



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Monday, July 17, 2017

6:00 PM

Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Work Session - 3:30 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

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

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

No one signed up to speak.

BOARD PRIORITIES

[17-2256](#)

A request by the Planning Department to schedule a legislative public hearing for August 21, 2017 at 6:00 PM to adopt revisions to the Chatham County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

Attachments: [Attachment Chatham Preliminary Index 37037CIND0C](#)
[Attachment Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance \(REDLINE\)](#)

Planner Dylan Paul reviewed the specifics of the request.

Commissioner Dasher asked if the property owners had been notified. Mr. Paul stated they will be notified. The Planning Department is in the process of obtaining addresses for all affected property owners. Commissioner Dasher asked if the public hearing is an opportunity for property owners to appeal. Mr. Paul stated that opportunity was in 2013. Property owners were notified and public hearings were held.

Commissioner Howard asked what the practical implications are for a landowner if their home is in one of the newly enlarged flood zones. Mr. Paul stated Chatham County has a no build policy inside these flood zones. There are some exceptions. If a property is fully in the flood zone the owner can build in that area if they meet certain engineering specifications. Property owners who already have structures in the newly expanded flood zones will be allowed to keep their structures.

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 Petty, Commissioner Dasher and Commissioner Howard

[17-2259](#)

Request to schedule a public hearing for August 21, 2017 at 6:00 PM

for Chatham County Comprehensive Plan.

Attachments: [Attachment SC Chair Transmittal Letter](#)
[Comprehensive Plan Website - including link to the draft comprehensive plan](#)

Planner Cara Coppola reviewed the specifics of the request.

Jim Elza, Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, addressed the Board. He thanked the members of the committee for all of their hard work.

Vice Chair Hales and Chairman Crawford thanked the committee and planning staff for all of their hard work on the plan.

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

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

CLOSED SESSION

[17-2262](#)

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

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

End of Work Session

Regular Session - 6:00 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

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

INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Hales 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 6:05 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

17-2247

Vote on a request to approve the May 15, 2017 Work and Regular Session Minutes, the June 8, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes, the June 13, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes and the June 19, 2017 Work and Regular Session Minutes.

Attachments: [Draft Minutes 05.15.2017](#)
[Draft Minutes 06.08.2017](#)
[Draft Minutes 06.13.2017](#)
[Draft Minutes 06.19.2017](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Petty, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

17-2240

Vote on a request to accept FY18 \$3,810 Healthy Community Grant Funds.

Attachments: [\\$3.810 Healthy Communities Funds](#)

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

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

17-2241

Vote on a request to approve Lease between the County and Daymark Recovery Services and authorize the county manager to sign Lease.

Attachments: [7.7.17 Daymark Lease with Appendix 1](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Vice Chair Hales, 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 Petty, Commissioner Dasher and Commissioner Howard

[17-2242](#)

Vote on a request to approve Tax Department - Charging Off Tax Bills

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

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

[17-2244](#)

Vote on a request to approve Utilities Department - Debt Write-off

Attachments: [Attachment - Debt Write-off 071717 BOC](#)

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

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

[17-2245](#)

Vote on a request to approve to appoint Dr. Karen N. Barbee to fill the upcoming vacant Public Seat on the Board of Health effective 7-18-17.

Attachments: [Dr. Karen Barbee Application](#)

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

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

[17-2263](#)

Vote on a request to approve the appointment of Keith McLaurin to the Transportation Advisory Committee.

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

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

[17-2264](#)

Vote on a request to approve re-appointments to the Agriculture Advisory Board.

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

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

[17-2246](#)

Consideration to extend the time of performance for mowing services as stated in the First Amendment to Agreement with Green Revival Landscaping; locations Water Utility, Parks and Recreation, and Solid Waste & Recycling; for FY 2018 with an estimated annual total of \$108,620.00; and authorize County Manager Renee Paschal to

execute the agreement.

