



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Monday, May 19, 2025

2:00 PM

Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Work Session - 2:00 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Amanda Robertson

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Howard welcomed everyone to the May 19, 2025 meeting.

ADJUSTMENTS AND APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION AGENDA

Chair Howard called for a motion to approve the work session agenda.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that the work session agenda was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Robertson

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

[25-0203](#)

Vote to approve and present a Resolution Honoring the Siler City Center for Active Living for Receiving the 2025 Ann Johnson Senior Center of the Year Award

Attachments: [Resolution Honoring the Siler City Center for Ann Johnson Award 5-19-2025.doc](#)

Chair Howard read aloud the Resolution Honoring the Siler City Center for Active Living for Receiving the 2025 Ann Johnson Senior Center of the Year Award.

Chair Howard called for a motion to adopt the resolution.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that this 25-27 Resolution Honoring the Siler City Center for Active Living for Receiving the 2025 Ann Johnson Senior Center of the Year Award was adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Robertson

[25-0233](#)

Vote to approve and present a Resolution Proclaiming May 25-31, 2025 as Chatham County Heat Awareness Week

Attachments: [Resolution proclaiming May 25-31 as Heat Awareness Week](#)

Chair Howard read aloud the Resolution Proclaiming May 25-31, 2025 as Chatham County Heat Awareness Week.

Chair Howard called for a motion to adopt the resolution.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that this 25-28 Resolution Proclaiming May 25-31, 2025 as Chatham County Heat Awareness Week was adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Robertson

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

[25-0237](#)

The Public Comment Session is held to give residents an opportunity to speak on any item. The session is no more than thirty minutes long to allow as many as possible to speak. Speakers are limited to no more than three minutes each and may not give their time to another speaker. Speakers are asked to sign up in advance. Comments are always welcome in writing.

Attachments: [Click Here To Sign Up For Public Comment](#)

Chair Howard reminded the speakers that they have three minutes to speak. Chair Howard called on the Clerk to the Board to read the name of those who signed up to speak. The following public comment was received by the Board of Commissioners.

Written Comments Received:

Jim Fink

My name is Jim Fink, and I am a resident of Fearrington Village. I have concerns about water run-off and creek along Fearrington's Perennial creek systems that are partially sourced from two small perennial streams directly below the car wash property and which ultimately end up in Jordan lake. The revised Car wash project map shows a large Dry (I presume that means Silt Retention) Pond that runs right up to the 300-foot buffer that our community has in place to help protect some of its residents from this sort of development. These ponds that are proposed do overflow in very large rainstorms, like the several storms we just experienced in the last few weeks. When these water surges take place, the ponds eventually overflow and a large amount of silt travels with the water downstream, accumulates in our creeks and works it way down to Jordan Lake. As trails coordinator in Fearrington Village, I am very familiar with the increased amount of water and sandy silt we already are dealing with in these storms. More impervious development on our side of 15/501 along with retention ponds that are rather unsightly and that emit a large amount of silt in big storms are causing issues

downstream. This area of land on Fearington's side of the buffer, mostly lies below the car wash area and has many deposits of sandy sediment, also known as Chapel Hill Grit. This sediment runs with storm water and is clogging up streams and ponds downstream along our trails. The increasingly large amounts of water run-off are cresting the banks of these small streams below this project and eroding the roots and falling more trees into the creeks etc. I would suggest that this property would be better utilized as a small office or other low water use and emitting entity than car washing. There are two other well-established car wash systems within a few miles north or south of our property. Submitted reports from North Carolina Department of Transportation.

In Person

Gretchen Smith

My name is Gretchen Smith. I am president of Friends of Lower Haw River, a nonprofit based in Bynum. The Chatham County segment of the Haw River State Trail needs your support in the FY25-26 budget. The county has taken important steps with the approval of the Haw River Trail Study and the inclusion of Haw River Trail projects in the Capital Improvement Program. During these challenging times, we need to look to the future. We need trails more than ever for the health, social, environmental, and economic benefits that they provide. Conservation through nature-based recreation with our segment of the Haw River State Trail has many benefits. Trails are free to use, and enjoyment of trails spans age groups, ethnicity, income levels, and political affiliations. Trails generate revenue and jobs as part of the thriving \$16.2 billion outdoor recreation economy in North Carolina. Every \$1.00 spent on trail construction generates \$1.72 in annual return on investment for local economies. When the concept for a Haw River Trail extending from Haw River State Park to Jordan Lake was initially conceived in 2006, Alamance County began working in earnest to develop their segment of land and paddle trail and have made impressive progress in 19 years. The Alamance County commissioners' willingness to invest in their segment of the Haw River Trail has proven to be a good return on investment. Alamance County's tourism revenue is consistently 3 times greater than Chatham County's tourism revenue, both in recreation revenue and total revenue, according to data from the NC Economic Impact Studies. The top two tourism draws in Alamance County are their Haw River Trail and Cedar Rock Nature Park. We don't have the luxury of taking 19 years to complete our segment of the Haw River State Trail. Land prices along the Haw River corridor are increasing dramatically and will continue to go up. Residential development pressure and population growth along the Haw River corridor are increasing dramatically and despite recent slowdowns, Chatham will continue to grow. Time is not on our side and we have an urgent need for county resources, both money and people, to get the trail done. My written comments provide more detail on examples of how our commissioners can help, most of which use existing revenue sources. Thank you for your time and all that you do for our county.

