



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Monday, May 16, 2016

6:00 PM

Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Includes Budget Public Hearing

Rollcall

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

Work Session - 2:30 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

No one signed up to speak.

BOARD PRIORITIES

[16-1680](#)

2016 Second Quarter Employee of the Quarter Award-Andrea Brady, Benefits Manager, Human Resources and Risk Management

Attachments: [Andrea Brady-EOQ Nomination](#)

Carolyn Miller, Human Resources Director, stated Andrea Brady joined Chatham County as the Benefits Manager in June of 2014. Ms. Brady is an exceptional benefits manager. Assisting an employee with the family medical leave process is just one of many examples of the positive impact Ms. Brady has on employees every day. Her attitude is infectious. Ms. Miller presented Ms. Brady with the Second Quarter Employee of the Quarter award.

The Chairman congratulated Ms. Brady and the two posed for pictures. County staff showed their support of Ms. Brady by holding signs of congratulations and support.

[16-1698](#)

Receive report on Affordable Housing from Council on Aging Intern, Stephanie Watkins-Cruz.

Stephanie Watkins-Cruz, intern with the Council on Aging, stated she is a graduate student at UNC-Chapel Hill getting her dual masters in city and regional planning and public administration.

Ms. Watkins-Cruz presented a PowerPoint Presentation to the Board. (Presentation

Attached)

Chairman Crawford stated this is needed and he is glad the solution is coming.

Vice Chair Hales asked if there will be outreach to other nonprofits before Phase Two. Ms. Watkins-Cruz stated they will do outreach to nonprofits and to the faith community. Vice Chair Hales was pleased to see the timeline and the strategy. She applauds the effort that has gone into this.

Commissioner Howard asked how the needs will be populated. Ms. Watkins-Cruz stated individuals will not have access to the system in Cycle One. She stated organizations like DSS and Habitat will be referring clients through the database.

Commissioner Petty stated he thinks this is a great step in the right direction and thanked Ms. Watkins-Cruz for her efforts. He encouraged her to reach out to the faith based community.

Commissioner Howard asked if there is a link that can be shared with other organizations. Ms. Watkins-Cruz stated people can contact her and she will reach out to those organizations.

Vice Chair Hales asked about the Chatham County Housing Authority and thought Ms. Watkins-Cruz should also reach out to them.

Chairman Crawford stated a woman on Lystra Road has three different agencies working on her needs and it has been coordinated by phone. This will be a good way to have everyone look at the same information and will prevent duplicated efforts.

The County Manager stated Dennis Streets could not be here today and this database was his brainchild. She thanked the commissioners for the county funding that allowed Ms. Watkins-Cruz to work on the project.

16-1688

Receive presentation from Solstice Partners

Attachments: [2015_06_Habitat_LET\(3\).pdf](#)
[2016_04_SPI_Letter_Perry.pdf](#)
[BOC_Letter_of_Support_final.pdf](#)
[Letter_from_Pam_Cash-Roper_to_the_Town_of_Pittsboro.docx](#)

Randy Voller introduced Cathy Connors from Solstice Partners.

Ms. Connors stated she has been working in affordable housing for almost twenty years. She started working on Bellmont Pointe Apartments four years ago. Tax credits helped fund this project and the credits are very hard to get. The tax credit was created in 1986 because the administration thought there was a lot of low income housing but there wasn't housing for people coming out of school, working families, or people with jobs who couldn't afford high rents. The tax credits are awarded by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency once a year. Bellmont Pointe serves teachers, police officers and people with jobs and families. The more partners involved the more competitive you can be on your application.

Vice Chair Hales asked if these were multi-family units. Ms. Connors stated yes. Mr. Voller stated people looked at doing mixed use planning where there would be detached single family, multi-family, and even for market product.

Vice Chair Hales asked what the income level is. Ms. Connors stated it depends. In different counties it means different things. Belmont Pointe has 76 units and they received over 250 applications and they have a waiting list of 100 people. There is a great need in Chatham County.

