



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Monday, May 2, 2016

6:00 PM

Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Rollcall

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

Work Session - 4:00 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

No one signed up to speak.

BOARD PRIORITIES

16-1649

Staff presentation to update the Board of Commissioners on 2015 legislative changes and implications for locally adopted ordinances and regulations.

Attachments: [2015 SOG Legislative Update](#)
[2015 Legislative update.pptx](#)

Jason Sullivan, Planning Director, and Dan LaMontagne, Assistant County Manager and Director of Public Works, presented a PowerPoint Presentation with a Legislative Update to the Board. (Presentation Attached)

Vice Chair Hales asked if cultural resources and historical assets are impacted. Mr. LaMontagne thinks they will still be able to look at cultural and historical resources.

Commissioner Cross asked if there is a way the County can adjust re-inspection fees. Mr. Sullivan stated he would address this with Jenny Williams, Director of Permitting and Inspections.

Chairman Crawford asked if a project comes in the Jordan Lake Rules Watershed area could the County say it is going to defer action on it until it has clarification. Mr. LaMontagne stated at this point he recommends the County enforce its ordinance as is.

Mr. Sullivan stated for subdivision, watershed, and zoning the County has to have a public hearing.

Mr. LaMontagne stated the County is not required to have a public hearing for the

stormwater ordinance but staff felt the Board would want to hold one.

Vice Chair Hales asked if the public hearings could all be held the same day. Mr. Sullivan stated he wasn't sure when staff would have the subdivision and zoning ordinances ready.

Commissioner Cross asked if it could be called something besides a public hearing because the Board of Commissioners can't actually do anything with the public input it receives.

Mr. Sullivan stated it still has to be run as a public hearing ad in the newspaper due to the notification requirements. However staff could include language that this is to address state mandated changes.

CLOSED SESSION

[16-1669](#)

Closed Session to discuss matters involving attorney/client privilege and personnel.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Mike Cross, seconded by Commissioner Walter Petty, that the meeting was adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

End of Work Session

Regular Session - 6:00 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

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

INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Cross delivered the invocation after which the Chairman invited everyone present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Crawford welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

16-1663

Vote on a request to approve Fitch Creations, Inc. for subdivision Final Plat review and approval of Fearrington P.U.D., Section X, Area B - "Millcreek Circle", consisting of 29 lots on 12.71 acres, located off S. R. 1813, East Camden, Williams Township, parcel #18998.

Attachments: [More Information from Planning Department Website](#)

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

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

16-1676

Vote on a request to reappoint two members of Chatham County Housing Authority

Attachments: [DOC196 Re-appointment of Eugene Davis.pdf](#)
[DOC197 Re-appointment of Gary Cox.pdf](#)

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

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

16-1678

Vote on a request to approve to award a service weapon to retiring Sheriff Richard H. Webster.

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

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

16-1661

Vote on a request to accept \$1,000 Diabetes Smart Grant Funds.

Attachments: [\\$1,000 Mini Grant From Wilkes Diabetes Smart](#)

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

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

[16-1662](#)

Vote on a request to accept \$2,000 Diabetes Smart Grant Funds.

Attachments: [\\$2,000 Mini Grants Additional Funds](#)

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

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

[16-1667](#)

Vote on a request to accept \$3,407 Focus on Fathers Grant Funds.

Attachments: [\\$3,407 Focus on Fathers emails](#)

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

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

[16-1671](#)

Vote on a request to accept \$6,285 Healthy Communities Grant Funds.

Attachments: [\\$6,285 Healthy Communities Grant Funds](#)

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

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

End of Consent Agenda

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Ilana Dubester submitted the following comments:

