

**MINUTES**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**BUDGET SESSION**  
**JUNE 03, 2010**

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The Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the Henry H. Dunlap Building Classroom, 80 East Street, located in Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 9:00 AM on June 03, 2010.

Present: Chair Sally Kost; Vice Chair, George Lucier; Commissioners Mike Cross, Carl Thompson, and Tom Vanderbeck

Staff Present: County Manager, Charlie Horne; Assistant County Manager, Renee Paschal; Finance Officer, Vicki McConnell; Performance Manager, Sybil Tate; Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Sublett; and Deputy Clerk to the Board, Elizabeth Plata

*Budget Agenda*

- Central Carolina Community College
- Chatham County Schools  
(Including comprehensive school health plan)
- Health
- Council on Aging
- Social Services
- Mental Health
- Nonprofits
- Libraries and Bookmobile Services
- Parks & Recreation

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. She suggested not making any decisions as they go through the budget, but just flagging them and coming back and doing it in a holistic way. The Board agreed.

**CENTRAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Ms. Paschal said that the County had funded the Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) request for an additional \$90,000 to operate the Siler City facility and the sustainability building, and she itemized those expenditures. Commissioner Lucier asked what would happen to the current Siler City facility. Dr. Bud Marchant, CCCC president, said that the property had been donated to the College by the Board of Commissioners and the College wanted the Board to decide how to use it. The College had taken possession of the building, but had no use in mind for it, he said.

Commissioner Thompson asked if the college had appraisal the facility to see how much it would cost to renovate it. Wayne Robinson, CCCC vice president, replied that it would cost a couple of million dollars to do it right, and the College had decided not to put that amount into it. It was a difficult building to operate, he said, with operating costs more than a dollar per square foot. It was difficult to clean and in bad structural shape, Mr. Robinson said.

Chair Kost ascertained that CCCC had done only the renovations that were absolutely necessary. She asked why the Siler City site would not be ready until January, since the original target date had been August. Ms. Paschal replied that they had known it would not open it in time for the first semester. It should be ready in or around November, she said, and Mr. Robinson added that programming was planned for January.

Commissioner Lucier noted that CCCC had taken \$300,000 for equipment but that construction costs for the building were less than expected. Mr. Robinson said that the College had a state grant that would cover most of the equipment needs, but they might come back with a request for some funding.

Chair Kost commented that this was starting the day off right, but Dr. Marchant cautioned that they would be requesting some reimbursement so the Board of Commissioners should not spend that money. Chair Kost replied that there was the possibility of some surplus funds in the capital project, though, because it probably would not cost the entire \$300,000.

Chair Kost asked for updates on state legislation, enrollment, and the impact of that on CCCC. Dr. Marchant replied that they were doing well with regard to the state budget, at least at this point. Overall, given the economic climate, they were doing about as well as could be expected, he said.

Chair Kost asked for a ballpark estimate of enrollment, and Dr. Marchant reported an 11 percent growth over the past year. He explained that that was in the middle when compared with other colleges and that CCCC expected that trend to continue.

Commissioner Lucier ascertained that the cost of construction would be eight to nine million dollars for Chatham County this year. He noted that the Pittsboro and the Siler City campuses total about \$9.5 million of that 10.1 million. Commissioner Lucier noted that it did not include the Library which was another 7.5 million. Ms. Paschal said they were contracting with the College to do housekeeping and utilities and maintenance, and that was a contracting services line item in the Library's budget. Commissioner Lucier said his point was that the \$10 million would be at least doubled.

Commissioner Lucier asked about drop-out prevention programs relating to the high school. Dr. Marchant replied that they had adult education and GED, and were developing a new program. Moreover, once the Siler City site was up and running in 1011-1012, there would be programs in that building for students who are interested in vocational programs that are not currently available, he said.

Commissioner Lucier determined that students would get dual credit for the program. Dr. Marchant noted that transportation was an issue and they had been discussing the possibility of having a bus route to the Siler City site. Commissioner Lucier urged the College to explore the bus route, noting that by the time students are old enough to have licenses some of them drop out or have already dropped out of school. Commissioner Vanderbeck pointed out that some circular bus routes were already in the works.

Dr. Marchant said the schools needed to provide as many opportunities as possible for high school students so they can ultimately sustain themselves and their families. He noted that a person coming out of school with welding skills would make more money than a liberal arts graduate, at least at the start. Dr. Marchant pointed out, however, that such programs take planning and that theirs would not begin before the 2011-2012 school year.

Commissioner Thompson said he suspected that the dropout rate would be a lot higher if it were not for the College's programs. Those programs had helped the drop-out rate considerably, he said, but he added that more could be done. Commissioner Lucier agreed. The purpose of education is to give kids hope for the future, he said, and going through the community college system might be the right approach some who might otherwise drop out. Dr. Marchant said that Mr. Logan had some innovative programs that the College was proud to be part of.

Chair Kost asked about the relationship between the Community College and the Siler City Arts Incubator. Dr. Marchant and Mr. Robinson said it had been done at the request of a previous Board of Commissioners, which wanted the college to help bolster the Siler City business community's goal to become an art mecca. They had a very well-respected program that still produces some extremely good artwork, he said, adding that it would begin enrolling high school students next year.

Chair Kost said it was important that citizens understand this because the incubator folks had been asking for more money for staff support. The Board needed to be clear that the County was supporting that significantly, she said.

Mr. Starkweather pointed out that there had not been funding for renovating the Arts Incubator building. He said that when they renovated those buildings it was for energy purposes. Chair Kost noted that those were rented facilities. How much do we want to spend, she asked. Commissioner Vanderbeck noted that there were some leased buildings in the performance contract, and Chair Kost commented that paying back might include some adjustment to the rent.

Dr. Marchant expressed gratitude for the Board of Commissioners' support. He said he had worked at four different colleges and had never seen a more positive attitude and understanding of the importance of education. He praised the Pittsboro and Siler City facilities and said that the new Library would be a showcase for the state. Chair Kost agreed that the new Library was an incredible building. The Board understands the connection between CCC and economic development, she said, adding that the College was helping the Board to strengthen the community.

Dr. Marchant said that the Board's commitment to green technologies had put Chatham County in the forefront of the entire southeast. You are truly cutting edge, he said, adding that the world was watching.