Tyran Hill with the NC Housing Coalition, addressed the Board. Mr. Hill stated his agency is a clearing house for research and data related to affordable housing. In Chatham County, 28% of the residents are considered cost burden which means they spend 30% or more on housing. With the expected population growth in the county, it is crucial that Chatham County invest in its housing infrastructure to prepare for current residents as well as future residents. It is not cheap materials that make housing affordable. It is the subsidies such as the tax credits that make the housing affordable. Housing is considered affordable when it requires 30% or less of one's income. Housing is the first rung on a ladder of opportunity. Access to decent affordable housing lays the foundation for everything that follows, education, wealth creation, and improved health outcomes in a flourishing community. The NC Housing Coalition encourages the Board to take action and be proactive in investing in its housing infrastructure.

Chairman Crawford asked if affordability is an economy of scale. Is there a difference between doing one house at a time and doing communities? Mr. Voller stated Chairman Crawford is describing a green fill development. It depends on the volume that you are going to build. It is cheaper per square foot to do attached housing. The single driver is the cost of the land.

Commissioner Howard asked if they look at where people are in need of affordable housing or are they looking at a place that meets the various criteria and as a result the people will come. Mr. Voller stated access for water and sewer is an important driver. Ms. Connors stated you have to be within a mile of a grocery, pharmacy, and shopping so the location is critical. Belmont Point did not have those things within a mile of its location. With Rural Development coming in as a partner they were able to go after some different points. They always have a market study done. There is very rarely a place that doesn't need affordable housing.

Commissioner Petty asked if there were any studies that show the shopping comes after the affordable housing is built. Ms. Connors stated he doesn't know of any.

Pam Cash Roper addressed the Board. She stated she lives in Bellmont Pointe Apartments. When her husband died she couldn't afford the rent. She lives on \$1,300 a month. Affordable housing is necessary.

Chairman Crawford stated she has three groups she is trying to get endorsements from. Business Owners, people who are employed in the county, and people who identify as residents of the county. Ms. Roper stated he was correct.

Mayor Cindy Perry stated the Town of Pittsboro supports this project.

Rev. Anthony Davis addressed the Board. He believes affordable housing is a social justice issue. As a pastor he recognizes firsthand the need for affordable housing. He has young adult members of his congregation who want to come back home after going to the best universities in the state but because housing is not affordable they cannot do that. There are two Chatham Counties, one of affluence and one of poverty. Based on his research for his dissertation there is currently a need for about 900 units of affordable housing in the county.

Mr. Voller stated if he were one of the commissioners one of his questions would be

"What are we doing here?" He stated Sustainable Prosperity is here because they are a qualified nonprofit founded in 2010. They are volunteer driven. He founded it because he thought that there needed to be a third leg to private business, county/government business, and municipal business by having a nonprofit that could be entrepreneurial and do this kind of advocacy. They have been doing that by educating and holding workshops. You cannot do tax credit applications unless you are partnered with someone who has done it before. It is a catch twenty-two. The only way to apply is to find someone like Ms. Connors who has done it and form a collaborative partnership, which they have done. Sustainable Prosperity doesn't want to develop it, they just want to advocate and push for the housing and help Ms. Connors get the job done. They are focusing on the rental side of the issue.

Commissioner Howard asked Ms. Connors how she envisioned the County being involved. Ms. Connors stated she wasn't really sure. They would just like to explore different opportunities for the County to partner with them. It could be a form of a loan and helping take down the land. In order for her to be competitive and ask for less credits per unit she has to get other partners involved that can lend to the project.

Vice Chair Hales asked if Ms. Connors has a current project. Ms. Connors stated she is working on one in Huntersville and one in Johnston County. The awards will be announced in August. She has one under construction in Rolesville. She is happy to send a list of projects she has done.

Mr. Voller stated today they are asking the Board to authorize the County Manager to work with them.

Commissioner Petty stated the Board recognizes the need for affordable housing and they want to help how they can. He asked Mr. Voller to keep in mind that this project could fall into two categories. One being it is a nonprofit which the County has a process for. The other is it may have to go through the request for bid process which means it would be opened up to other vendors who do the same thing.

