing.”

A family of four with an annual income of \$45,000 could purchase a \$170,000 home and make a monthly mortgage payment of \$1125.

- More than 60% of Chatham County households could qualify under the HUD definition of affordable housing.



THE NEED FOR HOUSING THAT IS SAFE AND AFFORDABLE...

- 25.8% of Chatham renters spend 50% of their income or more on housing (HUD recommends spending 30% or less)
- The waiting list for Section 8 housing has increased over the past 3 years from 471 qualified families to 900
- In 2010, over 80 Chatham residents applied for the emergency home repair program, funding was available for only 15. Two hundred and thirty-eight residents are on the waiting list for funds.
- There are 725 homeless children in Chatham County

STATUS OF THE CURRENT COUNTY HOUSING MARKET

- Declining development; record numbers of foreclosures; large inventories of unsold units; declining home values
- Housing for home ownership is more affordable today than it was three years ago. However, rental rates are not.
- Rising unemployment and declining wages have created greater obstacles in qualifying eligible families for home mortgages/home ownership, or to rent as tenants.
- Substandard housing appears to be growing

AHAC'S OBJECTIVES



- Pursue affordable housing funding resources and alliances
 - Protect existing housing
 - Promote affordable rentals
- Promote a long-term, balanced mix of housing options

ACTION STEPS



- Inventory the scope of need for housing rehabilitation
- Expand incentives and funding for affordable housing
- Advocate for collaborative local government support
- Participate in an annual planning process

DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND COMMENTS



1. What are your thoughts and questions?
2. How do you envision the role of the AHAC in addressing affordable housing needs?

Mr. Leroy answered questions from the Board. He asked what the Commissioners would like to see from the Advisory Committee.

Chairman Bock responded that he would like to see are more details behind the numbers, definitions of and what is behind the homeless numbers, and the obstacles behind them, if available.

Commissioner Kost stated that the Section 8 number tells a lot about those who qualify for vouchers which she felt was the most staggering statistic she has seen.