Mr. Starkweather asked if it was true that this would be the first LEED platinum college building. Commissioner Vanderbeck replied that that was the goal and a possibility, but cautioned that it takes a while to get that certification. Chair Kost noted that Orange County innovators and progressives would come to Chatham County at the end of August. She was hoping the building would be finished in time for them to meet there, she said.

### **CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS**

George Greger-Holt, Director for Student Services, noted that a student who transfers to Community College for adult high school or GED counts as a drop-out from high school in the School System. The System has rough estimates on students who intend to do, he said, but added that it was difficult to get data on new matriculates. The drop-out rate would never be zero as long as transferring to CCC continues to be viewed as the right move for some students and those students are counted in the drop-out rate, Mr. Greger-Holt said.

Commissioner Lucier remarked that only 191 of the 270 students in his son's class would be graduating from high school. Dr. Robert Logan, school superintendent, noted that it was difficult to track students, especially if they leave the state or matriculate into another school. The number should be called a graduation or retention rate rather than a drop-out rate, he said, adding that the annual rate for the state was four to five percent.

Chair Kost welcomed all to the Public Schools portion of the meeting. Ms. Paschal said the County Manager's recommendation was to allot what the Schools had requested. The goal was to offset state budget reductions, retain all personnel, and avoid the school having to make more significant cuts, she said. Ms. Paschal noted that the Margaret Pollard Middle School would be an additional \$790,000 for operating expenses, new teachers, an assistant principle, and a guidance counselor. In addition, there was a school resource officer in the Sheriff Office budget for the Pollard School, she said, noting that staff had not prorated utilities or personnel for opening the school in January, except for that school resource officer, which was in the Sheriff's Office budget.

Dr. Logan said he had worked in eight different school districts in the state and that the Chatham County and Chatham School System staffs had been the best relationship of any place he had worked. There had been an open, honest and collaborative exchange of information and resources that makes the whole process work better, he said.

Dr. Logan gave the following PowerPoint presentation and reviewed the proposed budget increases. He asked the Board to adopt the County Manager's recommended budget.

[Click here for PowerPoint.](#)

Dr. Logan said the state had cut \$798,000,000 from public education this year, and the projected County deficit next year would be \$1,570,533. In the 1009-1010 budget, the County had \$3,255,323 in federal economic stimulus funds, and would have \$3,576,824 in 2010-2011, he said. Dr. Logan noted that all of that funding would end on June 30, 2011, and pointed out that that money was being used to fund 69 positions.

Chair Kost stated that Title 1 was an ongoing program. School Finance Officer Susan Little explained that additional money would be cut, not the regular Title 1 funding.

Commissioner Lucier pointed out that the pie chart showed that about \$12 million coming from the federal government would drop down to about \$9 million after the 2011 fiscal year. Chair Kost said the \$1.9 million was flowing to the state, so that would have been reflected in the pie chart as a state appropriation. Ms. Little replied that that was federal money and was reflected in the budget as such, even though it comes through the state as a state fund.

Dr. Logan mentioned an expected "cliff effect" in 2011-2012, when the School System will have to climb out of a hole. He explained that Congress first cautioned against using the federal money because it was temporary, but later they recommended using it to save as many jobs as possible. So, the money has been used to shore up and save positions all around the country, Dr. Logan said, adding that up to 200,000 teaching positions could be lost in the U.S. when the "cliff" is reached.

Commissioner Lucier commented that that scenario assumes that state economies are still where they are today. Dr. Logan replied that it assumed the recession would not improve and that economies would not bounce back.

With regard to making up the 1.5 million, Dr. Logan said that the Board of Education had already approved a proposal to balance the budget with budget cuts totaling \$1,570,533 and representing five certified and eight classified positions. They had cut 15 last year through attrition and would be able to handle this year's 13 cuts the same way, he said. Dr. Logan explained that those 13 people were either moving or retiring and that the School system would not refill those positions. He pointed out that the recession had meant a total reduction of 28 positions over the last two years.

Commissioner Thompson noted that there were no funds available for staff development. He asked if the School System had any kind of in-house program. Dr. Logan talked about training employees to be curriculum coaches and program instruction facilitators who would do staff development, along with administrators and directors. Deb McManus, School Board member, said that cutting staff development was the most troublesome of the cuts. She pointed out, though, that they had to cut either that or positions. Commissioner Thompson remarked that he was glad a plan for some staff development was in place until the economy improves and some of that money returns.

Dr. Logan outlined budget impacts and budget priorities. He had a plan regarding technology for the entire school district, he said, adding that he would present that plan to the Board the following week. He discussed the five priorities that the School System would pursue when resources return. Dr. Logan reviewed his \$800,000 capital outlay request and said the System had worked with the County to whittle it down to essentials. In addition, school facility improvement projects, such as painting, would be ongoing, he said.

Dr. Logan pointed out that there had been \$1-million in the County budget to open Pollard Middle School, and they had worked to reduce that to \$788,595. Ms. Paschal said they had agreed to use the difference in those costs to fund a resource officer. Dr. Logan pointed out that the school resource officer was listed in the Sheriff's Office budget.

Commissioner Lucier said the real cost of opening up the Pollard Middle School was less than \$788,595 if one worked on a principle of not laying anyone off. Dr. Logan replied that that was one way to look at it. Commissioner Lucier said that a policy of not laying people off and moving them to fill other needs is a real cost savings. Therefore, the cost of opening Pollard Middle Scholl was less than \$788,000, he said.

Chair Kost explained that Commissioner Lucier was talking about the bottom line for the total district. Dr. Logan agreed that it does have the impact of being fewer people that they have to lay off. However, the \$788,000 would be new money, he said.

Dr. Logan reviewed the proposed discretionary cut, noting that for 2009-2010 it was \$153.60 per child for a total of \$1,181,345. He said the governor's and state's proposed budgets would increase those cuts for 2010-2011. So the School System's proposed budget included the state's proposed cuts, he said.

Dr. Logan pointed out significant differences between the governor, senate and house budgets. The house was proposing taking \$126 million from lottery money to cover classroom teacher allotments, he said. Doing that would mean that Chatham County would lose money for school construction, he explained, adding that it would have an impact on the debt service model. Dr. Logan said that this was significant, especially for school districts that were doing a lot of construction and have a lot of capital projects. It saves jobs, he said, but it hurts schools on the capital projects side.

He noted that online instruction was growing. He said they had been working with the Finance Department to get the QCSB qualified school construction bond project set up and established. With that, there would be many facility improvement projects, he said, adding that they hoped to have that funding secured by July or early August.

