

**MINUTES**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**WORK SESSION**  
**APRIL 15, 2013**

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The Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the Agricultural Building Auditorium, 45 South Street, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 3:00 PM on April 15, 2013.

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

Commissioner Stewart entered the meeting at 3:10 PM.

Staff Present: Charlie Horne, County Manager; Jep Rose, County Attorney; 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. **Discussion of the acquisition of once proposed, Haywood Town Square, for use as a public park**
3. **Discussion with the North Carolina Department of Transportation Staff about a pending corridor study for 15-501 North**
4. **Discussion with the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) staff regarding the FY2014 request to provide a share of the non-federal match to support the MPO’s planning activities**
5. **Discussion of the Statement of Economic Interest Filing for County Staff and Commissioners for the RPO**
6. **Revaluation Presentation**
7. **Resolution in Support of the Sale of the Assets of Townsend/Omtron to a bidder interested in operating the facility**
8. **NC Public Records Law Acknowledgement form for the Board of Commissioners Advisory Board and Committee Members**
9. **Register of Deeds to discuss split estates and how someone goes about determining if they own their mineral rights**
10. **Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to Animal Control Officers in Honor of National Animal control Officer Appreciation Week**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Petty welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

Chairman Petty asked that the following be added to the agenda:

1. FirstHealth EMS Agreement
2. ABC Board Members

By consensus, the Board agreed.

## **PUBLIC INPUT SESSION**

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

## **BOARD PRIORITIES**

### **FirstHealth EMS Agreement:**

Tony Tucker, Chatham County Emergency Services Director, explained that on May 5, 1997, Chatham County entered into an agreement with FirstHealth of the Carolinas, Inc. to furnish manpower and equipment in order to provide emergency medical services to Chatham County at a paramedic level of service. The agreement has been renewed three times since the original 1997 agreement was implemented. It is now time to consider renewing the agreement to run from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016.

He explained that the agreement has been in place for sixteen years and FirstHealth has met or exceeded all requirements. He stated that he feels the citizens of Chatham County have benefited from the level of service FirstHealth has provided over the past sixteen years. Having started Chatham County's first Countywide EMS system in 1988, operating it for nine years, and researching other avenues of service, he feels that this agreement with FirstHealth is cost-effective and most reliable. With the end of this agreement's term approaching, he requested that Chatham County renew the agreement with FirstHealth of the Carolinas, Inc. for a three-year term ending June 30, 2016.

Commissioner Kost asked if the amount of the money was the same.

Mr. Tucker stated that there was an approximate three percent increase from the current agreement and an approximate three percent increase thereafter.

Commissioner Kost asked about the fuel surcharge.

Mr. Tucker stated that the fuel surcharge had been in place for several years. He stated that the wording was changed this year from the verbiage that if fuel prices go over the \$4.50 per gallon charge (up to \$10,000), they will renegotiate and determine if a surcharge will be added.

Commissioner Bock moved, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to approve the EMS Agreement between FirstHealth of the Carolinas, Inc. and Chatham County. The motion carried four (4) to zero (0).

### **ABC Board Members:**

Walter Harris stated that the NC Association of ABC Boards had its annual meeting of general managers. A recommendation came out of that meeting from the UNC School of Government expressing the opinion that boards should not be just three-member boards, but should be five-member boards. Part of it has to do with the Open Meetings Laws. Two members of a three-member board cannot meet. At their next meeting, a motion was made to

recommend to the Board of Commissioners to expand the ABC Board from three to five members.

Commissioner Kost asked the additional cost for expanding the board.

Mr. Harris explained that there is a monthly fee plus travel that each board member receives. It would be less than \$2,000 additional per year for both members.

Commissioner Kost asked if there were other reasons for doing this.

Mr. Harris stated that the Open Meetings Law was the only reason.

The County Manager explained that this item would need to be placed on the agenda and either advertised or recommendations taken.

Commissioner Stewart entered the meeting at 3:10 PM

### **PUBLIC INPUT SESSION**

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

### **HAYWOOD TOWN SQUARE**

Reverend Norma Bryant, Liberty Chapel United Church Minister, located at 1855 Old US 1, Moncure, stated that she contacted Rep. Ellie Kinaird to help them obtain property for a park abutting their church.

The approximately three-acre lot was a public square in the Town of Haywood, incorporated in 1921. The town was laid out including a public square, but was never built. The church bought twenty acres some years ago, but Chatham County discovered some years later that they did not own three acres because it was a public square and had no deed. After futile attempts at asking a lawyer to solve it, they asked Senator Bob Atwater to help. Representative Kinaird was also asked to help. Ms. Kinaird contacted Attorney Paul Messick who confirmed the situation. Ms. Kinaird sponsored a bill to transfer the land from the State of North Carolina to the church. The land cannot be conveyed to a church for religious purposes because of a constitutional violation of the separation of church and state, but Reverend Bryant says they will use it for a public park. They want to clean up the area that has been long neglected, and turn it into a park for the use of the public. The plot sits on the river.

Chairman Petty asked if they purchased or leased the property, from whom would they get it. He asked if it belonged to the State.

Reverend Bryant replied that it would be from the State.

Commissioner Bock asked why she needs the Board's permission.

Commissioner Cross stated that they were asking for an endorsement from the Board.

Commissioner Kost asked if the State could remit the park to Chatham County and then the County lease it to them.

Commissioner Cross stated that he didn't feel that it would be worth leasing from an approximate \$1 per year, as it wouldn't be worth the paperwork to keep up with it.

Commissioner Bock stated that it seemed like an extra step to him.

Commissioner Cross stated that Haywood is across the street and across the railroad tracks from the church. It is bordered by the Deep and Haw Rivers. The church already

owns some residential area around the square. There is nothing else available there for expansion.

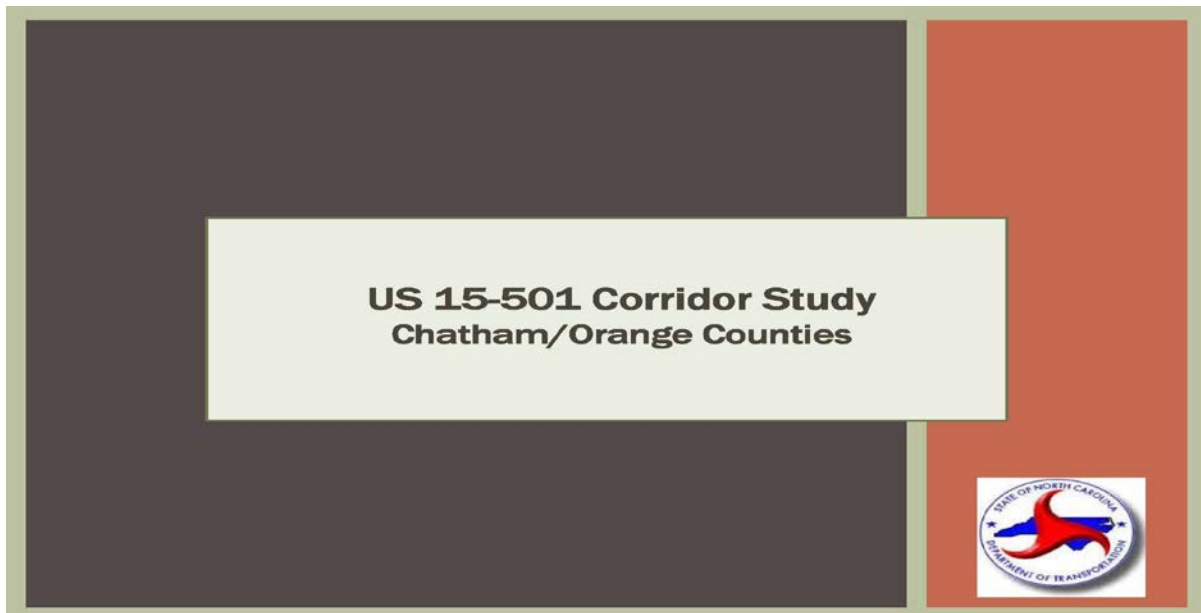
Commissioner Bock asked if anyone had spoken against the proposal.

Commissioner Cross said no. He stated that everyone around there always thought that the church already owned it.

By consensus, the Board agreed to telephone their approval.

### **15-501 NORTH CORRIDOR STUDY**

Darius Sturdivant, NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT), Division 8, Planning Engineer, presented a PowerPoint on the US 15-501 Corridor Study for Chatham and Orange Counties as follows:



## **CORRIDOR STUDY PROJECT LIMITS**



### **US 15-501**

- Project length: 13 miles
- Chatham and Orange Counties
- US 64 Bypass Pittsboro – NC 54 Chapel Hill



## CORRIDOR STUDY: POTENTIAL CHALLENGES



- Rapid Land Development
- Increasing Traffic Volumes
- Access Management vs. Mobility



## WHAT IS A CORRIDOR STUDY ?

- Planning Study
- Identifies specific problems along a corridor
- Indicates existing/future deficiencies
- Provides alternative solutions



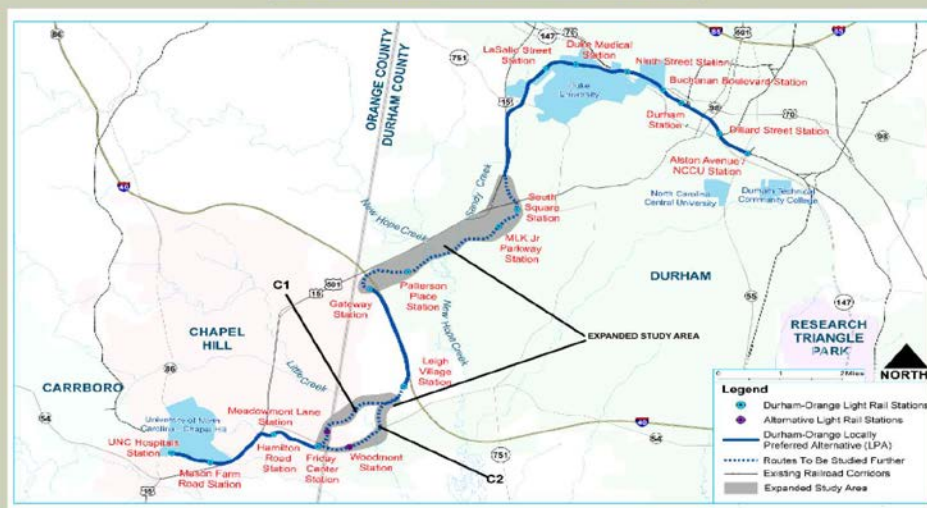
## CORRIDOR VISION: POTENTIAL STRATEGIES



