



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Monday, May 7, 2018

6:00 PM

Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Work Session - 2:30 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Present: 4 - Commissioner Jim Crawford, Chair Diana Hales, Vice Chair Mike Dasher and Commissioner Karen Howard

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Walter Petty

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Mike Fishback submitted the following comments:

I am going to speak about some animal control problems in our neighborhood of Highland Forest. I spoke this morning with Ms. Paschal and she brought up an interesting concept about benchmarking, which is how we access how we stand with regard to other counties. I would like to suggest that Chatham County, since it is the best county in North Carolina, and since North Carolina is the best state in the country, and because the U.S. is the best country in the world, how about we step up and take the lead and set an example for other counties? Here is my great grandma's blanket that I used to carry the cat that was savagely injured by the dog. I took her to two veterinary hospitals. I know we don't test for DNA but the dog's and cat's DNA are on there. That is the best thing I knew to do in the three hours I spent carrying the dying cat to two different veterinary hospitals. I've spoken at length with Kayley Taber, the Assistant District Attorney. I spoke with Layton Long, the Health Director. I've spoken with Jim Crawford who is on the commission and the Board of Health and he was very generous with listening. I sent him a narrative, which he requested, and I hope he will act upon it. I visited with Magistrate Hart who is the contact on my criminal complaint pending the completion of the investigation by Mr. Canady of the Animal Services division. It seems to me that, according to Mr. Canady, the main owners of the dog and cat have reached a private settlement. The knowledge of who owns that dog is being kept from the public. Under the county ordinances I think I can claim ownership since the cat basically lived in our yard. I am here not to take sides or be adversarial but hope that we can have a feeling of belonging and that each of us in Chatham County would matter and that residents' needs will be met. Thank you.

BOARD PRIORITIES

[18-2597](#)

Vote on a request to adopt a Resolution honoring the Friends of the Chatham Community Library as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary on May 19, 2018.

Attachments: [friends of the library anniversary resolutionf Final](#)

Chair Hales read the resolution into the record and presented a framed resolution to members of the Friends of the Chatham Community Library.

Commissioner Crawford said the library is an asset to the county and the community college. It is a good example of co-location of facilities.

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Vice Chair Dasher, that Resolution #2018-15 Recognizing the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Friends of the Chatham Community Library, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Petty

[18-2595](#)

Chatham Grove Elementary and Seaforth High School Update

Attachments: [CRA - SFHS & CGES Bid Review - 050318](#)

This item was presented by Chatham County Schools Superintendent Dr. Derrick Jordan. Dr. Jordan acknowledged Board of Education Chair Gary Leonard, Chatham County Schools Chief Operations Officer Chris Blice, and Chatham County Schools Director of Maintenance and Construction Randy Drumheller.

Dr. Jordan stated both projects have come in over budget. The projects combined are 8.5 million dollars over budget which includes the alternate bids. Tariffs have forced contractors to increase their bids and there is a shortage of subcontractors. They would have to cut many important programming items to meet the original budget.

County Manager Renee Paschal said if the Board of Commissioners wishes to direct the Board of Education to bring projects within budget, it would have to determine that now given the tight timeframe for the borrowing. One of the items that would have to be cut to bring it within the budget is the LEED Silver certification. The joint recreation facility at the elementary school would also need to be cut. The good news is county staff worked with the financial consultants and ran the debt model which is based on 5% interest rates. The consultants reran the debt model with a lower interest rate of 4.25%. The County will be able to absorb the increased costs of these projects in the debt model. The Board may want to consider cuts that don't affect programming or quality of materials.

Dr. Jordan added any cuts would have to go back to the Board of Education for consideration. His staff has identified six potential cuts. They would not want to make any cuts that negatively impact the funding schedule. They would not want to affect capacity or programming. They would not want to impact the LEED Silver certification. They would not want to decrease overall quality, durability or performance nor do anything that would negatively affect the construction schedule.