Commissioner Lucier ascertained from Ms. McConnell that the interest rate for QSAB bonds was two percent and that the projects would continue for several years. Dr. Logan pointed out that the money must be spent in three years. If this happens, then the School System will be in better shape than many other places, despite the cuts that it will have to make, he said. Dr. Logan added that they would continue to be very frugal and would try to start rebuilding the fund balance in order to offset "the cliff," when they lose the federal money in 2011.

Chair Kost said she had a few questions about numbers but would discuss them with Ms. Paschal later on. However, she did point out that the total County appropriation of \$24.66 million for the continuation budget was off from the number in the budget document by about \$170,000. Dr. Logan replied that they had not adjusted that number since March, and that things had changed.

Chair Kost said that \$24,832,953 was in the Board of Commissioners' document. Ms. Little said that in the original document, the School Board had taken steps to amend cuts by moving some things from Fund 2 to Fund 8 for charter schools. She explained that the money was not gone but was in a different fund. That was the advice they had been given for determining the calculations for charters, Ms. Little said. She acknowledged that the School System should have provided that explanation, and she agreed to do so.

Dr. Logan explained that on the advice of their auditor and legal council, and consulting with other school districts, and following the advice of the financial office at DPI, they had established a Fund 8 where they could legally place funds, resources, and allotments that the charters are not entitled to. They went back three years (since the lawsuit goes back three years), and amended the budgets to remove those resources out of the potential allocation to the charters, and that dropped the figure by about \$300,000, he said.

Commissioner Lucier stated that the number of children in the school system was more than 7,700, closer to 8,300. Dr. Logan replied that the higher number would include charter children. Commissioner Lucier asked how much the County pays per student. Dr. Logan replied that it was a little more than \$2,000. Commissioner Lucier said that when you include everything the total was close to \$4,000 per student. Dr. Logan replied that when determining per pupil expenditure they only look at operating fund. So, it is a high \$2,000 or low \$3,000, he said.

Commissioner Lucier verified that a little more than \$2-million goes to the charter schools each year, and that money was subtracted from the total budget that the School System gets from the County and state. Dr. Logan replied that it was a line item in the School System budget and it passes through to the charters. It looks like the money is coming to the School System, but it is not, he said.

Chair Kost verified with Dr. Logan that the LEA does not include charter children in its per pupil calculation. Ms. Little added that charter schools were required to compile their own per pupil calculation.

Chair Kost commented that if the County has a high percentage of students in charter schools then it really is overstating the per pupil expenditure for each child. Commissioner Lucier noted that about 8.5 percent of Chatham school kids go to charter schools. He said he would like to know the state average because that has a substantial impact and Chatham County needs to know if the number is distorted. Commissioner Lucier also asked for a sense of the trend over the last 10 years. How many Chatham children are going to charter schools, he asked, pointing out that this variable had been missed in the projections.

Dr. Logan said that those children were not in the LEA, so they were not in County schools. That is why they had not been included in the numbers, he said. Commissioner Lucier replied that that was true, but those schools had filled up, which makes projections without that information worthless.

In response to a question by Chair Kost, Dr. Logan said that the School System was anticipating a small increase in children. With the present teacher/pupil ratio, they would be able to absorb that increase, he said.

#### **Coordinated School Health Program:**

Dr. Logan said that a committee had been convened and had looked at the components of the Coordinated School Health Program, and he listed those components:

- School health services
- Health education
- Health promotion programs for faculty and staff
- Counseling psychological and social services
- School nutrition services
- Physical education programs
- Health school environment
- Family and community involvement

Dr. Logan said that aspects of these were in place in both the County Health Department and the School System, but it had not yet been pulled together as a coordinated program. His report recommended utilizing the same small committee and visiting some similar, high quality programs around the region, he said. Dr. Logan explained that the next step would be to put a proposal together for a program for Chatham County. He asked for \$2,250 for travel expenses for six people to visit three model programs this year.

Commissioner Thompson asked about bringing school nurses under the auspices of the Health Department. Dr. Logan said they would look at that, but he resisted predicting what they might find. He said there were coordinated health models that do that, but there probably were models where nurses remain where they are. They would look at the pros and cons of that idea, Dr. Logan said.

County Health Director Holly Coleman said that she had been making arrangements to look at several programs with different policies regarding nurses' employment. They would like the Boards of Commission, Education and Health to meet and discuss this, she said.

Commissioner Lucier asked how the Coordinated School Health Program would tie in with Healthy Chatham in terms of preventive strategies. Ms. Coleman replied that Healthy Chatham was a coalition that advocated for public health, and it definitely could be brought into the fold. Commissioner Lucier pointed out that there was overlap between the two programs' goals, especially from a preventive standpoint.

Commissioner Vanderbeck asked where Phyllis Smith's nutritional programs would fit in.

Mr. Greger-Holt said that Ms. Smith was involved with their advisory council and had been providing nutrition education to schools. So, there were connections, which probably could be strengthened, he said.

Ms. Coleman noted that Healthy Chatham had a taskforce that had been working with the School System on wellness programs and students' physical activity. There is much coordination and overlap, she said. Dr. Logan remarked that they would identify and include all of the existing initiatives. Commissioner Lucier cautioned against losing efficiency due to fragmentation.

Dr. Logan mentioned the correlation between poverty and health issues. He said that the increase in free and reduced lunch numbers indicated that children were becoming needier and their healthcare needs were greater. With a coordinated healthcare program they could address prevention and maintenance care for children, even if it only means pointing them to the correct resources, he said.

Commissioner Lucier said that school nurses would be critical and that he had a strong interest in the role they would play in the program. The nutrition aspect was important too, he said, such as providing good foods that kids want to eat.

Ms. Coleman said that was a challenge, noting that children were programmed to eat junk foods. That impacts the economic status of school cafeterias, she said, because children will not eat healthier food when schools provide it. She said that education was a factor, and schools need to provide food in such a way that it appeals to children.

Commissioner Lucier commented that education needs to start early, and Commissioner Cross recalled that his mother just put dinner on the table and said "eat it."

Ms. Coleman mentioned that Smart Start had been addressing healthy eating in childcare centers. Commissioner Lucier said he would like to see health inequity issues addressed. He noted that Chatham County had among the lowest levels of lead screening for kids up to five years old.

