



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Monday, April 17, 2023

3:00 PM

Agriculture and Conference Center

Work Session - 3:00 PM - Agriculture and Conference Center

Present: 4 - Vice Chair Mike Dasher, Chair Karen Howard, Commissioner Katie Kenlan and Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner David Delaney

RECOGNITION OF RETIREES

Chair Howard invited Chatham County Sheriff's Major Tammy Kirkman to the podium and read the following statement:

If we measured years of service in terms of the amount of heart and soul poured into the job, Major Tammy Kirkman would have spent 14,392 years of service. In reality, that time is more like 25 1/2 years of service to the Chatham County Sheriff's Office and 911 communications. Tammy has consistently worked her way up at the Sheriff's Office, proving time and again her end of Dispensability overseeing the detention facility. They consistently receive the best inspection reports without deficiencies through what seemed like sheer determination, she helped keep the detention facility COVID free for as long as possible during the pandemic. We wish Tammy the best in her retirement as she takes on the challenge of training new recruits to the detention profession.

Chair Howard invited Major Kirkman to make any remarks. Major Kirkman thanked the Board and staff for their support and encouragement and for trusting her judgment. She is grateful for all the friendships she has made.

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

No one signed up to speak.

BOARD PRIORITIES

[23-4734](#)

Receive a presentation from Planning Staff on Metropolitan Planning Organization boundary changes and provide input on state transportation improvement plan.

Attachments: [Planning MPO Boundary Changes Presentation](#)
[TAC and P6 Projects List](#)
[CAMPO Chatham Boundary Expansion 8x11 Scenario 2 \(1\)](#)
[DCHC Expansion - Option 1](#)
[DCHC Expansion - Option 2](#)
[June BOC Presentation](#)

*Chatham County Planner Brandon Dawson gave a presentation to the Board.
(presentation attached)*

Vice Chair Dasher joined the meeting at 3:19 pm.

Commissioner Kenlan asked how the decision was made to have the projected area in CAMPO instead of the Durham MPO. Mr. Dawson said the CAMPO and Durham MPO staff worked with each other and determined that CAMPO made the most sense based on urbanized area transportation trends and Jordan Lake was a good natural boundary.

Commissioner Gomez Flores asked if Mr. Dawson had any opinion about whether or not the Moncure area should be in CAMPO considering the development of the UDO ongoing and economic activity going on in Moncure. Mr. Dawson said there are pros and cons to both of the scenarios. He believes CAMPO has more resources, staff, and federal funding coming in. They have specific plans in place to integrate new areas into their processes. Other counties in similar situations with a more rural area as part of this larger organization have spoken very favorably about CAMPO.

Chair Howard said she wants to think about how the County's representation on these boards is most impactful. These organizations are a heavy lift. She wants the Board to think about this more globally, not just what the boundary looks like. The commissioners need to represent Chatham County values in regional planning.

Mr. Dawson said which commissioner would serve on the board is up in the air and down the line in this process.

Chair Howard asked if there were other counties in three planning organizations. Mr. Dawson said it is rare. Chatham is not the very first one, but most are in one and some are in two. It will take some extra work to juggle three organizations. Chair Howard said this would more than likely necessitate some additional staffing. Mr. Dawson said the staff is already planning for that possibility.

Vice Chair Dasher asked if there is a means or mechanism for a sub-MPO or RPO where folks in neighboring jurisdictions could talk about more microregion issues. He doesn't know if these conversations happen across planning organizations. Maybe a regional transportation advisory board or sub-committee.

Chair Howard asked if Lee County was in TARPO. Mr. Dawson said yes. She wonders if that would be a subcommittee of the transportation planning organizations or a broader more regional group. Mr. Dawson said there is a group in Franklin County that may be the type of group they are thinking about. After Franklin County joined CAMPO, they similarly felt pulled in different directions by big planning organizations but needed to look at their local area as a whole. They created a separate group with the board members and staff members of Franklin County, staff members of the planning organizations, as well as staff members from the state. They meet on a

monthly or quarterly basis to discuss the transportation needs of their specific area and how they can best use the resources from each of those groups to enact those goals. While pockets of funding exist separately, they can also work together so transportation doesn't stop at the boundaries of these organizations, and they can pull funds together. Staff can look into how that subgroup operates and where similar groups may exist throughout the state. Vice Chair Dasher said he would love to hear more about that group.

Mr. Dawson moved on to the State Transportation Improvement Plan. He reviewed Chatham's project submissions to the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP).