Commissioner Howard asked if the construction costs vary based on the timing of the project. She asked why Seaforth was 10% over and Chatham Grove was significantly closer to budget. Mr. Drumheller stated the biggest difference between the two projects is the site work. The timing is not a factor.

Ms. Paschal met with Bordeaux Construction and what she learned is large projects have a hard time getting qualified subcontractors. Mr. Drumheller stated Seaforth requires a higher level of bonding which limits the bidders as well.

Commissioner Crawford would be hesitant to make any cuts.

Vice Chair Dasher stated he sees value in the Board of Education looking into cuts with minimal consequence.

The Board of Education will discuss this at its meeting on May 14th and it will come back to the Board of Commissioners on May 21st.

[18-2596](#)

Vote on a request to approve the Annual Community Child Protection and Child Fatality Prevention Team Reports

Attachments: [2017 Annual Report to BOCfinal](#)

[CFPT BOC Report](#)

[2017 CCPT Annual Report](#)

Social Services Director Jennie Kristiansen and Public Health Director Layton Long presented their report to the Board. (Presentation attached)

Ms. Kristiansen said they are asking the Board to appoint five additional members.

Commissioner Howard asked about the movie "Resilience". Ms. Kristiansen said the team had seen the movie. Commissioner Howard said Alamance County is doing extensive county-wide screenings of the film.

Commissioner Howard asked about the supportive family member. Is this to provide care as an alternative to the parents? Ms. Kristiansen stated it is also an alternative to foster care.

Mr. Long stated the deaths reviewed by the team can be anywhere from the age of zero to the age of eighteen. He stated it is a very difficult part of his job.

Commissioner Dasher asked if a death is determined to be preventable does that mean a crime occurred. Mr. Long said not necessarily; it may have been an accidental death. For example a child may not have been in a car seat.

Ms. Kristiansen stated the Child Fatality Task Force at the state level is looking at system change. They have advocated for car seats and bicycle helmets. They recently recommended mandatory rules around all people being restrained in the backseat of a car.

Mr. Long stated the children are residents of Chatham County but the death does not have to occur in the county.

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Vice Chair Dasher, to accept the reports of the CCPT and the CFPT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Petty

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Vice Chair Dasher, to approve merging the CCPT and CFPT into one entity. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Petty

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Crawford, to accept the five additional members to the newly merged team. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Petty

[18-2598](#)

Receive presentation from the Chatham Health Alliance

Attachments: [Alliance BOC Presentation 5.7.18_Final](#)

Strategy and Evaluation Coordinator Sarah Weller Pegna introduced the Health Alliance Chair and Vice Chair Jessica Mashburn and Tammy Needham who gave a presentation to the Board. (Presentation attached)

Commissioner Howard asked if the survey was sent to a targeted audience or a random audience. Ms. Pegna stated it was a random sample of community residents based on census blocks.

Commissioner Crawford complimented the staff of the Health Department and the Health Alliance and thanked them for their work.

This Agenda Item was received and filed.

CLOSED SESSION

[18-2590](#)

Closed Session to discuss items relating to attorney-client privilege and personnel.

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Crawford, to approve going out of the Work Session and convening in Closed Session to discuss matters relating to attorney-client privilege and personnel. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Petty

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Petty

End of Work Session

Regular Session - 6:00 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Present: 4 - Commissioner Jim Crawford, Chair Diana Hales, Vice Chair Mike Dasher and Commissioner Karen Howard

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Walter Petty

INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Dasher asked everyone to join in a moment of silence after which the Chair invited everyone present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hales welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Petty

[18-2551](#)

Vote on a request to accept \$6,066.33 Association of Food & Drug Officials (AFDO) Grant Funds.