Ms. Coleman said that much collaboration had taken place between the School System and the Health Department even though it had been a tough year for both. She mentioned various vaccination initiatives and said there had been phenomenal participation, particularly with the seasonal flu initiative. They were discussing testing the schools' water for lead this year, she said. Other collaborative initiatives include having a public health member on the School Health Advisory Committee and Team Fit, a Healthy Chatham initiative that has worked with students and staff to increase physical activity and nutritional knowledge.

Commissioner Vanderbeck noted that some states have health clinics in their schools. He said that last year the School System said it would consider that for better healthcare delivery. Dr. Logan replied that component of a coordinated community healthcare plan was something they would look at. Chair Kost said they might consider adding this to the Commissioners' goals, and Commissioners Lucier and Vanderbeck agreed.

Dr. Logan clarified that the number of children enrolled in the school district was 7,616. They were anticipating 7,726 next year, he said.

**BREAK**

The Chair called for a short break.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Ms. Coleman said that over the past year there had been a more than 19 percent reduction in Medicaid rates for some programs. The Health Department had dealt with that through vacancies, frozen positions, a reduction in the number of community alternative slots for the County, and a mandatory reduction in the amount of allowable services that they can provide, she said.

Ms. Coleman explained that it had also been a difficult year for getting grants because there was so much competition. The federal grants for H1N1 had carried, she said, and they had used non-categorical state funding to renovate the clinic, put a vestibule on the Siler City clinic, and paint and epoxy the floor of the animal shelter. Chair Kost ascertained that the animal shelter was still not air conditioned.

Ms. Coleman said that more and more of the uninsured or under-insured self-pay patients were “sliding to zero,” where their services were free. She said they would like to use a portion of a vacancy salary to fully fund one maternal outreach worker.

Ms. Coleman said the Board of Health had passed a timeline to develop and implement a childhood lead program that reduces the level at which they do environmental investigations. This would phase in adoption of a Board of Health rule projected for next July and the next budget cycle, she said.

Ms. Coleman explained that a model at Duke that indicates where residences are that might have children who are exposed to lead. She said there were more than 800 homes that would be in the top five percent at risk in Chatham County. The goal was to transfer the maternal outreach person to lead this outreach, she said, adding that the little money that would be left over would be helpful for operations.

Chair Kost ascertained that revenues for outreach had gone down but that the Health Department had taken that into consideration and would not need extra money to accomplish their goals.

Commissioner Lucier noted that the Board of Health had also asked to accelerate the timeline so that investigations for lead would be required at a lower level. He explained that investigations were required at 20 milligrams per deciliter and above but were recommended at 10. However, there was strong scientific evidence that harmful effects occur at levels as low as five, and probably even three milligrams, he said. Commissioner Lucier pointed out that exposure from birth to five years of age can have lifetime effects. This means going into homes to see if lead levels are high and determining how to bring them down, he said.

Commissioner Thompson agreed that the earlier detection is made the better. Commissioner Lucier noted the need to develop mitigations strategies for homes where levels are too high. Chair Kost said the program seemed to cross many different skill sets and it would require many people from the Health Department to address it.

Ms. Coleman agreed, adding that the original estimate for implementing the program, if the Board of Health adopted a rule that required a mandatory investigation down to 5 milligrams per deciliter, was about \$113,000. Then they got 2009 data that showed fewer children in the five to nine age range, she said, so they thought it would require less money. However, if the County was planning to increase screening rates, then they probably would find more affected children, she said.



Ms. Coleman explained that the Department had looked into sharing resources with other counties, but had learned that everyone else was in worse shape than Chatham and no one could start anything new. Commissioner Thompson asked about grants for equipment. Ms. Coleman said they would continue to look for grants, and that some counties had received HUD funds for remediation.

Chair Kost asked about water pipes. Ms. Coleman said they had not found any problems, but were only required to test 30-40 homes every two or three years.

Commissioner Vanderbeck said that \$113,000 to potentially remediate the problem was small compared to the societal cost of unproductive or damaged human beings over a long period of time. Ms. Coleman emphasized that the \$113,000 did not include the cost of remediation. Commissioner Lucier said he was not convinced that it would take \$113,000 to investigate this, and he asked to see a breakdown of costs.

Commissioner Lucier said that eight or nine children had tested above 10 deciliters the previous year. He asked if anyone had followed up to see if their levels had come down. Mr. Siegner replied that they had checked on each of them and had offered to investigate the homes of the two who were still in the area. One had accepted, and the other had not, he said.

Commissioner Lucier asked if the children had been retested for lead. Ms. Coleman and Mr. Siegner said that there had been follow-up tests but they did not have them with them. They agreed, however, that the children's lead levels had gone down.

Commissioner Lucier said the reason for having a rule is that it requires investigation at a lower level. It is important to move forward on the rule as fast as the County can, he said, noting that the Board of Commissioners needed to look at the budget and see what it could do. Chair Kost said they would add that to the follow-up list.

Ms. Coleman pointed out that the obesity prevention coordinator had not been recommended in the Manager's budget. She asked that the Board give some consideration to that. Commissioner Lucier determined the cost to be \$58,000.

Chair Kost verified that all of the Health Department positions were funded and the assumption was that they would be filled. Commissioner Lucier said it looked as though the Department had lost \$250,000 last year in federal grants. Ms. Coleman explained that they did get additional state dollars throughout the year for different projects and programs. They always get a certain amount throughout the year, she said.

Commissioner Lucier noted a \$337,000 difference between the estimated and amended budget. Ms. Coleman said the primary reason for that was vacancies. Commissioner Lucier pointed out that if they want to do something new, such as elevate the status of the lead screening project, then there was some play in that budget. Ms. Paschal agreed that money could be moved around, but emphasized that doing so had an impact.

Chair Kost verified that the practice in the past has been to put lapsed salaries into a reserve for salary increases. That was the reason, in general, why the County budgets 100 percent salaries and does not assume any sort of lapse rate, she said. If the Board did start assuming a lapse rate, she would want to do it on a County level rather than a department by department basis, she said. Chair Kost added that there were associated revenues with some of those positions. So, the entire savings is not really there because they were paid for by outside money that the county does not have, she said.

Commissioner Lucier said this was a discussion the Board needed to come back to. Commissioner Vanderbeck said there appeared to be a cushion that could be an exception in this case. Chair Kost said she agreed about lapsed salaries and would like to have another discussion about that.