Attachments: [FIRST AMENDMENT Green Revival Landscaping-FinalRecommended](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Petty, 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 Petty, Commissioner Dasher and Commissioner Howard

[17-2253](#)

Vote on a request to approve Lee Bowman, Project Manager, on behalf of NNP Briar Chapel, LLC for subdivision Preliminary Plat review and approval of Briar Chapel, Phase 15 South, consisting of 141 lots on 44.23 acres, located off Andrews Store Road, SR-1528 and Boulder Point Drive, Baldwin Township, parcel #82828.

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

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

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

[17-2254](#)

Vote on a request to approve Lewis Metty Development, Inc. for subdivision Revised Preliminary Plat and Final Plat review and approval of Cedar Mountain, Phase 3B, consisting of 3 lots on 6.099 acres, located off Jones Ferry Road, S. R. 1540 and Cedar Grove/Cedar Mountain Road, Baldwin Township, parcel #1721.

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

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

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

[17-2257](#)

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

Attachments: [June 2017 Release and Refund Report](#)
[June 2017 NCVTS Pending Refund Report](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Petty, 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 Petty, Commissioner Dasher and Commissioner Howard

[17-2260](#)

Vote on a request to approve the naming of one private road in

Chatham County

Attachments: [ANNIE G WAY PETITION](#)
[ANNIE G WAY MAP](#)

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

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

[17-2261](#)

Vote on a request by the North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department to approve the purchase of emergency fire apparatus, post notice of a public hearing, appoint Chief John Strowd, North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department, to conduct the public hearing, and secure financing in a sum not to exceed \$2,000,000.00 through tax exempt borrowing.

Attachments: [Attachment A - HR4333 Tax Exempt Borrowing Requirements.pdf](#)
[Attachment B-North Chatham VFD Tax Exempt Borrowing Request.pdf](#)

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

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

End of Consent Agenda

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[17-2251](#)

Present Certificates of Extended Volunteer Committee Service with County Advisory Committees to Sue Clark and Jerry Cole.

Chairman Crawford presented Certificates of Extended Volunteer Service with County Advisory Committees to Sue Clark and Jerry Cole. Ms. Clark served on the Library Advisory Committee for six years and Mr. Cole served on the Environmental Review Advisory Committee for six years.

[17-2250](#)

Mark Reif of Mountaire Farms to Present Mariechen Smith with the Mountaire Farms Better Carolina Award

Attachments: [MARIECHEN SMITH - Mountaire Farms Better Carolina Award](#)

Mark Reif of Mountaire Farms gave a few words about Mariechen Smith. He stated Ms. Smith has honorably served her Chatham County community for many years. She is the strongest advocate for Chatham County that anyone could hope for. She makes North Carolina a better place to live.

Mr. Reif presented Ms. Smith with the Mountaire Better Carolina Award.

[17-2249](#)

Special Presentation to Janet Scott Honoring for 30+ Years of Exemplary Service

Chairman Crawford presented Emergency Operations Director Janet Scott with a plaque recognizing her over thirty years of service to Chatham County.

Ms. Scott thanked the Board, County Administration, her family and her staff for all their support through the years. She stated her time with the county has been a humbling and rewarding opportunity.

Chairman Crawford surprised Ms. Scott by presenting her with the special honor of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Among the honors and awards the Governor of North Carolina can bestow, none is more valued than The Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Since its creation in 1963, it has been presented to honor persons who have a proven record of service to the State of North Carolina or some other special achievement, and to others as a gesture of friendship and good will. Upon being named to The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the honoree receives a certificate by which the Governor confers upon the recipient "...the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary privileged to enjoy fully all rights granted to members of this exalted order among which is the special privilege to propose the following North Carolina Toast in select company anywhere in the free world: 'Here's to the land of the long leaf pine, The summer land where the sun doth shine, Where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great, Here's to "down home", the Old North State!'