Attachments: [\\$6,066.33 Association of Food & Drug Administration \(AFDO\) Funds](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Petty

[18-2552](#)

Vote on a request to accept \$3,825.00 Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) Funds Reduction

Attachments: [\\$3,825.00 Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Program \(BCCCP\) Funds Reduction](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Petty

[18-2579](#)

Vote on a request to surplus weapon and award the service weapon to Corporal Daniel Tilley on the event of his retirement from the Chatham County Sheriff's Office.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Petty

[18-2588](#)

Vote on a request to surplus and award a service weapon to retiring SSgt. Bruce Coble on the event of his retirement from the Chatham County Sheriff's Office.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Petty

[18-2587](#)

Vote on a request to award a five year copier contract to Sharpe Business Systems, and authorize the County Manager to execute the contract.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Petty

[18-2589](#)

Vote on a request to approve the renewal agreement with Logan Systems, Inc. for the Register of Deeds and authorize the County Manager to execute the contract.

Attachments: [Logan Contract](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Petty

[18-2591](#)

Vote on a request to reappoint Mary Lee Moore to the Chatham County Housing Authority

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Crawford, that this Appointment be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Petty

[18-2592](#)

Vote on a request to approve reappointments to the Board of Adjustment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Crawford, that these Appointments be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Petty

[18-2593](#)

Vote on a request to approve appointment of Carol Wade to the Community Advisory Committee for Nursing Homes and Adult Care homes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Crawford, that this Appointment be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Petty

[18-2625](#)

Vote on a request to approve Ken McArtor's appointment to interim tax assessor and tax collector for Chatham County.

Attachments: [Tax Collector and Assessor](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Crawford, that this Appointment be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Petty

End of Consent Agenda

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Mike Fishback submitted the following comments:

I am continuing my comments from earlier this afternoon. I wanted to suggest that the definitions in the ordinance could be adjusted to better reflect the reality of enforcement on the ground. Particularly with regard to ownership and what constitutes dangerous versus potentially dangerous animals. I sent letters to Jim Crawford, Renee Paschal, Debra Henzey, Lindsay Ray, Layton Long, Josh Stein, and I sent a petition to Josh Stein. All of those were without response. I spoke earlier about how I might claim ownership and I think Ms. Paschal stated the determination made by animal control was based on ownership. I would counter that. This is not about ownership, it is about death and serious physical injury. The only evidence I've seen of any activity by animal control is this tag they hang on your door knob. When I visited with the District Attorney in their lobby there is a handbook of victims' rights. You have the right to be given information about the crime. You have the right to be informed of court proceedings. When I spoke with Magistrate Hart, he stated in a civil venue I should state dollar amounts that would be equivalent to the pain and suffering that I endured watching a beloved member of a different person's family being slaughtered. What dollar amount would you put on that? \$10,000? \$20,000? I was advised by the local attorneys to wait for animal control to reach their conclusions and thereafter, I suppose I am subject to the ten day deadline, which isn't stated in the ordinances. I have conflicting testimony stated by Mr. Canady with regard to neighbors who have seen the threatening behavior and various attacks and I haven't seen any action taken. Please take action. If we don't enforce these ordinances, let's change them. Let's change those who are hired and elected to enforce them. Let's change that too. Thank you.

Diane Ursano submitted the following comments:

My name is Diane Ursano. I live in Briar Chapel. I'm here to introduce speakers from Briar Chapel and Polk's Landing who will describe what we've learned since April 20th when the beavers of Pokeberry Creek in Briar Chapel had a death sentence imposed on them by the Briar Chapel HOA Board of Directors. After protests by Briar Chapel residents and friends, the HOA Board announced a delay in their plan to kill the beavers while they reviewed options. On April 26, they announced they would form a task force composed of five community members chosen from community applicants to study the problem.