Commissioner Lucier asked Ms. Coleman if she was comfortable that her staff was getting the technological training it needs, considering the changing opportunities in medical

technology. Ms. Coleman replied that the Department prioritizes based on the training they think people should have and the training that employees think they need to improve their skills. She noted several training programs, and said they had been selective but had not turned down any that were relevant, despite the economic constraints.

## **LUNCH**

The Chair called for a lunch break.

## **COUNCIL ON AGING**

Angel Dennison, director of the Council on Aging, discussed the issue of lead poisoning. She cited evidence that lead can cause early onset of dementia, even with low levels of exposure over many years. Trying to identify and target people with lead exposure continued to be a high priority, Ms. Dennison said, adding that they do have resources to help with abatement and rehabilitation.

Ms. Dennison said that the Council wanted to continue developing its core services. She pointed out that their wellness program had been a big success, with guest speakers, exercise classes, a falls prevention program, diabetes programs and support groups, caregiver programs, and an exercise program focused on arthritis. Ms. Dennison noted that arthritis was the greatest concern among clients in both centers.

Ms. Dennison said that the Council was collaborating with UNC's emergency department on a pilot study which offers adults 65 and older intervention and a high level of follow-up after they are discharge. The goal was to try and prevent readmission from that population, she said.

Ms. Dennison explained that the greatest change in aging services had been the emergence of the Chatham-Orange Resource Connection Project (CRC). The goal was for local community service providers to better collaborate for the good of the consumer, she said. Ms. Dennison told the Board that the project had brought \$122,000 into Chatham and Orange Counties and that the Council's budget for the next year would be about \$57,000, which would enable them to hire a full time project manager. Ms. Dennison explained that CRC was a federally funded initiative and the federal goal was to have every state covered with such a program.

Commissioner Thompson determined that the project manager would cover both Chatham and Orange Counties.

Chair Kost asked Ms. Dennison to explain the difference between the total request of \$803,000 and the recommendation of \$730,000. Ms. Dennison replied that the Council on Aging had requested an increase in funding for the income aid service that they provide but contract that out to three different agencies. There were increased costs in 2009-2010 and there would be some in 2010-2011, she said, so the Council was asking for money to cover the increased cost of that service and to enable them to get back to the service levels they were at before those increases. Since those increases were not covered, they had provided fewer services in 2009-2010, she said.

Chair Kost commented that a newspaper article was reporting cuts to in-home services. Ms. Dennison replied that The Triangle J Council of Governments had said Chatham County would receive the same Community Care Block Grant as they had last year, with an \$11,000 increase because of shifting demographics. The Council had also been told that the Division on Aging was holding back \$1-million until they were certain of receiving it from the state, she said.

Ms. Paschal pointed out that between 2008 and 2009 the County had substantially increased the amount of funding for the CORA Program by \$100,000. Chair Kost said that most of the major changes in the budget that they were seeing then were really attributable to the CORA program.

Commissioner Lucier noted the two positions for County employees, and asked if everything else was paid for through Triangle J. Ms. Dennison replied that the Triangle J. Community Care Block Grant was for older Americans Act Title 3 programs. So, they only get about \$4,000 per year for the wellness program, she said, adding that other programs were funded by the County. The overall budget is a matrix, Ms. Dennison said.

Chair Kost thanked Ms. Dennison and praised the work that she had done. Ms. Dennison thanked the Board for coming to events and participating in what the Council on Aging does. She said it meant a lot to both clients and staff.

### **MENTAL HEALTH**

Ms. Paschal said the recommendation was for everything to remain flat. She noted that there was a four percent discount and said it was because the County had been paying a \$25,000 rent subsidy for Therapeutic Alternatives, which had then been moved into the east end of the DSS building. Now, Therapeutic Alternatives was paying the County \$5,000 in rent, she said.

Chair Kost asked for an update about changes from the state level. Judy Truitt, Orange-Person-Chatham (OPC) mental health director, said that the public health system continued to be in transition. She said that state legislation had been introduced that would stop the forward motion that the state had been on for 1-1/2 to 2 years for the Medicaid waiver project. The bill also included language that would potentially impact OPC's plans, she said. Ms. Truitt praised Commissioner Vanderbeck's efforts to help, noting that he had sent a letter to representatives at the General Assembly on the issue and asked them not to move forward in the manner that they were.

Ms. Truitt explained that there apparently had been pressure, from the governor's office down to the general assembly, to change the leadership at the Department of Health and Human Services, particularly at the Division of Mental Health and the Division of Medical Assistance. She mentioned several people whose employment had been terminated and said she had recently learned that many more changes were ahead.

Ms. Truitt said that the OPC board had taken a proactive approach and was trying hard to position itself to be a viable member of the future. They were considering joining Five County, which already knows how to do this and has a strong fund balance for it, she said.

Ms. Truitt said there seemed to be strong support in the House and Senate for restoring funding that was lost this year. The Senate had recommended that \$40 million be restored to the system and the House had come in with numbers close to that, she said. Ms. Truitt asked the Board to remember that \$40 million, if restored, would not be new money but funds to stabilize the system by filling holes that had been created in this fiscal year.

Chair Kost noted that today's newspaper had reported that the House version was a little less than \$20 million. Ms. Truitt said there was also talk of bringing it back to \$40 million by shifting other funds. Ms. Dennison interjected that she wanted to underscore the important relationship between the Council on Aging and OPC.

Commissioner Vanderbeck commented that it looked as though OPC needed to find an agency with which to merge or else it would be assigned to one. Ms. Truitt said OPC had looked at other merger options and nothing had worked out until this one, which would still leave local control with local providers. So, it would be a good situation, unless the bill goes through to cut these options, she said.

Commissioner Lucier ascertained that Senator Brisson from the southeastern region was sponsoring the bill. Commissioner Vanderbeck noted that the legislative bill would prevent others from starting their own waiver program. He described it as very selfish.

Commissioner Lucier asked how this turmoil had affected the ability to provide services. Ms. Truitt replied that mental health services were nowhere near what they had

been 10 years ago. The County was losing services on a daily basis, she said, adding that the mental health system had begun to stabilize and was creating a vision for the future when the economic crisis struck. Such economic pressure on top of system reform had been almost catastrophic, she said. Ms. Truitt noted that some across the state were losing their entire services. She said that OPC had been relatively lucky and had run a very tight fiscal ship. OPC had brought providers in and nurtured them to do a lot with very little, Ms. Truitt said.