Margaret Sands

Good afternoon. I'm Margaret Sands, Associate Director of Land Protection West at Triangle Land Conservancy, the primary land trust providing conservation options in Chatham County. I was here a few weeks ago to speak with you about the progress and plans for our partnership with the Chatham County Agricultural Preservation and Development Trust Fund. As you heard, Chatham's investment in working lands conservation has resulted in 855 acres of active conservation projects in the works and a new Chatham Working Lands manager staff person at TLC. Today, I'd like to encourage you to also invest in wild lands conservation in Chatham County, which is home to a plethora of intact natural habitats, locations ripe for people to connect with nature, and charismatic plant and animal species that help define the County's culture

and character. This summer, an updated inventory of the Significant Natural Areas of Chatham County, will be published by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program. The County funded this inventory of the natural areas, biological communities, and rare species to identify the most ecologically significant natural areas in the County. 56 natural areas of ecological significance inventoried for this report met the criteria established by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program. Situated at the confluence of the Haw and the Deep Rivers, Chatham contains branches of two of the most important rivers in the Piedmont, both of which have approved State Trail plans and significant impacts on water quality for dozens of communities. Some of the highest priority natural areas for conservation include aquatic habitats that support populations of animals that are endemic to the Cape Fear drainage in North Carolina, which starts in Chatham and is itself one of the most important rivers in the entire state. What is currently lacking in Chatham County is local funds readily available to seize opportunities to conserve these significant natural areas as they arise. Rather, TLC is currently reliant on limited private donations or State grant funds to conserve these priority properties. The NC Land and Water Fund has funded the acquisition of thousands of acres in Chatham County over several decades, but like many conservation resources, need far outpaces funding leading to stiff competition across the State. This year, the Land and Water Fund received 138 applications requesting over \$132 million, though the State budget has yet to pass it seems likely that they will only have \$30 million to distribute. Funds are allocated based on project score, which increases significantly when local matching funds are included in the budget. Triangle Land Conservancy requested over \$3 million from the NC Land and Water Fund this year for projects in Chatham County. Two projects totaling 180 acres in the Haw River State Trail corridor, one 62-acre property in the Deep River State Trail corridor, and finally a project that would add 162 acres to TLC's popular Chatham County destination, White Pines Nature Preserve. All of these properties have potential for public access and could conserve over 400 acres of natural habitats and waterways in Chatham County. I would like to encourage the Commissioners to consider wild lands conservation in this year's budget. Primarily by making the existing recreation exaction fees available for request in support of acquisition of appropriate conservation land in the County. Leveraging these funds with those available for Haw River and Deep River State Trails as well as NC Land and Water fund and private donations could significantly extend the impact of these funds. In nearby Johnston County, TLC's funding partnership over the last three years has resulted in \$1.9 million in project specific conservation funding. TLC leveraged that investment with State and private donations to support the protection of nearly a thousand acres of land valued at more than \$20 million. I hope the publication of an Inventory of the Significant Natural Areas of Chatham County will inspire ongoing enthusiasm and an ovation for conserving Chatham's natural resources, while there are still so many wonderful examples available. Thank you for your time.

Shelly Paradise

My name is Shelly Paradise. I have lived in Chatham County for 26 years. My background as a stenographer in Congress, House Ways & Means and Senate Budget, qualifies me to speak on behalf of the citizens of Chatham County who, like me, own real estate and are being taxed out of their homes. My comments relate to the repeal of all real estate and personal property tax in favor of a Uniform States Sales Tax and related school district finance reform, as provided by Mitch Vexler and Travis Spencer on their website realestatemindset.org. Please click on the section End Property Tax by Mitch Vexler to educate yourself ASAP. It is our duty as citizens of Chatham County, NC, and the USA to be informed as to how to protect ourselves from criminal conspiracy to defraud. Taxation of unrealized gains (aka Market Value) violates the 16th Amendment. There is no way for property owners to make money on

assets in the short or long term because the compound cumulative effect of overvaluation and over taxation reduces the profit, if any. If I based my property on median household income, the result would restore the balance sheet to citizens, which is my main argument for eliminating real estate tax in favor of a uniform sales tax. We must ask ourselves these questions: 1. What was the consequence of the 2008 mortgage bond fraud? Global financial market collapse. 2. What is the consequence of not meeting federal accounting standards? Potential fines, jail time and prosecution. 3. Who is responsible for monitoring school districts bond fraud and central appraisal district fraud? The SEC and DOJ. The research has been accomplished by Mitch Vexler for every homeowner to utilize. I feel it is incumbent upon each board member to take time to look at this solution to circumvent the criminal conspiracy to defraud honest taxpayers that is running rampant throughout our country and causing and/or fueling homelessness, hunger and crime.

The Board of Commissioners recessed for a short break to take a photo honoring the Siler City Center for Active Living.

This Agenda Item was received and filed.

BOARD PRIORITIES

25-0166

Receive the quarterly update on American Rescue Plan Act Funds and vote to approve the amended American Rescue Plan Funds Grant Project Ordinance

Attachments: [ARPA Quarterly Update 5.19.2025](#)
 [Amended ARPA Grant Project Ordinance \(5.19.25\)](#)

Budget and Management Analyst Will Curvin presented the American Rescue Plan Act Quarterly update.

Curvin reviewed the previous update which included the obligation deadline, total award obligated of \$14,464,924, the expenditure deadline of December 31, 2026, the hydrant project which the bid awarded in fall of 2024, and the DSS EHAP Program which is moving from ARPA to ARPA "Enabled".

Curvin updated the Board of Commissioners on the funded projects and expenditures to date.

Curvin stated that amended grant project ordinance was needed due to the changes in the projects moving from American Rescue Plan Act to American Rescue Plan Act Enabled.

The Board of Commissioners thanked Curvin for the update.

Chair Howard called for a motion to approve the amended grant project ordinance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, seconded by Commissioner David Delaney, that the American Rescue Plan Act grant project ordinance be amended as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Robertson

[25-0167](#)

Receive the FY2025 Third Quarter Budget Update

Attachments: [FY25 3rd Quarter Budget Update 5-19-2025](#)

Assistant County Manager Darrell Butts presented the third quarter budget update to the Board of Commissioners.