I want to thank the folks that came in white shirts today and some not in white shirts who came to support the Hispanic Liaison. My name is Ilana Dubester. I have lived in Chatham County since 1991. I am an immigrant from Brazil. I founded El Vinculo Hispano or Hispanic Liaison back in 1995. In 2008 we had a budget of approximately \$350,000 to \$400,000 and about seven employees. As you know El Vinculo closed last year, sadly. But under new leadership including myself have stepped up to help revive the organization. We are before you today to ask for your support in granting us an emergency funding for being able to reopen El Vinculo and continue to provide essential services for Chatham Latinos and also to partner with agencies, law enforcement and other government agencies in the area. We have a new board, a seven member board and are recruiting more. We are conducting a community diagnostic or assessment in partnership with UNC Institute for Latin American Studies. This community assessment is actually starting this week, starting with a nonprofit and other leaders focus group. It will move to surveys of different agencies then door to door surveys and then a community focus group around mid-June. We will have an internal report of the results of this community assessment to gage the needs of the Hispanic community right now and also to see what programs they liked from the past that they might want us to revive and bring back. We will have an

internal report in July and it will be available to the public in August. We are going to use this community assessment to help us decide on what our program priorities and services will be. The community has changed a lot over the years and we want to be responsible and accountable to the people in our community and to the needs that they have today. Our plan is to, with your support and the Town of Siler City and our goal of raising an additional \$20,000 from individuals and other foundations, our goal is to open to the public this June. We have our old office back. Actually today we were arranging the furniture and got a new paint job and got our old phone number back. We will be open to the public at least two half days a week mostly because of capacity between us having to do fundraising and seeking grants and developing programs. We don't have enough folks around yet to open more than that but as we grow our capacity we will be opening the office more. We will also be recruiting volunteers so if we grow our volunteer capacity for client services we will also be able to open the office more hours. The program that we are providing right now is Basic Needs for Immigrant Families, which is people come into the door with questions and concerns and they are looking for resources or something has happened at work or something has happened with a health scare and we just help solve those problems. We refer and connect to the appropriate agencies. I want to stress how critical your support really is to us right now. We are operating with a very minimal budget right now and I am volunteering my time beyond July if we get some funding I will be able to get paid part time but I am hoping to hire a full time program person to be by my side and help me run and develop programs as well. We have a bare bones budget just covering the basics through the end of this year but we need this time and will secure funding not only to be able to turn out to funders outside of Chatham and say Chatham County is behind us. Hopefully Siler City too and we invest in our future as well. We will work through the summer and fall to secure funding for next year based on the programs we will decide to develop. I really appreciate your consideration and support in the past as well and look forward to working with you.

Thomas Wasilieski submitted the following comments:

I have been a resident of Chatham County for about twenty-six years. I live up in Baldwin Township near the chicken bridge where Alamance, Orange and Chatham Counties all meet together. It is a nice place to be and so is Chatham County. The Latino community in Chatham County is here. They need to transition into our culture as much as they possibly can while maintaining their own cultural aspects. We need to help them to transition if we can. I want to tell you about some of the things that I did as a volunteer in the Hispanic Liaison when I worked there until they closed in September. Just to give you an idea about some of the things that happen there that are helpful to smooth their transition, I translated documents for them like birth certificates, marriage licenses, official papers from their government and other to their government both in English and Spanish. I provided notary services for them. A lot of it had to do when things from their own country in their native language needed to be done so that when it went back to their country it had the seal on it and it made it more official for them. I interpreted meetings. One meeting I think of is I met with a family who had a child who was born here in the United States and they wanted to return to their original country and they needed a passport for the child and they had difficulty with the English language. I went to the Post Office with them and worked with them and got all the stuff we needed to do. That is the kind of support we need to be providing for them if we can. We help them to fill out employment forms and government forms. We help them seek jobs. We help them sometimes with some legal issues. We are not lawyers and don't intend to be and if it gets beyond what we think is right we refer them to a lawyer. We work with the community organizations. We work with the local court system. People have to give public service with a court order and they would work with us to get their hours. We work closely with the Siler

City police department where we are involved in a telephone network for domestic violence. If there was a crisis we had a phone that was on all the time and if there was something we could do we would deal with that. We work closely with the Chatham Literacy Council for referrals for people who need to learn to speak English. For those less fortunate that haven't yet found a position or work we have a food dispensing program through the North Carolina State Food Bank. Last year there were volunteers in tax administration that helped them fill out the necessary tax forms. Last but not least is our youth program. We connected students with positive role models within their community and others of their age. They planned and implemented local projects for the youth like vegetable gardens. They developed personal and cultural identity and a pride living in Chatham County as well. I think if you can invest this \$20,000 it is an investment in the future for Chatham County. Thank you.