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Keely Wood submitted the following comments:

I live in Lee County. By analyzing the cases of people living near power stations, researchers believe that humans can suffer from cancer and tumors when exposed to EMF radiation. How dangerous is it to live near a sub station. These high voltage lines transmit radiation called electromagnetic field (EMF). Whenever a current passes through a conductor an EMF is always associated with it. Some researchers believe that this radiation could possibly lead to cancer in the human body. A device called the Gauss Meter is used to measure the intensity of EMF. The World Health Organization warns that electromagnetic fields affect people adversely because human bodies have their own electric and biochemical responses. Therefore, exposure can have a dangerous effect on health. My husband has a very strong magnetic field. He can stop any watch given to him. If he lived near this power station it would be life threatening. For a small percentage of individuals the reaction to EMF pollution can become debilitating. This condition is called electromagnetic hypersensitivity. The growing number of studies pinpoint the location of human cancer clusters with the magnetic fields produced around transformer networks, overwhelmingly including childhood leukemia. Not only can they research the health effects, but the real estate values associated next to a sub station are well documented. You would be damaging the value of so many in Chatham by approving this application.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

[17-2258](#)

Legislative public hearing to consider an extension of a temporary moratorium on oil and gas development activities within Chatham County adopted in August 2015 until August 16, 2018 and vote on a request to adopt the Fracking Moratorium Ordinance.

Attachments: [Fracking Moratorium Ordinance Extension to August 2018](#)
[Fracking Moratorium Ordinance August 2015](#)
[Natural Gas Study Powerpoint Presenetation chatham ppdraft613](#)

Planner Cara Coppola introduced the item and attorney Glenn Dunn.

Mr. Dunn stated the ordinance is an extension of an ordinance regarding oil and gas development and a temporary moratorium. The ordinance was adopted August 17, 2017 and had a term of two years. That term will expire before the Board of Commissioners August meeting which is the reason for the public hearing tonight. The purpose of the extension of the moratorium is to study Oil and Gas Commission rules being developed at the state level. In a limited way those rules control or pre-empt what can be done at the local government level through ordinances. The purpose of the moratorium is also to review the County ordinance. During the two year term of the moratorium the previous Mining and Energy Commission was litigated to be unconstitutionally constituted so to some extent the status of those rules may be in question. The Board has to justify extending the moratorium through new facts and conditions.

Vice Chair Hales stated she appreciates the work Mr. Dunn did on the ordinance and the reasons for extension.

Commissioner Howard asked if an extension for one year will give the county an opportunity to do what is needed given that it doesn't have an answer on the applicability of the rules. Would the Board have to extend the moratorium again in a year? Is there a limitation on how long the moratorium can be extended. Mr. Dunn stated there is no limitation on the extension if there is good cause after one year to extend. Case law shows that the body should make the extension as short as possible or a reasonable amount of time to get the work done.

Chairman Crawford opened the hearing.

Charles Ritter submitted the following comments:

I am requesting an extension of the fracking moratorium. There are only two possible scenarios. The first would let the moratorium lapse. That allows exposure to the dangers of fracking that others have experienced in this country and outside this country. There are many documented cases of carcinogens in the drinking water in the United States. Oklahoma has had earthquakes that rose from one to two per year to over 1,100 per year in areas of fracking. The infrastructure has been devastated by heavy equipment. Other parts of the world have regretted allowing fracking. At least five countries have banned fracking totally and eight partially. In the U.S. there are over 400 local bans. Many of these bans were imposed after they suffered devastation. If this happens it is too late. The environment and health issues remain behind after this occurs and you are stuck with that. The second scenario is to put a one year moratorium extension in place. Let's study and see if fracking is safe. Why? North Carolina has stated it is a very unique shale formation, it is very shallow. Shale intersects the water supply just south of the Jordan Lake Reservoir. The shallow or vertical fracking has a high probability of contaminating both the water table and therefore wells and our reservoir, Jordan Lake, that provides drinking water for 300,000 people. If fracking is allowed it is a perfect storm. It would be the only place in the United States, and I got this from the NRC, with the juxtaposition of a nuclear power plant, a fault line, and fracking. My recommendation, I'd rather be safe than sorry. The damage cannot be undone. Whether it is earthquakes, polluted drinking water, brain damaged children, possible nuclear

incident or infrastructure damage beyond repair. Fracking has been banned proactively in three states in the U.S. I don't want to prejudge, but please determine if fracking is safe before allowing it in Chatham. Make an informed decision. Thank you.

