



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Monday, January 11, 2021

9:00 AM

Agriculture & Conference Center

Board of Commissioners Retreat

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dasher called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

Present: 5 - Chair Mike Dasher, Vice Chair Diana Hales, Commissioner Jim Crawford, Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores and Commissioner Karen Howard

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hales, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that the Agenda and Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Crawford

[21-3707](#)

Vote on a request to approve Moncure Firefighter Relief Fund Board of Trustees Appointment

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Crawford

End of Consent Agenda

BOARD PRIORITIES

[21-3709](#)

Ground Rules

Attachments: [Ground Rules PPT.pptx](#)

Management Analyst Courtney Cooper-Lewter reviewed the ground rules for the retreat. The Commissioners agreed to the presented ground rules.

[21-3710](#)

Overview of Budget & Financial Policies

Attachments: [Budget Process January 2021.pptx](#)
[Financial policy January 2021.pptx](#)

Budget Analyst Lisa West gave a presentation reviewing the budget process and financial policies.

Commissioner Crawford entered the meeting at 9:39 AM.

Vice Chair Hales asked what the 2019 amendment was. Budget Director Darrell Butts stated the amendment was a change to nonprofit funding, moving from allocation to the Request for Proposal model, and added language about the Human Service Collaborative Impact Team.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hales, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, to incorporate the recommended changes to financial policies. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Crawford

[21-3711](#)

Heads Up Items and CIT Updates

Attachments: [HeadsUp2021CITBOCRetreat.pdf](#)

Budget Analyst Lisa West and Policy Analyst Stephanie Watkins-Cruz gave an overview of the Heads Up process and Collaborative Impact Teams.

Commissioner Hales asked if it is always the department heads that join CITs and whether information from CITs trickles down to department staff. Ms. West stated that it is predominantly department heads.

Commissioner Gomez-Flores asked whether the language barrier involved the language spoken or whether it related to using accessible language. Ms. Watkins-Cruz stated one CIT discussed the complexity of the language but most of the discussion around language barriers involved language spoken.

[21-3712](#)

Trends Affecting Next Year's Budget

Attachments: [AllTrendsandIndicators.pdf](#)

Lisa West gave a presentation on current trends affecting next year's budget.

Chair Dasher asked if the Census provided information on the number of people on public assistance. Ms. West stated the Census provides the number of people on SNAP but the data did not agree with the Department of Social Service's data.

Vice Chair Hales asked when the Census database would be available. Ms. Watkins-Cruz stated it would be delayed due to COVID.

Vice Chair Hales asked if there was an update on the Tax Department's project of ensuring compliance with Present Use. Ms. West stated the project was set back by COVID and the cyber incident.

Commissioner Gomez Flores asked if the county is capturing the sales tax from construction materials being delivered to Chatham County. Mr. LaMontagne stated they continue to work on sales tax leakage.

[21-3713](#)

2nd Quarter Budget update

Attachments: [FY21 2nd Quarter Budget Update.pptx](#)

Budget Director Darrell Butts gave a presentation.

Vice Chair Hales asked if expenditures would approach the three-year average when everything was calculated. Mr. Butts stated that once everything that had been done on paper gets entered in the system, expenditures will be closer to the three-year average.

Vice Chair Hales asked if software access had been restored from the cyber attack. Mr. Butts stated for the most part, software access has been restored but they are working on restoring the rest.

Vice Chair Hales asked if COVID tests and vaccines were coming into the county versus the county having to purchase them. Mr. LaMontagne stated they are coming from the federal government to the states and the states are distributing them to county health departments.

[21-3714](#)

Early Childhood Update

Attachments: [EarlyChildhoodPresentation.pdf](#)

Community Partners Analyst Hilary Pollan gave a presentation to the Board.

Chair Dasher asked if well child visits are a staffing issue. Ms. Pollan stated she will look into that. She will also send a link of the whole County data report.

Vice Chair Hales asked if pregnancy care management partners with the court system. Ms. Pollan stated that pregnancy care management is more of a referral through the courts.

Vice Chair Hales asked what the McKinney Vento Program provides to the schools. Policy Analyst Stephanie Watkins-Cruz stated they provide resources like food, clothes, and counseling.

Commissioner Crawford asked who owns the community centers built in the 1960s and if they could be used for programming. Mr. LaMontagne stated the buildings are not owned by the County. Ms. Pollan stated she is working with Union Taylor Community Chapel on a plan to rehabilitate a former community center.

Chair Dasher asked what the limitations would be to getting all kids in the county in Pre-K. Ms. Pollan stated they had to have a certain number of paying students to subsidize free students. She stated another issue was the distribution of kids across Pre-K classrooms.

Vice Chair Hales stated she was very impressed with the depth of the survey.

Chair Dasher said he still interested in universal Pre-K and would like to know if other counties have made that commitment. Commissioner Crawford agreed.

[21-3715](#)

Race and Equity Update

Attachments: [RaceandEquityUpdate.pdf](#)

Ms. Pollan gave a presentation to the Board.

Vice Chair Hales stated she has been through the Racial Equity Institute and the program with Triangle J Council of Governments. This is a complex issue. There is a perception and a reality in Chatham County that people want Chatham government to solve. She is not sure GARE addresses policing and the courts. Chair Dasher said he appreciates the focus internally on this issue. Ms. Watkins-Cruz said the CITs input supports what Ms. Pollan presented.

Vice Chair Hales noted that it was impossible to separate the focuses on early childhood and race and equity because they are so intertwined.

[21-3716](#)

Follow-Up from CIP Work Session

County Manager Dan LaMontagne gave a presentation to the Board.

Mr. LaMontagne said it may be premature to put the County complex feasibility study in the next FY22 budget due to utilities needed with Pittsboro.

Vice Chair Hales asked what kind of impact the new central services building will have on the wastewater. Mr. LaMontagne stated the wastewater system currently has the capacity for the new building but is not readily available for more. Mr. Thompson stated that after the buildings are open and operating, they will have a better idea of future needs.

Chair Dasher asked if there were any conversations to be had about energy use in new county buildings. Mr. LaMontagne stated he has had conversations with Facilities Director Kevin Lindley about adding a solar array to the property.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 5 - Chair Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford, Commissioner Gomez Flores and Commissioner Howard