Jazmin Mendoza Sosa submitted the following comments:

I am here today to support the Hispanic Liaison. As a member who has used the service before when I came to the United States twelve years ago. I know what a great impact it has in my life and in the life of my parents the last twelve years. Not only did I have the opportunity to get the direct support that they offer but I also was a past Hispanic Liaison youth president. With the help and the tools that they have provided I am able to say that I am graduating this Saturday from Meredith College with a bachelors. I definitely have seen the impact on the young Latinos. I had such a wonderful program that not only encouraged me but also helped me encourage others. I am here to ask you to support this organization not only as a resident of Chatham County and as part of the Siler City community but also as a young Latina who sees the great impact nonprofits such as the Hispanic Liaison has in the life of the young Latinos in Chatham County. Thank you.

Jon Spoon, 3936 Chatham Church Road, submitted the following comments:

I wanted to come tonight to express my support for the funding request for the Hispanic Liaison. I have had the great benefit of having a couple of different experiences where it has really driven home the point of what the Hispanic community offers to Chatham County and Siler City. The first was working at the Arts Incubator in downtown Siler City where we helped coordinate art walks, the Hispanic Heritage Celebrations, National Night Out and seeing how vibrant and lively those events became as a part of including the Hispanic community in Siler City. It was a special thing to see. Going through some of our schools like Virginia Cross and seeing the kind of cross cultural educational opportunities that our kids are having is really inspiring and something that I think can't be understated in our community's development. The second aspect that I have just recently come across working in economic development is the sheer number of Hispanic owned businesses that are populating in downtown buildings in Siler City and the fact there are a lot of people who still remember when a lot of parts of downtown Siler City were pretty much ghost towns. A lot of the economic viability that exists there now is as a direct result of financial investment that has happened from Hispanics taking up the initiative to start up small businesses and to look to grow those. Throughout this whole process of making this transition that at times has been difficult for Chatham County and Siler City, the Hispanic Liaison has been a continual force in helping to make the process as beneficial as possible. The work there isn't done. The Hispanic community in Siler City and Chatham County still needs a lot of support with these basic needs. We can't afford to lose the Hispanic Liaison in any capacity. I hope that you take that

under consideration and move forward to support their request for funding. Thank you.

Don Byrne submitted the following comments:

I'm the owner of a Chatham County small business called Piedmont Pine Coffins. I am a Board member for the Hispanic Liaison and before that for eight years I was a teacher with Chatham County Schools. I taught ESL so I worked with hundreds of high school students and met their families. February of this year, a student came to me, she was a senior and she was an all-star student. She was getting A's and B's and was interested in a nursing curriculum after high school. She said to me, "How do I get my license?" She was having some trouble getting her license. I didn't know the answer and I was about to say to her, "Here is all you need to do" and then I thought oh, they're closed. I said, "Wait, let me get my computer, let me send you to the closest source of expertise that we have." That ended up being in Carrboro where she needed to set up an appointment on a certain day of the week to talk to their free legal advice. How much better would it be to walk down the street to the corner, two or three blocks, in Siler City? How much friendlier would it be to get that advice from people you see walking around the neighborhood day to day? How much more forward thinking is it to walk into that office in Siler City and there you see speaking in Spanish people who are emulating the professional world that our students are trying to reach for? That is what I loved about the Hispanic Liaison and I hope you will help us bring it back. Thank you.