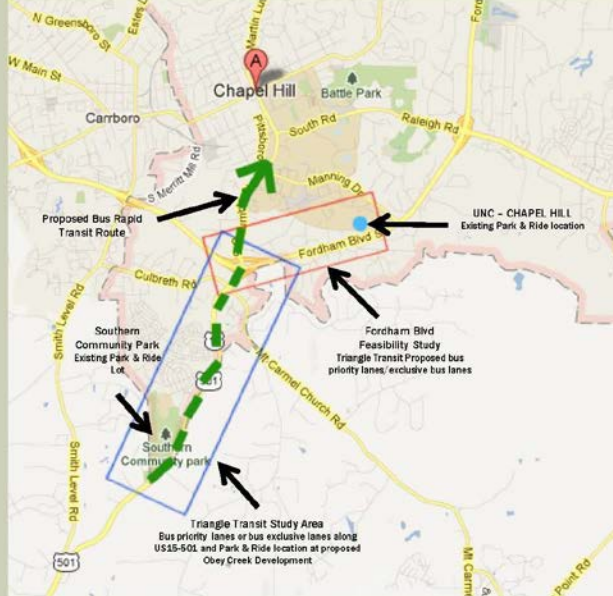
Superstreets  
 Roundabouts  
 Interchanges  
 Consolidating driveways  
 Managed Lanes



## TRIANGLE TRANSIT POTENTIAL STRATEGIES DURHAM-ORANGE RAIL CORRIDOR



## CHAPEL HILL-TRIANGLE TRANSIT EXISTING & PROPOSED STRATEGIES



## CORRIDOR STUDY: WHERE WE ARE NOW

The following groups have been addressed

- TARPO
- DCHC
- Chatham Transportation Advisory Committee
- Chatham Board of Commissioners Working Group



## CORRIDOR STUDY: NEXT STEPS



- Form Steering Committee
- Develop Final Project Scope to include the following elements:
  - Local Involvement
  - Public Outreach
  - Feedback/comments
- Consultant Notice to Proceed



## CONTACT INFO

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**Contact: Darius Sturdivant**  
**Email: [dsturdivant@ncdot.gov](mailto:dsturdivant@ncdot.gov)**

**Website: <http://www.ncdot.gov>**



Chairman Petty asked what type of input was provided by the other groups.

Mr. Sturdivant stated that for this study, they wanted to bring all of the groups represented in the corridor together to help them develop the project scope as each group brings something different to the table, each group has different proposed strategies and



projects that are already underway. They wanted to make sure that they incorporate everything into the study. He stated Hillary Pace represents Chatham County, there is a representative from Orange County, and a representative from the Town of Chapel Hill.

Commissioner Kost asked if Carrboro would also be involved stating that Carrboro had been very active in this topic.

Mr. Sturdivant stated that Orange County would be the representative; however, they would consider it.

Commissioner Bock asked who would be on the steering committee.

Mr. Sturdivant stated that they were looking at the division, staff, and consultants.

Commissioner Bock asked about local involvement and public outreach.

Mr. Sturdivant stated that it would be part of the final scoping as to how **in-depth** the public outreach would be, but it would be an element of the plan. What exactly that will be and how they will go about doing it, will be part of developing the final scope for the project.

Commissioner Kost asked what the timeline is.

Richard Hancock stated that the MPO and RPO look at developing project priorities and project lists. He stated that their intention is not to develop new projects. They can't limit access for developments. One of the things they see with all the land development and with the CDP and the large parcels of land with the potential for development, they will make sure they have a strategy on Highway 64. It probably would have been easier for them to stop at the Chatham County line rather than continuing up into Orange County which is in another division. They want to make sure they have smart strategies for how they keep the corridor viable in the future.

Commissioner Kost stated that part of this is in Pittsboro's planning jurisdiction. She asked if they were part of the steering group.

Mr. Hancock stated that they would come to them through TARPO as a member of the RPO and they would expect to have them.

Chairman Petty stated he felt it the study was necessary due to the impact but his question is how it all ties together with all the agencies meeting to figure out.

Commissioner Cross stated that there weren't any of those groups that didn't have a lot of DOT personnel. He stated that he thought they were involved with TARPO, MPO, etc.

Mr. Hancock stated the involvement of Division 8 with TARO includes Chatham, Lee, and Moore Counties. DCHC studies with transit and light rail are out of their jurisdiction.

Commissioner Cross stated that Division 7 attended those meetings and assumed that they were in the loop.

Mr. Hancock stated that was correct. He stated that what those studies are doing is not what they are looking for here. From a division perspective, anytime new development comes along, the developers are dealing with them on accesses with regard to where they are going to be, how access will be gained, what if any mitigation is going to be done along the 15-501 corridor.

Commissioner Kost asked the status of the 751 Corridor Study.

Mr. Hancock stated that the feasibility study is just getting underway. He stated that they went to Wake County a couple of weeks ago. There is a potential for Apex and the

growth that is occurring there to move out into Chatham County. That corridor is also being looked at, not only in Division 8, but in Durham County in Division 5. The feasibility study would go all the way from 64 up to I-40 and maybe up to 54.

Commissioner Kost asked about the feasibility study stating that she was trying to determine the difference between the 15-501 Study and the 751 Study.

Mr. Hancock stated that it basically it is a very, high-level planning study where they are going in, looking at current land uses, and what future planned land uses there are. He stated that Cary has plans for some of their development to come out and cross 751 in the Martha's Chapel area. They look at those projected land uses, projected growth, and traffic along the corridor and say, if this occurs, what are the scenarios that most likely NCDOT would need to use to improve the corridor to keep it viable.

#### **DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

Jason Sullivan explained that the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) is requesting member jurisdictions to provide a share of the non-federal match to support the MPO's planning activities. The request for Chatham County's portion for FY 14 is \$11,201.00.

Since the creation of CDHC MPO, the City of Durham has paid the 20% local match the MPO planning activities and staff support. In 2012, the MPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) approved requesting contributions from the member jurisdictions.

Ellen Beckmann, Transportation Planner with MPO, gave a general overview of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) purpose, functions, planning services and projects in a PowerPoint presentation as follows:

## **Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO)**

**DCHC** Durham-Chapel Hill-Carboro  
**METROPOLITAN**  
Planning Organization

# Purpose of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)?

“to carry out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive multimodal transportation planning process,...that encourages and promotes the safe and efficient development, management, and operation of surface transportation systems to serve the mobility needs of people and freight...and foster economic growth and development, while minimizing transportation-related fuel consumption and air pollution”

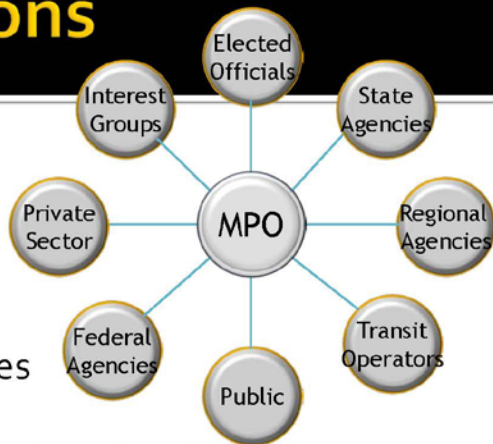
Source: 23 CFR Part 450.300

**DCHC** Durham-Chapel Hill-Carboro  
**METROPOLITAN**  
Planning Organization

# MPO Functions

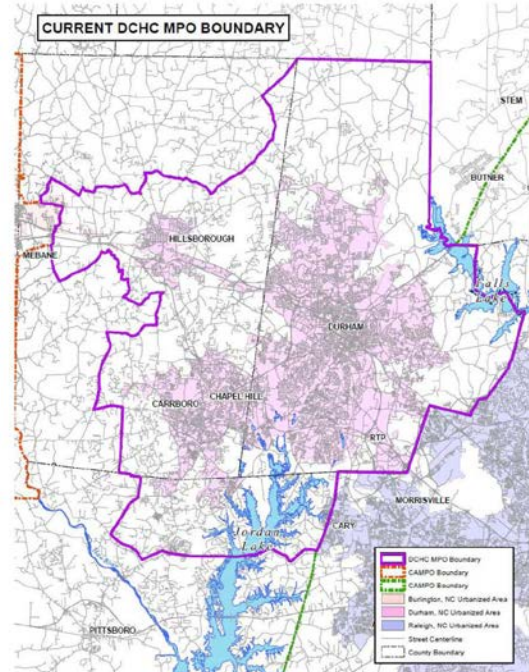
**Five Core Functions:**

1. Establish a fair & impartial setting
2. Evaluate transportation alternatives
3. Maintain a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
4. Develop a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
5. Involve the public – residents and key affected sub-groups



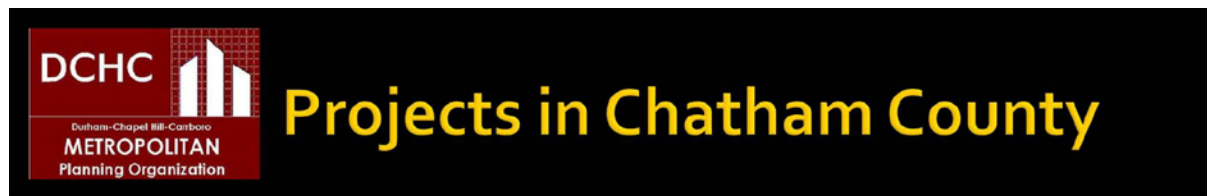
## DCHC MPO Members

- Established by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Members:
  - City of Durham
  - Durham County
  - Town of Chapel Hill
  - Town of Carrboro
  - Town of Hillsborough
  - Orange County
  - Chatham County
  - NCDOT
- 2010 Census population 397,000



## DCHC Metropolitan Planning Organization Planning Services and Products

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Transportation Improvement Program
- Federal Transportation Funding
- Air Quality
- Transportation Modeling
- Congestion Management Process
- Special Studies
- Annual Budget – Unified Planning Work Program



- Fulfillment of federal requirements is required for the MPO area to be eligible for federal transportation funding.
- \$797,000 federal CMAQ grant for American Tobacco Trail parking lot in FY 2013 (managed by Cary)
- \$1.6 million state Mobility Fund for Farrington Road to I-40 eastbound slip ramp in FY 2014
  - In Durham, serves many Chatham commuters
  - From NC 54 Corridor Study managed by MPO
- US 15-501 Corridor Study (managed by NCDOT Division 8)

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Ms. Beckmann invited the Board to contact her with any questions.

