



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Monday, November 19, 2018

6:00 PM

Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Rollcall

Present: 3 - Vice Chair Diana Hales, Commissioner Jim Crawford and Commissioner Walter Petty

Absent: 2 - Chair Mike Dasher and Commissioner Karen Howard

Work Session - 3:30 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Interim County Manager Dan LaMontagne introduced the new Environmental Quality Director, Kevin Lindley.

No one signed up to speak.

BOARD PRIORITIES

[18-2842](#)

Receive update on coal ash fund spending and vote on a request to approve a request by the Moncure/Haywood Event for \$25,000 a year for the next three years.

Attachments: [Coal Ash funds](#)

[Moncure.haywood event report](#)

Quentin Murray presented a report to the Board. (Report attached)

Commissioner Petty stated he felt the request should go through the nonprofit funding process now that the organization is a nonprofit.

Mr. Murray disagreed because the funds were coming from the coal ash money which was intended to help the Moncure community.

Chair Hales suggested referring the item to staff.

Commissioner Petty made a motion to move the request to the nonprofit process. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to postpone the discussion to the December

17th meeting to allow Commissioners Howard and Dasher to participate in the discussion. The motion failed for lack of a second.

The Board agreed to postpone the discussion to the December 17, 2018 meeting.

Commissioner Petty asked the County Manager to report on the coal ash money and how it has been spent at the next meeting.

[18-2841](#)

Receive presentation and update from Central Piedmont Community Action

Attachments: [Chatham Commissioners Mtg Nov 19, 2018 CPCA Presentation](#)

Sheryl Andrews, Doug Dixon, and Natasha Elliott gave a presentation to the Board. (Presentation attached)

[18-2840](#)

Presentation on North Carolina Geodetic Survey's Resurvey of the Common Boundary between Chatham County and Harnett County.

Attachments: [2018-1008-HARNETT-CHATHAM COUNTY LINE Summary REPORT](#)
[2018-1008-HARNETT-CHATHAM PRELIM PLAT](#)
[2018-1016-DRAFT -Harnett-Chatham Joint Letter](#)
[2018-1105-Joint Resolution Harnett Chatham County Line](#)

GIS Manager Nick Haffele addressed the Board.

The Board agreed to consider the resolution at the December 3, 2018 meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

[18-2844](#)

Closed Session to discuss matters relating to personnel.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crawford, seconded by Commissioner Petty, to approve going out of the Work Session and convening in Closed Session to discuss matters relating to personnel and attorney-client privilege. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Petty

Absent: 2 - Chair Dasher and Commissioner Howard

[18-2856](#)

Appointment of Tax Administrator

A motion was made by Commissioner Petty, seconded by Commissioner Crawford, to appoint Jenny Williams as Chatham County Tax Administrator for a two year term. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Petty

Absent: 2 - Chair Dasher and Commissioner Howard

ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 3 - Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Petty

Absent: 2 - Chair Dasher and Commissioner Howard

End of Work Session

Regular Session - 6:00 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Present: 3 - Vice Chair Diana Hales, Commissioner Jim Crawford and Commissioner Walter Petty

Absent: 2 - Chair Mike Dasher and Commissioner Karen Howard

INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Hales asked everyone to pause for a moment of silence after which she invited everyone present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hales welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA

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

Aye: 3 - Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Petty

Absent: 2 - Chair Dasher and Commissioner Howard

[18-2837](#)

Vote on a request to approve the October 15, 2018 Work and Regular Session Minutes.

Attachments: [Draft Minutes 10.15.2018](#)

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

Aye: 3 - Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Petty

Absent: 2 - Chair Dasher and Commissioner Howard

[18-2821](#)

Vote on a request to approve \$14,770 Minority Diabetes Prevention

Program Funds.