Mr. Voller stated he understands what Commissioner Petty is saying. They just want the Board to give the County Manager authority to talk with them.

The Board gave unanimous consent for the agencies to work with the County Manager to see what role the County can play in this project. The County Manager will come back to the Board with a report.

[16-1692](#)

Receive Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERAC) Annual Report

Attachments: [ERAC Annual Report for 2015-Final Draft-Annex-April 112016](#)
 [ERAC Annual Report for 2015--Final Draft-April 112016](#)

Terry Schmidt, Chair of the Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERAC) and the Watershed Review Board, gave the Board the ERAC's annual report. (Report attached)

Vice Chair Hales stated the ERAC has some remarkable individuals on the board.

Commissioner Howard asked if there was any follow up to the discontinuation of the Solar Bees. Dan LaMontagne, Assistant County Manager and Director of Public Works, stated they don't know. The solar bees were the State's response to the impaired waters and nutrient issue. He hopes that the State will implement the

nutrient rules now and not delay it further.

Commissioner Petty asked about why the ERAC declined to endorse the Climate Change Committee. Mr. Schmidt stated the ERAC felt that was outside the scope of its responsibility.

[16-1685](#)

Receive a presentation by the US Motto Action Committee.

Attachments: [Motto Officials Presentation.doc](#)
 [IGWT Chatham County-Locations.pdf](#)

Fred McClure, Davidson County Commissioner stated he started a grassroots movement to get "In God We Trust" on their courthouse. About 40 counties and 35 cities have put the motto on their courthouses. One county put it on five locations. There is not a limit to how many can be installed. There is no charge to the County to install the motto.

Commissioner Petty stated he believes our heritage is important. He would like the Board to approve this.

Commissioner Howard stated she sees this as an overreach of church and state.

Commissioner Cross stated he believes it is a worthy thing to consider and asked if the County Manager and Staff could look into it to see what places in the county might be appropriate to place the motto. He believes placing it on the Historic Courthouse could affect its historic status.

Vice Chair Hales agrees with Commissioner Cross and does not want it on the Historic Courthouse because it is a historic structure. She also believes in separation of church and state but she agrees it is worth looking into for other buildings.

A motion was made by Commissioner Petty, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to direct the County Manager and Staff to locate a suitable site for the US Motto. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - Commissioner Howard

CLOSED SESSION

[16-1695](#)

Closed Session to discuss matters relating to personnel and economic development.

A motion was made by Commissioner Petty, seconded by Commissioner Cross, to approve going out of the Work Session and convening in Closed Session to discuss matters relating to personnel and economic development. 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 Petty, seconded by Commissioner Howard, that the meeting be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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

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

[16-1665](#)

Vote on appointments to the Community Advisory Committee for Nursing & Adult Care Homes

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

[16-1666](#)

Vote on a Request to Approve Amendment to Waste Management Inc. Contract and authorize the County Manager to execute the contract.

Attachments: [Amendment Waste Management Contract 7.1.16](#)

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

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

[16-1681](#)

Vote on a request to approve the Tax Releases and Refunds.

Attachments: [April 2016 Corrected Receipts Report](#)
[April 2016 NCVTS Pending Refund Report](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hales, seconded by Commissioner Howard, that the Tax Releases and Refunds, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[16-1682](#)

Vote on a request to approve Preliminary Plat review and approval of **The Legacy, Phase 3A1**, consisting of 30 lots on 16.01 acres, located off S. R. 1716, Big Woods Road, Williams Township, parcel #17378.

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

[16-1629](#)

Vote on a request to approve Darren Eck dba Villa Giallo for a conditional use permit for a Bed and Breakfast Inn with no more than six rooms for rent and as further defined in the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance. The property is located at 4352 Pea Ridge Road, New Hill, NC, Parcel No. 5772, Cape Fear Township.