Maricia Brown, Transportation Planner II – Grants Management & Physical Policy Oversight Management gave an overview of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) in a Powerpoint as follows:



## **DCHC MPO UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)**

**April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Chatham County**

**Board of Commissioners Meeting**

### **FY 2013-14 UPWP OVERVIEW**

- Federal regulations mandate that the MPO develop an annual work program known as the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
- The annual program must identify transportation planning tasks to be undertaken with the use of federal transportation funds during the upcoming fiscal year.
- The UPWP is required to be a detail technical work program for continuing, cooperative and comprehensive (3C) transportation planning in the DCHC MPO.

## **FY 2013-14 UPWP OVERVIEW**

- Grant funding is provided by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
  - FHWA provide 80% of the UPWP highway funding, which requires a 20% local match
  - FTA provides 80% of transit funding, NCDOT provides 10% match and Transit agencies provide 10% match
- Prior to FY2014, the City of Durham has been providing the 20% local match funding required to secure grant funding.
- The DCHC MPO TAC has approved cost sharing for the FHWA 20% local match

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## **FY 2013-14 UPWP FY 14 WORK PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS**

### **MPO list of focus areas for the next FY:**

- Implementation of MAP-21 Metropolitan Planning Requirements
- Continuation of federally required routine planning –TIP, UPWP, short-range planning, data monitoring, public involvement, Air quality, etc
- Continuation of special and mandated programs such as Title VI, Land-use, Environmental Justice, LEP, modeling, data surveillance, safety/security, performance measurement, etc.
- 2013 base year data collection and inventory

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## FY 2013-14 UPWP WORK PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS-CONT'D

- Preparation for the 2045 MTP development process
- Preparation of the 2015 major model update surveys (household, transit on-board, origin-destination survey, etc.)
- Revision of the 2040 MTP to comply with the new federal regulation –MAP-21
- Regional transit/ County transit plans implementation and coordination.

- Draft FY 2013-14 UPWP is available on the MPO website

[http://www.dchempo.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=99&Itemid=35](http://www.dchempo.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=99&Itemid=35)

## FY 2013-14 UPWP LOCAL CONTRIBUTION TABLE

Agency	2010 Census Population	Share	Total FY 2014
Durham City	228,330	57.24%	\$180,615
Durham County	39,287	9.85%	\$31,077
Chapel Hill	57,233	14.35%	\$45,273
Carrboro	19,582	4.91%	\$15,490
Hillsborough	6,087	1.53%	\$4,815
Orange County	34,202	8.57%	\$27,055
Chatham County	14,160	3.55%	\$11,201
Totals	398,881		\$315,525
80% Federal Share			\$1,262,102



## FY 2013-14 UPWP Q & A



Maricia Brown

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Ms. Brown explained the areas within the urbanized area boundaries just south of Ferrington Village.

Commissioner Bock asked if there is any discussion about the weighted voting that currently favors Durham.

Ms. Brown stated that they had weighted voting in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). She stated that it had been threatened once to be invoked by one member. It is rarely used. Most often, the votes go by majority. Chatham County has one weighted vote in that scenario out of fourteen votes. Durham is more than 50% of the population. The weighted voting is set up so that the City of Durham can't out-vote everyone alone. They always have to get somebody else along with them.

Commissioner Kost stated that if Durham County and the City of Durham showed up and the weighted vote is used, they can win.

Commissioner Bock stated that Orange County includes Orange County, Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Hillsborough. He stated that is why there is not much participation from Chatham County. He asked if there was any discussion with regard to changing how that would be handled.

Ms. Brown stated that they were looking into updating their Memorandum of Understanding this year because it is from 1994 and is outdated in many areas. The weighted voting is one of the things that is now included in the MOU so they will be looking at it within the next two agenda cycles. It will have to be approved by all of the individual jurisdictions and NCDOT. If the MOU was to change, it would come to Chatham County for approval.

Commissioner Bock asked if there had been any concern about funding of some of the positions as he thinks some of the MPO funds are also at least partially funding some Durham County or City of Durham employees.

Ms. Brown stated that they have on the city staff, a bike planner who is half MPO and half city. The funding wouldn't necessarily change. They use some of the funding for Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

Ms. Beckmann stated that they did not currently fund any Durham County employees.

Commissioner Bock stated that he didn't know if it was city or county.

Ms. Brown stated that part of their UPWP this year and the implementation of the local cost share is part of document that was developed as the MPO Oversight Document. That document goes into detail on how the LPA staff will be staffed, what they use the money for, and how they will change their member agencies input into what the LPA staff will be doing going forward whereas before, it was just a body that functioned that way. Now they are more open to member agencies input into the document and how the LPA staffing will be run and managed going forward. There will be more flexibility in the management of that process.

Commissioner Bock asked if there was any concern about the appearance of a possible conflict of interest if there is a county employee in some discussions and if they represent the county or the MPO.

Ms. Brown stated that part of the funding is also to approve a non-MPO staff representative of the City of Durham. As opposed to someone who is on the LPA staff that sits on the board to represent the City of Durham in the past, there will be a completely separate individual who works for the City of Durham that represents the City of Durham. There is already a county representative. The LPA staff is not caught between that line of MPO and the City of Durham jurisdiction. There is a clear line between LPA staff and city staff. That position will be funded upon approval of the local match which is one of their objectives.

Chairman Petty stated that Chatham has never budgeted for this.

Commissioner Cross stated that he felt they should look at the new MOU before they agree to give them any money.

Chairman Petty agreed.

Commissioner Kost stated that this was discussed several years ago. She stated that she is not surprised at the request coming forward, because if she was the City of Durham, she wouldn't think that she should be sharing the match for all the other jurisdictions.

Commissioner Bock stated that the projects that were discussed, while they peripherally do help Chatham County, they are really Durham projects.

Ms. Brown stated that Chatham County is not restricted from requesting funding for projects from the MPO. Some of the other jurisdictions have planning funds that come from to the MPO that are disseminated to Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Some of the money could be given to Chatham County as well.

Commissioner Kost stated that she had asked for funds as they were doing the State Transportation Plan to help fund our transportation planner since that position was very important as they did the County-wide plan; however, she didn't get it.

Ms. Brown stated that there are eligibility requirements as well.

Commissioner Stewart stated that it was mentioned within the urbanized area a portion of Wake County that is shared with Chatham County. She asked where it was located.

Ms. Beckman stated that it was the Cary part of Chatham County.

Ms. Beckmann stated it was required to be within an MPO. In cases like this, in order to keep it simple so that you don't have to participate in two MPO's and an RPO, it makes sense to keep it in DCHC and they have an agreement with CAMPO where they say they will plan for part of Raleigh's urbanized area. CAMPO and DCHC coordinate extensively. Their plans are developed jointly.

Ms. Brown stated that there are currently requests to fund city and county planners within other jurisdictions. It may be the best time to come back with that suggestion of funding a Chatham County planner as well.

Chairman Petty asked what percentage of funding can be expected for the planner.

Ms. Brown stated that a percentage would be funded.

Chairman Petty asked when the MOU was expected to be completed.

Ms. Beckmann stated that they were just starting. There will be a lot of discussion about some of the issues in there. It wouldn't surprise her if it took two or three months to get something that can be agreed upon at the MPO level. Then it would be sent to the local jurisdictions and their attorneys to read and make comments on. That would probably take six months. It will be a while. It is not updated very often and hasn't been updated since 1994, so they want to get it right. There is no deadline. They are not required to update it, but feel that they need to update it because it is outdated and they want to incorporate the new model of funding into it.

Chairman Petty stated that he felt the Board would want to see it before they could move forward.

By consensus, the Board agreed.

Ms. Brown stated that she feels if the Board is looking for a direct correlation between the MOU and the local match funding, there is very little.

Chairman Petty stated that when they have some updated information, they will review it regarding directly to the MOU.

#### **STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST FILING FOR COUNTY STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS FOR THE RPO**

Discuss Commissioner Kost serving on the RPO as a non-voting member or finding a Commissioner to serve as her replacement

Commissioner Kost explained that she went on-line to fill out the paperwork for the ethics-economic financial statements. She stated that most of it was okay. When she got to the part where she was asked to list her husband's private stock, he said that was not a public record and she was not to fill it out. They talked about it because she is required to provide his information and she does not think it has anything to do with serving on the RPO. She doesn't see what stock her husband owns as being public record. She stated that she sent an email to Matt Day who is the RPO staff support with Triangle J and said that she could not complete the forms. She asked if there was legislation to make some modification.

Mr. Sullivan stated that Matt Day with the Triangle Area RPO sent an email regarding proposed legislation. The legislation removes the requirement for the training but it leaves in place the statement of economic interest that has to be completed. It also expands the information that RPO and MPO members have to provide. It would require all the real property owned by the participating member, their spouses, their lineal ascendants and descendants, their spouses lineal ascendants and descendants, siblings, and business partners.

Commissioner Bock asked if he would have to list parents or children.

Mr. Sullivan replied anyone that owned property within the boundaries of the jurisdiction of the MPO and RPO boundaries, whichever board you sit on.