A lot has happened since April 20th:

We have

- Delayed, for now, the inhumane killing of beavers (through the possible use of underwater traps that drown them and, potentially, other inhabitants of the wetlands).*
- Formed "Friends of the Pokeberry Creek Beavers and Wetlands," an advocacy and educational organization.*

- Conducted two petitions to assess support for protecting the beavers. One went national and gathered over 10,000 signatures. The other collected and verified signatures from Briar Chapel homeowners to fortify our position supporting the beavers.
- Created a website: pokeberrycreekbeaversandwetlands.com.
- Conducted educational tours of Pokeberry Creek and the wetlands adjacent to the Briar Chapel Bridge.
- Consulted with experts in wildlife and environmental management
- Joined with affiliated groups to learn from them and to share our knowledge and experience with them.

We have learned how the beavers and their activities can be managed for the benefit to humans in a modern world. Several of our members have conducted trials of "Beaver Deceiver" devices to enhance water flow downstream, keeping water levels behind the dams low. This is our first conversation with you. Over the coming months, we will be here to remind you of the beavers' crucial role as development surges in once rural Chatham County. Having attended commissioner's meetings and learned about your efforts to support sane development policies, I know you will listen.

Margaret Pennybacker submitted the following comments:

I am Margaret Pennybacker speaking for Dr. Bill Sunda was unable to be here this evening. The beavers of Pokeberry Creek perform an important service for Chatham County. Their dams create wetlands which provide habitat for many species of animals. It is estimated that ½ of threatened species in North America rely on wetlands for survival. The wetlands are natural filters. They filter sediment and toxins from the water that flows into the Haw River. It feeds into Jordan Lake, the county's water supply.

The wetlands created by beavers absorb large amounts of rainfall, which can counteract the effects of heavy rainfall. Plus, they provide these valuable services for free! In addition, the many trails around the creek provide recreation for county residents and expose children to nature. The children can learn about ecology by observation of how the beavers create the wetlands which offer a diverse habitat for mammals, birds, and amphibians. They can also learn how nature works and how everything is interconnected.

The newly formed group, Friends of the Pokeberry Creek Beavers and Wetlands requests that Chatham County look into joining BMAP, the Beaver Mitigation Assistance Program under the USDA Wildlife Services. Forty-five NC counties already participate in this program. This will become increasingly important as Chatham County continues to grow and natural habitat is lost through development.

Stacey Donelan submitted the following comments:

My name is Stacey Donelan. I am a resident of Briar Chapel and a member of the Friends of the Pokeberry Creek Beavers and Wetlands. As the name of our group implies, we want to save the Pokeberry Creek beavers - not on a whim, not because they are cute and cuddly. We want to save them because they are the vital biological engineers that create the wetlands, helping improve the quality of the water going through them and supporting the incredible biodiversity they support. We frankly can't do that without your help. The NC Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP)

was established in 1992 and works under the auspices of the USDA Wildlife Services in cooperation with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission and the NC Department of Transportation. Its goal is to help participating counties "address beaver damage problems rather than to eliminate beaver from the State".

In 2016-17, thirty-nine counties participated in the BMAP, and statewide data show that "for every \$1.00 spent, \$7.21 in resources were saved". In this case, we consider the beaver itself and the wetlands they create to be the resource. We believe that the technical assistance offered by the BMAP can help us create in Pokeberry Creek a prototype for non-lethal beaver management and wetlands protection that can be used throughout Chatham County as it faces future land development. Furthermore, the BMAP "encourages individuals to solve their own problems" and offers damage management workshops and individualized training at no cost to landowners who wish to perform the mitigation work themselves. The annual cost to the county to participate in the BMAP is \$4000.00.

We humbly request that Chatham County join the program, and in so doing, become proactive in creating a win-win balance between human expansion and the natural world that we so cherish in our county. Many thanks.