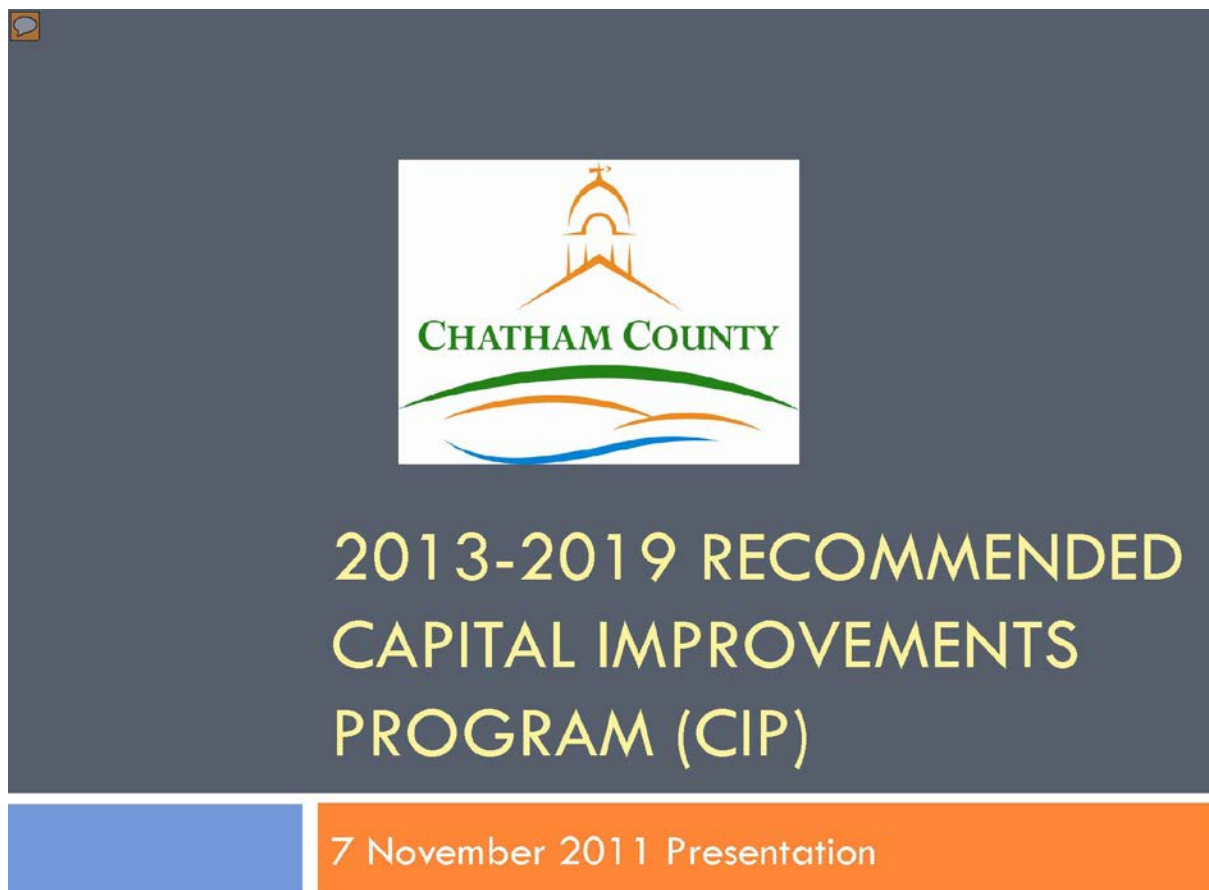
BREAK

The Chairman called for a short break.

PRESENTATION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN (CIP)

Renee Paschal, Assistant County Manager, explained that each year, Commissioners receive a recommendation from the County Manager on the County's Capital Plan (CIP). Today, staff is presenting the Recommended FY 2013-2019 plan. Two years ago, Commissioners decided to hold a public hearing on the Capital Improvements Program. The document will be available online and in each of the County's libraries for public review.

Ms. Paschal presented a PowerPoint on the 2013-2019 Recommended Capital Improvements Program (CIP) as follows:



County's Process



- County staff presenting a recommended capital improvements program (CIP) today
- **Public input is an important goal** of the Board of Commissioners, so that is the **first step** in reviewing the plan and the purpose of the public hearing; the public hearing is proposed for **November 21 at 6 pm**; document will be available tomorrow in county's 3 libraries and on the website
- Following public input, Commissioners will hold a work session (proposed for **November 30**) to review plan in detail
- Staff's goal is an adopted **revised** plan in **December** and a published document shortly afterwards

Why the hurry?



- The operating budget process starts in early January, leaving staff little time to prepare an adopted CIP document
- Staff has prepared the proposed CIP approximately 1 month ahead of the regular schedule
- **Commissioners can opt to spend more time reviewing the capital budget**; staff would recommend additional work sessions in December



New Projects (Schools)

- ▣ Replacement of high school gyms heating and air conditioning units, 2015, \$1 million
- ▣ North Chatham Elementary traffic improvements to reduce congestion on Lystra Road, 2014, \$265,000
- ▣ New restrooms for football stadiums at Jordan-Matthews and Northwood High Schools and new softball field restrooms at Chatham Central High School, 2013-14, \$1.3 million
- ▣ Replacement of indoor bleachers at J. S. Waters, Moncure and Horton schools, 2019, \$272,250
- ▣ New roofs for SAGE Academy and school administrative offices, 2019, \$1.2 million



New Projects (Other)

- ▣ 911 dispatch backup location, 2012, \$1.4 million
- ▣ Replacement voting equipment, 2019, \$600,000
- ▣ Increased computer data storage, 2016, \$650,000
- ▣ Replace county phone system , 2017, \$400,000
- ▣ Initial planning with regional partners for water intake and treatment plant on west side of Jordan Lake, 2013-2018, \$2.2 million (funded from water capital reserves)
- ▣ Financial software for Water Utilities, 2013, \$100,000