Attachments: [\\$14,770 Diabetes Prevention FY18-19 Alamance County AA-MDPP Program](#)

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

Aye: 3 - Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Petty

Absent: 2 - Chair Dasher and Commissioner Howard

[18-2836](#)

Vote on a request to approve Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget Amendments

Attachments: [Budget Amendment 2018-2019 Nov](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Crawford, seconded by Commissioner Petty, that the Budget Amendments, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Petty

Absent: 2 - Chair Dasher and Commissioner Howard

[18-2838](#)

Vote on a request to approve Tax Releases and Refunds

Attachments: [October 2018 Release and Refund Report](#)
[October 2018 NCVTS Pending Refund Report](#)
[October 2018 Manual NCVTS Pending Refund Report](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Crawford, 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: 3 - Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Petty

Absent: 2 - Chair Dasher and Commissioner Howard

[18-2847](#)

Vote on a request to approve the appointment of Tenita Solanto to the Agriculture Advisory Board.

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

Aye: 3 - Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Petty

Absent: 2 - Chair Dasher and Commissioner Howard

[18-2853](#)

Vote on a request to approve the appointment of Sara Collier to the Climate Change Advisory Committee.

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

Aye: 3 - Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Petty

Absent: 2 - Chair Dasher and Commissioner Howard

End of Consent Agenda

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Chair Hales announced that item #18-2845 will be postponed until the December 17, 2018 meeting.

Chair Hales also announced that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners received the North Carolina School Board Association's award for Commissioners of the Year.

Sarah Beck submitted the following comments:

Dear Mayor and members of city council, I am Sarah Beck and I am here with Reagan Flynn and Meera Butalia. We are all seniors at Northwood High School and members of Triangle People Power, a youth activist organization fighting for the ACLU's grassroots agenda. We are based on the national nonprofit, People Power. Our current initiative is environmental justice, and we're specifically focused on how environmental issues pertain to racial equity and indigenous rights.

The environmental justice movement began in Warren County, North Carolina over 35 years ago. Citing the high black and Latinx population, the EPA designated the low-income community of Afton to be the dumping ground for extremely hazardous chemicals, including PCBs. The residents protested by lying on the ground to physically prevent the trucks from distributing this substance into their communities. These were people who risked everything they had-- their lives, freedom, families-- to protest for their own rights and human dignity.

Right now, America, North Carolina, and Chatham County are facing an environmental crisis, Climate change, rising sea levels, storms, natural disasters--all which disproportionately affect people of color, those who have contributed to climate change the least.

Reagan Flynn submitted the following comments:

Environmental racism is prevalent. Gentrification is an environmental justice issue because displacing low income communities in favor of building middle and upper class homes relates to both the environment and poverty. In North Carolina, Smithfield hog farms produced a gigantic waste lagoon which impacted the lives and lifespans of low income residents of color. They reeked of pig, were sickened from the stench, and their drinking water was contaminated. Other issues in the environmental racism category are coal ash dumping, including the Dan River Spill, when, as stated by CBS, Duke energy dumped 39,000 tons of coal ash with arsenic, chromium and lead (CBS) into 70 miles of the Dan river and raised energy rates of these exact residents for the cleanups. Duke energy is a 57 billion dollar industry, yet was only charged 6 million for the cleanup. And Duke Energy raised the rates of its customers to pay for it.

But it doesn't stop there. Hurricane Florence has contributed to multiple coal ash and hog farm waste spills. According to NC Policy Watch, polyfluoroalkyl (NOT fluorinated compounds) in the Cape Fear River, will prevent residents from accessing clean water, and stay in their bodies for years to come. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is expected to be built through rural, lower-income counties in Eastern North Carolina. These are all pertinent examples of environmental racism.

Meera Butalia submitted the following comments:

All of these issues affect our community, and Chatham County can do something about them. Which is why we are proposing two bills passed by the New York City Council Intro 886-A and Intro 359-A. You can amend this legislation based on our county's departments and standards. According to NYC.gov, in an article written on April 25th, 2017, "Intro. 886-A, sets up an Interagency Working Group to create a countywide Environmental Justice Plan that provides guidance on incorporating environmental justice concerns into county decision-making, identifies possible countywide initiatives for promoting environmental justice and provides specific recommendations for county agencies to bring their operations, programs and projects in line with environmental justice concerns. The bill also establishes an Advisory Board consisting of residents and experts to assist the Working Group. Intro. 359-A, requires the new Interagency Working Group to conduct a study to identify and address environmental justice concerns, and to make recommendations for measures to advance environmental justice goals. The environmental justice information will be made available to the public through a web portal that will provide easy access to relevant maps, data and Agency programs."

