



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

9:00 AM

DSS Conference Room

Board of Commissioners Retreat

CALL TO ORDER

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

BOARD PRIORITIES

[16-1532](#)

1. Ground Rules

Chairman Crawford stated Pittsboro Matters released a letter with the topic of the Commissioners meeting individually with Chatham Park. He stated he believes there is a misunderstanding as to the purpose of those meetings and he would like to clarify that for everyone. He called for those meetings and asked that a MOU be drafted and he drafted it himself. He said the case was being made that there are two kinds of county officials, those that are trustworthy and those that are untrustworthy. He stated he had been put in the untrustworthy category. He stated he feels he is working in the public's best interest in getting the parties talking, not behind closed doors but with other officials and county staff. He believes it is time to find a common way forward. He plans to have meetings like this with other people or groups who have business with the County and he plans to meet with out of County officials to see if they can resurrect the Jordan Lake Rules before the lake becomes too contaminated for anybody to use.

Chairman Crawford stated if there was anyone on the Board who felt he had not acted in the public interest, he would entertain a motion to remove him as Chair. No motion was made. The Board agreed Chairman Crawford had acted appropriately in his role as Chair and the Board could discuss roles and expectations of the Board at the January 19th session of the retreat.

Debra Henzey, Community Relations Director, reviewed the Ground Rules for the meeting. The Board agreed to the Ground Rules.

[16-1533](#)

2. Overview of budget process and policies

Attachments: [3--BudgetCalendar](#)
[1--Financial&BudgetaryPolicies.ppt](#)
[2--BudgetProcess.ppt](#)

Lisa West, Budget Analyst, reviewed the Financial and Budgetary Policies. (Presentation Attached)

Certificates of Participation (COPs) will be taken out as a type of debt in the County

Policy.

Commissioner Petty stated the debt model has been very successful and the Board needs to do everything it can to maintain it.

Ms. West reviewed the Budget Process. (Presentation Attached)

[16-1534](#)

3. Trends and Indicators

Attachments: [4--All trends.pdf](#)
[5--Financial Indicators.pdf](#)

Ms. West reviewed Trends. (Presentation Attached)

Commissioner Petty stated while the County unemployment is low; the workforce is working outside of the County. The County Manager stated this especially hurts volunteer fire departments.

Commissioner Howard asked if high school students are volunteer fire fighters. The County Manager stated they are, but due to the amount of training needed, it is hard to use high school students.

Commissioner Petty stated this is why it is so important to bring businesses to the Siler City megasite and the Moncure industrial park.

Vice Chair Hales asked what use would be listed in the "Other" category on the Tax Base Comparison chart. Staff stated they would find out the answer.

Staff stated they would get the presentations to the commissioners electronically.

Ms. West reviewed Indicators. (Presentation Attached)

[16-1544](#)

4. Heads Up from Departments and Chatham County Schools

Attachments: [6--Heads Up](#)
[6a--Heads Up.ppt](#)

Ms. West reviewed the Heads Up Document. (Presentation Attached)

The County Manager stated the County is looking to hire an MPA student to do the research on affordable housing repair needs to create a clearinghouse for those requests.

[16-1545](#)

5. Chatham County Schools Presentation

Attachments: [Chatham County Schools.pptx](#)

Superintendent Dr. Derrick Jordan presented to the commissioners. (Presentation Attached)

Tony Messer, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the financial highlights.

Dr. Jordan reviewed the school's budget requests.

Commissioner Howard asked if there was a way for the County to create a repository

for the schools to redirect the challenges that arise at the schools but cannot be fixed at the school level. The County Manager stated that would be a good conversation to have.

Dr. Amanda Hartness, Assistant Superintendent, reviewed the E-Rate Telecommunication Rule Change Impact.

LUNCH BREAK - 45 MINUTES

[16-1546](#)

6. Expected Conditions Affecting Next Years Budget

Attachments: [7--Expected Conditions.ppt](#)

The County Manager reviewed the Preliminary Outlook for the FY 2017 Budget. (Presentation Attached)

A motion was made by Commissioner Cross, seconded by Commissioner Howard, to move one million dollars of the 2015 surplus to capital reserves for the purpose of moving the animal shelter up one year in the CIP. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

The County Manager stated the six million dollar Duke Energy settlement will not go in the general fund it will go into another government fund (special revenue fund).

The County Manager stated she believed the County would have to raise the tax rate for 2017.

[16-1547](#)

7. Report on Current Year Goals

Attachments: [8--Current Year Goals](#)
[8a--Progress on Current Year Goals.pptx](#)

The County Manager gave the Report on 2015 Goals & Objectives. (Presentation Attached)

Commissioner Cross asked if the deposit program with the Chatham Housing Initiative is legal. Staff will look into it.

[16-1548](#)

8. Report on County-wide Satisfaction Survey

Attachments: [9--SatisfactionSurvey.pptx](#)

Ms. Henzey reviewed the Citizen Satisfaction Survey Results. (Presentation Attached)

The County plans to conduct this survey every two years.

[16-1549](#)

9. Report on Library Survey

Attachments: [10--LibrarySurvey.pptx](#)

Ms. Henzey reviewed the results of the Survey of Library Programs, Services & Hours. (Presentation Attached)

Vice Chair Hales asked if there could be a partnership between the school media centers and public libraries.

Commissioner Howard stated the Chatham Reads program is trying to focus on getting library cards in the hands of students when they register for school.

Vice Chair Hales asked if the food banks would be a place for library outreach. The County Manager stated the challenge with CORA would be space.

Chairman Crawford stated Carborro has a middle school with a library that is open to the public. This could be an option to look at when thinking about building the new high school.

[16-1550](#)

10. Follow-up discussion from FY 2016 Retreat

Attachments: [11--Library Comeback.pptx](#)

Ms. West reviewed the follow-up questions from the FY 2016 retreat. (Presentation Attached).

Vice Chair Hales asked about the computer needs at the Siler City library. Ms. Henzey stated she believed the County could look into partnering with other groups who have space available for the library to set up a computer lab.

[16-1551](#)

11. Pay and Benefits

Attachments: [11--Temporary salaries update for BOC retreat.pptx](#)
[11--Pay and Benefits Update.pptx](#)

Carolyn Miller, Human Resources Director, reviewed an update on Temporary Salaries. (Presentation Attached)

Ms. Miller reviewed an update on Pay and Benefits. (Presentation Attached)

[16-1552](#)

12. DSS Presentation on Services

Attachments: [12--Economic Services handout.pdf](#)
[12--Family Services Infogram.pdf](#)

Jennie Kristiansen, Social Services Director, stated she and her colleagues would review the economic and family services offered by DSS.

Sara Welch, Economic Services Program Administrator and Nikia Bland, Nutrition Supervisor talked about a possible scenario of a family coming to DSS. They discussed the economic services they could receive.

Cim Brailer, Family Services Program Administrator and Margaret Kirkman, Social Work Supervisor, talked about a possible scenario of an adult coming to DSS needing assistance. They discussed the Adult services they could receive.

After the presentations, the Board agreed for staff to go back to the college to ask about using the CCCC Health Sciences building as a location for a public library.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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