Butts shared a background, expenses and revenue by category and function, and a sales tax update.

The Board of Commissioners thanked Butts for the update.

This Agenda Item was received and filed.

[25-0217](#)

Receive a presentation from Chatham Economic Development

Attachments: [EDC Update 5-19-2025](#)

Michael Smith, President of Chatham Economic Development shared an update with the Board of Commissioners.

The update included priorities, benefits, statistics, projected growth and workforce, new project activity, ongoing projects, and recent announcements. Smith shared a list of the available industrial land that is marketed to new users.

The Board of Commissioners asked clarifying questions of Smith concerning the different sectors interested in Chatham, the role of Chatham Economic Development to bridge the residential and business tax base, the budget of the agency, and Chatham Loan Fund.

The Board of Commissioners thanked Smith and other members of the Economic Development staff for presenting and attending.

This Agenda Item was received and filed

End of Work Session

RECESS

The Board of Commissioners recessed until the 6:00pm Regular Session.

Regular Session - 6:00 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Amanda Robertson

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Howard called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Howard asked for a moment of silence which was followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADJUSTMENTS AND APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

Chair Howard called for a motion to approve the regular session agenda.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that the Regular Session agenda was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Robertson

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Howard called for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that the consent agenda was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Robertson

[25-0249](#)

Vote to approve the January 18, 2022 Work and Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [1-18-2022 Minutes Draft as of 5-9-2025](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that the January 18, 2022 Work and Regular Session Minutes were approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

[25-0230](#)

Vote to approve the July 18, 2022 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [7-18-2022 Minutes Draft as of 5-5-2025](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that the July 18, 2022 Regular Session Minutes were approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

[25-0250](#)

Vote to approve the May 5, 2025 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [5-5-2025 Minutes Draft](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that the May 5, 2025 Regular Session Minutes were approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

[25-0215](#)

Vote to reappoint Sara Welch for a second-term on the Chatham County Board of Social Services with a term expiring 6/30/2028

Attachments: [Sara Welch DSS May 2022](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, to reappoint Sara Welch for a second-term on the Chatham County Board of Social Services with a term expiring 6/30/2028. The motion carried by the following vote:

[25-0248](#)

Vote to reappoint James Crawford to the Central Carolina Community College Board of Trustees with a term expiring June 30, 2027 and reappoint Karen Howard to the Central Carolina Community College Board of Trustees with a term expiring on June 30, 2029

Attachments: [CCCC Apointment Letter](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, to reappoint James Crawford, Karen Howard as members of the Central Carolina Community College Board of Trustees with a term expiring on June 30, 2028. The motion carried by the following vote:

[25-0226](#)

Vote to approve the Resolution to request Grant assistance from NCDEQ for the study of emerging contaminants in drinking water

Attachments: [Resolution Requesting Grant Assistance from NCDEQ for Emerging Contaminants Study 5-19-2025](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that the 25-29 Resolution to request Grant assistance from NCDEQ for the study of emerging contaminants in drinking water was adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

[25-0225](#)

Vote to approve a request by the Chatham County Planning Department to amend the effective date of the adopted Unified Development Ordinance from July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 as a result of legislative action S382 bill

Attachments: [UDO - Resolution](#)

[UDO - Ordinance](#)

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

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that 25-30 Resolution amending the effective date of the adopted Unified Development Ordinance from July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 as a result of legislative action S382 bill was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

[25-0202](#)

Vote to approve Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Amendments

Attachments: [Budget Amendment 2024-2025 May 19](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Amendments was approved as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

[25-0201](#)

Vote to approve New and Amended Project Ordinances

Attachments: [Project Ordinance Hydrant Replacement Amendment](#)
[Project Ordinance Western Intake and Plant Amended](#)
[Project Ordinance Tax Software Amend and Close](#)
[Project Ordinance School Central Services Building Amend and Close](#)
[Project Ordinance Fiber Optic Cabling - Amend and Close](#)
[Project Ordinance Siler City Center for Active Living Renovations](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that New and Amended Project Ordinances were approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

[25-0227](#)

Vote to approve Tax Releases and Refunds for April 2025

Attachments: [April 2025 Release and Refund Report](#)
[April 2025 NCVTS Pending Refund Report](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that this Tax Releases and Refunds for April 2025 was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

[25-0197](#)

Vote to approve pyrotechnics display for the Silk Hope Ruritan's Club "Summer Spectacular 2025" located at 4221 Silk Hope Rd. Siler City NC on July 19, 2025

Attachments: [Attachment A-N.C.G.S 14-410 and 14-413](#)
[Attachment B- Letter of Request Silk Hope 2025](#)
[Attachment C-NC Pyrotechnic Display Operators License](#)
[Attachment D- Wetzel Certificate of Insurance 2025](#)
[Attachment E- Wetzel ATF License 2025](#)
[Attachment F-Site Plan Silk Hope 2025](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that the pyrotechnics display for the Silk Hope Ruritan's Club "Summer Spectacular 2025" located at 4221 Silk Hope Rd. Siler City NC on July 19, 2025 was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

[25-0253](#)

Vote to approve pyrotechnic display at The Bradford wedding venue located at 75 The Bradford Ln. New Hill NC 27562 during a wedding celebration on June 8, 2025

Attachments: [Attachment A-N.C.G.S 14-410 and 14-413](#)
[Attachment B - Pyrotechnics Request - Bradford 6/8/2025](#)
[Attachment C-NC Pyrotechnic Display Operators License](#)
[Attachment D- NC Fireworks Certificate of Insurance 2025](#)
[Attachment F-Site Plan The Bradford 6/8/2025](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that the pyrotechnic display at The Bradford wedding venue located at 75 The Bradford Ln. New Hill NC 27562 during a wedding celebration on June 8, 2025 was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

[25-0221](#)