Additionally, we are presenting a petition for a 100% renewable energy plan and carbon-free economy. This initiative has been sponsored by the action network and has countless signatures. We're asking you to pass this environmental justice legislation because it is common-sense. It not only protects the environment; it affords lower-income communities of color human rights and dignity. We recognize our privilege--we are able to stand here and petition, while those most at risk do not have a voice. Thank you for considering this legislation and thank you so much for your time.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

[18-2843](#)

Recommended FY20-26 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) Public Hearing

Attachments: [InitialPresentationToBOC- 2020-2026 \[Compatibility Mode\]](#)

Interim County Manager Dan LaMontagne gave a presentation to the Board. (Presentation attached)

Jane Gallagher submitted the following comments:

My comments relate to the Parks and Recreation funding that I don't see in the Capital Improvement Plan. I heard something from Dan that might negate what some of what I have to say tonight. I come to you as a mentor of a young child that is very active. I am of grandmother age. I have signed him up for wrestling, basketball, and summer

camp. I have to run down to the Parks and Recreation department because it is a small little window for that summer camp that they have at Northwest Park. It is \$55 a week. It is the only affordable program that is available. I know you are over-budgeted on the school system but I am hoping that you can plan in the future for a beautiful spot next to the Ag Center for a community center that would serve the purposes of the senior citizens and young kids. I am married to someone that had to sweep the floors and clean the bathroom sinks so that we could have basketball practice at Woods Charter School in order to get that gym. I see waiting for my kid at wrestling, that they don't want you in there. The new Groves school, at 3:30 they are going to let them go in there and they are going to have to fight for that space with the YMCA people. You give money to Siler City and the Town for that great aquatic building. We have to help the County have some center that would help the purposes of all those kids that would be affordable. For basketball, they cannot get into those gyms until 7pm. Would you want to take a seven or eight year old to practice at 7pm at night? I hope you will think, maybe not this year, but maybe your Master Recreation Plan will address these issues; Outdoor pools and camps are big ones. Teens have no place to go. I think we need to start thinking about that and I would appreciate it if you did that. Thank you.

The Board will have a special meeting to review the CIP on November 27, 2018 at the Agriculture and Conference Center at 9:30am.

Commissioner Crawford stated he had received a letter from the Farm Bureau and they would like to see power and water to the arena at the Agriculture and Conference Center. He asked if the County could do that this year. The Interim County Manager believes the County may be able to accomplish that this year but he will have to look into it and get back to the Board.

[18-2833](#)

A Legislative Public Hearing to consider County-initiated rezonings of 12 selected businesses in the formerly unzoned portion of Chatham County.

Attachments: [Hyperlink](#)

Planning Director Jason Sullivan reviewed the specifics of the request.

The Chair opened the hearing.

Bob Hornik submitted the following comments:

I am from the Brough Law Firm in Chapel Hill. I am here as the representative of R.A. Smith Enterprises. I don't have a lot to add other than we were here once before for the light industrial and we were turned down. We realize that is not what people wanted and we were encouraged to get back with the staff and we did. We are happy to answer any questions. Regional business was what was most closely fit what is out there and uses my client wants to make.

Chair Hales closed the hearing.

This Agenda Item was referred to the Planning Board.

[18-2845](#)

A Legislative Public Hearing to consider County-initiated rezonings of 5 parcels in the formerly unzoned portion of Chatham County.

Attachments: [More information from the Planning Department website](#)

This item was postponed until the December 17, 2018 Board of Commissioners Meeting.

[18-2834](#)

A Legislative Public Hearing for a text amendment request for the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance, specifically Section 10.13 Table of Permitted Uses, Churches and other places of worship to be changed from P+ Permitted to be required to obtain an approved Conditional Use Permit in order to locate in R-1, R-2, and R-5 Residential zoning districts.

Attachments: [More information from the Planning Department website](#)

Zoning Administrator Angela Birchett reviewed the specifics of the request.