Chairman Petty asked how much participation they are getting with those requirements.

Mr. Sullivan stated that a number of people have completed the statement of economic interest. The new legislation has not been approved.

Commissioner Kost stated that there is an RPO meeting this Thursday in Sanford which she planned to attend as a non-voting member. She discussed it with her spouse, they both agreed that this was not public information, and she was not going to complete it.

Mr. Hancock stated that they have three MPO's and three RPO's in eight counties that will touch them or come within their borders. Every one of them which he has attended, this is being discussed. Some have filled out the information, but none is happy with it.

Commissioner Kost stated that when she was filling out the forms, she didn't feel as though it got to what they were trying to get to. It didn't get to the point if there was a conflict.

Commissioner Cross stated that he doesn't think there is anyone here who would fill out the forms.

Chairman Petty stated that he felt Commissioner Kost was well within her rights not to fill it out. He asked if there was anything they could do as a Board that would get results within the organization.

Commissioner Cross stated that he feels this is an over-reaching requirement. Usually officers of the RPO are elected from the elected officials within the group. If you couldn't be a non-voting member, it wouldn't make sense that you could be elected as an officer of the RPO. He stated that he had served as chairman along with Randy Voller, but if you didn't meet that requirement, he would assume that you couldn't hold office.

Commissioner Kost stated that she wants to make sure that Chatham County has a voice. Even though she can't vote, she can express an opinion in support of our community. She stated that staff is also being asked to fill out the information and that is even more upsetting.

Mr. Sullivan stated that they had talked with the County Manager. The staff members were non-voting on the RPO and there is a vacancy on the MPO; however, they will still be attending the meetings and will be available to provide comments for the RPO and the MPO.

Commissioner Cross asked Ms. Beckmann how all those folks feel about it.

Ms. Beckmann stated that there were a lot of complaints. A few people have asked to be removed from the TCC.

Chairman Petty asked is there a chance that it will have an impact on one's job by not filling it out.

Ms. Beckmann stated that there was a \$250.00 fine and one could be removed from their position on the board. She stated that it is burdensome as staff persons have to do it.

Commissioner Kost stated that it was not that it was burdensome, it was over-reaching. Commissioner Bock concurred.

Commissioner Kost asked if they, as a Board, should write the State Board of Transportation. She stated that she was looking to see what they could do to fix the problem.

Mr. Hancock explained that it was a legislative requirement.

### **REVALUATION**

Frances Wilson, Chatham County Tax Administrator, introduced Michael Brown and Tony Simpson from the Department of Revenue.

Michael Brown stated that the State of North Carolina requires that all counties conduct a revaluation of all properties at least every eight years. The Countywide revaluation that was previously scheduled to become effective January 1, 2013 was delayed until January 1, 2015. Their office conducts random samples of sales that take place in the County every year. At this time, the random sample that will be mailed to the County, is a ratio of 1.04. In North Carolina, they are required to appraise real property uniformly at its true value in money. As of the last reappraisal, the sales ratio study was just above 99%. Since that time, the County has traveled from 99% to just above 1.04. This means that the value of homes is a little less than the assessed value. The reappraisals can be triggered if the sales ratio study from their office goes above 1.15 or below .85 and if the population is over 75,000. At this time, Chatham County's population is between 60-65,000 so the trigger would not affect the County. There is another option with reappraisals as to where the reappraisals can be done as often as the County wishes as long as it is within eight years. About forty counties on shorter cycles are on four-year cycles. The reappraisal reestablishes or takes a new snapshot of the real estate market as of January 1 of the year of that general reappraisal. The upcoming 2015 reappraisal will take into affect the general economics of what has taken place since the last reappraisal as to vacant land, commercial, residential, or industrial property, etc. The County gets their information from various sources i.e. Register of Deeds Office, MLS, etc. The County tax office is only reflecting what has taken place in the market by willing buyers and sellers. The buyers and sellers are setting the values. Chatham County has approximately 42-43,000 parcels. The County is now working on the reappraisal project. Chatham County has in-house staff that works on the reappraisal plus they have a contractor that helps them with other parts of the project where more expertise is needed with regard to commercial or industrial properties. The contractor may also help with the schedule of values. When the values are established in 2015, the market values and present use values are reestablished. These properties would receive the benefit of agricultural, horticultural, and forest present-use value. Two years is the planning cycle for a revaluation. Since 2006, there has been a definite change in the market. Chatham has done a reappraisal since that time, and a lot of that information was identified in the 2009 reappraisal. With having a sales ratio of 1.04, he thinks it probably has been recognized. There are a lot of counties whose ratios are a lot higher than 1.10-1.15. They have had some counties postpone reappraisals and a couple to bring their cycles forward. Some have postponed reappraisals for various reasons. In this current market, they are performing reappraisals with fewer sales.

He stated that they perform sales/ratio studies on all one hundred counties each year. With public utility companies, if their sales ratio studies fall below 90%, they can get the same adjustment in the first, fifth, and eighth year of the reappraisal cycle. That is one reason that a lot of counties have shortened their appraisal cycle so that public utility companies are appraised at 100% of value every year.

Commissioner Kost asked if they were seeing trending in this area. She asked how Wake, Orange, and Durham Counties doing.

Mr. Brown stated that he did not have those specific ratios in his head. He stated that over 65 counties were over 1.10 with their threshold. To fix it, a reappraisal must be done which realigns the property values and brings values back into place at true value or near market value.

Commissioner Bock asked if at 1.04, would it mean that the appraised value and market value are aligned and if .04 would mean that it was 4% off.

Mr. Brown stated basically that is right. It would be a median ratio.

Commissioner Kost stated that it means that the tax value is higher than the real value.

Mr. Brown replied yes. He stated that their 1.04 is using a statistically viable random sample and a number of sales that occurred in Chatham County to arrive at that.

Chairman Petty asked if there were any guidelines as to how many transactions there have to be to give reliable values.

Mr. Brown stated that the State of North Carolina does not have any requirements like that. That is something that very well may come about in the next couple of years. There has been some talk with members of the General Assembly about doing some different things with reappraisals and possibly changing some things statutorily. On the other end, from their office with the Department of Revenue with the property tax division setting up some standards for counties to look at. As far as the number of sales it would take to perform a reappraisal, Wake, Mecklenburg, or Forsyth versus a Jones or Camden, it would be two totally different things.

Chairman Petty stated that it wouldn't be so different in Chatham County because there are so few transactions in more rural areas.

Mr. Brown stated that Chatham County is a very diverse county from the north to the northwest compared to the south and southwest.

Commissioner Cross stated that our transactions are picking up quickly.

Mr. Brown stated that you can trend and time adjust sales, so that you can work with the information provided in trying to see if an analysis can be done to arrive at market value. He stated that the County sends out notices of reappraisals. There is an appeal process through an informal appeal process with the assessor, a formal appeal process with the Board of County Commissioners or the Board of Equalization and Review. The third level would be to the North Carolina Property Tax Commission to which their office serves as staff. After that, it would be the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court.

Commissioner Cross asked if anyone ever went that high.

Mr. Brown replied yes that a small percentage did.

Chairman Petty asked the low side trigger.

Mr. Brown stated that it was .85.

Commissioner Bock asked if there was anyone in that situation.

Mr. Brown stated that in past years, yes; however, this legislation for the trigger only took place in 2009 or 2011 when the trigger was put into the statute. In past years, when the trigger was put into the legislation, their office did a study for twenty years back to see if this trigger would have ever meant anything. It would have affected only one county. He stated that there is one county now that is being affect by the county which is Union County but they are having to perform the reappraisal one year earlier.

Commissioner Kost stated that it seems like that is the wrong thing to do. If it's at .85 but the values are all over the county, then it doesn't matter. But if Siler City values are at .85 and north Chatham is at 1.10, it is that disparity within the county. To have a trigger

based on the overall number, to her doesn't make any sense. It is really whether it is unfair within the County.

Mr. Brown stated that around 2006, the General Assembly was talking about shortening the cycle. The talk stopped when the market of the State changed. Recently, there has been further talk about what to do with the cycle and shortening it. It is something that may be addressed again this year in the General Assembly.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SALE OF THE ASSETS OF TOWNSEND/OMTRON TO A BIDDER INTERESTED IN OPERATING THE FACILITY**

Commissioner Cross moved, seconded by Commissioner Bock, to adopt **Resolution #2013-16 in Support of the Sale of the Assets of Townsend/Omtron to a Bidder Interested in Operating the Facility**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

**NC PUBLIC RECORDS LAW ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONER ADVISORY BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Lindsay Ray, Deputy Clerk, explained that the form acknowledges that as members appointed by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to serve on any citizen advisory committee, all emails that members send or receive, including all attachments, related to the business of the advisory committee are subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be requested and released to others for inspection and copying according to GS Chapter 132.

Commissioner Kost stated that it is not just email that is subject to public records as it is also letters. She suggested that "public records" be defined.

The County Manager explained that Staff is also looking at social media including texting, tweets, linked-in, etc. which is getting to be a huge issue for public records. He stated that we are trying to get a grasp as to how it will work and then develop a policy.

Chairman Petty stated that "written correspondence" should be defined.

Commissioner Cross moved, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, to approve the NC Public Records Law Acknowledgment, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION TO ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS IN HONOR OF NATIONAL ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER APPRECIATION WEEK**

Commissioner Bock read a certificate of appreciation extended to the members of the Chatham County Animal Control Division. He explained that the Board appreciated everything that the Chatham County Animal Control Division does and in honor of National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week and on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, thanked the officers for their hard work efforts. The officers are as follows:

Leigh Ann Garrard, Animal Control Supervisor  
Michael Yarborough, Lead Officer  
Barry Shangraw  
John Russell  
Michael Gale

Shelter Staff: Ginny Jenrette and Krista Ritter

Commissioner Bock stated that he had spent quite a bit of time with the Health Director and the Animal Control Supervisor who had opened his eyes to everything that they do. He again expressed appreciation for everything they do.

### **SPLIT ESTATES AND MINERAL RIGHTS**

Treva Seagroves, Chatham County Register of Deeds discussed split estates and how someone goes about determining if they own their mineral rights.

