



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes Board of Commissioners

Monday, May 4, 2015

10:00 AM

Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Regular Session - 10:00 AM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

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

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 Crawford welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

The Chairman stated Commissioner Howard was running late but would be joining the meeting shortly.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA

The Chairman read The Historic Tax Credits Resolution and the Resolution Proclaiming Vulnerable Adult & Elder Abuse Awareness Month into the record.

The Chairman removed item 15-1238 from the Consent Agenda and moved it to the Regular Agenda under Board Priorities.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Commissioner Petty, that the Agenda and Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairman Crawford, Vice Chair Cross, Commissioner Hales and Commissioner Petty

[15-1223](#)

Vote on a Resolution Supporting Continuation of Historic Tax Credits in North Carolina

Attachments: [historic tax credits resolution](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Commissioner Petty, that Resolution #2015-17 Supporting Continuation of Historic Tax Credits in North Carolina, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[15-1226](#)

Vote on a Request to Approve a Project Ordinance for Single Stream Recycling

Attachments: [Single Stream Recycling Project Ordinance](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Commissioner Petty, that this Ordinance, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[15-1228](#)

Vote on a Resolution Proclaiming Vulnerable Adult & Elder Abuse Awareness Month in Chatham County

Attachments: [elder abuse month proclamation 2015](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Commissioner Petty, that Resolution #2015-18 Proclaiming Vulnerable Adult and Elder Abuse Awareness Month in Chatham County, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[15-1232](#)

Vote on a request to approve to award a service weapon to retiring Captain Roy Allen.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Commissioner Petty, that this Agenda Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[15-1233](#)

Adopt Resolution Declaring Surplus Property and Authorizing Sale of Said Property by Negotiated Offer, Advertisement and Upset Bid Process

Attachments: [Upset Bid Property Disposal](#)
[Resolution-StLukeChurchRd-Parcel#60950](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Commissioner Petty, that Resolution #2015-19 Declaring Surplus Property and Authorizing Sale of Said Property by Negotiated Offer, Advertisement and Upset Bid Process, attached hereto and by reference made a part thereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

End of Consent Agenda

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Jim Foster gave the following comments:

Chairman Crawford, Members of the Board of Commissioners: Good morning.

Thank you for letting me speak to you today in support of a resolution "...in favor of accepting federal funds to assure that all North Carolinians have access to coverage for health care."

My name is Jim Foster. I have lived in Chatham County for 19 years, and I am a retired cardiologist.

Our group is sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the North Carolina Community Health Centers Association. Several others from our group will also be speaking this morning: Daisy Womble, Kathy Zinn, Dr. Jane Hollingsworth, and Mayor John Grimes of Siler City.

During my 45 years of practicing cardiology, I often saw patients who had never been able to see a doctor, because they could barely pay the rent or keep the lights on. There was no way they could pay a doctor's bill. Now they had a heart attack or end stage heart failure. These might have been prevented if their high blood pressure or diabetes had been treated.

Many people assume that Medicaid takes care of all these people, who have very low income, or no income.

But it doesn't.

Lots of very poor people do not qualify for Medicaid. Poor adults without children cannot get Medicaid. Parents with children cannot get Medicaid unless they make less than 45% of the Federal Poverty Level. This means that a family of 4 has to make less than \$10,912 to get Medicaid.

And they don't earn enough to get subsidized insurance through the Affordable Care Act, either. They'd have to earn more than 100% of the Federal Poverty Level to qualify. That is, if they are a childless adult making less than \$11,770, or a family of 4 making less than \$24,250 a year, they can't get a subsidy.

These people have all been left in the health coverage Gap: they can't get Medicaid, and they can't get subsidized insurance.

The Affordable Care Act was designed to leave no one out, by giving federal funds to the states to pay for Medicaid for all these people.

But in June, 2012, the US Supreme Court said that states could opt out, and not accept the federal funds. Currently there are 22 states that are opting out.

Including North Carolina. Over 300,000 people in North Carolina are being left in the health coverage gap, even though over half of them work!

We think this just doesn't make sense, because of the large human cost, and also because of a very impressive economic cost. When I present the resolution later on, I will say more about the size of the economic cost to North Carolina and to Chatham County.

Thank you very much.