Applicant Jim Cassese addressed the Board. Mr. Cassese stated this request is not an issue of religion. It is an issue of public privacy and public safety. Religious institutions in a residential area create issues such as light pollution due to lighted parking spaces and exterior lights, noise pollution from events outside, trash pollution such as signs and banners flying around or water bottles and food wrappers, and traffic pollution and overburdening of private gravel roads. Mr. Cassese lives on a private gravel dead end road that has eleven houses on it. He understands approving the text amendment will not change what is happening in his neighborhood now as it will be grandfathered in. He is hoping in the future other private dead end gravel roads will at least have a say in what goes on in their neighborhood. He was told this was the only forum where he would have a say in what goes on in his neighborhood because a religious institution is exempt from public hearings. Emergency vehicles cannot get into their road due to the traffic. His wife has had to sit for up to twenty minutes trying to turn down their road due to the number of people going in and out of the facility. He believes Wake County already has this rule in place and it does not seem that it has been detrimental to anyone. He believes it is Zoning's responsibility to help keep the safety and privacy of the residents that live in these residential neighborhoods.

The Chair opened the hearing.

Several members of the community stated they were deferring their time to their attorney, Paul Messick.

Anne Fuller submitted the following comments:

I am speaking to the amendment to our Chatham County Zoning Ordinance to require all public places, including churches and places of worship, to obtain a permit as Wake County has. Allowing surrounding residents to not only know what is being proposed, but to have a voice in how they could be affected. I wanted to highlight this is a public/private issue to me. It should be treated as any other public facility zoning even if it is a place of worship or a church. My husband and I have lived on Hogan Farm Road for twenty-seven years. We have owned the land since 1985. It is a beautiful, private, rural neighborhood and that is why we live here. I have experienced this situation. I was surprised that a public place was suddenly in my private neighborhood without me knowing or having a voice in it. The two events at the public place that appeared in our neighborhood included anywhere from two to four hundred people. A lot of the points that Jim has said I agree with 100%. It made our private, peaceful neighborhood public. There was congestion at the entrance. I could not access my mailbox. There were delays getting to my home, ten to twenty minutes. It disturbs the peaceful neighborhood. Public places encourage crime. There are strangers driving up my driveway to my house looking for this public place. It creates

pollution, not only noise but light, trash at the entrance and environmental hazards with septic, waste and trash. It creates safety issues for the pedestrians. Hollands Chapel is a very busy road. There are no sidewalks. It is a safety issue for EMS to get to the residents of the neighborhood. It is disturbing to see the arrival of a church in a private neighborhood. Hopefully you can change this so at least the residents around can realize it is happening in their neighborhood and they can speak up about it. Thanks for your consideration. I hope this will prevent this happening to other neighbors.

Scott Wilson submitted the following comments:

I am for the text change to require a conditional use permit for churches and other places of worship in R1, R2, and R5. These conditional use permits are required in many counties and municipalities. Chatham County has lots of rural neighborhoods that are served by single lane gravel roads that would not safely serve large churches or places of worship. There needs to be a means for the public to give input on their concerns and the placing of churches or places of worship in these residential areas. The first page of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance says that the Zoning Ordinance is for the purpose of promoting the public health, safety and general welfare and promoting orderly growth of the jurisdiction, for lessening congestion on the roads and streets, and securing safety from fire, panic and other changes. By not having public input these items is why we need the text change. The conditional use permit requirement is not to deny or prevent places of worship from locating in these residential districts, it is to make sure that all aspects of the site and development are looked at by the County to make sure it is safe for the public and the neighborhoods. I think the text change is needed.

Roland Cargill submitted the following comments:

I am here to speak in favor of the this application. I think places of worship should be treated the same as any other public facility, particularly in the case I am going to talk about a little bit, involves placement of a public facility in a private neighborhood. In our case we learned that there is no public hearing for this kind of activity so the neighbors pursued our particular case because there was no other forum by which we could offer our opinions. The land that is involved was purchased by a real estate agent. It had a home on it that has now been converted to a temporary place of worship. It has to have permitted events and those events create traffic problems and safety issues. The Fire Marshal is very much aware of this. The worshipers let their children out in the highway. It is amazing that people don't have more concern about their own safety as well as the people involved. As a concerned neighbor I think this sort of thing should be approved so that other folks that have to deal with this don't have to go through the same kind of forum that we have. We found out the hard way. We had to figure it out ourselves. It is just not acceptable for churches to be exempt from the requirements for other public facilities. If it is a gas station, convenient store or boat storage people should have input, particularly the neighbors who are impacted. I think this would help other communities that may face the same problem in the future as Chatham County continues to grow. Thank you.