Commissioner Kost explained that she had brought this issue before the Board stating one of the questions she has heard as she travels the County is, "Do I own my mineral rights?" She stated that we have learned that it can be a very difficult process to determine if one has their mineral rights going back to the deeds dating 1700's. In Lee County, they were able to determine where there is a split estate (where the surface rights are split from the sub-surface rights), and mapped it for their citizens. It is shown on the map where potentially there is going to be mining. She stated that she met with the Register of Deeds on Friday and they discussed about this. The Register of Deeds Office duties are to record the deeds. The tax office gets a copy of the deeds. They decided that the best approach would be to ask the Tax Office to generate a list of where we are now, what we know is separated, and start at that point. Perhaps we can work with the GIS Department to plot it and see what it looks like on paper. Afterwards, we could decide if anything further needs to be done.

She stated that they also discussed from this moment forward, keeping a running list of the book and page number so that if this comes up, there will be a list of what is currently going on. She stated that citizens are very concerned. She has heard that it can cost thousands and thousands of dollars to do a title search because it is so labor intensive.

Commissioner Kost stated that she also attended the Local Government Regulations Study Group in Pinehurst on Friday. She suggested to that group that they study this to take a recommendation to the Mining and Energy Commission and ultimately to the General Assembly that would do a better job of requiring the deed to be specific so that a better job can be done from this point forward. They have agreed to look at it and may need the Chatham County Register of Deeds to come to a meeting.

Treva Seagroves, Chatham County Register of Deeds, stated that it is very difficult to determine if one owns their mineral rights. The records go back to the 1771. Some of those mineral rights were reserved a hundred years ago. It does require a title search which they are not qualified and allowed to perform.

Chairman Petty stated that he thinks if someone is paying taxes currently on mineral rights, it would be readily available information where it would be no problem to plot.

Ms. Seagroves stated that she had asked for a list of the people who are being taxed on mineral rights separately.

Chairman Petty stated that beyond that, it would have to be up to the individual to cover the cost of doing their own research.

Commissioner Kost stated that after the list is received, they may want to talk with Lee County to find out how they did it. There may be something that we are not thinking of.

Ms. Seagroves stated that it was done by the Lee County GIS Department.

Chairman Petty asked if they had researched every square mile in Lee County to determine who the mineral rights belonged to on each piece of property.

Commissioner Kost stated that she didn't know how it was done. She stated that they had released a map showing the entire county.

Commissioner Bock asked if they were then liable if the map was wrong.



Chairman Petty stated that he felt all the Board can do is to base it on who is paying taxes on what.

Ms. Seagroves stated that on May 12, 2010, there were about seventy-two mineral rights recorded on the same day. She stated that she had not talked with the Lee County GIS Department; however, she had spoken with the Lee County Register of Deeds Office. They used WhitMar Exploration Company out of Texas and she is unsure how far back they went. They would be easy to pick up since they were recently recorded.

Commissioner Bock asked if there had been a lot of calls received from citizens wanting to know about their mineral rights.

Ms. Seagroves stated that they had had a few calls.

Chairman Petty asked how it was handled when they received a request.

Ms. Seagroves stated that they were told that they cannot do that. They must talk with a paralegal or an attorney. They reserve the mineral rights in different ways. You can also record a separate document. Another way that is very confusing is that it will be down in the body of a document. Sometimes people do not even realize it. The buyers at Legend Oaks didn't realize that they didn't own their mineral rights. They were then deeded back to them. It is a difficult process. They have a paralegal that has been performing a mineral rights title search during the last three weeks and has worked hard on it. She stated that they could get the information from the Tax Office and proceed from there to see who is being billed separately.

Commissioner Kost stated that the word was gotten out that if they are doing this, they really need to protect the surface rights as well. She stated that she thinks people backed off and are waiting to make sure they know what they are doing.

Ms. Seagroves stated that she knew they had the Lee County meeting; she knew that within the next two days, all of the documents were recorded; she was thinking about what Chatham County do to protect its citizens.

Chairman Petty stated that he doesn't think it would be a big deal as he would have a problem with encouraging the production of a map for the ones that are known and then build upon it as time develops. He stated that he didn't know that they would want to go back and do any research or try to dig it out as he thinks it would be a tedious task.

The County Manager stated that if even if the map is created, you will only get the parcels that are being taxed. There could be parcels that don't have mineral rights because they are unknown to the owners who are not paying separate mineral rights on the parcels.

Chairman Petty asked what the map would be used for and what its purpose would be.

Ms. Seagroves stated that it would identify the parcels/parcel number.

Chairman Petty stated that if we are only going to map that are currently paying, they already know who they are.

Commissioner Kost stated that she felt like other people would like to see that as well. She stated that if a person was going to buy a piece of land and saw that people in the surrounding area did not own their mineral rights, they might think twice before purchasing that land. She stated that she felt it would be a very valuable tool.

Chairman Petty asked if it would not be up to the individual to do the research rather than the County to provide the information.

Commissioner Kost asked if the information was readily available, why it wouldn't be provided.

Ms. Seagroves stated that they could provide readily available information. She stated that she thought there were very few tax bills being sent out on mineral rights.

Commissioner Kost suggested that they see what they have and go from there.

**Historic Courthouse Rental:**

The County Manager explained that the Democratic Party has asked to have the Democratic Convention in the historical courthouse. He stated that they would like to begin an application process for use of the historic courthouse.

He stated that he was not asking for document approval today; however, he would like for the Board to approve the parameters so that the Democratic Party can be told they may use the facility. The principal users in the past have been the Democratic and Republican Parties. He reviewed the draft which includes security when there will be one hundred or more people in attendance, a deposit of \$400.00 which would be retained and used for cleanup should the parties who rent it not clean it to the condition prior to its use. It would require a janitorial person at a cost of \$35.00 per hour to be there, a two-hour minimum for use, and no food or drinks on the second floor.

Commissioner Kost asked if the County Manager had communicated that this was coming to them.

The County Manager stated that they know that a policy is being developed; however, he has not spoken with George Lucier specifically about what it would contain.

Commissioner Kost stated that she is okay with going forward, but would not like to see a reservation made and the rules then changed. She stated that she is not sure that this should be implemented for the Democratic Party meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

The County Manager stated that they anticipate something as he told the interim chairman at the time that they were working on a policy but that he didn't have it before him to present at that point. He stated that he was not worried about abuse by the Democratic or Republican Parties; however, this would be a place to start.

Commissioner Bock moved, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, to approve the guidelines/perimeters of the historic courthouse rental to be reviewed and refined at a later date by the County Attorney.

Commissioner Kost stated that she was going to vote for this because it has been communicated to them that they can expect it to come; however, she could not support it if it had not happened.

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

**Reservation Policy Requirements:**

The County Manager stated that a sixty-day advance reservation policy has been implemented for the library which will be consistent with the community college.

**Collective COG's of North Carolina:**

Commissioner Cross stated that the collective COG's of North Carolina used to be called the Regional Council of Government Forum. Six months ago, it changed to the North Carolina Forum. It will be a lobby group, much the same as the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and the League of Municipalities. There is one elected official from each of the sixteen COG's and a director. There are two paid lobbyists and a director.

With the upcoming re-divisioning of the State administrative regions, they submitted their proposal by combining COG groups instead of going with DOT. This will keep Chatham in the Triangle Area. They will be adding Person, Granville, Vance, Warren, and Franklin Counties. There will be twelve counties in central to North Carolina. There was a resolution on that proposal. The COG's were established in 1960 by Federal and State declaration. They are the oldest established divisions in the State. They are hoping to convince them to stay with the new counties instead of going with the DOT recommendation.

**CDBG Delivery System:**

Commissioner Cross stated that the CDBG delivery system is currently implemented by the Division of Community Assistance. North Carolina is #47 in the United States in getting efficiency in getting the money out. There are 130 million dollars going back to 2001 that has not been drawn. There is 40 million dollars more expected this year. There has been no distribution of it. A resolution was done requesting that the new delivery system be funneled through the COG's. There are a number of COG's already doing that type work. It will have to increase the COG staff, but it will not cost the County any more for them to do it.

Commissioner Kost asked if we would still pay for the administration of the money under this proposal.

Commissioner Cross stated that he did not have the details, but they should be in the annual report.

**Workforce Development:**

Commissioner Cross stated that there are a lot of problems in this area. There is a House Joint Resolution #55. There was also a resolution done to support this and make this delivery system also go through the COG's. This would realign twenty-three Workforce Development Groups into sixteen groups. Thirteen of the twenty-three are already aligned with the COG's. This would also increase COG staff. The efficiency in both would improve.

**Local Government Regulatory Study Group:**

Commissioner Kost stated that there was some confusion about the Local Government Regulatory Study Group that she has been attending. She stated that no decisions have been made as to what they are going to recommend as far as local controls. They are leaning toward having some local regulatory responsibility. At this point, all they have been doing is assessing what is on the ground, looking at noise and light restrictions, looking at the impact on roads, impact on Register of Deeds, infrastructure, and zoning.

She stated that the websites are good at providing up-to-date information and it is all on-line.

**Cell Phone Towers:**

Commissioner Cross stated that someone mentioned that they might come back to the Board and request higher cell towers. He reminded the Board that 199 feet is the cut-off for strobe lights. He stated that he personally thinks it would be a bad idea to have a lot of strobe lights scattered about the County.

Chairman Petty asked if they were living in an area that didn't have cell service and the higher towers provided cell service, would they be willing to have the higher towers.

Commissioner Cross stated that he lives in an area that does not have cell service unless he walks out to the end of his driveway. He stated that it would be very annoying to see those high intensity lights blinking all over the County.

Commissioner Bock asked if the cell towers along Highway 64 were higher than 199 feet as they all have strobe lights.

The County Manager stated that they are in that range. He stated that he would have to check to determine their heights. He stated that there is either a strobe light option or red light slow blinkers to identify the towers.

Commissioner Cross stated that he thought that was the difference in the airport traffic areas.

The County Manager stated that that issue came up with a tower near Goldston. Residents didn't like the strobes so they switched to red lights.