Maja Kricker submitted the following comments:

I have lived in North Carolina for 30 years and in Chatham County for 22 years. Our county is primarily rural and agricultural, and developing as an ecotourism and retirement community. We have a sustainable technologies program at our community college. We have builders constructing LEED certified buildings. We have an ever growing number of organic farms and wineries, a biofuels company, solar energy producers, beautiful parks and Jordan Lake, inns and a vibrant and developing arts and music scene.

Our economy relies on clean air and water and the perception that people are coming to an environmentally safe and sustainable community with a wonderful quality of life. Where are the economic impact studies for shale gas extraction, fracking? We do know fracking uses 3-5 millions of gallons of our drinking water per gas well per frack, and a well can be fracked up to 20 times. What will this mean for the farmers in our county who rely on a continuing water supply for their crops and livestock? How high will our county water bills rise for business and domestic use? If fracking should cause earthquakes, homeowner's insurance does not cover it. Who pays? If farmland is destroyed by fracking, what is the compensation to the farmer and the community?

We will have thousands of diesel truck trips on our rural roads and highways in our county. Traffic congestion, damaged roads and diesel fumes are not likely to bring tourists looking for rural beauty or people looking to buy green housing. Who will pay for the damage to our roads? Clear cutting and destruction of our farmland, rural countryside, flaring off excess gas releasing methane into the air and a stench like a putrid outhouse, constant noise from compressors day and night are the collateral damage of fracking. If farmland is destroyed by fracking, what is the compensation to the farmer and the community? Would you want your neighbor to have a gas well on their land? Chatham County is a close community where neighbors support and care for each other. It is a major advantage to living here. I hope our neighbors will still speak to each other when there are wells on adjoining land. What will happen to our community spirit? This will neither enhance tourism nor attract and keep clean technology companies.

Can Chatham County afford a heavy industry that is not required to comply with the clean air and water acts in a state where our legislature seeks to reduce regulation and oversight of industry? We are risking our local economy when gas wells are typically tapped out within two to five years. Shale gas extraction will result in greater local job loss than it generates. Shale gas extraction doesn't give us a future, it's a dead end that kills local economies. Instead of handing over our natural resources to any corporation willing to throw some money at it, let's create a sustainable plan for our natural resources that builds on the wealth that local farms and businesses are developing right now for Chatham County. I am asking you to continue the moratorium on fracking.

Mike Petruska submitted the following comments:

I am representing the Climate Change Advisory Committee. I have been a resident

of Chatham County for four years, so I am a relative newcomer. I actually come from Pennsylvania and I have family up there. I have talked to folks about what they have gone through. I've seen first hand some of the impacts. The Climate Change Committee strongly supports the extension of the moratorium. We met on Thursday night and we voted by consensus. It was a unanimous vote. There are a lot of questions. I am going to confine my remarks to air quality. Oil and gas are known to have at least three kinds of air quality contaminants. There are volatile organic contaminants which cause smog. There are also air toxins which include benzene, which is a carcinogen. Some of that is coming out of the ground, some of that may also be from vehicle traffic. There is also methane, methane is the product itself. It is the gas so that gas has to be captured efficiently. If it isn't, it goes off into the air. If you or I had methane in our house we would throw the windows open and get out of the house because it is extremely dangerous. What is happening at the well sites is that they are not, it is changing somewhat, as we heard from Dr. Yuill, that predominantly methane is not being captured. What's happening is that it is just going into the air and it is being flared. That does create climate implications. Each type of greenhouse gas is given a rating as a Global Warming Potential, GWP. Methane has one of the highest GWP's. What that means is, pound for pound, it has more warming potential than CO2. You want to reduce CO2 but you don't want to release methane. The technologies are coming. I think one day we are going to see a convergence where we see good technology and we see that methane is captured. When it is captured and the natural gas is burned, you don't have tremendous climate impacts. Natural gas burns very efficiently. Right now the situation, and this is what we would be faced with without this extension of the moratorium, would result in fracking, methane emissions, climate impacts and a full range of air quality impacts that I think would be very damaging to the county. I strongly recommend that you go ahead and extend this moratorium for another year.