Paul Messick submitted the following comments:

I am an attorney here in Pittsboro and I represent all the folks from the community.

We are here tonight to talk to you about the proposed amendment. I have been doing this thing for more than forty-five years. First thing I always think of is, is it legal to do what these folks have asked you to do? Second, does it make good common sense? With respect to the first issue I would submit to you that the federal law changed in 2000. There is something called the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act that regulates land uses for religious organizations and persons. Under that law it says that no government shall impose a land use regulation that imposes a substantial burden on the religious exercise of a person, including religious assemblies and institutions, unless it is in the furtherance of some substantial government interest. It is the least restrictive way in which to further compelling that governmental interest. The law also says that no government shall impose a land use regulation that treats a religious assembly on less than an equal basis. No government shall impose a land use regulation that discriminates against any assembly on the basis of religion. On all those counts, I think that this proposed amendment violates that law. I think it subjects the County to substantial liability. The burden to create a conditional use application without any particular standards for a church to have to comply with leaves the issue, as they indicate, to the whim of the public. Although they count it in terms of public interest and public safety, it can also be a form of discrimination against the exercise of religion. This is not a public organization. This is a private religious organization that uses private land. This particular development is not restricted. That is probably their main problem. This was not restricted to residential uses. That is why this issue has come up. There is no reason to treat this church organization differently. The ordinance also allows nonprofit clubs to be permitted in any residential use. Public park and recreation areas including arenas and concessions are permitted in every residential area. Schools are permitted in every residential area. All of those are public uses of private property. All of those would have impacts on their neighbors but you don't require a conditional use permit for any of those uses. To single out churches and require them to have to do something that these other type uses do not have to do, creates a burden upon the exercise of religion. That burden violates the law and makes no sense. You are not treating the similar uses of property in the same way. I think that burden is unfair and this amendment should not be allowed. Thank you.

A member of the community submitted the following comments:

I understand the issues brought up today. I myself am a professional engineer and work with zoning and planning. Chatham county values safety and welfare. But every day there are incidents of hate, gun violence, and crime in the news. There are a lot of unsafe environments. 100 years back, my grandparents were living in a nice environment. There was greenery. Now there is a lot of CO2 pollution. But there is green technology and I am proud that Chatham County is taking the lead in the country. Similarly, 100 years ago, even 40 years ago, they had a nice social environment. As a kid, I wanted to play in my neighborhood, a really nice social environment. We all worked together and played. We all went to church and church is a medium of the social. What's happening today? Today, my kids are just playing on my cellphone. Social medium is the internet. This is killing the social environment. We need to figure out how to answer that and bring back the social medium. Churches and temples give people a place to go without driving. That's why I really am in favor of allowing temples and churches in any areas that are not like commercial properties. They aren't like a gas station. I know what it takes. I have done a lot of designs. It takes a lot of funding. This is based completely on donations, every single penny so we can be socialized, that is why I am in favor. Thank you very much.

Mr. Cassese responded to Mr. Messick's comments. He stated this is not about religion. It is about traffic on the road. He is willing to fill out another application to change the rules regarding schools and other public institutions.

Phil Allard submitted the following comments:

My property abutts Hogans Farm Road and through my deed I am obligated to pay the common maintenance. The access to this particular parcel is based on a private road. I am been an active church man for too many years to count. I do appreciate that the government should have a very light touch on religious institutions but I do believe there is still a governmental interest in certain areas of safety and health. One of the churches I was working with, we had a fire marshal come through and do an inspection and he suggested that the preschool shouldn't store their paper goods in the mechanical room where we had heat and electric and a variety of other things. These kinds of things accumulate. The government came in and was able to address an issue that we really should have been on top of anyway. I think there is a role for government. I don't know exactly what it might be. I don't know exactly what a conditional use permit might entail but it is not a bad idea to consider things like the present fire marshal is investigating, things like EMS access. I think there is a government role in protecting the citizens from our own mistakes. Thank you.