Elea Ocampo submitted the following comments:

I am also a member of the Board of Directors of the Hispanic Liaison, I am the secretary. I have lived in Chatham County for several years now, since I was in middle school. I have been going back to my hometown in Mexico and coming back to Siler City because I have a lot of family here. Today we are here to figure out why we need the Hispanic Liaison back again. First of all, in Chatham County more than 50% of the population is Hispanic. It doesn't make a lot of sense to me to not have a resource for more than half of the population in the county. Also, throughout the years the Hispanic Liaison has offered so many services to my family, my friends and neighbors and a lot of people that I know in the county. I can talk about a couple of examples of when the Hispanic Liaison has helped me and my family. My uncle and aunt, they've been here since twenty years ago, they are now really established in the community. They have a kid with special needs. He was born here and they didn't know any English so the Hispanic Liaison was there to advocate for them and to give them the resources they needed so Franklin, my cousin, could have those services he needed. The services that the Hispanic Liaison helped to provide. It has helped me as an individual. I was part of the Hispanic Liaison youth group when I was fifteen, I am twenty-eight years old now. It has definitely made a difference in my life. I have met other Latino people who have been role models as leaders in our community and that definitely has helped me see myself as a leader in this community. There was also the Teen Shout radio program, which was really fun. I wish that other Hispanic youth and other Hispanic Latino people can have these resources and don't have to struggle to obtain these resources. That is why I believe the Hispanic Liaison should re-open. Thank you.

Gary Phillips submitted the following comments:

I am also speaking in favor of funding of the Hispanic Liaison. I am part of their

family and one of their chief volunteers and was moving furniture today. The work of El Viculo Hispano is not optional. It is critical, not just for the people it serves, but also for the larger community it serves. It is a link, it is a connection, it is a communication that happens on so many different levels. It is legitimate that everybody who lives in our community know what their rights are, but also that we are able to communicate and talk with each other. They can speak with their teachers in school. They can represent themselves in government. They can make contacts and connections that are supportive of their community. This community gives to an extraordinary degree. I feel also as Don that part of our economic wealth in this county is due to these extraordinary people who have come from so many places and made their permanent home here. They are a great gift for us and we need to support them and every step we do in that accord makes us a stronger community. It makes us a more viable economic community and makes us a better public community. Thank you for your time.

Tom Glendenning submitted the following comments:

I am here to recommend or urge you to change a voting procedure for the special appointed committees appointing directly to the commissioners. I have served on the Planning Board but now have been appointed to the Board of Adjustment and at the last meeting we had a tie vote and an abstention. We were informed that the abstention counted as an aye vote and that particular procedure flies in the face of democratic procedure. I would urge you to change that rule. The history of it was a certain commissioner wanted a blockage on one of those committees years ago, and abstention with a tie vote that needed to be resolved. This rule came into effect as I remember. That is my understanding of the history of it. If a committee, which you all appoint, comes into a locked or undecided position then, the position of the recommendations I'm clear, but you all can still make a vote one way or the other and decide for that. We in advisory committees don't decide anything for you or for the County. I strongly urge that single rule be changed. We had a vote of 2-2 with one abstention and the vote was finally resolved by another motion. I find that rule to be undemocratic. Somebody can word a motion so that aye vote or that abstention mean the passage in the positive of whatever motion it is instead of being undecided and unable to make a solid recommendation to the Board. Thank you.

Laura Petersen submitted the following comments:

The last time I was here it was March. I came here to inform the committee that the residents of the Cole Park Plaza area who are on the Aqua water system want to get off of Aqua and get back on the Chatham County system. The last couple of days, none of us have been drinking our water. In our toilets it is a murky red brown color as if someone hasn't flushed. No one has gotten a notice at all. It is a little scary. My cat turns his nose up at this water. It makes me question giving it to my children. It makes me question washing them in it. I am not the only one affected. I know that there are over 200 residents who live there. My little girl's dance school is around the corner in the Lowe's shopping center. They have a water fountain. Our dance teacher didn't know about the water. How many little girls go to that school? The gym didn't notify the people who were at the gym who fill their water bottles, who swim in their pool. This is not just a Cole Plaza area that is being affected. McDonald's, Burger King, the gas stations, the CVS, the Lowe's Foods. All of these places use Aqua water. It is not good water. Our prices are through the roof. I on average pay \$170 a month for a family of four. I know people who pay a third of that on the Chatham County lines. Our quality is so poor we buy it in bottles now, all of us. It is ridiculous. We are still getting charged if we don't use our water for \$110 a