John Grimes, 513 West Wendell Street Siler City, gave the following comments:

I applaud and appreciate your willingness to accept the challenges that the County citizens present to you. It is such a varied citizenship with different interests. I would like to encourage you to please support this resolution. I know as the Mayor of Siler City that we have citizens who are not covered medically speaking as far as being able to go see a doctor. The only way they can get medical attention usually is by going to the emergency room and that presents all kinds of complications. I encourage you to support this resolution. I am pretty sure I carry the support of the Board of Commissioners in Siler City. Thank you for your time and your willingness to serve. I have sat where your sit and I can appreciate your situation.

Jane Hollingsworth gave the following comments:

My name is Jane Hollingsworth and I am a 30-year Chatham County resident and a physician. I have been a doctor for adults from Chatham and surrounding counties for the past 25 years. I was at the Moncure Community Health Center for 20 years, and since 2009 have been Medical Director for Piedmont Health SeniorCare, a Medicare/Medicaid managed care program that helps nursing home eligible adults who are 55 years and older stay safely in their homes.

While at the Moncure CHC, I saw patients with low income who, even with reduced priced visit fees and prescriptions, could not afford to come as often as needed or to buy their medications. Most of those younger than 65 did not qualify for Medicare or Medicaid, and were not insured through employment, therefore did not have any help with the cost of their medical care. Under Medicaid their visits and medications would have been covered. It is not unusual for this population to have several chronic diseases such as heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes, and to have 10 or more medications prescribed to treat these diseases. Missing medications and visits often led to poor outcomes and hospitalizations.

At Piedmont Health SeniorCare, we enroll in our program low income disabled adults 55 years and older. Some already have Medicaid, but others do not; they have had problems buying their medications, and have neglected aspects of their health, such as their dental or eye health in order to buy medications. As we begin to help manage their care and remove barriers to their getting close follow up and the medications they need, control of their blood pressure and diabetes improves, and hospitalization rates go down.

I would urge our County Commissioners to support closing the health coverage gap. Why not accept federal funds that will help our state, our county, our hospitals and health facilities, but most importantly will help our low-income citizens to have better health care and better quality of life?

Kathy Zinn gave the following comments:

Good Morning Members of the Board of Commissioners. My name is Kathy Zinn. I have been a resident of the town of Pittsboro for 5-1/2 years and am here to advocate to you for the Expansion of Medicaid in our state. My interests and concerns are both personal and professional. As a citizen, I support the opening of Medicaid eligibility for medical services to the many who struggle both with various

illnesses and with making ends meet, financially. On an even more personal level, I am the sister of a woman who has lived for over 40 years with schizophrenia. She would not be living independently today without the psychiatric services provided to her through Medicaid. Her disability, as it has for many other citizens, has made it impossible for her to provide for herself financially. She lives in another state, where she has long qualified for Medicaid. My point is that the crucial treatments she receives are also needed by many people in this state. Some people's problems have not yet reached the level of Social Security disability, yet interfere significantly with their functioning. Some conditions, such as substance abuse, rarely reach the level of the present disability process, yet so seriously affect a person's functioning as to make a reliable source of income, and one sufficient to provide adequate addiction treatment, almost impossible to attain.

Professionally, I spent a 25 year career as a clinical social worker in the public mental health system of Virginia. The population we served was those who had significant mental, emotional and intellectual disorders, and who also had the least access to those services through public funding. Expanding Medicaid in our state would provide a safety net, not only for those who suffer from these disorders, but a safety net for their families and society in general. All of society is affected by these behavioral disorders directly or indirectly, either by the behavioral dysfunction of patients and/or by the cost of their care through the most expensive means, if they do not have third party financial support of some sort.

I am also one of Chatham County's 3 representatives to the Community Oversight Board for Orange, Person and Chatham counties (formally known as "OPC"). This Board gives community input and oversight to the managing, by Cardinal Innovations, of the Medicaid funds which provide services to our most needy citizens living with mental and emotional disorders, substance abuse disorders and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, also known as "IDD". Through my experience on this board, I know what good care can be provided to so many more people in need when there is an adequate funding source.