Chair Howard feels like the bike/pedestrian and transit projects really speak to the values of Chatham residents. Vice Chair Dasher asked to move the bike/pedestrian TARPO project number two up to number one. Chair Howard agreed with that suggestion. The Board agreed by consensus to move the number two project to the number one bike/ped project.

Mr. Dawson said he would be meeting with Siler City and Pittsboro staff this week and they will use these rankings to compile a joint list and he will bring that joint list back to the Board of Commissioners next month.

[23-4724](#)

Receive FY2023 Third Quarter Budget Update

Attachments: [FY23 3rd Quarter Budget Update](#)

Budget Director Darrell Butts gave a presentation to the Board. (Presentation attached)

Commissioner Gomez Flores asked if it would be possible to see sales tax in relation to property taxes. Mr Butts said he could pull that together.

This Agenda Item was received and filed

[23-4731](#)

Receive Quarterly Update on American Rescue Plan Act Funds.

Attachments: [ARPA Quarterly Update April 2023](#)

Budget Analysts Will Curvin and Erik Lindley gave a presentation to the Board. (Presentation attached)

Vice Chair Dasher asked about the deposit assistance for housing vouchers and if those would come back to the County. Mr. Curvin said he did not know but could find out. Vice Chair Dasher said it would be nice if it wasn't temporary and to know if it was going to be an ongoing need in future years.

Mr. Lindley said they will come back to the Board with a list of non-profits and what programs will be addressed with the funding.

Commissioner Gomez Flores asked if the application window had closed. Mr. Lindley said it had closed.

This Agenda Item was received and filed

RECESS

The Board Recessed at 4:45 PM.

End of Work Session

Regular Session - 6:00 PM - Agriculture and Conference Center

INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Howard delivered the invocation after which she invited everyone present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: 4 - Vice Chair Mike Dasher, Chair Karen Howard, Commissioner Katie Kenlan and Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner David Delaney

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Howard 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 Mike Dasher, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that the Agenda and Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

[23-4668](#)

Vote on a legislative request for approval by Derrick and Latanya Smith for a rezoning on Parcel 85396, located on Moncure Pittsboro Road, Moncure, being approximately 2.003 acres from Conditional Use Neighborhood Business back to R-1 Residential in order to construct a new residence, Haw River Township.

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

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dasher, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that this Resolution #23-20, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dasher, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that this Ordinance, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

[23-4722](#)

Vote on a request to approve Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget Amendments

Attachments: [Budget Amendment 2022-2023 Apr23](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dasher, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that the Budget Amendments, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

[23-4725](#)

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

Attachments: [Chetango Mountain Rd Petition](#)
[Chetango Mountain Rd Map](#)
[Chetango Mountain Rd area map](#)

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

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

[23-4726](#)

Vote on a request to accept \$25,795 from NCDHHS Food Protection and Facilities Branch

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

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

[23-4730](#)

Vote on a request to approve \$42,600 of Vaya Health funding for Foster Care reinvestment.

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

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

[23-4727](#)

Vote on a request to appoint Abby Bristow and Nicholas Keifer as Deputy Finance Officers for the purpose of signing inmate trust account checks

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dasher, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that this Appointment be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

[23-4729](#)

Vote to adopt a resolution amending the 2023 Board of Commissioners Meeting Calendar.

Attachments: [RES AMENDING 2023 BOC Meeting Calendar](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dasher, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that this Resolution #23-21 amending the 2023 Board of Commissioners Meeting Calendar, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

[23-4733](#)

Vote on a request to approve the appointment of Kyle Stinson to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dasher, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that this Appointment be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

[23-4742](#)

Vote to approve appointments to the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dasher, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that this Appointment be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

[23-4741](#)

Vote on a request to approve an appointment to the Planning Board.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dasher, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that this Appointment be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

[23-4732](#)

Vote to approve Tax Releases and Refunds

Attachments: [March 2023 Release and Refund Report](#)
 [March 2023 NCVTS Pending Refund Report](#)
 [March 2023 Manual NCVTS Pending Refund Report](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dasher, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, 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: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

[23-4723](#)

Vote on a Request to Approve FY2023-2024 BCBS of NC Administrative Services Agreement (ASA) Contract Changes, the Agent Fees Collection Agreement and authorize the county manager to execute renewal application documents.

Attachments: [Administrative Services Agreement DRAFT FY2024](#)
 [Agent Fees Collection Agreement](#)
 [Group Apply Form](#)
 [Program Selection Chart](#)
 [Renewal Change Form](#)

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

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

[23-4728](#)

Vote on a Request to Approve Using Smith Gardner, Inc., as a Sole Source for Landfill Monitoring and Engineering

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

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

[23-4735](#)

Vote on a request to approve Laughlin-Sutton Construction to carry out

the work for The Park at Briar Chapel Pre-Engineered Building.