Future Projects

- Agricultural Civic Center—request feasibility study funding*
- Animal Shelter Expansion and Renovation
- Public Health Building*
- Renovation of Detention Center—request feasibility study funding
- Schools – Joint Bus/County Garage—feasibility study underway
- Schools - Chatham Middle Expansion*
- Schools - New Northeast Elementary School*
- Schools - Replace Gymnasiums at Bennett, Silk Hope, Bonlee*
- Water District - Southwest Water District Distribution Lines Construction



Funding Strategy

- Fund large, needed facilities through debt:
 - School debt to be repaid from impact fees, lottery proceeds, debt reserve, and restricted sales tax
 - Water debt to be repaid from water capital reserve
 - Other debt to be repaid from 6 cents on tax rate going into reserve
 - Debt model is based on these funding sources
- Fund smaller needs through fund balance, as this source is available; schedule in CIP should be considered tentative



Funding Strategy

- Maximize grant opportunities (parks)
- Fund parks through grants, recreation fee, and capital reserve
- Fund northeast solid waste collection center through capital reserve



Funding Strategy

- With lottery and impact fee revenues down substantially and property tax growing less robustly, the debt model requires the equivalent of 1 cents in FY 2013 to keep all recommended projects on schedule
- Staff recommended a “wait-and-see” approach last year, but the recession is hanging on longer than expected
- County needs to dedicate additional 1 cent to the debt reserve—can do this through increased revenue or redirecting existing revenue

Board of Education Priorities



	Project	Requested FY	Recommendation
1	Joint County/School Garage	2013-2016	Future project
2	District-wide Facility Assessment	2013	Fund from maintenance
3	High school stadium restrooms	2013-2014	Recommended
4	Gym HVAC installations	2013	Fund in 2015
5	North Chatham Traffic Improvements	2014	Recommended
6	Paving replacement	2016-2019	Fund from capital outlay
7	Chatham Middle Capacity Expansion*	2019-2022	Future project
8	Sage & Administrative Office roofs	2019	Recommended
9	New northeast elementary school*	2019-2022	Future project
10	Indoor bleacher replacements	2019	Recommended
11	Bennett, Silk Hope, Bonlee gyms*	2019-2022	Future

Requested Action



- Set the date for public hearing for November 21 at 6 pm
- Schedule the CIP work session for November 30 (starting time?)

Commissioner Kost asked Staff to see if there is any money through the MPO/DOT money that we could get to help with the Lystra Road improvements. She stated that school congestion areas were getting funding through State monies.

By consensus, the Board agreed to set the date for a public hearing on the Capital Improvements Program for November 21, 2011 at 6:00 PM and to set the date for the work session on the CIP for November 30, 2011 at 9:00 AM.

FIRE INSURANCE RATING

Tom Bender, Chatham County Fire Marshal, explained the “Public Protection Class Ratings” in a PowerPoint as follows:



Public Protection Class Ratings



58-2-40 – Powers and Duties

- Enforce all the insurance laws and issue regulations
- Adopt rules pertaining to the solicitation of stock proxies of domestic companies
- Require reports from companies, bureaus, associations that disclose full information on their standing and condition

58-33-85 – Prohibited Rebates & Inducements; Exceptions

- No insurer or agent shall receive a premium except in accordance with an approved filing
- No agent shall pay as an inducement to but insurance any rebate, discount, credit or reduction in premium

How are Public Protection Class
ratings Derived?

