



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes Board of Commissioners

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

9:00 AM

DSS Conference Room

BOC Retreat

Regular Session - 9:00 AM - DSS Conference Main Conference Room

Present: 5 - Chairman Jim Crawford, Commissioner Diana Hales, Commissioner Karen Howard, Commissioner Walter Petty and Vice Chair Mike Cross

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Crawford welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

CLOSED SESSION

[15-1117](#)

Closed Session to discuss matters within the attorney/client privilege.

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Hales, to go out of the Regular Session and convene in Closed Session for the purpose of discussing matters within the attorney/client privilege. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Crawford, Commissioner Hales, Commissioner Howard, Commissioner Petty and Vice Chair Cross

REGULAR SESSION

[14-1093](#)

Commissioner Goal Setting for Fiscal 2016

Attachments: [11--BOC Goals Survey Results](#)
[DRAFT 2015 BOC VISION GOALS revised](#)

Debra Henzey reviewed the results of the Commissioner Surveys (attached)

After reviewing the Commissioner Surveys the commissioners were ready to begin their goal setting. Chairman Crawford suggested starting with the document Ms. Henzey produced with the results from the survey.

After generous discussion the commissioners developed the attached Draft 2015 BOC Vision, Goals, and Objectives.

LUNCH (1 Hour)

[14-1093](#)

Commissioner Goal Setting for Fiscal 2016

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[DRAFT 2015 BOC VISION GOALS revised](#)

After completing their goals, Ms. Paschal stated there are still a couple of outstanding issues. The first is overall budget guidance, particularly with regard to revenue. There has been over \$4.8 million dollars in requests and there will only be an ability to fund a small portion of that with existing revenue. The second issue is that staff needs a number for the nonprofit funding.

The County Manager suggested treating the Arts and the Economic Development matter as a separate issue. That way staff would have the nonprofit parameters going into the agency training next week.

Commissioner Petty stated it would be helpful to know what impact it would have on the tax rate to meet some of these issues. It appears it would be five cents on the tax rate.

Ms. Paschal stated staff is not looking for the Commissioners to say they want a certain tax increase. They would however like to know whether or not any kind of tax increase may be on the table. Staff does not know yet whether all of that \$4.8 million dollars in requests is justified. They haven't evaluated it. They are going to have to evaluate and respond to it but if they are not going to be able to go up in revenue they will need to direct departments accordingly.

Commissioner Petty suggested taking \$223,000 of the total \$233,000 budgeted and using that for the nonprofits and perhaps using the remaining funds for the EDC or another purpose. He also stated if the other commissioners felt the EDC only needed \$5,000 for the arts then increase the \$223,000 by \$5,000. Vice Chair Cross agreed.

Commissioner Howard felt the conversations for the nonprofits and funding the arts through the EDC should be separate conversations. Commissioners Hales and Commissioner Howard both felt the nonprofits should be given the entire \$233,000.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Cross, seconded by Commissioner Petty, to approve increasing the allocation from \$233,000 to \$228,000 for nonprofit funding. The motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Petty and Vice Chair Cross

No: 3 - Chairman Crawford, Commissioner Hales and Commissioner Howard

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Hales, to approve an allocation of \$233,000 for nonprofit funding. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Chairman Crawford, Commissioner Hales and Commissioner Howard

No: 2 - Commissioner Petty and Vice Chair Cross

The County Manager asked if the Board had any other parameters on the larger budget such as a not to exceed amount.

Commissioner Petty wished to speak to the implications of a tax increase. He stated there are several people who will not feel the effects of an increase because they

have lived somewhere where the taxes are higher. But there are others who will feel it significantly. He also believes the Board should think about business and industry and what they discussed in their goal setting. If they want to attract business and industry, increasing the tax rate can send the wrong message.

Chairman Crawford stated all the surrounding counties have a higher tax rate but they also have industry. Vice Chair Cross stated spending has a lot to do with that. He asked if Chairman Crawford considered Chatham County's tax rate when he moved here. Chairman Crawford stated he definitely did.

Commissioner Howard stated the northeast is paying a huge chunk of the County's property taxes and the County runs a risk of making that a bigger chunk.

Commissioner Hales stated she sees things in terms of investment and growth. She is not adverse to a tax increase. One penny on the tax rate is almost one million dollars.

The County Manager stated whatever recommendation staff brings to the Board will be the heartbeat of the needs and will be in tune with what the Board's goals are.

Chairman Crawford stated in order to maintain current services, with the understanding the County has loss of industries, he believes this Board would consider a tax increase. He stated no one wants to raise taxes in a way that will damage the economy, this would be a way to make ends meet, it is a budgetary issue.

Commissioner Howard stated the County cannot hold steady at any cost.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chair Cross, seconded by Commissioner Howard, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Crawford, Commissioner Hales, Commissioner Howard, Commissioner Petty and Vice Chair Cross