Attachments: [Bid Tabulation-The Park at Briar Chapel Pre-Engineered Bldg](#)

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

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

[23-4739](#)

Vote to approve lease with Chatham Outreach Alliance, Inc. (CORA)

Attachments: [2023 Chatham Outreach Alliance \(CORA\) Lease](#)

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

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

[23-4738](#)

Vote on a request to approve Pyrotechnic display at Oakland Farm located at 3355 Rosser Rd. Bear Creek NC 27207 during a wedding celebration on April 22, 2023

Attachments: [Attachment A - N.C.G.S 14-410 and 14-413](#)
[Attachment B - Pyrotechnics Request](#)
[Attachment C - Pyrotechnics License](#)
[Attachment D - Hale Artif. Certificate of Insurance 2023](#)
[Attachment E - Hale Artif. ATF License 2023](#)
[Attachment F - Oakland Farm Site Map 2023](#)

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

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

End of Consent Agenda

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

[23-4736](#)

Vote to adopt a resolution proclaiming May 2023 as Older Americans Month in Chatham County

Attachments: [Older Americans Month Proclamation - 2023](#)

Chair Howard read the resolution into the record.

Council on Aging Director Ashlyn Martin thanked the Board for its continued support. This resolution is timely as the Senior Games and Silver Arts are currently underway. They set a record this year with over 300 individuals participating. Both of the Senior Centers continue to grow. She thanked them for adopting the resolution.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gomez Flores, seconded by Commissioner Kenlan, that this Resolution #23-22 proclaiming May 2023 as Older Americans Month in Chatham County, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Steve Woolford spoke to the Board about a campaign to get municipalities and counties to adopt a resolution calling for the end of nuclear weapons. A few municipalities in the area have already adopted resolutions and they are good examples if the County Board of Commissioners desired to adopt its own.

Jerry Markatos also spoke to the Board about the campaign to get municipalities and counties to adopt a resolution calling for the end to nuclear weapons and he thanked the Board for its consideration of the request.

BOARD PRIORITIES

23-4740

Vote on a request authorizing the County Manager to execute Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Grant Agreements between the State of North Carolina, Chatham County, and Connect Holdings II LLC d/b/a Brightspeed for extension of broadband to unserved areas of the County. County match of \$350,000.

Attachments: [Chatham County Brightspeed Presentation](#)
 [Exhibit J Chatham County](#)
 [Grant Agreement NCDIT](#)

County Manager Dan LaMontagne reviewed the request.

Mr. LaMontagne said the first presentation on the G.R.E.A.T. Grant was in March 2022. The Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (G.R.E.A.T.) Grant was awarded by the state to Brightspeed. The grant award to Brightspeed was \$4 Million. The grant requires a match of \$1,861,793. Originally the County's agreement for the 5,000 connections was going to be \$1 Million. Working with Brightspeed after a reduction in the cost the County now has a match of \$350,000. He said today his ask is if the Board would like him to execute the agreement. It is a three-way agreement between the Department of Information Technology, Brightspeed, and Chatham County. This is not the last opportunity for this grant. There is another round that the

County hopes to award to another or the same vendor.

Chair Howard asked if it is still for 5,000 connections. Mr. LaMontagne said no, it is for 1,914 connections. Vice Chair Dasher asked for clarification about the match. Mr. LaMontagne said the \$1,861,793 is Brightspeed's match to make and the County is assisting with \$350,000 toward that match.

Mr. LaMontagne introduced Steve Brewer, Director of Government Affairs with Brightspeed. Mr. Brewer gave a presentation to the Board. (Presentation attached)

Mr. Brewer said Brightspeed has added 200 call center agents. They have hired 51 technicians in North Carolina and six are in Chatham County.

Commissioner Gomez Flores asked if all the planned locations would have the same upload and download speed. Mr. Brewer said yes, all will get fiber to the home with 2G going in both directions. They will have multiple speed tiers. Brightspeed is going to participate in the federal government's affordable connectivity plan. The federal government provides a \$30 subsidy to connect to low-income households. Brightspeed will provide an additional \$30 discount on top of that federal program for low-income households. He would be happy to work with the Department of Social Services to get the word out and enable folks to connect to the internet.

Commissioner Kenlan asked about the positive service trends slide. The 63% improvement is compared to what? Mr. Brewer said compared to service levels prior to the transition to Brightspeed.