Receiving & Handling Fire Alarms = 10%

- Telephone Service = 2%
 - Number of phone lines
 - Telephone directory listing
 - Automatic recording device
- Telephone Operators = 3%
 - Number of needed operators
 - Operators on duty
 - Operators awake on duty

Receiving & Handling Fire Alarms = 10%

- Dispatch Circuit = 5%
 - Type of dispatch circuit
 - Supervision of circuit
 - Dispatch recording facilities at communication center
 - Emergency power supply
 - Automatic warning device denoting transmitter failure

Fire Department = 50%

- Engine Companies = 10%
 - Number needed compare to number existing
 - Equipment carried
 - Engine service testing
 - Hose service testing
- Reserve Engine Companies = 1%
 - Number of existing reserve companies
 - Equipment carried
 - Engine service testing
 - Hose service test

Fire Department = 50%

- Pumping Capacity = 5%
 - Compare to basic fire flow
 - Engine service test
- Ladder and/or Service Companies = 5%
 - Number needed versus number existing
 - Based on 3 story or 35 foot buildings
 - Equipment carried
 - Aerial ladder/elevating platform tests

Fire Department = 50%

- Reserve Ladder and/or Service Companies = 1%
 - Number of existing reserve ladder/service companies
 - Aerial ladder/elevating platform tests
- Distribution of Engines and Ladder/Service Companies = 4%
 - Existing credit for existing engine, ladder and/or service companies
 - Engine companies – 1 ½ miles
 - Ladder and/or service companies – 2 ½ miles

Fire Department = 50%

- Company Personnel (manning capabilities) = 15%
 - Number of on duty/response average
 - Type of manning
 - Amount of apparatus in service
- Training = 9%
 - Type of facilities and distance from department
 - Training aids
 - Training subjects
 - Training hours
 - Pre-fire planning inspection program
 - Record keeping

Water Supply = 40%

- Supply System = 35%
 - Needed fire flow
 - Main capacity
 - Hydrant distribution
 - Supply works capacity
- Credit for Hydrants = 2%
 - Size and type of installation
- Inspection and Condition of Hydrants = 3%
 - Inspection and completeness and frequency
 - Visual verified condition

Distance to Department

- 5 **road miles** or less with hydrant **within** 1,000 feet
 - Approved alternate water supply (tanker)
 - Protection class 8 or lower
- 5 **road miles** or less with hydrant **more** than 1,000 feet
 - Protection class 9 or 9S
- Between 5 and 6 **road miles** Protection Class 9E
- Over 5 or 6 **road miles** Protection Class 10
 - Considered unprotected

Chatham County PPC Insurance Ratings		
<u>Fire District</u>	<u>Fire Department</u>	<u>Rating</u>
North Chatham	North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department	6/9E
Bennett	Bonnett Volunteer Fire Department	9/9E
South Chatham	Bonice Volunteer Fire Department	9/9E
Hopk	Silk Hope Volunteer Fire Department	6/9E
Monsieure	Monsieure Volunteer Fire Department	9/9E
Central Chatham	Siler City Fire Volunteer Department	5/9C
Goldston	Goldston Rural Fire Department	9/9E
Circle City	Pittsboro Fire & Rescue Department	6/9E
Northview	Northview Fire Department	6/9E*
Parkwood	Parkwood Volunteer Fire Department	5/9E
Staley	Staley Volunteer Fire Department	6

Protection Construction Factors

<i>Protection Class</i>	<i>Construction</i>	
	<i>Frame</i>	<i>Masonry</i>
1 – 6	1.00	.90
7	1.00	.90
8	1.10	.90
9, 9E, 9S	1.50	1.20
10	1.70	1.30