Vote to approve the bid from Ohio Dredging, LLC, in the amount of \$304,900.00 for the Lagoon Dredging Project at the Chatham County water treatment plant

Attachments: [Evaluation Matrix - Tabulation - WTP Lagoon Alum Residuals](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that the bid from Ohio Dredging, LLC, in the amount of \$304,900.00 for the Lagoon Dredging Project at the Chatham County water treatment plant was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

[25-0208](#)

Vote to approve a lease agreement with the City of Sanford for the county building located at 82 County Services Road, Pittsboro

Attachments: [Lease Agreement Chatham County City of Sanford Water Shop](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that a lease agreement with the City of Sanford for the county building located at 82 County Services Road, Pittsboro was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

[25-0216](#)

Vote to approve the five-year agreement with FirstHealth of the Carolinas, Inc. Emergency Medical Services to provide emergency medical services for \$38,853,331

Attachments: [FirstHealth EMS Agreement 2025-2030](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that five-year agreement with FirstHealth of the Carolinas, Inc. Emergency Medical Services to provide emergency medical services for \$38,853,331 was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

[25-0218](#)

Vote to approve the automatic renewal contract with Central Pines for the Clean Water Education Partnership Program for \$4,790 per year

Attachments: [Central Pines Clean Water Education Partnership Program Contract](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that automatic renewal contract with Central Pines for the Clean Water Education Partnership Program for \$4,790 per year was

approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

[25-0219](#)

Vote to approve a contract with Fifth Asset, Inc. dba DebtBook for Debt and Lease & SBITA Accounting Software for \$43,500

Attachments: [Fifth Asset dba DebtBook Contract](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that a contract with Fifth Asset, Inc. dba DebtBook for Debt and Lease & SBITA Accounting Software for \$43,500 was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

[25-0231](#)

Vote to approve a contract with Bordeaux Construction for the design of the renovations at the Chatham County Detention Center for \$420,000

Attachments: [Bordeaux Contract 5-19-2025](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that a contract with Bordeaux Construction for the design of the renovations at the Chatham County Detention Center for \$420,000 was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

[25-0232](#)

Vote to approve a contract with Thyssenkrupp Elevator for an upgrade/replacement of the elevator at the Chatham County Government Annex for \$142,328.80

Attachments: [Thyssenkrupp Contract 5-19-2025](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that a contract with Thyssenkrupp Elevator for an upgrade/replacement of the elevator at the Chatham County Government Annex for \$142,328.80 was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Robertson

End of Consent Agenda

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

[25-0204](#)

Vote to approve and present a Resolution Recognizing Juneteenth as an Official Holiday and Honoring its Historical Significance

Attachments: [Resolution Recognizing the Juneteenth Holiday 5-19-2025](#)

Chair Howard read aloud the Resolution Recognizing Juneteenth as an Official Holiday and Honoring its Historical Significance.

Chair Howard called for a motion to approve.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that the 25-31 Resolution Recognizing Juneteenth as

an Official Holiday and Honoring its Historical Significance was adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Robertson

[25-0207](#)

Vote to approve a Resolution Recognizing Pride Month

Attachments: [Resolution Recognizing Pride Month 5-19-2025](#)

Chair Howard read aloud the Resolution Recognizing Pride Month.

Chair Howard called for a motion to approve.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that the 25-32 Resolution Recognizing Pride Month was adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Robertson

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

[25-0238](#)

The Public Comment Session is held to give residents an opportunity to speak on any item. The session is no more than thirty minutes long to allow as many as possible to speak. Speakers are limited to no more than three minutes each and may not give their time to another speaker. Speakers are asked to sign up in advance. Comments are always welcome in writing.

Attachments: [Click Here To Sign Up For Public Comment](#)

Chair Howard reminded the speakers that they have three minutes to speak. Chair Howard called on the Clerk to the Board to read the name of those who signed up to speak. The following public comment was received by the Board of Commissioners.

Written Comments Received:

Chris Kaman

I understand that a revised proposal for Sam's Car Wash has been submitted for your approval. I am concerned about this given the high traffic volume anticipated for this business. As you know, traffic volume on 15/501 is increasing each year. Allowing a high volume business to be located so close to Fearington Village will likely also increase the number of vehicle accidents we are experiencing. Some residents who attended the recent meeting on 5/19 submitted a study by NC DOT highlighting traffic problems at the stoplight at 15/501 and Village Way, our main entrance into Fearington. I know that traffic will increase each year, but do not believe that allowing such a high volume business like Sam's Car Wash will benefit the residents of Fearington Village. Please deny this request.