Sue Allard submitted the following comments:

I happened to be at a meeting with the people from the temple and some people from the County. They were talking with the fire marshal. One of the things the fire marshal suggested is that on their own property they have two lane roads so that the fire personnel can get in and turned around and get back out again. We live on a single lane. There has been no discussion with how do we get a two lane for us so someone can come up to our houses and get around all this traffic. It is not just that we are complaining about things that don't have issues. If the fire marshall says they should have two lane then we should have two lane, but most of the houses are upstream so how do we get that taken care of?

The Chair closed the hearing.

This Agenda Item was referred to the Planning Board.

[18-2835](#)

A Legislative Public Hearing request from Holmes Oil Co. to rezone Parcel No. 70153 being approximately 5.783 acres, located off US 64 E, from R-1 Residential to General Use Neighborhood Business, New Hope Township.

Attachments: [More information from the Planning Department website](#)

Zoning Administrator Angela Birchett reviewed the specifics of the request.

The Chair opened the hearing.

Mark Ashness with the CE Group spoke on behalf of the applicant. The parcel is just under six acres and is next to the Cruizers gas station on the corner. The applicant does not have any specific uses yet but will bring site plans back to the Board once end users are identified.

The Chair closed the hearing.

This Agenda Item was referred to the Planning Board.

BOARD PRIORITIES

18-2832

Vote on a request by F-L Legacy Owner, LLC for subdivision Final Plat approval of **The Legacy at Jordan Phase 4A2-B** consisting of 29 lots on 8.06 acres, located off SR-1716, Big Woods Road, parcel 92463.

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

Planning Director Jason Sullivan reviewed the specifics of the request.

Attorney Patrick Bradshaw and Mark Ashness with the CE Group represented the applicant.

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

Aye: 3 - Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Petty

Absent: 2 - Chair Dasher and Commissioner Howard

MANAGER' S REPORTS

November 27th after the CIP Work Session, CORA is having a groundbreaking ceremony and wants to invite all the commissioners, for any that can attend. It will be at 4:30 so hopefully after the work session. Mr. LaMontagne responded to Chair Hales' request for an update on Jerimiah drive. The flooding is an ongoing issue. The planning department and several other agencies have met with the DOT. The DOT has surveyed the area and is working on a cost estimate to elevate the road so hopefully there is a price tag to figure out how to get the funding for that. The Army Corps of Engineers was also in attendance so they've discussed with the DOT what it would take to make that happen. The County is also looking into a possible back access from Jerimiah Drive to Barnes Road. DOT would not take ownership of that but it is a possible option. With regards to elevating the road, the County has requested assistance through our hazardous mitigation reporting and funding request. Mr. LaMontagne has also submitted information to Neil Emory with the Association of County Commissioners. They are trying to get an appropriation from the legislature for Hurricane Florence recovery money. Additionally, letters have gone to Senator Foushee and Representative Reives. Senator Foushee has sent several letters as well requesting assistance. Chair Hales was glad to hear of the efforts being made to address the issue as she and her fellow commissioners have been receiving emails and packets with troubling pictures of Jerimiah Drive.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Crawford stated National Adoption Day was observed at the Historic Courthouse on Saturday, a resolution was read on behalf of the board and there were over 50 people in attendance. The event celebrated not only adoption but the important role that foster parents play in this county and nationwide and of the work of volunteers in Communities in Schools. Commissioner Crawford was interviewed with a group of other people, including the County Manager, for the finalist position for the Aetna

Foundations Competition. The ultimate prize would be \$250,000 but there has been no word on the winner yet. Five finalists have been narrowed down to replace Bud Marchant as President of CCCC, their interviews will begin in the next couple weeks.

Chair Hales reviewed the items the Board had previously discussed pertaining to the Agriculture and Conference Center including alcoholic beverage sales for events, the policy regarding outside food, and the advance booking process. Chair Hales attended an American Educators Week event by the Chatham Association of County Educators. She and Interim EDC President Alyssa Byrd attended a roundtable by TJCOG on transportation and rapid transit. She went to an all-day solar event and was pleased to share the County's progress and adoption of SolSmart. She reminded the commissioners about the upcoming work session and encouraged them to attend the CORA groundbreaking ceremony.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 3 - Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford and Commissioner Petty

Absent: 2 - Chair Dasher and Commissioner Howard