\$100,000 Homeowners Assume \$4 per \$1,000 for Coverage

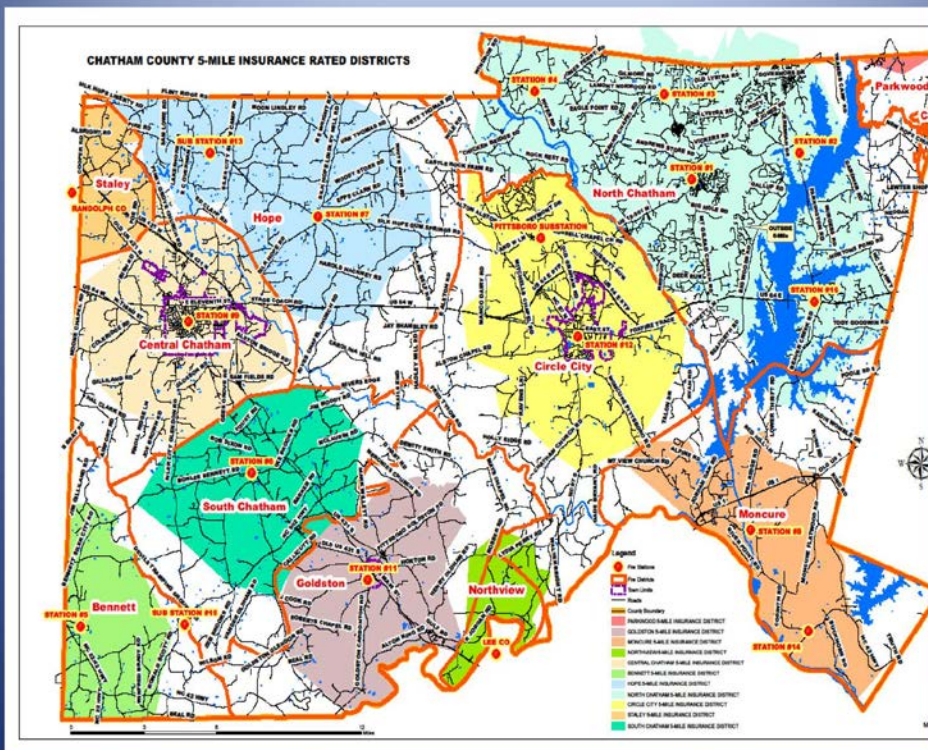
<i>Protection Class</i>	<i>Construction</i>	
	<i>Frame</i>	<i>Masonry</i>
1 – 6	\$400	\$360
7	\$400	\$360
8	\$440	\$360
9, 9E, 9S	\$600	\$480
10	\$680	\$520

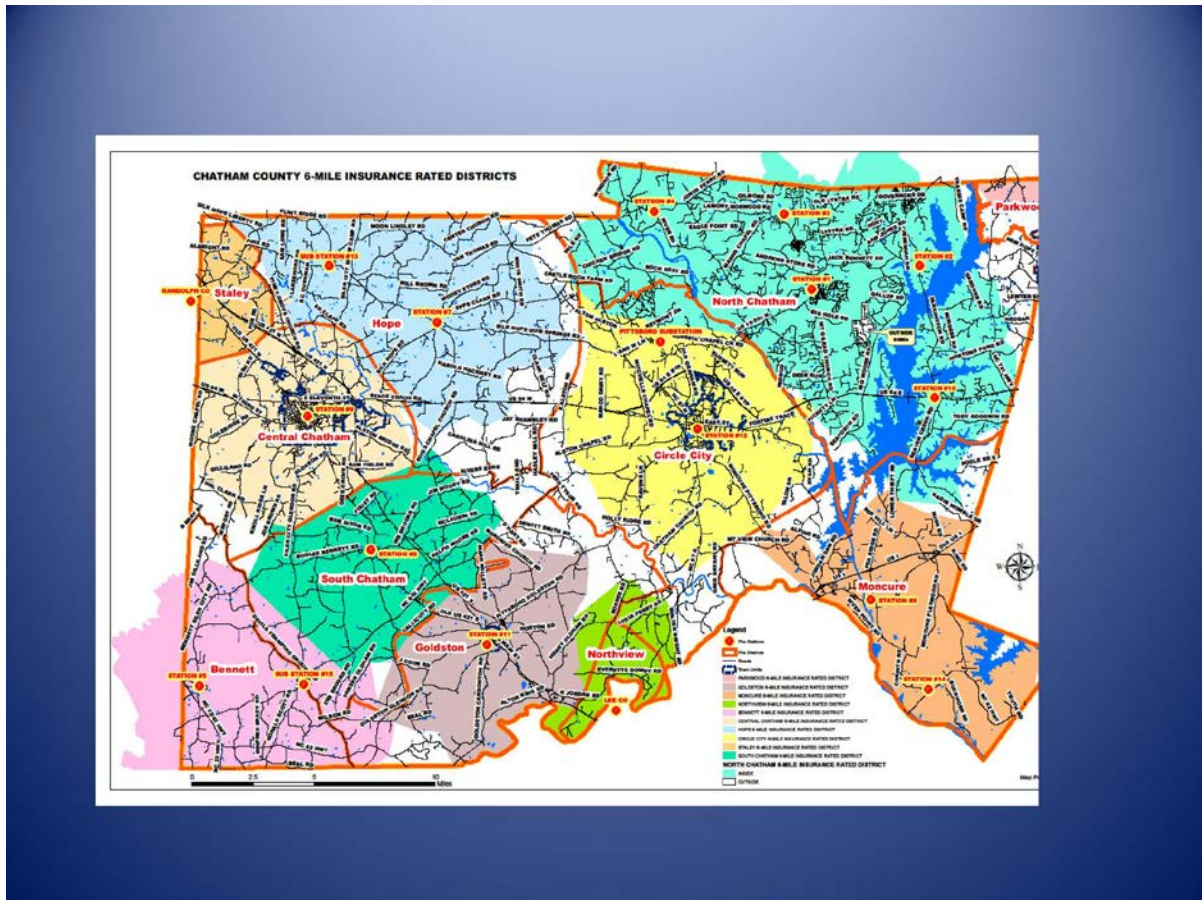
\$250,000 Homeowners Assume \$4 per \$1,000 for Coverage