Commissioner Kenlan said she has heard from constituents that this is not their experience, and she is also experiencing it. She currently has neighbors without a connection to a phone. She would like them to communicate how they will have more direct contact with customer service. Mr. Brewer said they are a completely new team and are no longer Centurylink. We have added 200 service agents. He will be happy to look into the issues she and her neighbors have experienced. We are working to remedy that.

Commissioner Kenlan said she would be interested to know how they are coordinating those services for meantime repair improvement. She wants the Board to know that it is investing in a company that responds and repairs quickly. Mr. Brewer said he can share that information with Mr. LaMontagne to send that to the rest of the Board.

Chair Howard said she lives outside of Brightspeed's service area. When residents cannot get to the internet service provider they come to the commissioners. There are high expectations from areas that have fiber. The Board does believe Brightspeed is the County's best partner to move Chatham County into the 21st century and serve significant parts of the community that have not been served. She is looking forward to this being a great thing. It speaks to this Board's values that Brightspeed is reaching residents that cannot access this service. The faster the County can communicate with the community the better it is for all involved.

Mr. Brewer said he has been in this industry for thirty years and he is excited about fiber deployment in this state. Brightspeed's executive leadership team is very experienced, and he meets with them every week.

Vice Chair Dasher asked about their timeline and what their target is. Mr. Brewer said when Brightspeed gets a signed contract, their two-year clock starts for deployment,

but he does not think it will take two years to build out the entire group.

Mr. LaMontagne said staff want to get the addresses so that when people call staff can look up the services.

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

Aye: 3 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, and Commissioner Kenlan

No: 1 - Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Lindsay Ray thanked Deputy Clerk Lacey George and Public Information Office Kara Lusk for stepping up to handle the May 15th meeting while she attends the International Institute of Municipal Clerks annual conference in Minneapolis.

The spending cutoff is coming soon so she needs to have purchase orders in over the next couple of weeks. She asked the Board to please let her know if they wanted to attend any training before June 30th so that she can get those requisitions submitted to finance. She also asked the commissioners to let her know if they have any dues or subscriptions that need to be paid.

She reminded the Board of the dates of the May meetings.

NCACC Districts 9 and 11 joint meeting is May 11th from 5 pm-7 pm in Randolph County.

NCACC Advocacy Days are May 23rd and 24th. Commissioners and staff cannot attend on May 24th due to the budget work sessions. She asked the managers and commissioners to let her know if they would like to attend the dinner in Raleigh on May 23rd.

She reminded the Board that she will be out the rest of the week at the NC Association of County Clerks annual conference. Lacey George and Ann Hammack are available to help the Board in her absence.

MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Dan LaMontagne said this Wednesday he will be speaking at the Homegrown Leaders meeting.

The County, Randolph communications, and the Town of Goldston have a partnership to provide about 300 homes with broadband access in the Goldston area.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Kenlan thanked Allison Weakley for her many years of service to the Planning Board. She attended Becky Laughlin's Order of the Long Leaf Pine ceremony this past weekend. She will be a speaker at Rachael's Native Plants ribbon cutting on April 21st at the Plant at 5 pm. She attended the Women in Leadership Forum at Celebrity Dairy.

Vice Chair Dasher had nothing to report.

Commissioner Gomez Flores said there has been progress regarding the maternity care center. They are working on marketing. He has a Board of Health meeting next Monday. He met with the director of the Triangle Regional Partnership to learn more about their role. Commissioner Gomez Flores explained his thoughts about the calendar relating to the CIP work session and vote. In 2020 he experienced it. This past year he observed it. When they talk about items like the CIP and Budget it should be within the entire term of that elected official. When the County anticipates having newly elected officials, he does not believe it makes sense for someone to participate in the discussions about the CIP but then not vote on it because they are no longer in office in December. Likewise, he does not think it is fair for a newly elected official to vote on the CIP when they were not part of the discussions before they were sworn in. He suggests bringing the CIP back into the current commissioners' terms when it is an election year. Chair Howard asked staff to add the issue to the Board's retreat agenda.

Chair Howard said she would draft a resolution on the nuclear weapons topic that was presented in public input. She will present the resolution to the Board at a future meeting. She and Bryan went to the Triangle Leadership Forum last week. Also attended the Local Elected Leaders Academy. She had a DCHC-MPO and CAMPO joint meeting. She also attended the NCACC Board of Directors meeting last weekend.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan, and Commissioner Gomez Flores

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Delaney