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

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hales, seconded by Commissioner Howard, that Resolution #2016-19 Approving a Conditional Use Permit Request by Darren Ecjk dba Villa Giallo, 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

[16-1595](#)

Vote on a request to approve the Golf Cart Guys, LLC to rezone Parcel No. 5258 being all of 6.74 acres located at 1213 Pea Ridge Road from R-1 Residential to CD-CB Conditional District Community Business for multiple uses. Uses area golf cart sales, service and rentals; boat, trailer, and other utility vehicle sales and service; and boat and RV storage.

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

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hales, seconded by Commissioner Howard, that Resolution #2016-20 Adopting a Consistency Statement for the Approval of a Rezoning Request for Golf Cart Guys, LLC, 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

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hales, seconded by Commissioner Howard, that the Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinance of Chatham County for Rezoning Conditional District Community Business on Behalf of Golf Cart Guys, LLC, 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

16-1679

Vote on a request to approve Lease for Recreation Department and authorize the county manager to sign the Lease.

Attachments: [First Amendment to RECREATION Lease](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hales, seconded by Commissioner Howard, that the Contract, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, 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

Danny Scott submitted the following comments:

I am a board member of the Goldston-Gulf Sanitary District. I am here tonight to talk to you about a project that the district is pursuing to construct a new elevated water tank. Like all civil infrastructures, the current water storage tank was originally designed to last a certain number of years. It has now reached the end of its service life. It is a little over fifty years old. Much like an older car or truck, the aging tank is still safe to use but repairing it no longer is cost effective. Replacing it would give us the opportunity to upgrade to a model with more features. In this case, the new tank will improve fire flow capabilities and increase water pressure in portions of a district that currently suffers from low pressure. To finance this project, the Goldston-Gulf Sanitary District is seeking grant funding from the US Department of Agriculture and a low interest loan from the NC State Revolving Fund. In order to be eligible for grant money, we must show that the impacted communities fall below a medium income threshold. Therefore, we will be asking our customers to help them by providing household income information to the district. Everything we collect will be used solely to provide financial need as part of the funding process. All the information will be strictly confidential. Public participation is vital in the overall success of this project because without this information the project cannot receive federal or state funding. Very fine income eligibility is just the first step, however. Applying for and obtaining grant funding can be a long process that stretches over two to three years. In the interim, the District may need to call upon Chatham County for financial assistance as a stop gap measure while awaiting plan funding. We hope that despite the potential lengthy development time the District will continue to receive the support of the County Commissioners and the public for this important project. I would like to thank you for letting me speak tonight and we appreciate any help we can get.

BOARD PRIORITIES[16-1694](#)

Vote on a request to approve a Resolution Honoring the Chatham Parks Foundation and accept the final gift amount of \$86,130.51.

Attachments: [chatham parks foundation resolution may 16 2016.pdf](#)
[Signed Gift Agreement with Parks](#)

Chairman Crawford read the resolution into the record.

Tracy Burnett, Parks and Recreation Director, stated she is grateful for Don and Marian Lein. The Parks Foundation is because of Don and Marian. They gave a lot of support to the foundation, raised a lot of money to supplement some of the things the Recreation Department needed, and they are about to install a fishing pier thanks to a contribution from the Parks Foundation. She is grateful for unpaid volunteers to be by the County's side for so many years.

Don Lein stated it was not just Marian and he; there were many others who helped. He stated there was a lot of help from the commissioners. He thanked Ms. Burnett for her partnership. He appreciates the Board's thanks and he will pass it on to the members of the Parks Foundation board. He recognized Margaret Jordan Ellis and Perry Harrison for their contributions. It has been a real pleasure working with the County, especially with Ms. Burnett.

Mr. Burnett recognized Parks Foundation board member, Mark Ashness. Mr. Lein stated Mr. Ashness coordinated all the golf tournaments for the Parks Foundation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Petty, seconded by Commissioner Howard, that Resolution #2016-21 Honoring the Chatham Parks Foundation, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted and to accept the final gift amount of \$86,130.51. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS[16-1683](#)

Public Hearing to receive public comments on the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Recommended Budget

Attachments: [RecommendedBudgetPresentation--BOCInitialPresentation V2.ppt](#)

The County Manager presented a PowerPoint Presentation with highlights of the budget. (Presentation attached)

Alicia Ravetto submitted the following comments:

The Climate Change Advisory Committee has held four full committee meetings since forming. Thus far we have established four subcommittees to include Forest and Farmland, Emissions Inventory, Education and Public Outreach, and High Performance. Each

subcommittee has met and is developing initial analysis and recommendations to present to the Board over the next few months.