Keely Wood submitted the following comments:

I want to go ahead and thank you for extending this moratorium. In 2014, New York became the second state to place a ban on the drilling method. It was driven by 200 communities in the state that instituted their own fracking prohibitions similar to what is going on in Chatham and Lee. Governor Hogan of Maryland said the environment and health risks of fracking simply outweigh any potential benefit. He said that before the General Assembly voted to have a fracking ban. The polluted air and water created by the fracking industry have been known to make people sick and produces millions of gallons of toxic wastewater. Communities with fracking have seen the value of their homes drop, crime rates skyrocket, and experienced the loss of local tourism and agriculture. Fracking has been known to harm farmland and livestock which adds to the issue. The pipelines, the gathering lines, the infrastructure, the compressor stations, the toxic trains delivering chemicals and silica sand and all the other industrial needs required to support a fracking site bring more insult to injury felt by the communities with fracking. Don't even tell me that this makes us less energy dependent, considering the U.S. is on the verge of being the number one exporter of natural gas in the world. We are currently producing more than we use. Please visit psr.org and review the hundreds of peer reviewed health studies, specifically because of fracking. [Psr.org](http://psr.org) is easy to remember, Physicians for Social Responsibility. They made it easy for New York and Maryland to ban fracking because of science reporting. Thank you.

Elaine Chiosso submitted the following comments:

The Haw River Assembly has been part of the discussion surrounding fracking and

its impacts since the subject was first introduced in our state in 2009. Our research into the practices of the natural gas industry using fracking in the Marcellus Shale area and in the western US, gave us many reasons to believe it should not happen in North Carolina. We played an active role in educating the public and lawmakers about the dangers of fracking to public health, our surface and ground waters and the environment. The presence of shale beds within the Haw River watershed, including Chatham County made this issue all the more critical. We urged the state to ban fracking, or to at least pass laws that would protect NC from the kinds of water and air pollution and degradation of communities seen in other states. After rules were passed in NC to regulate fracking, HRA won a temporary injunction in 2015 to keep the N.C. Mining and Energy Commission from issuing fracking permits. Our lawsuit, filed by the Southern Environmental Law Center, contended that legislative appointments to the Commission violated the separation of powers in the North Carolina Constitution. We believe the regulations passed by this Commission are null and void and should not be used by the Oil and Gas Commission, which subsequently replaced it. To this day, no fracking permits have been issued in NC.

The Haw River Assembly supported the Chatham County Moratorium on Oil and Gas Development in 2015 and strongly agreed with the concerns for the health, safety and welfare of the people and environment if fracking were to take place here. We urge you to extend that moratorium for another 12 months for the following reasons:

- North Carolina still has no infrastructure in place for fracking, including wastewater disposal. More study is needed to understand the impacts this will have on our communities.*
- The shallow shale layer in Chatham County where fracking could take place, and the intersection of that shallow layer with groundwater and the fractured rock geology common here needs further study.*
- The impacts from intensive water use for fracking on surface waters including the Deep River and Jordan Lake and their tributaries, need to be much better understood in light of North Carolina's weak laws on water withdrawals from streams.*
- The potential for contamination of drinking water sources serving hundreds of thousands of people including Jordan Lake, the Deep River and private wells needs to be further examined.*
- The increase locally in methane releases and volatile organic chemicals due to fracking and natural gas operations will result in local air quality problems and contribute to increased greenhouse gas emissions, the cause of planet-wide climate change. This also needs to be better researched.*