Commissioner Stewart stated that coming down Jones Ferry Road out of Chapel Hill, there is a tower there with a bright strobe light; however the only time that it is ever noticed is when it is foggy.

The County Manager stated that he thinks the strobe lights are used in the daylight and you can have the option of strobe or red lights at night.

Commissioner Cross stated they would have to obey FAA rules and he doesn't know whether they can be changed. He stated that he was familiar with is the strobe all the time. He stated that Fort Bragg does a lot of low-level navigation training. He stated that the boat landing dam is one of their VFR training markers especially during the summer time. He stated that the planes are all over his area during the summertime.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Cross moved, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM.

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Walter Petty, Chairman

ATTEST:

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

**MINUTES**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**APRIL 15, 2013**

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The Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the Agricultural Building Auditorium, 45 South Street, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 6:00 PM on April 15, 2013.

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

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Petty welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Cross moved, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, to approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda as follows:

1. **Minutes:** Approval of Board Minutes for the March 11, 2013 Special Meeting and the March 18, 2013 Regular Session

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

2. **Funds Acceptance for Health Department:** Consideration of a request to accept Food and Lodging State funds awarded to the Chatham County Health Department in the amount of \$7,068

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

3. **Funds Acceptance for Health Department:** Consideration of a request to accept Family Planning Funds awarded to the Chatham County Health Department in the amount of \$4,140

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

4. **Funds Acceptance for Health Department:** Consideration of a request to accept Chronic Disease and Injury/Physical Activity and Nutrition State Funds awarded to the Chatham County Health Department in the amount of \$12,479

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

5. **Naming of Private Road in Chatham County:** Consideration of a request from citizens for the naming of private road in Chatham County as follows: Gods Way and Lucy Mae Page Road

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

6. **Resolution Proclaiming National Telecommunicators' Week in Chatham County:** Adopt **Resolution #2013-17 Proclaiming April 14-20 National Telecommunicators' Week in Chatham County**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

7. **Solid Waste Advisory Committee Appointment:** Appointment of Nick Davis to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, by Commissioner Kost, term to expire on June 30, 2014

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

8. **Tax Releases and Refunds:** Vote on a request to approve tax releases and refunds, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

9. **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Funds:** Vote on approval of funding plan for Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Funds

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

10. **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Scattered Site Housing (2010) and community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Economic Recovery (2010) Monthly Reports**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

11. **Resolution Declaring Property Surplus:** Vote on a request to adopt **Resolution #2013-18 Declaring Property Surplus and Authorizing the Sale of Said Property**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

12. **Resolution Adopting a Consistency Statement:** Vote on **Resolution #2013-19 Adopting A Consistency Statement for the Approval of Amendments to the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

13. **Amendment to Zoning Ordinance:** Vote on a request by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to amend Sections 7.2, 10.5, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8, 15.4, and 15.11 of the Zoning Ordinance to (1) establish standards for off-premise directional signs in the zoned areas of the County for businesses, churches, parks, historic properties, schools, and other places of public assembly and (2) permission of the adjoining property owner and when the adjoining property owner and when the adjoining property has the same zoning classification and adopt **An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinance of Chatham County**, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

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

14. **Chatham County Housing Authority Appointment:** Vote on a request to appoint Judith Wiggs to the Chatham County Housing Authority Board, term to expire on April 15, 2016

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

### **END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

### **PUBLIC INPUT SESSION**

**Larry Ballas**, 139 Indian Creek Lane, Apex, NC, stated that he wanted to talk about an email he received from Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities (CCEC). He stated that this had to do with annexation of Cary into Chatham County which actually occurred in 1995 before any of the current and just past County Commissioners were involved. He stated that they never got help from a lot of people in Chatham County. Cary just came in and annexed some farm land. They developed the Northwest Area Plan where Amberly is located stating that even Cary admits it is one of the worst area plans that they ever went through. There wasn't any discussion from Chatham County on it. A few years later, they came up with the Southwest Area Plan and asked for public input which included sending letters to people in Chatham County so that they could have some input from Wake and Chatham Counties from people concerning what that development in the Southwest Area Plan would be like. The Southwest Area Plan included all the land up to Jordan Lake because Cary was interested in eventually annexing that land. They had no desire to discuss with anyone how it would be done. The process of Cary annexing land in Chatham County has been independent on their part and verbal on Chatham County's part. Patrick Barnes was the first one to negotiate with Cary on it which wasn't very pleasant as he didn't want Cary in Chatham County. He stated that a lot of them do not want Cary in Chatham County but they are coming. State law allows them to annex. It doesn't matter what Chatham County does with regard to negotiations. Cary will, if they want to, choose to voluntarily annex into Chatham County. Through the State process, many worked to change the annexation laws. The State Legislature did away with involuntary or forced annexation so Cary cannot now force anyone on this side of the border to be a patron of Cary; however, those people who desire to be in Cary, do have a right to voluntarily ask Cary to annex them. Through the process, both Cary and Chatham agreed to talk about how development should occur as we approach the lake which has always been his biggest concern. In that process, very successful discussions were held with the previous administration and this administration to finally end the process and get Cary and Chatham to agree on a plan that will work for the people.

**Mark Scott**, 115 Winfred Brady Road, Pittsboro, NC, stated that he wanted to bring the Board of Commissioners up-to-date on what the 911 Memorial is doing at this time. He stated that they have had two public input meetings with fire services, emergency services, law enforcement, and have come up with a name. They are now Chatham County 911 First Responder Memorial Foundation Corporation. It is a non-profit organization and the State of North Carolina says you must have "corporation" in the name. They formed a board of directors which has seven members. They are: Darrel Griffin (Pittsboro Fire Department), Richard Webster (Chatham County Sheriff's Department), Don Lein, Joe Frazier, Jody Allen, Scott Murphy (Siler City Fire Department), and Bethany Spencer (EMS). They are not only on the board, they represent the fire departments in their area. Anything that they do, they report it to a peer group to receive input from and get information to them. They took a vote and decided on Pittsboro for the location of the memorial. They will be forming design committees and work groups and will be accepting donations of services and work from anyone wanting to help. They will be getting news out to the public and look forward to working with the Board of Commissioners and County in getting the project going. He thanked the Board of Commissioners for their support of the fire departments and emergency services in Chatham County for a long time.

## **PLANNING AND ZONING**

### **Public Hearings:**

**Request to Amend the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance, Section 10.13 Table of Permitted Uses:** Public hearing to receive public comments on a request by Brantley Powell on behalf of Polk's Village, Inc. to amend the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance, Section 10.13 Table of Permitted Uses, to add Congregate Care Facilities as a permitted use within the Business-1 zoning district

Angela Birchett, Land Use Administrator II, explained the specifics of the request.

The Chairman opened the floor for public comments.

**Jack Smyre**, PE, AICP, Planner for Polk's Village, 1616 Evans Road, Suite 205, Cary, NC, stated that he has practiced in the Triangle for 28 years and it is fairly routine and customary to see assisted living centers, which are a necessary community use and regulated by the State. He stated that the licensing and granting of the beds are a very controlled function by the State. It is routine to find non-residential districts in general support these uses. They are low-traffic uses, but are somewhat unusual to see them in residential zones. It is, on the other hand, customary to see them in business zoning. He stated that he would support the broadening of this use in general in non-residential zoning districts.

The Chairman closed the floor for public comments.

**Request to Revise Approved Conditional Use Permit on US 15-501:** Public hearing to receive public comments on a request by Brantley Powell on behalf of Polk's Village, Inc., to revise the approved conditional use permit on Parcel #2407 and #89420 thru #89429, located at 10677 US 15-501 North, to modify the site plan and uses allowed on the site to include Congregate Care Facility, Hospital, Health and Welfare Centers, Nursing Homes, and Daycare Center with a revised listing of "non-approved" uses for the project

The Chairman administered the oath for those in attendance who wished to make public comments.

Ms. Birchett explained the specifics of the request.

The Chairman opened the floor for public comments.

**Michael Birch**, attorney on behalf of Polk's Village and Brantley Powell, 630 Davie Drive, Suite 200, Mooresville, NC, introduced team members. He thanked Staff for working with them to amend the conditional use permit for Polk's Village.

**Jack Smyre**, 1616 Evans Road, Suite 205, Cary, NC, presented his comments to the Board and provided them in their entirety for the record as follows

"Good evening!

My name is Jack Smyre and I am a registered NC Professional Engineer, a nationally certified planner, and am also the Principal for The Design Response, which is the planning firm for Polks Village.

First of all, we wish to thank you for the modifications that were made by this board in January 2011 to the Conditional Use Permit for Polks Village. Those modifications further diversified the range of uses already permitted at Polks Village from its original approval and directly resulted in the UNC Health Care facility now under construction on the Polks Village campus.



We told you then that we were a small and nimble project that was fully permitted and shovel ready. And now, in response to the construction activity that is underway, additional businesses have expressed interest in locating at Polks Village.

Specifically, we have strong interest and commitment from both a day care center and an assisted living facility, neither of which are approved uses for Polks Village.

'Day care center' is therefore now sought as a permitted use for the Polks Village Conditional Use Permit. And, to accommodate the assisted living center, two new permitted uses must be added: 'Congregate Care Facilities', which is a use currently only permitted in the O&I district, and "Hospital, health and welfare centers, nursing homes (unhealthy residents)" to accommodate the Alzheimer's patient care aspect of the assisted living center.

'Congregate Care Facilities' is therefore the subject of an accompanying proposed zoning ordinance text amendment, which would add that particular use to the General B-1 zoning district in addition to the O&I district in which it is currently solely permitted. That use would then allow the healthy residents of the assisted living center.

The second use, 'Hospital, health and welfare centers, nursing homes (unhealthy residents)', is already permitted in General B-1 districts, but is not currently specifically granted as a permitted use on the Polks Village Conditional Use Permit. It is this use that would allow the Alzheimer's patients to also be permitted to live within the assisted living facility to be constructed at Polks Village.