<i>Protection Class</i>	<i>Construction</i>	
	<i>Frame</i>	<i>Masonry</i>
1 – 6	\$1,000	\$900
7	\$1,000	\$900
8	\$1,100	\$900
9, 9E, 9S	\$1,500	\$1,200
10	\$1,700	\$1,300

\$500,000 Homeowners Assume \$4 per \$1,000 for Coverage

Protection Class	Construction	
	Frame	Masonry
1 – 6	\$2,000	\$1,800
7	\$2,000	\$1,800
8	\$2,200	\$1,800
9, 9E, 9S	\$3,000	\$2,200
10	\$3,400	\$2,600





Chairman Bock asked about the carrier in the northeast Cary area, and if the insurance districts are by county. He stated that there is a fire station within 1 ½ miles of that area but on the Cary side.

The Fire Marshal stated that Cary only has a municipal district. Outside anything that is annexed as their city is called a “rural fire district”. They won’t give credit because: 1) Cary doesn’t want to sign a rural fire agreement; and 2) There are no hydrants. Cary Fire Department fire trucks carry no big tanks. They only carry 500 gallons of water. They have no capacity for shuffling water with tankers.

Commissioner Kost stated that when the folks that are covered by Parkwood in the Hills of Rosemont, it is her understanding that they are outside of the six-mile area from the Parkwood Station. She asked what if we worked with Cary and got an automatic aid or a mutual agreement, etc. and pulled it back from Parkwood and there was \$260,000 per year they would get in revenue, we could buy a tanker truck for Cary.

The Fire Marshal said that he was not going to say that that was not a possibility. He did say, however, that Cary has not been responding outside in rural areas without equipment.

Commissioner Kost asked if it had been pursued any further. The Fire Marshal stated that it had not. Commissioner Kost stated that she had asked the County Manager to work with the fire departments to pursue. Because of the lake and because of the road structure, it would be difficult as to where to put a station to service the most number of people. With further annexations by Cary, it is less and less likely that there would ever be a fire station there because more of it will be covered by Cary. These citizens are being left out there and saying that their insurance has been cancelled and they cannot get insurance and she has gotten calls that informed her that their rates had doubled.