Commissioner Vanderbeck said the money was very slow in coming. You have to zero out your fund balance to pay the bills to stay in operation, he said. Ms. Truitt introduced Dave Jenny, OPC's finance officer, who said OPC was paying its providers within the timelines but had dipped into its fund balance to do so.

Commissioner Thompson noted that the current issue with delivery of services had to do with money more than structure. Will the issue of delivery of services be solved when there is an influx of money into the system, he asked. Ms. Truitt replied that OPC had always been very lucky, but there were huge gaps in the state as far as services, she said. If the money starts flowing and OPC is able to stabilize, it will be in much better shape, said Ms. Truitt. She pointed out that the problem then would be the state's inconsistency and lack of vision for the future.

Commissioner Lucier asked about the role of adverse drug interactions in mental illness, particularly among the elderly. Ms. Dennison explained that there were two populations: one that has access to medications, and one that does not. OPC will be part of a pilot project that includes medication management with discharged people, she said.

Ms. Truitt remarked that the treatment community for mental health was not keeping pace with the aging society. There is very little treatment available with geriatric specialty in mental health, she said, adding that OPC was aware of that and had been addressing it. OPC had used some County money to create a Medicare incentive program, she said, and they had been working with the Department on Aging to make sure there are adequate and appropriate services for that population. In addition, the Community Care North Carolina Network will have primary care doctors and psychiatrists collaborate about medication, Ms. Truitt said.

## **BREAK**

Chair Kost called for a short break.

## **NONPROFITS**

Ms. Paschal said this was the most difficult year for allocating funds to non-profits that she had seen in many years. There had been \$549,000 in requests but only \$387,000 to allocate, she said, adding that most programs were receiving less than last year.

Commissioner Thompson asked if there were more non-profits recommended for funding this year. Ms. Paschal replied that the \$20,000 in mid-year funding for the Boys and Girls Club had to be fit into the process with lapsed funds from last year. In addition, some agencies did ask for substantial increases, and that had to be balance out as well, she said.

Chair Kost suggested not making any final decisions today, but just identifying those that they might want to adjust, remembering that there was \$10,000 that had not yet been allocated. She listed those that she wanted to discuss: the Boys and Girls Club, Childcare Network, CORA (Chatham Outreach Alliance), Family Violence & Rape Crisis, and Interfaith Industries. Commissioners agreed with that list.

With regard to CORA, Chair Kost noted that the Board had made an emergency appropriation of \$40,000 and that CORA had then been able to increase its fund balance by the end of the year. She asked for an update on that emergency appropriation to shore up the food bank, which had been depleted.

Marcia Whitaker, CORA executive director, clarified that they had only used \$31,000 of the \$40,000. There had been a huge surge at the time and they had small financial

reserves, so they had approached the Board, she said. Ms. Whitaker explained that CORA became successful at raising more funds as time went on.

Commissioner Lucier said the Board had been glad to help out at the time. However, if CORA had a substantial fund balance, why would they not give some back, he asked.

Udo Koopmann, CORA Board Chairman, said CORA had received an unexpected anonymous donation of \$60,000. The guidelines say that non-profits should have six months in reserve, he said, so CORA had allocated \$60,000 in June 2009 to its fund balance. That still left the reserve underfunded, he said, noting that paying it back would leave less in the reserve and CORA would not be able to expand Snack, the summer nutrition program for children.

Chair Kost pointed out that the Snack Program had scored very high in the valuation by the Non-Profit Review Panel. She was not questioning the value of the program, but was asking about the emergency appropriation, she said. Chair Kost suggested funding Snack from CORA's fund balance. That would free up \$10,000 to allocate to some of the other non-profits, she pointed out.

Mr. Koopmann replied that even though CORA did have a number of grants, those can disappear, so they would like to keep some reserves. Chair Kost pointed out that most non-profits had been cut, but that CORA had a reserve that the County had helped create with the appropriation of \$31,000. She said that the Board did not particularly want to be paid back the full \$31,000. However, many non-profits were struggling to survive and the County had limited funds for them, she said. Mr. Koopmann replied that the desperate need was something that CORA must recognize, along with the rest of the community, but not just CORA alone.

Ms. Whitaker asked how the Board was planning to approach this. Chair Kost replied that many of the non-profits were feeling the pinch from grants that had not come through and were struggling to provide services. The Board was looking for ways within the non-profits to address those immediate needs, she said. Chair Kost said that she understood the desire to build a reserve. However, the Board was struggling with many critical needs, and was trying to balance that, she said.

Mr. Koopmann explained that the only reason they were asking for money was for the Snack Program. Ms. Paschal noted that there was a database manager request as well. Chair Kost proposed that CORA pay back part of the emergency money since they had not needed it and had been able to increase their fund balance. Or, the Board could ask CORA to fund the Snack Program from its fund balance and then the Board would readdress it next year, she said.

Chair Kost stressed that if the Board was not facing problems with the other non-profits they would not be having this discussion. However, the Board was trying to make sure that human needs were being met, she said. Ms. Whitaker pointed out that one of the first questions funders ask is the size of your reserve because they will not fund something that is perilous.

Chair Kost said that Commissioner Thompson had asked to add the American Red Cross to the list of agencies to discuss. Commissioner Thompson asked if Chatham County had someone on the Red Cross board of directors, and Ms. Paschal offered to find out. Commissioner Thompson wondered how an organization could adequately help Chatham County when it is located outside the county. Would the County's needs be a priority, he asked?

Commissioner Thompson asked why the Red Cross was asking for funds from Chatham County and none of the other governments. Ms. Paschal explained that Chatham had a joint process with United Way and only had to fill out one application. Commissioner Thompson noted that the Red Cross had asked for \$5,000 and the County Manager was recommending \$1,500. What can they do for Chatham County with \$1,500, he asked. Chair Kost agreed that \$1,500 might not be enough to do anything. Ms. Paschal replied that when

there is a fire the Red Cross usually provides the family with a pre-loaded debit card to buy food, clothing, and other necessities. The \$1,500 was a very small fraction of what they spend, she said.

Chair Kost and Commissioner Vanderbeck asked how much the Red Cross was receiving from United Way. Finance Officer Vicki McConnell replied that it was \$3,000. The total amount requested for the program was about \$18,000, she said, noting that their costs are more than that. Commissioner Thompson said he approved of the allocation, since no other agency provides that service in a family crisis situation. Chair Kost verified that the Board was willing to fund the American Red Cross's request.