Both the day care center and the assisted living facility are to be physically located on the 'back right-of-way' of the site plan, reducing some of the planned spec office space and spec general retail space originally planned for this portion of the project. The substitution of these lower traffic impact uses for that spec retail and office space, in fact, results in an overall reduction in the average daily traffic, the morning peak, and the afternoon peak at a level that is just under 30 percent of the traffic impact for the originally approved development program for Polks Village.

Additionally, inclusion of more community focused uses such as the day care center and assisted living facility allow Polks Village to better serve the surrounding community and attracts a better class of tenant to the remaining office and retail space as there is good symbiosis between the mixture of uses.

We do have a couple of minor details to discuss with you that we have discovered since filing this application and I am going to defer to the zoning attorney for Polks Village to cover procedural options as to how these details might be incorporated into our application and the review process.

The first detail involves the current limitation on food store size. As recently as last week, the developer for Polks Village was approached by a new specialty grocery store chain for this area that is looking for a location in which to build. Currently, however, our food store use is limited to specialty food stores with a maximum of 12,000 square feet in floor area. In fact, as noted by staff, there is a typo in the application in front of you that incorrectly states that limitation to be 10,000 square feet, but it is indeed 12,000 square feet.

So, to accommodate the potential addition of a specialty grocery store to the business campus, we would ask that the specific building size restriction that is linked to food stores at Polks Village be removed. The food store building size would then be limited under the terms of the approved Conditional Use Permit for Polks Village by the overall maximum building size limitation, which is currently 40,000 square feet for any one building.

However, that limitation in itself is now problematic, not for the food store, but for the assisted living facility, which we have learned since filing the application is

slightly larger than the overall building limitation of 40,000 square feet for any one building, being just over 46,000 square feet in size.

So, we would ask that either the overall building size limitation be adjusted upward or that an exception to that overall building size limitation be allowed for the assisted living facility.

The suggested procedure as to how to achieve these two tweaks, removal of the specific food store size limitation and adjustment of the overall building size limitation will be addressed by the zoning attorney for Polks Village, Mr. Michael Birch, Jr.

I am also available for any questions you might have.

Thank you!"

**Sam Hooker**, 853 Old Winston Road, Kernersville, NC, stated that he is the co-founder of Ridge Care created in 1998. His background is in nursing home administration and is also licensed in assisted living administration. He stated that they have nine facilities in North Carolina. Each one they built from the ground up except for two. They intend to build a 91-bed assisted living on this location. They have construction plans in with the State, Division of Health and Services Regulation and are working through the process now. He is about 90-120 days out of plan approval. They expect to begin construction mid to late summer. He stated that he is available to answer questions regarding the actual operation of the facility, what they do, etc. They have good surveys from the State and are a reputable company. They are members of the North Carolina Assisted Living Association (NCALA). He sat on the General Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission on Transitions to Community Living in the fall. They are heavily involved with Medicaid reimbursement.

Commissioner Kost asked if they are a for-profit company.

Mr. Hooker replied that they are; that they are for a responsible profit.

Mr. Birch addressed the five findings stating that the first was that the use requested is permitted in the B-1 District. Daycare is currently permitted in the B-1 District, as is the hospital, health, and nursing home use. Through the text amendment, they are requesting that the congregant care facility care use be permitted in that district as well. The second standard is that the requested use is essential and desirable for the public convenience. They have someone that is ready and willing to go, both on the assisted living front as well as the daycare front. This draws in the mix of uses and furthers the policy in the Land Conservation and Development Plan. There are no similar uses on any adjacent property. The third finding is that the amendment will not impair the integrity and character of the surrounding districts. There are no changes to the buffer, the surrounding perimeter yards, etc. There is no change to the access or circulation within the site. There are only minor changes to the arrangement of the current site plan and the permitted uses. The spec office and retail spaces are going away to allow for these uses to go in. As was included in the application packet from Richard Adams, those uses reduce both the total trips and the peak trips by nearly one-third over the 2008 CUP. He updated his analysis with a larger food store and the total daily and the AM/PM trips are still reduced approximately 15% from the 2008 TIA. Fourth, the permit is consistent with the Land Conservation and Development Plan. As their application notes, the policies encourage a mix of uses, minimize the trips, increase convenience, and cluster commercial development at nodes. Across the road, Williams Corner Development is proposed which creates a commercial node in this area. They are maintaining the village character with the smaller buildings and the grid layout with pedestrian connections. There are no changes to the clearing limits, buffers, Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Plans. Fifth, the permit continues with the adequate utilities and infrastructure. They still have their approved connections to the County water system. They still have suitable soils sufficient to accommodate the proposed development and there is no change to stormwater or access plans. He stated that they believe the five standards for approval of the conditional use permit amendment

have been met. They have a couple of additional changes that were not included in the original application. They raised these with staff late last week and discussed with them the changes and potential options for handling them within the current application. He stated that they reviewed the public notice published for this hearing which notes that substantial changes may be made to the application following the public hearing. They are proposing to hold the public hearing open instead of closing it as is the normal course; that the matter still be referred to the Planning Board where they address what has been discussed tonight in the original application and the proposed changes at the Planning Board level; provide additional detail there; and once they have concluded and made their recommendation, the public hearing be continued in front of the Board of Commissioners, but that the hearing is re-noticed; that it be continued to an uncertain date, and that once they come out of the Planning Board, they will re-notice a public hearing that will identify all of the changes and provide that public notice and that opportunity for public input at that time.

Mr. Sullivan stated that he spoke with the County Attorney on Friday and that it was a reasonable approach if the Board of Commissioners agreed to it. They will have to work out the notification part if they wait to run the notification after the Planning Board meeting, it will carry over to the Board of Commissioners' June meeting.

Ms. Birchett asked for an updated traffic analysis and an updated report from AWT on the increased square footages and uses that were not previously advertised.

Commissioner Kost asked if there was a community meeting.

Mr. Smyre stated that they were not required procedurally to hold a community meeting; however, Mr. Powell has been in full contact with Polk's Landing and the neighborhood that shares the road with them since he began several years ago. They felt it was only right to meet with them again and did so at one of their annual meetings to do a presentation and answer questions.

Chairman Petty declared that the public hearing would be held open to the May 20, 2013 Board of Commissioners' meeting because of the aspects of the notification. If the Planning Board has an additional meeting, it can be held over for an additional meeting.

## **BOARD PRIORITIES**

### **Planning Board Annual Report:**

**Karl Ernst**, Planning Board Chairman, presented the Annual Report to the Board and provided it in its entirety for the record as follows:

## **ANNUAL REPORT – 2012**

### **Mission and Goals –**

“The mission of the Planning Board is defined in “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PLANNING BOARD FOR CHATHAM COUNTY, NC”. Key goals are to provide the best analysis of pending planning issues resulting in considerate recommendations to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) to assist in their decision-making process.

For the past year, the Planning Board's primary objective for planning has focused on revitalization of Chatham County's economy through practical use of ordinances and regulations to stimulate and nurture responsible growth in the County. The Planning Board plans to continue pursuit of this objective in concert with the BOC, Planning Department Staff, and County Residents during the coming year.

Three new members were appointed to the Board in 2012. Karl Ernst and B.J. Copeland were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively in 2012.

The Board met 10 times during the year, considered six (6) major subdivision applications (4 final plats, 1 preliminary plat, and 1 sketch revision), six (6) text amendments, five (5) rezoning applications, ten (10) conditional use permit applications and two (2) subdivision extension requests. Board members also attended six public hearings.

Based on research and development by Staff, the Planning Board recommended text amendments to subdivision and zoning ordinances. These revisions were aimed at reducing time requirements for the application process, duplication of efforts, and removal of conflicting rules.

The Joint Land Use Plan with the Town of Cary was completed in 2012, as well as revisions to the Zoning Ordinance to switch from conditional use zoning to conditional zoning.”

Mr. Ernst stated that the Planning Board has had some minor discussion regarding the “Major Corridor/Development Ordinance”. He stated that they are going to look at that in an abstract way to see if there are some suggestions that they can come up with to modify the impact that that ordinance has had. He stated that he understands what was zoned can be unzoned. As best they can, they would like to reach out to the public in the same spirit that they had in 1994 when they did get out to the public and asked what they thought. He stated that he hopes they can come up with some ideas as he doesn’t want to see the County lose another home-grown business like Moore Machines. He stated that that does not need to happen, it shouldn’t happen, and that will be their primary focus.

The Board expressed appreciation for what the Planning Board does.

#### **State of the County Address:**

Walter Petty, Chairman of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, expressed appreciation to each of the Commissioners, Staff, Departments, and Employees that have helped in obtaining the results found in the report. He presented the State of the County report summarizing the highlights of the past twelve to eighteen months as follows:

## 2013: The State of Chatham County

Thanks to the hard work of departments and employees, the county has been able to wisely manage resources and improve efficiencies in a tough economy. It allowed the county to **avoid property tax increases** since 2010-11.

The chart in the upper right shows that the county’s actual spending for general fund operations has remained level since fiscal year 2007-08, despite opening several major facilities. In the same period, the county increased spending for Chatham County Schools to help offset deep cuts in state spending for school operations.

**SERVICE DEMANDS UP:** Even as many departments saw little or no increase in funding, demands for some key services soared between 2008 and 2012. Many of these are state-mandated services or public safety. Two examples:

- Calls made to 9-1-1 center, **up 77%**
- Families & children receiving Medicaid, **up 38%**

With few staff positions added, higher demands mean workload has increased for some employees. A related trend shows that Chatham County consistently remains **well below the state average** for the number of employees per 1,000 population. See middle chart to the right. This trend also holds when compared to counties in our population group.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Despite these fiscal challenges, departments and employees continue to shine.

Below is just a sampling of recognitions, awards or special achievements:

**LEADERSHIP ACADEMY MILESTONE:** For ten years, Chatham County has offered its own award-winning Leadership Academy to help employees develop knowledge and skills to improve their overall performance. All classes are taught by county employees. In 10 years, **157 employees** have graduated from the program and many have received promotions. Chatham is the only county in the state offering its own internal leadership program.