month just for the privilege of flushing that water down the drain. We want them out. I am organizing my neighbors. I might even ask the Latino liaisons to help me address the Latino community in the trailer homes next to me because I want everyone on board with me to get them out. I have three questions for the committee. Who gave my information to Aqua because some nice lady called me and woke me up from a very well earned nap to tell me that she couldn't help me with my problems with Aqua. I was not very receptive to her phone call. I do not respond well to being woken up because I have an epileptic husband, two small children and two cats who are real jerks in the middle of the night. My sleep is valuable, it is all that keeps me sane. Her first call I didn't answer thinking it would go to voicemail like it should. She called again and again within five minutes. That means it is an emergency, wake up, because the only people who do that are people who know it is an emergency and they are waking me up. Instead it was a woman who made me feel like a director once made me feel when I once lived in Hollywood. He put his arm around my shoulder as a young actress and said "How much money will it take you to take off all your clothing." I had the same response to him that I had to her. You can't afford me, we want you out. Who gave my information to Aqua because that is the worst feeling I've ever had. That somebody would rather undermine my efforts to clean up the community's water by paying me off by sending me to some bureaucrat who doesn't even live here. I was very unhappy about that. That is my first question. My second question is what exactly is needed on my part, on your part, on our part, on everyone's part to get Aqua out and get us back on Chatham County water? I want to know, I want an email with bullet points. I will hit every single one of them. I am a driven young woman and I refuse to give up. I hate buying bottled water. The plastic bottles are bad for our environment and the water that we drink out of our faucet seems poisonous. I am having it tested by three different companies. Also, we didn't get a notice at all about this water. Not from Chatham and not from Aqua. That is a failing on their part. It is a failing as a utility and as a humanitarian effort to provide water to people that we pay through the nose for. Those are my three questions. I would love to see them addressed in an email. I know the Clerk has my contact information from the last time I was here. I will back again at the next meeting and I will continue to come as often as I can until Aqua is gone. Thank you.

Jeffery Starkweather, 590 Old Goldston Road, Pittsboro, submitted the following comments:

I strongly support the small emergency funding request that will allow Hispanic Liaison – the most important non-governmental organization needed for the economic revival of Siler City – to re-open its doors.

We are so fortunate that the county's most dynamic and determined Hispanic human rights advocate and community organizer – Ilana Dubester – has stepped up to take on this critical task for the future prosperity of Siler City and Chatham.

In thinking about what to say, I did a little internet search and found this journal article entitled "The Stories Not Told: A Case Study of the Information Needs of Siler City." It essentially documents what many of us already know – that the Hispanic community in Siler City and Chatham County does not have a voice in the public policy deliberations concerning Siler City and Chatham.

For example, we decided to give over \$500,000 to a private land owner for the development of an advanced manufacturing mega-site that is supposedly going to be the Hail Mary savior for Siler City's distressed economy, but Hispanic residents of that city – representing one-half of the population – appear not have been consulted about their "practical" economic development needs and desires.

We desperately need a revived Hispanic Liaison to be their voice and advocate not only in city, county and state public policy deliberations but with our local schools, courts, social and children's services agencies, law enforcement, health agencies, clinics and hospital, local economy, and housing, among others.

What we know about the economic revival of small towns, like Siler City, is that the quality of the place and its people is what brings prosperity and equal opportunity to a community, not build-it-and-they-will-come strategies. Also, considerable research has shown upward mobility for children from poor and working class families is determined more by the quality of the community they grow up than by their parents' income, education or job status. Quality schools, environment, recreation, arts, culture and social capital not only give young people an opportunity for upward mobility, but they are the strongest job attraction tools a community can possess.

Moreover, the US Environmental Protection Agency found in its 2015 publication entitled "How Small Towns and Cities Can Use Local Assets to Rebuild Their Economies: Lesson from Successful Place" that among the key successful tactics the seven successfully revised communities they profile used are: engaging all members of the community to plan the future, a clean and healthy environment, and identifying and building on existing assets, such as schools, arts, and grass-roots non-profits advocacy and service agencies like Hispanic Liaison. So far, I don't believe we have even come close to engaging the Hispanic community in planning our economic future, nor in utilizing their creative, entrepreneurial and other people assets.