Chairman Bock reiterated that Cary wasn’t willing to provide the service and they didn’t have a tanker truck. He asked if it took both of those to help the folks in that area or, if they were willing to do it, would it go a long way to help. The Fire Marshal explained that they would need more than one tanker truck.

The County Manager stated that they had talked about water availability in that area. He stated that the Fire Marshal is correct. There are no fire hydrants because there are no water lines extended. There are no rural water points, of any size capacity, in addition to not having tankers to really get at a water capacity rating component of that rating process.

Commissioner Petty asked what keeps us from getting water from Jordan Lake. Commissioner Kost stated that we could get it out under the County's own allotment as we do not use all of it.

The Fire Marshal stated that it would only be one water point and that's all it counts. He stated that they may also want to think about Parkwood, who has shown a desire, to build a new fire station in Chatham County. Commissioner Kost stated that she had heard that for the last five years. She stated that this issue has just started and they will be hearing from citizens over the next year.

Chairman Bock stated that he was more concerned with timely fire response. The Fire Marshall replied yes.

Why are Chatham County Public Protection Class Ratings Changing?

- Investigations by NCDOT Investigators
- Mapping Technology
- Assigned by Zip Codes

Final Comments

- Insurance companies often will decline to provide coverage in areas with a Public Protection Class 10, no fire protection
 - Insurance companies become more restrictive as the value of the property increases
- Because of the NC Statutes (Chapter 58):
 - The building is rated based on **road miles** from the department
 - Department of Insurance rates fire departments
 - Insurance Services Office (ISO) for large departments
 - Insurance companies are **required** to charge based on the **road mileage**
 - Public Protection Class and Fire Tax District are not the same
 - Fire department will respond, just no rate credit because of the distance from the fire department

Commissioner Kost suggested: 1) If the Board agrees, the County pursue this agreement with Cary. 2) The five or six miles should be based on drive-time not mileage (road conditions, traffic, etc.) and we should write to our Insurance Commission and ask why it is based on mileage and not drive/response time or some other factor. 3) Press Parkwood to find out their plans and see if they have funds in reserve. 4) From Staff, she asked what it takes to create your own fire district? She stated if we are not going to build stations with existing fire departments, then let's look at creating a new district so that protection can be secured for these folks.

A discussion ensued with regard to creating our "own fire districts". Commissioner Kost stated that there has to be a petition signed by the people in that district to create a fire district. She stated that if we are not going to be able to build the stations, maybe it is time to look at creating an additional fire district that would then have the tax base to support a fire station.

A fireman present stated that if a new fire district is created, the money would be the same.

Commissioner Kost stated that she had heard that Parkwood was going to build a new station for five years or longer. Nothing has happened. So if nothing is going to happen, let's make it happen.

Chairman Bock stated that he thinks if a new district is created from an existing district, you are not increasing the amount of money that is available to the total area. Commissioner Kost stated that Parkwood is Durham and there is tax base there to support it but they are a Class 10 service.

Mark Riggsbee, North Chatham Fire Department, stated that the problem with building additional stations, aside from the amount of money it's going to take, is the personnel to staff them. He stated that building a fire station does not guarantee a rating. We could stand the chance of the rating going down and getting worse overall because it spreads them thinner and thinner. With regard to establishing a new fire department, it takes millions of dollars to operate a brand new fire department.

Commissioner Kost stated that with the areas like those in The Preserve where the average home is \$400-500,000, they are generating revenue.

Chairman Bock stated that they are paying revenue to get fire coverage, not to get lower insurance. If they are paying for fire coverage, it is the County's responsibility. He stated that his concern is if they are getting the fire coverage that they are paying for but he doesn't know that is something that the fire tax should be overly concerned with.

Commissioner Kost stated that it was not just getting lower insurance rates. It is also getting insurance.

Chairman Bock stated that he thought they could agree to pursue Cary as he knows there is a station there. He stated that if that was something they could pursue relatively cheaply, then that is what they should do. It will not help everyone but it will help some.