Introduction

A primary charge of this committee is to identify areas where the county can reduce its carbon footprint and to

recommend ways to mitigate and/or adapt to global warming. One such area identified by this board is Building

Standards. Today we typically concentrate on energy use in buildings. Buildings exist in context, however; they are parts of neighborhoods, communities, and cities. Buildings are also tools for businesses and organizations.

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 executed a clear policy change by articulating that a high performance green building must not just perform well mechanically, but must perform to improve the health and enhance the performance of the occupants. A key broad measure of environmental impact is greenhouse gas emissions, or GHG. Once the collective effects of greenhouse gas production by an organization are measured- with buildings as components - more informed decisions and trade-offs can be made. For example, we must look at site selection, materials acquisition, travel to and from the building, the way we use the building, and how the building operates. When we look at both the building's context, and what is happening inside the building, we can make more educated improvements with broader impacts than looking at the building alone.

High-performing green buildings provide the best value for the taxpayer and for the public through both

life cycle cost benefits and positive effects on human health and performance. A recent study of GSA's 12 earliest green federal buildings shows energy use is down 26% and occupant satisfaction up 27%, compared to commercial office benchmark data. More importantly, the top third of studied buildings, which use an integrated design approach, deliver significantly better results with 45% less energy consumption, 53% lower maintenance costs, and 39% less water use. A North Carolina law adopted in 2003 established a goal of reducing energy use per gross square foot by 30 percent at state facilities by 2015 avoiding more than \$1 billion in energy and water costs since 2003. Having surpassed that mark, the UNC system institutions have adopted a new voluntary goal of reducing their energy unit intensity by 40% from a 2002-2003 baseline by 2025.

Recommendations

With this information in mind and in response to the public building projects identified below, as well as the

immediate timeline of these projects (which are in the early planning stages), the Climate Change Advisory

Committee recommends the following:

1. That the BOC implement specific reduction targets regarding energy use, water use, transportation and

waste for the county buildings included in the proposed 2016-2017 budget. The buildings included in the

roughly \$50 million requested monies are:

- A new Health Sciences Building for Central Carolina Community College (\$14.3 million)*
- A new elementary school in Northeast Chatham (\$30.6 million)*
- An expansion of the planned new high school in the northeast from 800 students to 1000*

2. That the BOC adopt and implement a 70% reduction standard below the regional 2003-2004 fiscal year

average/median for fossil-fuel operating energy consumption. This 70% reduction goal is higher than the goal established for new and renovated state buildings, community colleges, universities and infrastructure as adopted by the NC Legislature in 2007 (see attached document, Background Information).

The fossil-fuel reduction standard for Chatham County shall be increased to:

- 80% in 2020
- 90% in 2030
- Carbon-neutral in 2030 (using no fossil fuel GHG emitting energy to operate or construct)

These targets can be accomplished by implementing innovative sustainable design strategies and will be part of a larger package of recommendations provided by the Climate Change Advisory Committee later this year targeting zero greenhouse gas emissions county-wide by 2050.

3. That the BOC adopt for County buildings and schools the life-cycle cost analysis standards that were adopted by the NC General Assembly for state, university and community colleges buildings. Application of the state law shall commence at the schematic design phase of all existing and future construction or renovation projects, updated or amended as needed at the design development phase, updated or amended again as needed at the construction document phase.

A life-cycle cost analysis includes, but should not be limited to, all of the following elements:

- 1) Coordination, orientation, and positioning of the facility on its physical site;
- 2) Amount and type of fenestration and the potential for daylighting employed in the facility;
- 3) Thermal characteristics of materials and the amount of insulation incorporated into the facility design;
- 4) Variable occupancy and operating conditions of the facility, including illumination levels;
- 5) Architectural features that affect the consumption of energy, water, and other utilities.