This is where Hispanic Liaison's re-opening is so critical. We need to not only provide this emergency funding, but we also need to make a much more concerted effort to collaborate with Hispanic Liaison to mobilize the Hispanic community's people assets in Siler City's economic revival and to give our Hispanic residents a true voice in our community decision-making.

BOARD PRIORITIES

16-1670

Vote on a request to approve request from Hispanic Liaison for \$20,000 in emergency funds.

Attachments: [Hispanic Liaison Request - Chatham County 03 2016.pdf](#)

The County Manager stated the Hispanic Liaison has historically been funded by Chatham County through the nonprofit process. Last summer the agency experienced some financial difficulties and closed its doors. The agency has resumed its work under the leadership of Ilana Dubester who was their first director and is now serving as interim Executive Director. The agency itself never ceased to exist, the Board remained in place and transitioned leadership to the new Board. That was important for the County's nonprofit funding process. As a result of the transition they did not apply through the County's nonprofit funding process. The policy doesn't give a way for the County to recommend funding outside of the policy. Staff's recommendation is if the Board wants to move forward with funding that it first makes the finding that this is an extreme situation, deem it an emergency, and that the agency will follow the County's nonprofit funding process in future years. The Hispanic Liaison is requesting money for FY 17 starting July 1, 2016. If the Board approves the funding they will be required to submit all the certification documents

that would have been required had they applied under the nonprofit policy, including a budget that shows how the County's funding will be spent, measurable goals and objectives. It also needs to be clear in the contract the funding is to provide service delivery and not administration. Those things must be clear before the funding is released.

A motion was made by Commissioner Petty, seconded by Commissioner Howard, to fund the Hispanic Liaison with emergency funds with the stipulations that all of the certification documents be provided, that it is for FY 17, that the funds are for service delivery and not administration, and that a service contract be drawn. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[16-1668](#)

Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Recommended Budget Presentation

The County Manager presented the Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. (Presentation attached)

There will be a public hearing in Pittsboro on May 16, 2016 and a public hearing in Siler City on May 17, 2016. The Board will also hold three budget work sessions.

The Commissioners will adopt the budget on June 20, 2016

The Board rescheduled the May 26, 2016 Budget Work Session to June 2, 2016.

[16-1677](#)

Vote on a request to approve a Resolution Urging State Action to Effectively Improve Jordan Lake Water Quality

Attachments: [Attachment - Solar Bees Resolution Final](#)

Chairman Crawford read the resolution into the record.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hales, seconded by Commissioner Howard, that Resolution #2016-18 Urging State Action to Effectively Improve Jordan Lake Water Quality, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

MANAGER' S REPORTS

The County Manager asked Dan LaMontagne, Assistant County Manager and Director of Public Works, to give an update on the situation that happened this past weekend with the County Water.

Mr. LaMontagne stated the Public Works staff has been working diligently to remedy the situation. The problem initiated with the replacement of the water line across Lystra Road where the sink hole developed. In order to repair the sink hole they needed to put in a new water line under the sink hole. The water had to be shut off on the Jack Bennett side of the sink hole and the north system also had to be shut off on the Farrington Point Road side. Generally the County has served that whole north area from the water plant. Due to this incident the County had to isolate that at Lystra Road. The County ran the north system at that point off of all the elevated tanks, which is Governor's Club, the ball field tank and Briar Chapel. That caused the north

part of the north system to operate at a below normal pressure than what it is used to. It was still acceptable pressure but it was lower than what it is accustomed to. The tie in of the line went fine. When they finished the tie in the water was out for about four or five hours. When they finally recharged the system and brought it up slowly they kicked in the high service pumps. Some of the older neighborhoods, Governor's Club and Fearington, have older iron pipe. That develops scale over time, iron oxide and manganese deposits on the insides of the pipes. They suspect when the pumps came back on and the pressure went from down to up again it dislodged some that scaling. They noticed it in the Governor's Club and Fearington areas immediately. They started flushing as much as possible to get the water out of the system but they found it had spread out in the rest of the system. Staff has been out all weekend working on the problem and flushing hydrants. There has been significant improvements and the only reports now are of a cloudiness in the water, not the excessive amount of debris in the water. For this to have been reported to the County Saturday morning and as wide spread as it was, he believes the improvement is a testament to his crew. Mr. LaMontagne stated he apologizes that this happened. There was no way to anticipate that this would occur.

