



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Friday, February 8, 2019

8:30 AM

Agriculture & Conference Center

Legislative Breakfast

CALL TO ORDER

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Walter Petty

BOARD PRIORITIES

[19-2973](#)

Review issues with State Legislators

Chair Dasher welcomed everyone to the breakfast. Community Relations Director Debra Henzey served as the facilitator of the meeting and the 2019-2020 Chatham County Legislative Goals are attached.

Present in addition to the Board of Commissioners were: Interim County Manager Dan LaMontagne, Interim President for Chatham EDC Alyssa Byrd, Council on Aging Director Dennis Streets, Chatham County Schools Chief Technology Officer Keith Medlin, Chatham County Schools Board of Education Member Gary Leonard, Senator Valarie Foushee, Deputy County Manager and Finance Officer Vicki McConnell, Siler City Town Manager Bryan Thompson, Siler City Mayor John Grimes, Sheriff Mike Roberson, Major Tracy Kelly, Clerk to the Board Lindsay Ray, Deputy Clerk Emily Tellman, Representative Robert Reives, CCCC Provost Mark Hall, and Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry.

Mr. LaMontagne reviewed the first goal to approve NC Public Schools Buildings Bond Act. Senator Foushee said the Senate is not leaning toward a bond. They are looking to fund school construction in a pay as you go manner. Rep. Reives said the House supports the school bond. He believes the bond will pass in the House but he believes it will end up as part of the budget negotiations because of lack of support in the Senate. Vice Chair Hales asked if the Senate bill would base the money on surplus. Senator Foushee said that is correct.

Ms. Henzey reviewed the goal to Remove Rural Broadband Barriers. She hopes there will be an opportunity to partner with some of the delegation's Republican colleagues who also face this issue. Mr. Medlin said they have looked at how to leverage the e-rate funds. Ms. Henzey said lack of broadband is the number one complaint from citizens. Rep. Reives believes this issue probably has legs. Mr. LaMontagne said any bills should include the County's vertical assets such as towers and tanks for wireless providers. Commissioner Crawford asked if the General Assembly could address providers taking whole census blocks. Senator Foushee said many telcos are in legislators' pockets but she thinks this year will be different and there will be

movement on the issue. Ms. Henzey said the Republican leadership understands the economic development and education issues that stem from this.

Mr. Thompson reviewed the goal to Eliminate or Replace Economic Development Tiers. Commissioner Howard encouraged Mr. Thompson to contact the League of Municipalities and ask them to take this on as a goal as well. Ms. Henzey stated it is one of their goals. Senator Foushee said it is widely believed the tier structure should go away but the question is what should it be replaced with. Mr. Thompson asked if there is a possibility of a local bill. Senator Foushee thinks a local bill would be considered like a school calendar flexibility bill for a specific district.

Mr. LaMontagne reviewed the goal to Reinstate the Jordan Lake Rules. Senator Foushee asked for draft language to reinstate the Jordan Lake Rules.

Ms. McConnell reviewed the goal to Protect the Property Tax Base From Further Erosions and Exclusions.

Mr. LaMontagne reviewed the goal to Protect Local Control of Planning, Permitting & Inspection Functions.

Ms. Henzey reviewed the goal to Clarify Sales Tax County Assignment.

Mr. Streets reviewed the goal to Increase Funding for Home & Community Care Block Grant.

Mr. Streets reviewed the goal to Increase Funding for Senior Center General Purpose Funds.

Mr. Streets reviewed the goal to Increase State Funding for Adult Protective & Guardianship Services.

Mr. LaMontagne reviewed the goal to Renew State Solar Energy Tax Credits.

Mr. Medlin and Mr. Leonard reviewed the Chatham County Schools Issues (attached). Senator Foushee said Senate Bill 28 was filed yesterday to fund Masters Degrees for teachers.

Commissioner Howard stated it is such a pleasure to work with Senator Foushee and Rep. Reives. She knows the County has two of the best people on its side.

Senator Foushee said she feels there is more balance in the General Assembly right now. She said Senate Bill 28 was filed by two Republicans. She is much more positive that things will happen and there will be movement on some issues.

Rep. Reives said that the House has a lot of outside motivation right now. He has some faith in redistricting. The Freshman class in the House is huge and the leadership knows that these people have not been through what they've been through over the last four or five years and they are going to have to work together with them.

Rep. Reives said he really appreciates the government work group in Chatham County.

ADJOURNMENT