4. That the BOC reinstates the 2008 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) policy for the county buildings included in the proposed 2016-2017 budget raising the level of certification to GOLD. In the past this requirement resulted in the building of four successful LEED Gold projects: CCCC Sustainable Technologies Center - Pittsboro campus, CCCC Siler City Center, Chatham Community Library and Margaret B. Pollard Middle School.

Jay Stobbs submitted the following comments:

I live in the far northeast part of the county on the other side of Jordan Lake. Thank you for having me tonight. I would like to address the 1.19 cent property tax rate per \$100 value. Five years ago the County budget was in the neighborhood of \$92 million dollars. Today we are talking about a budget of \$107 plus million dollars. That is over \$15 million dollars in just five short years. Instead of asking our property owners to have a tax rate increase, I would ask the commissioners to ask our very competent County Manager and her staff to come up with options, as we call it in the military, potential ideas about how we can reduce that \$107 million dollars by about one percent, one cent on the dollar, to alleviate the need to have a property tax increase. If we could find one percent or \$1.1 million we can give our property tax folks a break and keep the property tax rate where it is today. Thank you for your time.

Chairman Crawford closed the public hearing. He reminded everyone there will also be a public hearing in Siler City tomorrow.

MANAGER' S REPORTS

The County Manager stated the County has already sent its response to SB 864 and has been reaching out to others to keep that bill from happening. It is not good for the County and it affects all the towns. The County would lose 12% of its Article 40. The Health Director has asked the Board to consider speaking up on HB 1005 or SB 779, which would stop most state health advisories for drinking water. This stems from the coal ash issue and the difference in standards between DHHS and the DEQ.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hales, seconded by Commissioner Howard, to direct staff to compose a letter from the Board in opposition to HB 1005. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Cross stated NC Association of County Commissioners will have Assembly Day for NC Commissioners this Wednesday. It is free to commissioners.

Vice Chair Hales stated this Wednesday at 6:00 PM there will be a TARPO meeting in the Dunlap Classroom. They will be going over their recommendations for DOT funding of roads. Cary is a member of the MPO and has two projects on O'Kelly Chapel Road that have been rated high. She hopes those projects can be funded. She encouraged the Board to look at the report from the Climate Change Committee.

Chairman Crawford stated he is friendly of the changes coming from Cary but there is an intersection project pending for Chatham that is a safety issue. He believes the County needs to fight for that project. The 751 intersection is ranked third from the bottom on the list.

Commissioner Howard stated Mount Aire came to EDC meeting last week and shared a lot of information about their facility and their goal of bringing in 500 new jobs.

Commissioner Petty stated he tried to reach Senator Harry Brown about SB 846. He encourages other board members to do the same. He stated how devastating this would be to Chatham County. The Tier system is unfair to Chatham County. It is even affecting Goldston as they try get funding for the water tank. He has spoken with the Governor's Office and there is a possible opportunity to get some funding from the NC Connect Bond that was recently passed. He also spoke with Senator Burr's office to try to expedite the issue.

He stated this week there was a NC Competes Conference in Raleigh. Three of the commissioners were there and Siler City commissioners also attended. There were seventeen people at the meeting. The state took notice and realized the County is serious about economic development. NC Commerce Secretary John Skvarla said the option the County had on the megasite property was a huge deal.

He stated LEED certification is nothing but a feel good situation. You can build a LEED building without getting the certification because that just increases your costs. He gave examples of County's with LEED buildings that are paying more money now to run electricity and are actually using more energy. He believes the County should get independent input to validate findings.

Vice Chair Hales asked if the CCCC building information Commissioner Petty referred to in his remarks is available to staff. Commissioner Petty stated if they do something it should be measurable. The County Manager reminded the Board that staff is researching Geothermal for the Health Sciences Building.

Debra Henzey will get the senators' contact information to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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