Vice Chair Hales stated Debra Henzey sent out an alert through the e-notification system. One of the citizens she spoke with was not signed up for e-notify and couldn't find anything on the website. She suggested if an event like this happens in the future it should be placed on the County homepage. She also asked if they could use the CodeRED system to call people and alert them of the problem. Mr. LaMontagne stated a CodeRED call was sent out Saturday afternoon to the areas affected. Commissioner Petty stated a citizen has to sign up for CodeRED and citizens who had not signed up would not get the call. He suggested coming up with some kind of phone tree that would go out to all the customers in the county. Mr. LaMontagne stated the Water Department has something called One Call but so many phone numbers are outdated and they rely on the customers to give updated numbers. They will send something out on the water bills to inform customers that the Water Department needs their updated numbers. Commissioner Petty stated the people who buy water from the County and resell it also need to be notified.

Vice Chair Hales asked if Mr. LaMontagne was working with Aqua to try to solve the problems with their water. Mr. LaMontagne stated they have tried to communicate with Aqua but have had difficulty doing so. He stated the residents need to contact the State because the State regulates Aqua because it is a private system. Chairman Crawford stated it was the Board's understanding that the water is fine when it leaves the County's possession. Vice Chair Hales stated a member of the EDC works for Aqua and perhaps communicating with him would help.

Commissioner Howard asked if it was possible for the County to provide water to those customers. Mr. LaMontagne stated it is not possible for the County to provide water to that area. It is his understanding that is a private water system. Commissioner Howard asked if staff could invite Aqua to come speak to the Board about their delivery of water. Mr. LaMontagne stated staff would pursue that.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Howard stated the Department of Health and Human Services had a public input forum on mental health. They received input on the difficulties Chatham County is having, particularly with its safety net provider. She also gave input and suggested that they come out to the western part of Chatham County and bring a Spanish language interpreter so that they can have some input from a broader base of the community. She stated that Chatham County Schools is reaching out to the community specifically for input on the growth segment of their conversation. She

also stated HB539 is a bill that has passed the House and would undermine funding for traditional public schools. It specifically threatens federal money that has already been spent by our school district. She encouraged everyone to write to their representatives expressing concern about the additional strain the bill would put on the educational system in the state and the county. She stated they had a Library Advisory Committee meeting last week. She stressed the importance of the Outreach Coordinator position. That person has been filling a lot of the services that were previously provided by the Book Mobile as well as additional services.

Chairman Crawford stated at the last MPO meeting Chatham did not have a representative from its division at the DOT so he was not able to get a good update on the Lystra Road project but they will meet next Wednesday and he will be sure to get an update. He also stated the TJCOG is going to have special session dealing with broadband with at least three experts.

Vice Chair Hales stated she saw in the paper that there were bids to remove the underground storage tank at Henry Siler School. Mr. LaMontagne stated there were a number of bids but a firm has not been selected yet. She asked if there are steps the Board should be taking in regards to how votes are considered on the committees. Commissioner Cross stated they went through that process several years back. He stated there should be a good reason for abstaining. If you don't have a good reason or a conflict of financial interest and you can't vote you don't need to serve on the board. Commissioner Howard agreed that unless there is a conflict there is no need to be on a board that you are not going to be voting on. Mr. Glendinning stated the abstention at the Board of Adjustment was due to lack of information which is the most common reason to abstain. Commissioner Howard stated not having enough information can amount to a yes or no vote. She felt like she didn't have enough information with the megasite option so she did not vote in the affirmative. Commissioner Cross agreed. Commissioner Petty stated the members of the committees just need to know that they have to cast a vote unless there is a conflict. The County Manager stated the commissioners address abstentions in the Advisory Committee policy and an abstention is an aye vote. She stated staff could look at the policy to see if it can better educate the boards about the requirement.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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