I urge this Board to formally support and advocate for the expansion of Medicaid services in North Carolina, so that, not only those with physical problems, but also those with behavioral disorders, can receive the necessary and appropriate treatment they require to have stable lives in our communities. Thank you

Daisy Womble gave the following comments:

To the Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board of County Commissioners, thank you. Good Morning to all of you. My name is Daisy Womble. I am here in support of passing a resolution to accept the Medicaid Expansion for this state. I have worked with the Affordable Health Care program since 2013. In August, 2013, I began work with Get Covered America, which is a nonprofit, nonpartisan campaign of Enroll America. The focus was on raising public awareness and engaging consumers about their affordable health care options.

I was trained as a volunteer Certified Application Counselor, also referred to as CAC, through UNC Healthcare. The role of a CAC is to sit at the computer with customers to assist them in applying for Affordable Healthcare on the website. As a CAC, I explained the application process to the customers, answered any questions they had, and assisted them with enrolling in a qualified health plan.

Many of the customers, with various situations, were excited because for first time, with financial assistance, they were able to obtain insurance for a price they could

afford.

I assisted individuals who worked at minimum waged jobs with no insurance. Customers who worked for themselves or had small businesses were able to get significant financial assistance with health insurance premiums.

Many of the customers were not only pleased to qualify for help in paying for insurance premiums, but for the first time, they discovered they could not be penalized for their pre-existing conditions.

Lastly, I assisted a group of customers who was usually single; over the age of 26; had a part time job or was unemployed; and had no children as dependents. Usually, these people expected to get assistance on the website because they had very little money. I had to explain to them that because they did not make at least \$11,770 per year, they were not eligible to receive assistance in paying for insurance premiums on the healthcare.gov website. These customers fell within the "health coverage gap". They were neither eligible for North Carolina Medicaid, nor could they get assistance with the payment of insurance premiums on the HealthCare.Gov website. However, these customers would be eligible for the expanded Medicaid should our legislators and governor accept the Medicaid Expansion part of the Affordable Health Care Law.

I believe that you, the officials of this county, understand the need for Medicaid to be expanded. I join my colleagues in support of passing this resolution to close the Medicaid coverage gap in the state of North Carolina. Thank You.

Ted Dunn, 863 Hatfield, Fearington, gave the following comments:

I think expanding the Affordable Care Act is a no brainer for a couple of reasons. First of all without that people are dying. Second of All, we are paying from our federal tax dollars to support the expansion and the other states that have expanded Medicare where we can get the benefits here with no more outlay of tax dollars. The expansion will support the local hospitals because they are not getting the revenues they need to treat the patients.

Chairman Crawford asked the Board if it would be appropriate to discuss the agenda item dealing with the resolution at this time.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Cross, seconded by Commissioner Howard, to move Item 15-1209 to the beginning of the Regular Agenda under Board Priorities. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

BOARD PRIORITIES

[15-1209](#)

Vote on a request to adopt a Resolution in Favor of Closing the Medicaid Coverage Gap.

Attachments: [CTG-Chatham County Resolution, v 4.1.15](#)

Dr. Jim Foster spoke on behalf of the group representing the resolution. He reviewed

several handouts with the commissioners that detailed the economic costs to North Carolina and Chatham County of not accepting the federal funds to help close the Medicaid health coverage gap.

After presenting the data, Dr. Foster presented the proposed resolution to the Board and read it into the record.

The Chairman thanked Dr. Foster and the group for their work and asked the Board if there was any discussion.

Vice Chair Cross made a motion to approve the resolution, Commissioner Howard seconded. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Petty stated too often this issue is clouded with partisanship and he would like to look beyond partisanship. He has had the unfortunate opportunity to go through the Medicaid system and experienced the abuses of the system. He has served on the Board of Health and he is a Trustee for the hospital. He acknowledges what was discussed today is of serious concern. He is not opposed to Medicaid as some may think, just because of his political party affiliation. He recognizes there are current Medicaid recipients who need expanded services who can't get it. He recognizes there are uninsured people who need insurance. He also understands we are paying for these services one way or another. North Carolina already owes three billion dollars to the federal government for Medicaid. Expanding the service would increase that debt. To expand Medicaid without looking at its operation to fix some of the current problems, develops a system that is unsustainable. He would like the Board to consider combining the reform of Medicaid while also expanding it. This is about the patient. He thinks expansion is necessary in some form but also thinks reform is equally important. There are 1.8 million people already in the system and there are already people who cannot get the services they need. Expanding it without correcting it means there will just be more people with fewer services. We might appear to be fixing the problem while creating another problem. He would like to consider a resolution that also incorporates reform.