In Person

Geoffrey Neal

Thank you all for your time today and careful consideration of the matters under discussion. First a definition (Sec 92.01, Chatham County Code of Ordinances): disturbing. Noise that is perceived by a person of ordinary sensibilities as interrupting the normal peace and calm of daily life. In determining whether a noise is unreasonably loud and disturbing, the following factors incident to the noise are to be considered: time of day; proximity to occupied residential structures; whether the noise is recurrent, intermittent or constant; the volume and intensity; the character and zoning (if applicable) of the area; whether the noise is related to the normal operations of a business or other labor activity and whether the noise is subject to being controlled without unreasonable effort or expense to the creator, thereof. Noise pollution. As this property is immediately adjacent to residential properties, it should not be unreasonable to expect some consideration from all incoming businesses with regards to the noise they generate. Certainly, a car wash is going to make some sound in the course of normal operation, sound that is unavoidable. What concerns me, as a neighbor, is the avoidable sounds that result from the daily use of the vacuum cleaners alongside the car wash. This assumption of use comes from a lifetime of observation and direct use of car wash facilities. The fact is that when the cars are parked and the vacuums are in use, there are folks who will turn up their music. This has the potential to become a nuisance and could easily rise to the level of chronic disturbance. The acceptable background level is 60 dB. This can rise to 80 dB if a permit has been issued. We routinely allow lawn mowers and leaf blowers to occasionally pierce the bubble of county quiet we moved out here to enjoy. Also, vehicles along 15-501 and the garbage trucks that move through our neighborhood every Tuesday morning early. These are examples of 80 dB generators. I am concerned that the spaces for car vacuum use will become a continual, chronic, disturbing source of noise pollution. The aspect of the building and placement of the vacuum stations on the near side of the building, relative to the neighboring residences, will amplify the noises from the vacuums as well as any noises coming from the vehicles using this service. I have not seen any acknowledgement of this in the documentation sent thus far and thus, am concerned that it is not recognized as an issue by those seeking to install this operation next door to my house. Secondly, I would note that as the industrial waste water is to be hauled off site on a regular basis, it would be preferable to have that source of noise relegated to a time of day when most of the neighbors are actually awake. This assumes that the pumping/hauling operation will be noisy. 5 a.m. is never an appropriate time to generate disturbance. I submit to you today that disturbing music played by customers while transacting business on site is not in fact related to the normal operation of this business and is controllable without unreasonable effort. I challenge the owners of this business to consider their responsibility as a neighbor and make every reasonable effort to prevent this source of pollution from occurring next to new and established residences. Your neighbors should not have to purchase ear plugs to compensate for uncontrolled noise pollution. Light pollution. Every business that has come onto the 15-501 corridor has brought with it a bunch of lights. Many of these serve a useful purpose, notably allowing safe nighttime access during posted business hours. The addition of more overhead unshielded lighting along this corridor adds to the overall light pollution in the area. A cursory search of the County Ordinances turned up nothing with regards to this issue, I'm disappointed to note, yet it is a real concern for many of us in the community. Installing and maintaining shielded lighting will lessen the impact of another commercial property along 15-501. Again, I challenge our new neighbors to consider the benefits of utilizing shielded lighting and minimizing the amount of light generated by this business, especially during non-business hours. Your neighbors should not have to purchase blackout shades to compensate for thoughtless light pollution. I would respectfully request that the property owner remove all of the tree flagging that was put in place around multiple trees within the 300' buffer over a year

ago. This plastic flagging tape is constricting the trees and, if left in place, will kill younger plants. I'm hopeful that this is not the intention of the property owners. Correcting this oversight should not take long at all, will eliminate another pollution source, and continue to respect the buffer established between this property and its neighbors.

Paige Greene

Hi! Thank you for listening. Four years ago, Sam's express purchased land to build a car wash. After they purchased the land. They were surprised they could not, would be considered a business with industrial waste, and that the wastewater treatment facility that is treating all the waste in this development could not accept industrial wastewater. This is information they should have obtained before they purchased the land. Now, because they did not do their homework at the start, we find that they want to change the rules. This sets a scary precedent. Old North State refused Sam Express request to have their car wash affluent, treated in Briar Chapel as if it was too costly. Then Sam's express looked to treating the effluent on site by going into the 300-foot environmental buffer. This plan was unsuccessful, so now Sam's plan is to have storage tanks, to hold a fluent and then to contract with a 3rd party to haul and dump their industrial waste. We have to use the term industrial waste because we don't know what it is. It remains a point of concern that we do not know what is the waste that will be generated on this Site in emails in 2021 between Sam's Express and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. Sam's Express offered to test a similar site that's already built. We do not know if that happened when we requested a list last year they informed us that they could not share this information. We do not know what would leak into our stream. We can only refer to it as industrial waste based on the calculations provided of their humping, humping, and hauling. We're talking about hauling up to 1,820,000 gallons of industrial waste every year. The company pumping and hauling is shamrock enterprises who has been in trouble in the county in the past even if it's 1 trip a week. That's 3,000 miles plus of road travel. This is not a short term solution. This is their plan. I also have concerns about the information provided or not provided to the community to date, and I think that the information following information should be requested. The map is not clear. It says that it can change in the field, which is leeway. We will never know what chemicals will be used. We will not be able to test. We'll have to test our creek if there is a leak or spoilage. Now how is this found out and taken care of? Is the community notified? What time will these trucks be showing up if it's a 7 day a week, and it's running from 7:30 to 9. Are they coming? At 5 o'clock in the morning? 10 pm at night. There's some more, Newland told us, neighbors, we would have a business 5 to 9, 9 to 5 businesses as our neighbors. Now we're having to learn about how industrial wastewater is handled and safely treated. We are being sort of a business that is, blinking lights, vacuums, and uncontrolled car radios from 7, 30 in the morning to 9 at night, 7 days a week. So here we are 4 years later, and they're still trying to figure out how to beat this square peg into a round hole. Due diligence was not done in a real estate transaction between 2 businesses, plain and simple. This sets a scary precedence for future developers. Thank you for listening.

Marva Price

My name is Marva Price. I am here before you as Chatham County Commissioners. I'm here before you as a concerned citizen. For 11 years I served Chatham County's Board of Health as an interim health director. For some of that time I served under Governor Perdue and Martin. to both the State Public Health Commission and the State Oil and Glass Commission. I'm committed to public service, and I love Chatham County. We raised our family here who are outstanding citizens at Norfolk High School. We're longstanding property owners in Fearington Village. We are directly