The Haw River Assembly urges the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to extend the current moratorium on oil and gas activities in order to take the time necessary to protect the residents of Chatham County through further study and deliberation. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Jeannie Ambrose submitted the following comments:

At the June 19th meeting of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, I spoke in support of extending the moratorium ordinance to address the points that the consultant Dr. Charles Yuill made in his slide presentation. The moratorium extension that you will be voting on tonight would provide more information on evaluating vertical fracking regulations. This is important because I attended all but one meeting of the Mining and Energy Commission, and vertical drilling/shallow fracking was only mentioned near the end of the rule making process back in 2015. We would have a better understanding of the overall fiscal risks of shale gas development and its economic effects on our local government's resources to provide increased demands on community health and social services, housing and school needs. Managing road maintenance and traffic safety from increased truck volume

on our rural roads and handling environmental cleanups in case of spills or accidents are other monetary concerns with limited existing state funding.

Also, I have a handout with links to two articles on water levels and withdrawal, especially in times of drought, for planning purposes. One is a USGS study on low flow in the Cape Fear River Basin underlain by the Carolina Slate Belt and Triassic Basin. The other is a recent article on low flow in some of our water basins, "Water Levels are Declining in North Carolina's Rivers and Streams and Scientists are Concerned". One of those scientists was a former DENR secretary, Bill Holden. Also, it mentions in that article, increased development and water withdrawals as well as climate change, less water is available for drinking and for diluting effluents and other pollutants discharged into streams. Please vote in favor of extending the temporary Moratorium on Oil and Gas Development Activities within Chatham County.

Therese Vick submitted the following comments:

I am here on behalf of the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League to support the extension of the moratorium on fracking in Chatham County. Thank you for your consideration of this very important step. I am another one of the folks who attended most of the meetings of the Mining and Energy Commission. I can tell you what rules there are that have not been touched in several years or improved in any way. The rules were constantly watered down by this commission despite excellent testimony from folks that attended. There were four public hearings after the rule package was finished. They were watered down to benefit industry. That is what we are dealing with even if the MEC was ruled constitutional. We are still dealing with that same rule package. So many folks have brought such good information to you about the many problems. One thing I wanted to mention is that those rules do not protect the landowners from liability. They don't protect landowners that may have split estates or forced pooling. They don't protect communities. It is up to local government to protect the communities. I commend you for taking this step and hope that you will vote to extend the moratorium.

Roy Girolami submitted the following comments:

I have lived in Chatham County twenty-three years. I have seen it grow quite a bit. I am east of Hwy 751. I think you need to extend the moratorium because in Dr. Yuill's report he was bringing up some things, specifically that most of the suitable shale is in Lee County. I think you need to have enough time to get with the Lee County Commissioners and get some sort of system set up so that you can coordinate what is going to go on. They are going to have a lot more interest in their deposit. There is probably going to be more gas. When I came over Hwy 64 over the Haw River this evening, I saw some water. Last week when I came over, it was just rocks. If you are going to have fracking occur you need to come up with some way of figuring how much water can be taken out without it causing some problems downstream. The levels of Jordan Lake going down. I think that you should extend the moratorium. I think there are a lot of things that haven't been addressed, like we don't know the cost. We don't know what it will take to keep up the roads. We don't know how much water is going to be used. If they start doing vertical fracking where would they start? Is there any way of knowing where the number one spot would be? The moratorium should be enough of an extension that you have time to address some of these issues. Thank you.