Commissioner Howard stated she disagrees. She stated we turn it into a partisan issue when we begin to delve deeper. She believes it is an exaggeration or the County's power to say it can get involved with the misfeasance of the Medicaid system. She believes Counties and County Commissions can say that we have an economic interest and the impact that is tied to the expansion as opposed to any underlying issues with Medicaid. These are very separate issues. They do not belong in a resolution together.

Vice Chair Cross stated he believes the legislature is aware Medicaid needs reforming and they have been working on it. He believes both Commissioner Howard's and Commissioner Petty's views on the subject are accurate. He stated he has no problem passing the resolution before them today and if Commissioner Petty wants to come up with a separate resolution for reform at the next meeting he has no problem supporting that.

Commissioner Hales stated she supports this resolution for expansion. The Chatham Pharmacy provides medication to the people who are in the gap. You just have to walk in their door to see who is in the gap; it is the young working poor and the unemployed. To her it is an economic issue. This expansion will help those who are the least capable and if it helps them it helps us all.

Chairman Crawford stated in the final whereas clause he would switch the order of items one and two. He believes there is a moral question we face as a society. As a

generational commitment we should go to the least of ours and make sure they want for nothing. On top of poverty they are faced with medical ailments. This is something we have within our power to do something about. He believes they could talk about a reform resolution but he supports the resolution before them today as written with his change.

Vice Chair Cross restated his motion to reflect the amended change in the resolution.

Commissioner Petty stated he is not against expanding Medicaid. Along with expansion he believes reform is as equally important. If you don't reform it people are not going to get services and dollars are going to be stretched further. He has experienced firsthand some of the problems with the system. It is more difficult to correct problems after you expand it. He would like to see the Board consider the reform as part of the resolution because it will have an impact on the end user.

Commissioner Howard stated reform doesn't belong in this resolution, it stands alone.

Vice Chair Cross stated Medicaid reform will not happen as quickly as everyone would like expansion of the program. Therefore he suggested doing a separate resolution at the next meeting to emphasize that the Board would like Medicaid reform. No one wants one of these to delay the other.

Commissioner Hales stated reform is a big word, it covers a lot. Part of reform has to do with funding personnel and having adequate inspectors. What does reform mean? She knows Medicaid has its shortcomings; she has also dealt with the system for family members. She needs more specifics.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Cross, seconded by Commissioner Howard, that Resolution #2015-20 In Favor of Closing the Medicaid Coverage Gap, attached hereto and by reference made a part thereof, be adopted as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairman Crawford, Vice Chair Cross, Commissioner Hales and Commissioner Howard

No: 1 - Commissioner Petty

[15-1230](#)

Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Recommended Budget Presentation

Attachments: [RecommendedBudgetPresentation--BOCInitialPresentation](#)

County Manager, Charlie Horne, reviewed the Budget at a glance:

Total Property Valuation is \$9.96 Billion

One penny generates \$939,477

The Staff Recommends a tax rate of 62.19 cents

Total Property Tax Revenue: \$59,157,000

General Fund Fund Balance Appropriated: \$5,528,563

Renee Paschal, Assistant County Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation in which she reviewed the Budget Process, reviewed the Board of Commissioner goals, and hit a few highlights of the budget.

Ms. Paschal stated presenting the Recommended Budget is just the first step. Before the Budget is finalized the commissioners will hold two public hearings, hold work sessions, and make changes based on public input. The Goal is to have budget finalized on June 15, 2015. State law requires it be finalized by June 30, 2015.

This Agenda Item was received and filed

[15-1184](#)

Receive presentation on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Chatham County.

Attachments: [CCP Plan_May2015_ChathamBOC](#)

Alison Weakley presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Chatham County. She was also joined by Catherine Deininger.

After her presentation, Ms. Weakley asked the Board if they had any questions.

Commissioner Hales stated she would like to know a little more about the Pittsboro project.

Commissioner Howard asked how the County is supposed to use the information they have pulled together.

Ms. Weakley stated the plan provides a synthesis of information on conservation that they are aware of in the County. There are a series of recommendations toward the end of the document that may be helpful for the Board to review. It is a very comprehensive document intended to be a reference.

Commissioner Howard asked if they would work with the Planning Department.

Ms. Weakley stated they had in the past and would appreciate doing so in the future.