Commissioner Kost asked if they could also press Parkwood to find out more specifically what their plans are. She stated that when the Hills of Rosemont starts getting their insurance cancelled, it is going to be bad.

Commissioner Petty asked if the firemen were finding the insurance cancellation to be tied to a particular carriers, insurance companies, or insurance agents. Commissioner Kost stated that she did not inquire. The Fire Marshal stated that it was certain carriers and they were few. He stated that most were going to write a policy; however, it would be a lot more expensive.

The Fire Marshal stated that they had looked at putting a fire station on Jay Shambley Road. The problem was not the station, money, or personnel. Every substation outside of the scope of the main station, you have to have eight people separate from the main station to man it. That would equate to eight new volunteers and they couldn't get them. There is not a square mile in the County that is not receiving First Responder and fire protection services.

Chairman Bock asked what they could do to encourage this with Cary.

The County Manager stated that the first step is to see if they are interested. The basic issue is water coverage.

Commissioner Kost asked if Cary was to build a station close to O'Kelly Chapel Church Road. She asked how it would work if Cary was to build a station and it is closer than Parkwood, what would be required to switch the folks off O'Kelly Chapel from Parkwood to Cary.

The Fire Marshal stated that with the exception of Bennett Fire District that was formed as a service district, the rest of the districts were formed as fire protection districts. Under General Statute 6925-11, to change someone's fire district, you must have 2/3 of the freeholders' vote, it is then taken to the fire department where it is discussed, and it then comes to the County Commissioners for approval. It is a long process.

The County Manager stated that there is also a requirement to pay a pro-rated share of the tax that they lose. The Fire Marshal stated that was correct.

PURCHASE OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLE-TAX EXEMPT BORROWING

Todd Harrington explained that Technical Corrections Bill HR 4333 regarding tax exempt borrowing requires that specific procedures be followed when a fire department desires to obtain tax exempt financing. Prior approval of the governmental body of the borrowing must be given, notice of a public hearing posted, and a public hearing conducted. The Moncure Volunteer Fire Department has advised that they desire to borrow the sum of \$668,555.00 under tax exempt status for the purchase of an emergency response vehicle. The emergency response vehicle will be a new 78' aerial ladder apparatus to be used at large industrial facilities and for providing exposure protection

Commissioner Petty moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to approve the Moncure Volunteer Fire Department's request to borrow the sum of \$668,555.00 under tax exempt status for the purchase of an emergency response vehicle, to post notice of a public hearing, and conduct the hearing in accordance with the requirement of Technical Corrections Bill HR 4333. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

PROCUREMENT OF GRANTS FOR THE COUNTY

Commissioner Kost stated that the reason she requested this on the Agenda, is that she knows at one time we had a grant's writer. The position was eliminated and she wants to make certain that we are not being "penny wise and pound foolish". She stated that she wants to make sure that we are pursuing grants, that we are looking, that we are being very active in seeking outside money for Chatham County because without this position, she worries that there is no one dedicated to finding grants.

The County Manager stated that funding sources are drying up and continue to shrink. We are continuing to look for them as appropriate projects come up. We do have grants totaling \$3.485 and \$484 million already underway for the County ranging from \$2,900 for the historic tree program to PARTF half-million dollar grants. There are sixteen different grants. Not only are government grants getting less likely from the federal and State governments, but also foundations are getting more restrictive on how they distribute funds.

Commissioner Kost asked who was monitoring the grants' process. The County Manager stated that there was no single source to look at it. There are a variety of people.

Lisa West stated that from her perception, we were not missing grant opportunities. She stated that department heads are on top of it and are always looking at list serves. She stated that she is still on the list serves, getting the notifications, and passing them along. In many cases, the grants aren't there as they have been in the past.

Commissioner Kost voiced concern with regard to department heads having too much work to do to apply for grants. Ms. West stated that she didn't think that was the case stating that if anyone heard of available grants, let them know and they will get it done.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bock adjourned the meeting at 5:09 PM.

Brian Bock, Chairman

ATTEST:

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