Andrea Deyrup submitted the following comments:

I support the moratorium. I wonder why it can't be two years. I very much support what you are doing and thank you very much for keeping Chatham County safe. Thank you.

John Wagner submitted the following comments:

I am a resident of Chatham County. I want to start out by thanking you for passing the moratorium in the first place. I think that was an extremely important step. We need to extend it for a minimum of one year. There is a lot that needs to be learned. I passed out a map and some figures because when I looked at Dr. Yuill's presentation, he had a map of Washington County, PA and the number of wells and the number of violations. That concerned me because although it has had a lot of wells, it has a very small number of violations. I have friends in Susquehanna County. I know people who have had their wells ruined from fracking. Susquehanna County, as you can see in the figures, had fewer wells. Instead of 153 accidents and violations they had 795. His choice of Washington County concerned me because he didn't give the figures for the state. He didn't give the figures for the worst. He picked one of the best. If you look at Pennsylvania as a whole, from the same source he used, there were 7,788 wells and 4,006 violations. About half the wells had violations statewide. He had a page called "A Couple of Notes", which minimized the seismic problems and that they were mostly due to injection wells. That is true, but the USGS and several state geologists across the country and Canadian geologists stated that fracking itself causes earthquakes. With Shearon Harris and the fault that runs directly through the foundation, that shouldn't be minimized. He minimized on the same page the methane gas problem. That needs to be updated. There is an engineer who worked in the oil and gas industry who lives in Durham, who has done publications in peer reviewed journals. His name is Touche Howard. He is the person who invented the device that the EPA and the industry use to talk about how little methane is released during fracking. He has stated that is wrong. He has hundreds of samples he has verified. He is coming out with a new journal article in the next few weeks. Dr. Yuill needs to update that because methane is a major issue. Not only is it explosive, it the worse greenhouse gas there is. To minimize that is a terrible mistake. I will send you Touche Howard's journal article and when the new one comes out I'll send you that one as well. Thank you.

Chairman Crawford closed the hearing.

Commissioner Howard stated she is concerned about the one year extension. She would like a two year extension to allow sufficient time to get the work done.

The Board discussed the possibility of having a two year extension. The County Attorney stated the Board would have to hold another public hearing for a two year extension. The next Board of Commissioners meeting is August 21, 2017 and the current moratorium expires August 16, 2017. Because of this the Board decided to go forward with the one year extension with the possibility of another extension next year.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hales, seconded by Commissioner Howard, that this Ordinance, 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 Petty, Commissioner Dasher and Commissioner Howard

BOARD PRIORITIES[17-2255](#)

Vote on a request to approve Sears Design Group, P. A. on behalf of Fitch Creations, Inc. for subdivision Sketch Plan Revision of Fearrington - Section X, Areas "D" - "M", consisting of 126 remaining lots on 123 acres, located off US 15-501 N, Weathersfield/SR-1807, Millcroft/ SR-1817, and E. Camden/SR-1813, Williams Township, parcel #18998.

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

Planner Cara Coppola reviewed the specifics of the request.

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 Petty, Commissioner Dasher and Commissioner Howard

MANAGER' S REPORTS

The County Manager stated the new safety net provider, Daymark, moved in on July 3, 2017. She reported that they see more walk-in patients in a day than the previous provider was seeing in a week.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Howard stated the OPC Mental Health Board is now the Central Carolina Unity Board. It is made up of Orange, Person, Chatham, Caswell, and Alamance counties. She stated the Economic Development Corporation will have some intentional inputs and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. She also had MPO training and is going to get local training as well.

Chairman Crawford stated he is going to Columbus, OH at the end of the week to the Healthiest Cities and Counties Institute with members of the Health Department.

Vice Chair Hales stated she attended the NC Green Industry Council seminar. She felt it was a valuable event and Brian Burkhart from Environmental Quality also attended.

Commissioner Dasher stated the Affordable Rental Housing Task Force has a draft report completed and they will be bringing it to the Board soon.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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