Gary Ace submitted the following comments:

Hello my name is Gary Ace, a resident of Polks Landing for 22 years and I'm grateful to be here to talk to you again about our beautiful environment in Chatham County. Every day I walk parts of the great trails around Pokeberry Creek with my dog and take photographs as I enjoy several miles of peaceful nature morning and evening. I have appreciated the beavers work for many years and only recently had the treat see them. I am learning much about our industrious and intelligent neighbors. The beavers created concerns when a new dam flooded a dirt path between neighborhoods. Then it was with dismay that my neighbors in Polks Landing, Briar Chapel, my wife and I learned of the extermination plans for the ancient dwellers of the water. With our neighbors we took on building a temporary boardwalk above and around the mud path and using our own resources and made a beaver deceiver and water leveler to try to mitigate the dam issues at the end of Creeks Edge.

I have been watching the changes in the creek with the creation of wetlands with increased waterfowl, turtles, many amphibians, fish, song birds, plants due to the habitat the beavers have created. I've seen a pair of river otters, kingfisher, many songbirds, herons fishing, ducks sitting on logs with assorted turtles sunning, geese in varying numbers, dragon flies, tadpoles and other mosquito predators - and an occasional egret. This morning I got a glimpse of the 7 growing wood ducklings and several weeks ago a neighbor saw a baby beaver. Just hearing of it was a treat. Many who have seen my photos on the Nextdoor app have told me how much they appreciate the insight into the critters and beauty the beavers have brought with them.

Aside from the water improvement and erosion reduction the damming provides, there is also an immeasurable improvement to the peace and well being to those who use the trails. Nature not only feeds and clothes and protects us but she also nurtures a deep part of our essence and reconnected us with our deepest selves. There is increasing evidence of the health benefits and stress reduction gained from exposure to nature. Books like "Last Child in the Woods" describe nature deficit disorder and the impacts of being ignorant of the environment and ecosystems. This area is a jewel equivalent to a state park and can be cultivated into a great learning environment for

the complex ecosystem needing the keystone species of the beavers. Open honest two-way communication is essential for a democracy to survive. We seem to be at a time when it is more and more difficult to discern the truth and accuracy of information and intention of action. We have been encouraged by the positive responses from the commissioners and planning board in recent times and I understand some of the limitations and restrictions that you have to work with. We wish for you to understand our concerns and to be a voice for nature and those with no vote. Action undertaken now, as you know, will have long lasting impact to our land and the feeling of a cohesive community. Out of state developers should have a little influence in the county's decisions on behalf of residents' quality of life.

As you (Co Commissioners) represent us to make a better environment in which to live in harmony and health and the general good, we wish to represent the voiceless of the natural world. Beavers are a key element for a functioning wetland ecosystem, as nature had honed the balance in ways we are just beginning to understand. Working with the Friends of Pokeberry Creek Beavers and Wetlands has been very heartening and inspiring. This issue has brought together individuals in the community to work toward a common goal and the speed and dedication of the group has been amazing. I hope a peaceful harmonious coexistence of people and nature can happen. Let's respect the wisdom of nature and not hastily intervene for human convenience. Thank you.

Pam Peterson submitted the following comments:

I live in Briar Chapel now but I lived in Polk's Landing for seventeen years before that so I am seeing both communities and how we can work together to save the beavers. I am speaking to show that there has been a lot of support, not just from Briar Chapel to save the beavers and find other alternatives but we have had support from Polk's Landing, Fearington, Valley View, Persimmon Hill, Hidden Valley. We had 11,566 people sign a petition to stop the Briar Chapel Board from killing the beavers. I have been able to enjoy those wetlands for eighteen years. I hope to be able to see them for a long time. We had some letters of support. One from PETA and one from the New Hope Audobon Society and one from Polk's Landing. I am just going to read you a snippet from each one. Kent Stein, Sr. Cruelty Case worker with PETA wrote on April 20th "Killing or otherwise removing beavers is ineffective as survivors will breed at accelerated rates. Fence and pipe devices known as beaver deceivers also resolve issues with flooding." Bo Howes, President of New Hope Audobon Society was mentioning the NC Wildlife Commissioners' Beaver Management Assistant Program, which you just heard mentioned. He called it a "workable compromise to similar issues concerning beavers." Alexis Banbrook, President of Polk's Landing said "the wetlands are a place of beauty, a natural resource, an educational opportunity and a benefit to not only Briar Chapel but to the Haw River and beyond."