impacted by the proposed Sam's express car wash. Our property is just over 320 some feet from the proposed dry Pond. We're deeply opposed to granting a waiver to Sam's express car. Wash to pump and haul wastewater for a commercial car. Wash close to our property line. I am emphasizing. Although Sam's checks, check offs, meets, minimal criteria for pump and haul, it remains a serious public health, environmental and quality of life issue for us and our neighbors. Shamrock is listed as the name of the company for the pump and hall. In February of this year it was acquired by Republic. Commissioners each of you, and our public here in the room. We'll remember that Shamrock was identified in 2019 as responsible to discharging the oxane chemicals from green, from a Greensboro plant downstream to the Cape Fear River, and eventually to Pittsburgh, where water was poisoned with cancer potential chemicals. The proposed car wash will operate from 7am to 9pm, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year. It is my understanding that the lighting has been approved and checked off for minimal code standards. That means that bright commercial lights and security lights also will glare into our home in our neighbors homes all night lights that will destroy the peace and darkness that we've been in. We've come to love here in Chatham County for 47 years in preparing for this evening. I found from NCDEQ, in Chatham County that the use of pump and haul systems has not seen a sustainable or appropriate solution for high volume commercial operation, such as a car wash and I also found that once you make your decision, the plan for this company is to go to NCDEQ and ask for a state permit. So, it's my understanding that Chatham County will not be managing this pumping hall, that Chatham County will only be managing the dry pond that is proposed. My time is up. I will just say that I do. Have I, along with our neighbors, have major concern about the mosquitoes that this dry pond will produce, and we will show you pictures when my husband presents his, the 7 trucks a week to haul away this pumping haul 5,000 gallon trucks is what the company proposes. They also propose 500 cars a day in the car wash. I respectfully urge you the board to reject the request for a pumping haul permit, waiver that would allow Sam's car wash to move to DEQ to request approval. Thank you.

Lawrence Price

I am coming back a second time to talk about the same issue again with the same issues that we saw beforehand is not very different. What you're looking at now is what they call the dry pond that they're talking about putting in it had rained about 3 or 4 days ago or maybe a week ago, and so-called Dry Pond is not Dry Pond, so it's more or less it has water in it, has frogs in it, and so forth. So, the fact that it's supposed to be a dry pond to catch the water that's coming off of the asphalt and it's supposed to disappear in 2 or 3 days doesn't always happen. So that's why I took that picture today. Okay, we've lived in Chatham County for 50 years now. Actually, we've lived in Fearrington Village for 47 years, and the fact that we're putting in our lease approving a car wash that produces 1.7 million gallons of industrial waste per year is very bothering, because that's a lot of stuff to get rid of and even though we're shipping it to Greensboro. We don't know how they get rid of it, but whether we will see it again in our world. So, I'm real concerned about that. The Dry Pond, and just the whole fact that I was involved with Fearrington and the Newland Board and we discussed all of these things, and, as I said, about the time I was here I was on the board for at least 15 years, working with a new one, and they promised us not a car wash. And even though they have all these problems, I think that there should have been opportunities for them to catch us earlier but somebody did not do their due diligence and now we must suffer for it and I do not like the fact that here we are faced again with the same issue. I hope that there is some way of us getting out of having to do this but looking at all of the different things that we've looked at over the past few past week. It has been very disturbing that things like this can get approved so easily and I hope that you find a way to say no, thank you for listening.

Cathy Holt

Good evening, Commissioners. I bought a house a year ago in the old section of Fearrington Village. It is the oldest development of its kind in North Carolina, and most agree that Mr. Fitch, the Developer, had great vision when he designed it. He had the builders leave so many of the trees and carefully place the houses on their lots in ways that protected their privacy as much as possible if only more developers were using that kind of sensitivity and vision today. That would be a wonderful thing I had planned on this being my last house hopefully. So I was pretty devastated to learn that someone was considering putting a large car wash that close to my home right through the trees from me the home that I just bought showing no respect for the fact that there was already a lovely residential neighborhood there, showing no respect for the fact that they were planning to service 500 cars a day so near to our homes, showing no respect for the changes to our lives that this level of noise would make. because when this neighborhood was built, they left so much natural beauty that most of us spend lots of our time out on our decks or our screen porches or patios. Think of the noise involved in having big trucks coming pump and haul the car washes industrial waste that they're expected to do 5 to 7 times a day, and the amount of light pollution that now we would have to experience. All of you have witnessed. How often people blast their car stereos when they are vacuuming their cars. Would you want this in your backyard, like right in your backyard 7 days a week and until 9 o'clock at night and when it does come time that we need to sell our homes. Don't you know how this will affect our property values. What about the effect this will have on all the residents of the new apartments and inspire right across the street from where they want to put in this car. Wash. Who will want to rent those apartments? Now Sam's made a mistake when they bought that property for a car wash. That is no reason to continue with this mistake. They can sell that piece of property for something that's commercial, but much more appropriate to back up to such a special and highly loved neighborhood a business that doesn't make a lot of noise, and that closes at 5 or 6 pm. Perhaps. How about having a business we need there. There's already a large car wash 2 miles down the road. We don't need another car wash in my backyard. Think of the precedent that this will set in our quickly being developed. If the Commissioners start allowing unreasonable choices like this to be allowed. Where's it going to go from here now is the time to stand up for what is right and fair and not be bullied. It's going to break my heart if this goes through. It's not what's fair and reasonable people do to a sweet community that has been there for over 40 years. Thank you for listening to me.

Barbara Thomas

Past on speaking

Marjorie Maarchalkweerd

My husband and I have resided at 9 Matchwood in Fearrington Village for 18 years. I'm here this evening to provide comments on the additional impact that the Sams car wash operation will introduce to our area. The area under development under development is now visible from our home. In particular, I want to address the additional lighting noise and water runoff that we expect to see, firstly, additional lighting the inspire 55 plus living facility. A 5 story building was recently completed on the same piece of commercial land that the Sams car wash is planned for during that development. The builders leveled the land to align with the elevation of 15-501! In doing so they removed a slight hill that had previously existed between Fearrington village and the 15-501. Since that building has been completed, we now overlook the entire back of the building from our back deck, where previously the little hill had shielded us and now the lights emanating from the building glow all night long into our bedroom. Unfortunately, I believe that the lighting plan for Sam's car wash has already

been approved, adding to our discomfort. Secondly, there is additional noise with the existing building. The O 2 fitness center and the proposed, I believe, nursing accommodation. The addition of the car wash with an anticipated additional 500 cars per day being washed, the noise level will increase the vacuums and general noise from the car. Wash will go on after dark till at least 9 pm. Lastly, water runoff, we have a small stream at the bottom of our property that runs from the inspire and car wash development towards the water treatment plant in Fearington, and eventually into Jordan Lake. For the past 10 years. Since the Briar Chapel expansion we have seen a marked change in the quantity and color of the water in the stream on many occasions it is gray. This is due to the impervious surfaces that we now see in that development under discussion. I truly believe that the introduction of a car wash will permanently alter the residential quality of life that is so treasured in Fearington Village and Chatham County. Please do not approve this request. Thank you.