Chair Kost said she would like to raise the Boys and Girls Club allocation from \$18,000 to \$20,000, if the Board decides to revisit the CORA allocation and funds become available. Commissioner Lucier said that would not be his highest priority, but he wanted to look at everything. Chair Kost said the Boys and Girls Club had done an incredible job of raising a lot of money in a short amount of time in a community that is really depressed. That shows a high level of commitment by the community to make this thing happen, she said.

Chair Kost noted that Chatham County Together had requested \$30,000 and the Manager had recommended \$25,750. Chair Kost pointed out that they had been given \$7,500 in emergency funds this year. Commissioner Lucier said that adding that in brings the total to \$32,000 for the year. He suggested returning to that later as well.

Chair Kost referred to a letter form Child Care Networks received regarding the computer system. The request was for \$8,300 and the recommendation was \$2,000, she said. Chair Kost noted that there was an additional request for agency administration, and Commissioner Lucier determined that this was because Child Care Networks had lost some grants for that.

#### **Child Care Networks:**

Ms. Paschal explained that some employees were working at 80 percent time. Commissioner Lucier ascertained that Child Care Networks did not have a long term plan for how to sustain its program without help from the County. Commissioner Lucier said he did not support the committee's recommendation. He said the County ought to increase the amount. Child Care Networks provides a tremendous service, he said, and Commissioner Vanderbeck agreed.

Chair Kost said that Childcare Networks was therefore flagged, and she asked Commissioners for their thoughts regarding CORA. Commissioner Lucier recommended removing some, if not all, of the funding for the Snacks Program with the understanding that the County would fund it next year.

Commissioner Vanderbeck noted that the Board was always there to help in the case of an emergency. He said they should look at critical needs and compromise a little in order to reach some higher priority. The Commissioners agreed that CORA had a hefty reserve for a non profit. Commissioner Cross said that the County had helped CORA last year, which had enabled them to cover all their needs and also bank some money.

Chair Kost said that the preliminary recommendation then was to reduce the allocation for the summer nutrition program with the expectation that it would be funded by the money the County had previously given CORA and that it would be revisited next year. After discussion, the Board agreed to not allot \$10,000 to CORA.

#### **Family Violence and Rape Crisis:**

Chair Kost commented that \$31,000 to \$20,000 was a big cut and that the recommendation was to also cut the volunteer coordinator from \$3,500 to \$2,500. She said that this agency was one of her highest priorities and she would like to see the money added back in. Commissioner Lucier agreed.

Chair Kost inquired about the rationale behind the cut. Ms. Paschal replied that this was seen as an administrative cost, as opposed to food, medicine, or services for disabled people. Chair Kost replied that other non-profits can justify expenses by identifying them as food or services when it really is paying staff. That delineation was really not there, she said.

Commissioner Vanderbeck pointed out that this item would tie into the next one, which was Interfaith Ministries, because domestic violence is one of the main causes of homelessness. He said he fully agreed with bumping that number back up. Commissioner Cross agreed as well.

**Interfaith Ministries:**

Chair Kost pointed out that Interfaith Ministries was a new proposal that had not previously been funded. The requested was for \$7,500, and the manager had recommended none, she said. Ms. Paschal explained that the request was vague and not for direct services. It would provide pass-through money to the Salvation Army, which is not appropriate for the County to fund, and would contribute to updating United Way's directory, which United Way should fund itself, she said.

Commissioner Cross pointed out that in the past he could not get a summer program for children funded because it had the word "Christian" in its name. Chair Kost replied that she would have supported giving money to that program if she had been on the Board at the time. It was addressing a critical need, just like the Boys and Girls Club, for kids who do not have somewhere to go after school, she said.

Mr. Starkweather said he had read the opinion and that the issue was one of endorsement. When the word "Christian" is in the name and on the building, that could be a form of endorsement, he said. Chair Kost said that they could have changed their name on the 501C3. Commissioner Cross said that the name was on the deed.

Chair Kost pointed out that Interfaith Ministries was not a Christian organization, even though many in the clergy supported it. She did not see a separation of church and state issue, she said, but just a group of compassionate people coming together to address a real community need.

Ms. Paschal remarked that staff had ruled the church/state issue out as a problem. However, the wording of the request stated that it was for administrative needs, and it is vague rather than specific, she said. Ms. Paschal explained that it would have to be a tangible program that the County is funding and not seen as a promotion of religion.

Chair Kost said that Interfaith Ministries was concerned with free clinics, homeless shelters, and programs for kids who are at risk for dropping out of school. They have a lot of energy and have done a lot in a short amount of time, she said. Chair Kost pointed out that it is difficult to get into direct service without having paid staff.

Commissioner Cross stressed that he was not against the program, but just wondering about opening up potential problems. Commissioner Thompson said that he had helped start the program. There were Interfaith Ministry programs throughout the state of North Carolina, he said, pointing out that one had been one in Orange County for more than 20 years. They originally wanted to be called The Interfaith Council of Chatham County for Social Services, he said, because the purpose was to let people know that they were not proselytizing but were providing direct services to people in need.

However, they changed the name to Interfaith Ministries because Orange County had an issue with Chatham County using the same name as its organization, Commissioner Thompson explained. He pointed out that other interfaith councils were receiving funds from their municipalities and counties. When the proposal was submitted, the Interfaith Board had not given much specific thought to how they wanted to do things, he said, but new board members had become more focused over the last two to three months.

Commissioner Thompson pointed out that Chatham County had been using Orange County for shelters for its homeless people. Chatham needs to take care of its own problem, he said, adding that this program would meet a need in the County that probably would continue for a while.

Commissioner Cross repeated that he was not questioning what Interfaith Ministries wanted to do but only if the Board wanted to open up the religions organization issue, which they had never done before. Commissioner Thompson replied that it was not a church, but a non-profit 501C3 organization.

Commissioner Vanderbeck said that he had no problem with the proposal as long as the attorney set parameters that all could work with. He had participated in the first three meetings and he and his wife had both donated to the organization, he said, adding that Interfaith Ministries fills a need in the County. However, he had called five different agencies and had found no evidence that homelessness was increasing in Chatham County, he said.

Commissioner Vanderbeck stated that Interfaith Ministries wanted to be a referral agency and said there already were adequate referral agencies in the County. He suggested that the Board offer some funding to help develop the plan and to identify the need for a shelter but not to duplicate referral agencies.