Barry Ragin submitted the following comments:

I live in Durham. I was invited to speak to you tonight by the Friends of Pokeberry Creek. I am speaking on behalf of Beaver Lodge Local 1504, a voluntary benevolent organization in Durham dedicated to all things beaver. In 2004 and 2005 I served as the Duke Park Neighborhood Association. Duke Park is located at exit 177 between Interstate 85 and downtown Durham. During my terms, the NC Department of Transportation undertook a major widening of the interstate from two travel lanes in each direction to four or even five through our section of Durham. As part of this

project, new culverts were installed underneath the highway to reroute the flow of the Elerbee Creek, several branches of which drain into the Park neighborhood. During the construction the neighbors complained to the NCDOT that the two acre wetlands in the northwest corner of our neighborhood had doubled or tripled in size and was now encroaching on their properties. The department investigated and learned that the beaver family already living in Duke Park had built dams inside their new culverts. They then invited neighbors to participate in the process of deciding which method to use in exterminating the beaver population. Duke Park residents rejected the solution and persuaded our Board of County Commissioners to join the Beaver Management Assistance Program. The BOCC requested then County Manager Mike Ruffin and Soil and Water District Conservation Director Eddie Culberson to work with the BMAP and find a mutually agreeable solution, which was in fact initiated in a few months. The highway department modified the culvert entrances to prevent beaver access and the local wetlands soon returned to its previous size.

To celebrate this occurrence, local residents formed Beaver Lodge Local 1504 and held the first of what has become one of Durham's signature events, The Beaver Queen Pageant. From humble beginnings this DIY beauty pageant now raises awareness of the importance of beavers to the health of our watersheds and drinking water supply as well as over \$25,000 annually for the Elerbee Creek Watershed Association, a grassroots nonprofit which preserves property and educates the public. For their part our beavers expanded their presence to otherwise empty acreage on the other side of the interstate, fed by a spring which was originally uncovered sixty years ago when the old horse farm on the site was developed as a shopping center. A family of beavers has built one of the largest lodges on the east coast, visible on Google maps. Using funds raised over the past decade, the Elerbee Watershed Association has purchased this thirty-five acre site and is gradually turning it into a major educational and recreational destination, barely two and a half miles from Durham City Hall. The benefits to the community from the improvement in drinking water quality alone are almost incalculable. On behalf of the members of Beaver Lodge Local 1504 and beaver lovers everywhere it is my expressed hope that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners shows the same quality of vision and leadership that Durham's board did fourteen years ago with equally beneficial results. Thank you for your time.

Tom Kawabata submitted the following comments:

I am Tom Kawabata and a resident of the Briar Chapel community. I am here today to make you aware of the concerns we have regarding a new sewer line from Fearington Village to the Briar Chapel waste treatment plant. On November 18, 2017, all residents of Briar Chapel received a letter from Old North State Water Company. Old North which is now called Envirolink, recently acquired the Fearington Utility and proposed to pump the waste to the Briar Chapel treatment plant. The Fearington plant was inadequate and needed to be replaced in the near future. According to the Envirolink letter, they planned to install lines along Andrew Store road on the outskirts of the community and not come through the streets and neighborhoods of Briar Chapel. However, last week Thursday, May 3rd, Envirolink had started to cut down the trees to through our green space to make a 30-foot wide path for a revised sewer route. We did not receive prior notice of this activity or the change in plans.