**100% REACCREDITATION:** The Public Health Department **scored 100%** for the second consecutive time in its **Reaccreditation Review** by the state. In the process, the department successfully met 41 benchmarks and 148 activities. The state performs reaccreditation reviews every four years, which requires extensive preparation for many months in advance.

**TOURISM SPENDING UP:** An annual statewide report showed that Chatham tied for first place among all 100 counties for the **highest increase** in tourism spending in 2011. Domestic tourism in Chatham County generated an economic impact of \$27.73 million in calendar year 2011, **up 10.8%** from 2010. State and local tax revenues from travel to Chatham County amounted to \$2.07 million, a \$33.02 tax saving per county resident.

**RURAL TOURISM:** The Pittsboro-Siler City Convention & Visitors Bureau is one of three CVBs across the state to receive grant monies to be part of an innovative rural entrepreneurship program, **People-First Tourism**, a program developed by a professor at N.C. State University.

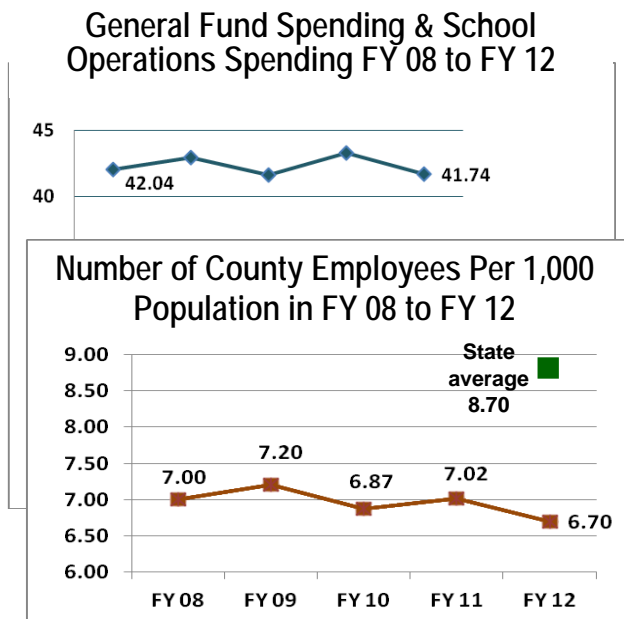
**VOTER TURNOUT:** Chatham County Board of Elections effectively managed the 2012 General Election, which had the **highest voter turnout in the state at nearly 77%**. Many voters (69%) voted early at one-stop locations, which operated smoothly under substantial pressure.

**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS HONOR:** Chatham's Emergency Operations Director Tony Tucker received the **2012 Colonel Phillip Nichlos Award** from the N.C. Emergency Management Association. This top statewide award recognizes his career achievements in emergency management.

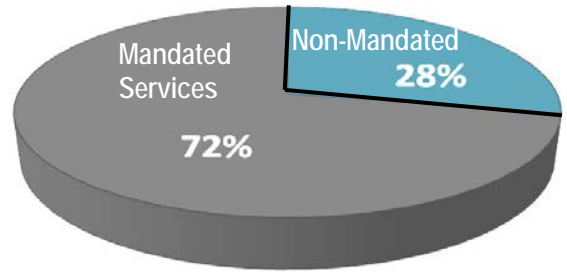
**SHERIFF'S LEADERSHIP:** Sheriff Richard Webster was elected and served as President of the **N.C. Sheriff's Association** in 2011-12.

**BUDGET AWARD:** The County Manager's Office received the **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its 2012-13 budget presentation. Most award recipients are in larger jurisdictions. The requirements are stringent and subject to change every year.

**FINANCIAL REPORTING:** Chatham County has earned the Government Finance Officers Association **Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting** every year since 1989.



% of FY 13 Budget for Mandated Services



**MANDATED SERVICES** are required by the state or federal government and some require funding at specified levels. **NON-MANDATED SERVICES** are not required but cover such services as computer systems and facility maintenance.

### JOBS IN CHATHAM.... DID YOU KNOW?

In FY 12 and the first half of FY 13, the Chatham Economic Development Corporation reports:

- Helped create **958 jobs** (up from 319 jobs in FY 10 and FY 11 combined)
- Worked with **222 new & existing businesses** (up from 129 in FY 10 and FY 11 combined)
- Fostered **\$135.17 million in capital investments** (up from \$20 million in FY 10 and FY 11 combined)

In summary, the county had **major increases** in jobs and private investments from July 1, 2011 to Dec. 31, 2012 compared to the previous two years.

### Supporting Our Schools

Since 2008-09, Chatham County’s Board of Commissioners increased current expense funding for Chatham County Schools by **16.4%**. This boost in funding helped the school system avoid major layoffs of filled positions due to state budget cuts. Since the recession, just two of 55 eliminated positions were filled.

For the current budget year, Chatham County ranks fifth out of the 100 counties in total spending per student.

**SCHOOL FACILITIES:** In 2008-12, funding for school facilities has varied by year, but the net result is that it has remained fairly steady.

In 2011-12, three school facility projects were completed:

- Upgrades of auditorium sound and lighting system at Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Central high schools
- Removal of asbestos tiles in five schools
- Replacement of outdated indoor bleachers at the three high schools

The school system also made progress on several multi-year projects involving several schools, including renovation of bathrooms, outdoor pavements and roof replacement.

### Making Progress on Key County Facilities

**HISTORIC COURTHOUSE:** In 2011-12, the county started rebuilding the Historic County Courthouse (below left) that was severely damaged by fire in

2010. The Board of Commissioners approved plans to fully restore the courthouse, including adding finishes that are more in keeping with the original 1881 structure. The grand reopening is slated for April 20, 2013.

**JUSTICE CENTER:** The county continued construction of the new 87,093-square-foot Justice Center and completed it on time and within budget. The facility (below right) opened for court on Jan. 2, 2013. It houses all courtrooms and court officials.

**NEW DETENTION CENTER:** Due to overcrowding and safety issues at the existing Pittsboro detention center, the county initiated development of a new facility on county-owned property west of Pittsboro. Construction should be completed March 2014.

**911 ENHANCEMENTS:** The county renovated a Siler City building to serve as a complete backup 911 Center, which would be used if the main center in Pittsboro should be disabled for any reason. The project was completed on time and under budget using restricted 911 revenues. No county general funds were used. The facility was fully tested with a weather event in January 2013. The county also installed a new 911 phone system to improve redundancy, mobility and security of the network.

**BRIAR CHAPEL PARK:** The county accepted the donation of a 62-acre park in northeast Chatham with existing regulation soccer, football and softball fields. The county used recreation fees paid by Briar Chapel to begin work on needed enhancements, such as fencing and lighting ball fields and adding restrooms and concession facilities. Other improvements will be completed in future years.

**WATER SYSTEM:** Chatham County initiated work to connect to the City of Durham's water system, which will provide additional water supply for the Northeast Water District.

#### **Other Highlights from Departments:**

**PERMITTING ASSISTANCE:** In 2010, the county initiated pre-application permit meetings for potential businesses to help them understand requirements and troubleshoot issues early in the process. Thus far, more than 120 businesses or individuals have used this opportunity. The county also developed an online bilingual checklist to help residents better understand what is required for various kinds of building permits.

**RECREATION REGISTRATION:** In October 2012, Parks and Recreation Department launched a new **Rec Trac** online service where residents can register and pay for recreation programs and reserve park facilities.

**TAX COLLECTIONS:** Effective Feb. 1, 2012, the Chatham County Tax Office began collecting property taxes for the Town of Siler City. Residents will receive just one property tax bill for town and county taxes. The county already collected property taxes for residents of Pittsboro, Goldston and Cary. The Tax Office continued its excellent tax collection rates, with the overall collection percentage for 2011-12 (97.83%) exceeding the previous year (97.73%).

**ELECTRONICS RECYCLING:** The county expanded its electronics recycling program in support of the state banning the disposal of televisions and computer equipment in landfills after July 1, 2011. **E-Cycle Stations** at the 12 Collection Centers collect electronics up to 50 pounds and TVs/monitors up to 25" diagonal.

**FAMILY HISTORY:** Chatham Community Library's volunteers began offering special help on Thursdays for those doing research on family history, including helping them use the library's databases.

**FOOD SAFETY:** Environmental Health trained food establishment managers on the new state **Food Code**, which impacts county inspections of facilities. They also enrolled in the voluntary FDA National Retail Food Program Standards, a quality improvement program, and received grant funding to support this work.

**HOMES IN NEED:** Two grants will help at least 37 low-income residents make critical repairs or upgrades, such as installing indoor plumbing.

**SPAY & NEUTER:** Animal Control reports that its focus on subsidized spay/neuter of pets combined with similar efforts by local rescue groups has helped reduce the surrender of pets by owners by 17%.

**HEALTHY LIVING:** Public Health is partnering with neighboring counties in a **Community Transformation Project**, a grant-funded program. Decreased tobacco use, access and affordability of healthy foods, and safe places for physical activity are key targets for Chatham.

**CHRISTMAS WISHES:** This past year, 110 sponsors and 56 financial donors helped Social Services provide special support for more than 250 children in foster care or who are otherwise at risk.

**AUTOMATED SOCIAL SERVICES:** The state has initiated a new automated case management system for Social Services, resulting in major work at the county level. Chatham is one of three counties across the state selected to be a pilot site for the next phase.

**MISSING CHILDREN:** The Emergency Communications Center is now a certified partner of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

**POULTRY FARMERS:** Cooperative Extension helped poultry farmers impacted by the closing of poultry processing plants. For example, they helped 75 pullet and broiler farms secure new contracts.

**4-H IN SCHOOLS:** Cooperative Extension's 4-H program partnered with several county schools to offer programs on healthy eating and physical activity as well as animal science. Teachers reported that 75% of students' science grades increased at least one grade.

**SMALL FARMS & SPECIALITY CROPS:** Cooperative Extension continues to foster the growth in small farms and specialty crops. Its popular **Growing Small Farms** website expanded its resources and had more than 23,000 visits last year.

#### **MANAGER'S REPORTS**

The County Manager had no reports.

#### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

The Commissioners had no reports.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Cross moved, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

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Walter Petty, Chairman

ATTEST:

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