Commissioner Lucier suggested thinking about this one for awhile. He then recommended diminishing the funding of CORA by \$10,000 and asking CORA to fund the Snack Program with its reserve, with the understanding that Board would likely fund it next year. That would allow a total of \$20,000 to distribute to others, he said.

Commissioner Lucier suggested giving \$4,500 of the \$10,000 to Childcare Network, \$7,500 to Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center, \$4,000 to Interfaith Ministries, \$3,000 to the Boys and Girls Club, and \$1,000 to Chatham Together. He clarified that he was not making a motion but just proposing something to help stimulate discussion when they return.

Chair Kost said that she could support that allocation just as Commissioner Lucier had read it. Commissioner Thompson said he could support that breakdown as well.

### **BREAK**

The Chair called for a short break.

### **CHATHAM COUNTY LIBRARIES**

Sybil Tate, Chatham Library performance manager, said the recommendation was to hire a total of 10.9 full time employees (FTEs). The library would be much larger and open for more hours, she said. Commissioner Lucier clarified that there were 18.1 FTEs for all the libraries. Ms. Tate said that there were 9.4 on the library staff, but that did not include technical services or the courier. She said that Orange County had 17 FTEs, but it has a two-story building and a larger population. Commissioner Lucier and Ms. Tate discussed the document and how the population figure should indicate that it includes Hillsborough plus unincorporated areas.

Chair Kost asked what the Friends of the Library were funding. Ms. Paschal said they were upgrading the vehicle and buying materials, but were not funding any operating costs.

Commissioners Lucier and Vanderbeck questioned the comparison to other jurisdictions and Chair Kost described them as wishy-washy. Ms. Tate said that she had merely wanted to show that the library would now have a bigger space and be open more hours. They do have fewer employees than other county libraries, but they have a lower population so it is okay to be at the lower end, she said.



Commissioner Lucier questioned the statement that staffing was at or below comparable areas. Commissioner Vanderbeck said that “at or below” was not a true statement. The valuable number was that Chatham was 39 out of 77, he said, noting that the County was right in the middle. Commissioner Lucier recommended that Ms. Tate use that figure to make her point.

Chair Kost asked if 7.9 new positions would be adequate, and Library Director Linda Clark replied that she hoped it would be. She said that they would start to document how many people come into the Library. People who never came before probably would start coming to the new library, she said.

Commissioner Lucier pointed out that the Library was next to the Community College, so students probably would migrate to it. It is also close to the Senior Center, he said. Commissioner Lucier asked when everyone would be hired, and Ms. Clark replied that they hoped to begin operating on July 1, 2010 and to be there for the full fiscal year.

Chair Kost mentioned the bookmobile. Ms. Clark provided some history on bookmobiles, and said the Chatham County vehicle had declined since the 1970s. With the new Library, and with people able to travel now, it would be best to consolidate their resources and encourage people, particularly children, to come in and have a relationship with the Library, she said.

Commissioner Lucier asked Ms. Clark if she thought day care centers would load kids up and take them to the Library. Ms. Clark replied that she thought they would. Commissioner Lucier said he thought that was more problematic, and Ms. Clark replied that transportation could be a bit of a problem. She talked with Friends of the Library about a project to deliver books to daycare centers that request them, she said.

Commissioner Lucier asked Ms. Clark if she had communicated that strategy to the daycares, because some of them seem to be unaware of it. Chair Kost described the bookmobile as “a rolling dinosaur,” but added that there was a need to get books to people who do not have mobility, which includes children and seniors.

Commissioner Lucier explained that people from three daycares had called him and said they had heard that the Board was taking the bookmobile out of the budget. Obviously, there is a communication issue, he said. Ms. Clark apologized for that, and said she had not intended that to be the message. Once the library staff can know what will become of the bookmobile, they can develop a clear message about book delivery, she said.

Ms. Clark pointed out that the bookmobile gets five miles to the gallon and that one needed a commercial driver’s license to drive it. Chair Kost asked about using the Library’s hybrid vehicle to shuttle materials to senior centers and daycare centers. Ms. Clark said that volunteers from the Friends of the Library would provide the transportation.

Commissioner Lucier recommended getting a letter out to those who use the book mobile explaining what the strategy was, when the new service would begin, and how to access that service. Commissioner Vanderbeck agreed that it was important to do that soon, and in concert with the Friends if they are going to take it over.

Chair Kost noted that there would be a grand ribbon cutting ceremony for adults, but suggested thinking about one geared to the children as well. Ms. Clark thought that was a great idea. Chair Kost verified that the Board agreed with Library’s decision to discontinue the bookmobile. Commissioner Lucier added that it was dependent upon an immediate communication strategy.

### **HISTORICAL COURTHOUSE TASK FORCE**

Chair Kost pointed out that the Board of Commissioners needed to finalize a charge to the taskforce. Commissioner Lucier recommended saying that the intent, prior to the fire, was to use the second floor of the building as a superior courtroom. That needed to be said

up front, he said, noting that it did not mean the taskforce could not come up with a different recommendation.

Commissioner Vanderbeck agreed, and Commissioner Thompson said the question was whether the upstairs could be used for other purposes as well.

The County Manager said that if they spent too much time discussing external things, such as pedestrian traffic, they would get bogged down. Chair Kost argued that the issue was important, though, so the taskforce would understand that there are physical limitations to the building. It is in the middle of a traffic circle and there are parking issues, she said.

Commissioner Thompson asked for guidance as to his role as Board liaison to the taskforce. Chair Kost pointed out that Mimi Hammer and Taylor Hobbs had agreed to be co-chairs. She said the Board needed to be clear about what their roles were as well. There would also be a facilitator, she said, noting that, like Commissioner Thompson, the facilitator would participate but not vote.

Commissioner Lucier said he viewed Commissioner Thompson's role as a co-facilitator, in some respects, noting that Commissioner Thompson had much more knowledge about the County itself than the facilitator would have. Commissioner Thompson would be a resource to the facilitator and the group, and would help keep the ball moving forward, Commissioner Lucier said.

Chair Kost said she also viewed Commissioner Thompson as the communication link back to the Board of Commissioners. The co-chairs would provide that communication within the group, she said, and the facilitator would run the meetings. Commissioner Vanderbeck ascertained that some staff members would be there as well.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:58 PM.

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Sally Kost, Chair

ATTEST:

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