In response to questions from the residents, Briar Chapel Community Association and Envirolink sent out an email at noon on May 3 to explain the tree cutting and the new sewer route. It is planned to run through green space, wetlands and over Pokeberry Creek. The HOA and utility company has scheduled a meeting with the residents to

discuss this issue on Wednesday, May 9 (6 days after the initiation of the tree cutting). We have requested that they stop cutting until the meeting on the 9th. As you can expect, the homeowners were very surprised and upset. One of the primary reasons that people bought homes in Briar Chapel was the green space and commitment of Newland to preserve this asset. It is expected that the cutting down of the trees would decrease our property values and impact the trail system that runs through the green spaces and wetlands. Envirolink had stated in their email that the "interconnection project will be completed without financially burdening Briar Chapel Residents".

Here are some of our key questions~

- What was the process for obtaining approval of the revised sewer line path?
- Why Envirolink and Newland are able to construct a sewer line through the green space and over the Pokeberry Creek without the necessary easements (based on current county maps)?
- Why the residents were not informed about the new path and able to provide input, especially in light of safety concerns as well as presumed negative impact on property values?
- Why the original path was modified and the pros and cons for the new path?
- Does the project's new route violate the agreement between the county and developer with respect to green space?
- What can Chatham County do to help insure the safety of the residents that use the trails near the tree cutting?

For your records, I am submitting hard copies of this presentation, the original letter from Old North, the email from the Community Association on May 3 and a map of the revised sewer route through Briar Chapel. Thank you for your attention on this important and urgent issue.

Commissioner Dasher asked Assistant County Manager Dan LaMontagne asked if there was a plan the County approved. Mr. LaMontagne said Rachael Thorn responded to Commissioner Hales' email this morning and he will forward that on to the commissioners.

County Manager Renee Paschal said the County used to be in the BMAP program. She will have USDA come speak at a future work session.

BOARD PRIORITIES

[18-2594](#)

Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Recommended Budget Presentation

Attachments: [RecommendedBudgetPresentation--BOCInitialPresentation Final](#)

This item was presented by County Manager Renee Paschal. (Presentation attached) Ms. Paschal thanked Budget Director Lisa West, Budget Analyst Darrell Butts and Financial Operations Manager Hope Tally for their work on the budget.

MANAGER' S REPORTS

The County Manager stated she talked with Chatham Transit Network Executive Director Anna Testerman and USDA has raised issues with lease they have with the

County. She asked the Board to give her and the County Attorney the authority to make the necessary changes and execute the documents.

The County Manager has been asked by the NC Association of County Commissioners to sit on a Manager's Round Table to communicate with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Humann Services on Medicaid and DSS reform. She is reaching out to Health Director Layton Long and Social Services Director Jennie Kristiansen to make sure she represents their concerns to the Secretary. She invited the Board to send her any concerns they may have.

The County Manager is seeking a facilitator for the elections task force committee. She has contacted a few faciliators trained through Cooperative Extension and she will keep the Board updated.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crawford, seconded by Vice Chair Dasher, to grant the authority to the County Manager and County Attorney to make changes to the USDA lease and execute the documents. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Commissioner Crawford, Chair Hales and Vice Chair Dasher

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Petty and Commissioner Howard

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Crawford said the honors society for CCCC was rated in top 100 of honor societies for associates degrees in the country. Triangle J staff may take up the economic tier issue. The Council on Aging aging plan will be presented this Thursday May 10 at the library.

Chair Hales said she attended the Jordan Lake trash tour with commissioners from Alamance, Orange and Durham Counties and Town of Cary and Chapel Hill. Central Piedmont Community Action received money for homelessness from the Board of Commissioners. She will be meeting with them soon about a potential facility. She and Commissioner Petty attended an elected officials meet and greet in Siler City. The Parks Master Plan is in the works and there has been good public input. She did the welcome for Hispanic Liaison legal fair and she attended the United Way Outstanding Volunteers recognition ceremony.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 3 - Commissioner Crawford, Chair Hales and Vice Chair Dasher

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Petty and Commissioner Howard