Richard Ojeda

Thank you all very much for giving me the opportunity. I came here to introduce myself. My name is major retired. Richard Ojeda. I spent 24 years in the United States Army. The majority of that time was at Fort Bragg, and then I moved back to West Virginia. When I got back to West Virginia I became an educator for 4 years. I also ran a nonprofit sending kids to school with new shoes on their feet, and I became a State Senator, and I was able to get something done in West Virginia in a super minority. I am a Congressional candidate in North Carolina's 9th district. Now, Pittsboro is not part of this district because of the gerrymandering, but the other half of this county is part of the 9th district, and I just wanted to come here. I wanted to introduce myself once again. I'm a Democratic candidate for North Carolina's 9th Congressional district, and I look forward to working with you all in the future. So thank you all very much.

George Mulaanski

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak. I'm probably the only person in the room who ever worked at a car wash during high school and early college. Now this was in New England, where it was much more stormy, and so forth. But I've noticed in my 5 years here, living at Fearington Village that we have some rough times as well, especially when it comes to the streets. Now, what that means is that car washes in general are pretty lazy businesses. There's not much going on. People wash their own cars, but have an inclement period a couple of days, and suddenly car washes are inundated. Everybody's bringing their car. There are long lines to get in the car wash. Everybody on their way home from work wants to get the car wash for Sunday, and so forth, and so on. And what I want to say is that on the 15-501 which many of us in Farmington village refer to as the racetrack. There's going to be long lines of people coming in and out. Well, that's okay. But a significant proportion of those people will be people like myself. I'm 84 years old and I think I do a pretty good job driving on a racetrack, but I think probably the local police will agree that every once in a while, there's an incident around Fearington Village. And oftentimes it turns out it's someone like me. What I'm worried about is pile ups. And I'm worried about long lines during right after inclement weather to have the car washed and we used to do it inside. Now, that is to say, we used to hop inside the car and clean the inside the window shield would get fogged up if you were a smoker as well as some of us used to specialize in white wall tires with steel wool. I'm glad I don't do that work anymore, but I do want to say that this is not like another gas station where you have one or 2 cars waiting in line either to get gas or get back on the highway. No, no, this is a big snake of cars waiting to get the salt and the sand washed off the car and get back on the racetrack to get home. But many of the racetrack drivers are like. I'll be 85. So, I think this is a special case. This is a case where it's wonderful to have car washes, but not on a

racetrack. It's that simple. I drove today a couple of times down at 15-501 in the area where the facility would be built, and I'm saying to myself it wasn't even at the end of what time speed is left and right, and there have been some substantial accidents along 15-501 in the Fearington area, but also in other places. And now, where this car wash would go is, in my opinion, a hazardous area, that is to say, people coming on side streets and so forth, without going to the supermarket. I'm going to have to thank you for your time, but we've gone over to say we don't need another car wash. Thank you.

This Agenda Item was received and filed

PUBLIC HEARINGS

25-0235

Hold a public hearing for the recommended fiscal year 2025-2026 Chatham County budget

Attachments: [Recommended Budget Presentation--BOC Initial Presentation FY2026](#)
[Click Here To Sign Up For This Public Hearing](#)

Chair Howard opened the public hearing for the 2025-2026 Chatham County Budget. Chair Howard reminded speakers that they have three minutes to speak. Chair Howard called on the Clerk to the Board to read the name of those who signed up to speak. The following comments were received by the Board of Commissioners.

Written

Erinn Rowe

I am writing to express my strong support for the restoration of Master's Pay increases for all qualified teachers in Chatham County, including those who earned their advanced degrees after 2014. This issue will be discussed at your upcoming meeting on May 19th, and I believe it is vital for the continued excellence of our public schools. As a parent/resident of Chatham County, I have witnessed firsthand the dedication and expertise that our teachers bring to the classroom. Many of these educators have made significant personal and financial sacrifices to pursue advanced degrees, enhancing their teaching abilities and bringing additional expertise to our students. However, due to the 2014 state policy change, teachers who earned their Master's degrees after that cutoff date do not receive the same compensation as their equally qualified colleagues who completed their degrees before 2014. This disparity creates an inequitable system where two teachers with identical qualifications are compensated differently based solely on when they obtained their advanced degrees. By addressing this inequity at the local level, Chatham County has the opportunity to: Demonstrate our community's commitment to valuing education at all levels. Improve teacher retention by recognizing and rewarding advanced education. Attract highly qualified educators to our school system. Ensure that all students benefit from teachers who are incentivized to pursue continuing education. Our teachers are the backbone of our educational system. They shape the future of our community by educating our children, and they deserve to be fairly compensated for their qualifications. Additionally, while not the most important aspect, a strong school system attracts more families to our county, ultimately contributing to a stronger tax base and more vibrant community. I strongly urge you to approve the restoration of Master's Pay increases for all qualified teachers, regardless of when they earned their degrees. This investment in our educators is an investment in our children and our community's future. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. I look forward to attending the May 19th meeting to show my support for our dedicated educators and hope you will review my comments favorably ahead of the discussion. I

also want to highlight an exceptional teacher, Mr. Clark, at Chatham Grove Elementary who has brought vigor and life to the classes he teaches. He, among many other dedicated educators, deserves fair compensation for his advanced learning and qualifications. I wish to show my support for him and the Chatham County Association of Educators in this important matter.