Ms. Deininger stated the Plan is used as a resource by various groups in the county.

Commissioner Hales stated environmental engineering firms should be looking at the GIS data.

Commissioner Howard stated she wonders how well the County is accessing the information.

Ms. Deininger stated it is not required for the County to look at the data unless it is doing a conservation subdivision. Planning staff is very aware of this data and they know whether or not developers know about it.

Chairman Crawford stated he thinks this is important data and he has a strong preference for conservation subdivisions. He asked if there was anything they thought the Board should think about in regards to the impaired waters.

Ms. Deininger stated she doesn't think that map has changed very much. The Rocky River now shows more impairment since the map was done. Nothing has been removed from the map. She is now taking this work and implementing it in Pittsboro. Part of that work is creating a conservation overlay district.

Commissioner Hales asked if this district includes the entire ETJ including Chatham Park.

Ms. Deininger stated yes. The update does not include the whole county, it just includes Pittsboro. They would be interested in talking to the Board about going after some funding..

Commissioner Hales asked how long Ms. Deininger has been doing the Pittsboro

project and when she would be done.

Ms. Deininger stated the project would be complete by the end of the year.

Commissioner Hales stated the Board might even think about directing the County Planning Department to look at the plan when an application comes in for a subdivision. She is not sure if they already do that now.

Ms. Deininger stated she would be happy to come back and do another presentation on the Pittsboro part of the project.

This Agenda Item was received and filed

15-1237

Set date for budget work sessions

By Consensus the Board agreed to hold the Budget Work Sessions Friday, May 22, 2015 from 9am to 4pm, Tuesday, May 26, 2015 from 9am to 4pm and Thursday, May 28, 2015 from 9am to 3pm.

15-1238

Vote on a request from Chatham County Schools to approve a temporary landscaping easement and a temporary construction easement to Briar Chapel subject to receipt and approval by the county manager of legal descriptions for the easement areas conveyed.

Attachments: [15.04.21 Landscape Easement NR edits](#)
[15.04.21 Temp Construction Easement NR Edits](#)
[Granite Mill Exhibit-1](#)

Renee Paschal, Assistant County Manager, reviewed the specifics of the request.

A motion was made by Commissioner Petty, seconded by Commissioner Howard, that the Temporary Landscaping Easement and the Temporary Construction Easement, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

MANAGER' S REPORTS

The County manager requested the Board set a public hearing to consider the refinance of GO Bonds from November 2006. Staff anticipates considerable savings if it is approved. Staff would like the hearing to be set for May 18, 2015.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Cross, seconded by Commissioner Howard, that a public hearing be set on May 18, 2015 to consider the refinancing of GO Bonds from November 2006. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Hales stated she had opportunity to go to 2015 NC Tomorrow Building Communities Summit in Raleigh and one session was all about rural broadband. A

couple of mountain communities have moved forward with broadband in some interesting ways. Rutherford County partnered with schools, doctors' offices and hospitals and an internet provider, Pangia. Facebook also opened one of their data facilities in the county. The County only invested \$40,000 and they have 5,000 users with two hundred miles of fiber. Yancey and Mitchell counties partnered with Country Cable, industry, and K-12 and they got a grant. They are connected with 1 gigabite available everywhere. There is a way for counties to move forward and maybe find an investor to get broadband. There was a group of individuals who emailed the commissioners about the lack of broadband in the county and Chairman Crawford tasked them to come up with ways to address the problem. Commissioner Hales would like to give them this information.

Vice Chair Cross stated citizens who live on Corinth Road think the traffic has gotten to the point that they are interested in a traffic study with emphasis on reducing the speed limit to forty-five miles an hour. Vice Chair Cross spoke with the Planning Director and the best way to get a traffic study is to have the Board write a letter requesting the traffic study services division do a traffic study of that road. If there is a traffic study it would include times, number of vehicles and if the coal ash dump proceeds and they end up using truck traffic and the County needs to know any information about their truck traffic it would have a base line.

Vice Chair Cross stated the Sprott Center would have an Open House on June 6th from 12pm until 4pm.

A motion was made by Commissioner Petty, seconded by Vice Chair Cross, to direct the Planning Director to contact the NCDOT and request a traffic study of Corinth Road. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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, Vice Chair Cross, Commissioner Hales, Commissioner Howard and Commissioner Petty