Gretchen Smith

Recommended FY 2025-2026 Budget Chatham County Board of Commissioners Meeting May 19, 2025 Reasons to Invest in the Haw River State Trail Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments. The Chatham County segment of the Haw River State Trail needs your support in the FY 2025-2026 budget. The county has taken important steps with the approval in October 2023 of the Haw River Trail Study and the inclusion of Haw River Trail projects in the CIPs for 2025-2031 and 2026-2032. During these challenging times, we need to look to the future. We need trails more than ever for the health, social, environmental, and economic benefits that they provide. Trails are free to use, and enjoyment of trails spans age groups, ethnicity, income levels, and political affiliations. Trails like the Haw River State Trail have broad appeal to walkers, joggers, hikers, paddlers, anglers, birders, and nature photographers. Trails generate revenue and jobs as part of the thriving \$16.2 billion outdoor recreation economy in North Carolina. Every \$1.00 spent on trail construction generates \$1.72 annual return on investment for local economies. Conservation through nature-based recreation with our segment of the Haw River State Trail has many benefits by helping with the following: water quality by conserving riparian areas that filter pollutants, climate resilience by mitigating flooding risks, conserving scenic landscapes, creating public awareness and appreciation for conserving natural resources, conserving and connecting wildlife habitats, economic development through a sustainable non-destructive outdoor recreation economy capable of producing substantial tourism revenue and jobs. When the concept for a Haw River Trail extending from Haw River State Park to Jordan Lake was initially conceived in 2006, Alamance County began working in earnest to develop their segment of land and paddle trail and have made impressive progress in 19 years. The Alamance County commissioners' willingness to invest in their segment of the Haw River Trail has proven to be a good return on investment. Alamance County's tourism spending is consistently three times that of Chatham County's tourism spending, both in total spending and in recreation spending, according to data from the NC Economic Impact Studies. The top two tourism draws in Alamance County are their Haw River Trail and Cedar Rock Nature Park. How the Board of Commissioners Can Help We don't have the luxury of taking nineteen years to complete our segment of the Haw River land and paddle trail. Land prices along the Haw River corridor are increasing dramatically and will continue to go up. Residential development pressure and population growth along the Haw River corridor are increasing dramatically and despite recent slowdowns, Chatham will continue to grow. Time is not on our side and we have an urgent need for county resources, both money and people, to get the trail done. Here are examples of how our commissioners can help, most of which use existing revenue sources. Recreation Exaction Fees: The existing fund for Recreation Exaction Fees has about \$1.9 million. This fund must be used for land and easement acquisitions. Begin developing the Chatham segment of the Haw River State Trail by utilizing the Recreation Exaction Fees for the Eastern District for the following uses: Purchase land and trail easements. Provide grants to local land trusts to assist them with acquiring land and trail easements. Provide flexibility to be able to act quickly when opportunities arise, especially for smaller parcels. Trust Fund: Create a trust fund using the existing Article 46 Sales Tax. A precedent is the Farmland Preservation Trust Fund that was created using its portion of the Article 46 Sales Tax. General Obligation Bonds (GO Bonds): GO Bonds have a high voter approval success rate (94.8%). GO Bonds can provide substantial and

immediate funding for projects, and do not necessarily require a tax increase. Since the pre-bond feasibility process can take up to twelve months or longer, begin initiating the process now for a future GO Bond referendum for Parks, Trails, and Open Space. The Trust for Public Land can assist with preliminary analysis like the one they did for Buncombe County. Examples of recent successful GO Bond referenda approved by voters include: Buncombe County in 2022 approved \$30 million for Open Space and \$40 million for Affordable Housing. Chapel Hill in 2024 approved \$6.5 million for Open Space, \$15 million for Affordable Housing, and \$7.5 million for Streets & Sidewalks. City of Durham in 2024 approved \$85 million for Parks and \$115 million for Streets & Sidewalks. Shovel-Ready Projects: County projects may not score well, or even qualify, for grants because projects are not "shovel ready". Include funds in the budget for costs associated with appraisals, surveys, reviews and permitting and begin getting those done so that we can have an inventory of "shovel ready" projects that will score higher on grant applications. Expand Staff Capacity: The county's Trails & Open Space Planner, Ben Rippe, is doing a phenomenal job but there is more work than one person can do if we're going to make more rapid progress with our segment of the Haw River State Trail. Expand county government's trail development and grant writing capacity through strategies such as the following: Temporary positions, paid internships, and/or AmeriCorps positions that can be funded with lapsed salaries. Permanent positions, paid internships, and/or AmeriCorps positions that can be funded by the following: Article 46 Sales Tax as is done with the Farmland Preservation Coordinator position. "Penny for Parks and Trails" as a component of property taxes that can be used for funding staff positions, land and easement acquisitions, and construction of trails and amenities. Examples include Chapel Hill's Penny for Parks, Raleigh's Penny for Parks, and Durham's Half Penny for Parks and Trails.

Morton Barlaz

I am writing on behalf of the approximately 1600 members of the Carolina Canoe club (CCC) to express our support for trails and specifically for the Haw River State Trail. We appreciate that the Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of conserving natural resources and providing recreational activities that are accessible to the public. The Board is well aware of the ever-increasing development of Chatham County which makes it critically important to preserve land for public spaces today. By deferring decisions by even one year, land acquisition costs will increase, and available land will decrease. I understand that the Board has many competing priorities for funding and that difficult decisions will have to be made. Nonetheless, the allocation of funds for the development of trails will help to preserve the rural and scenic character of Chatham County and will improve the quality of life for its residents. The need for nature and greenway trails was identified as a top priority when a survey was conducted in support of the development of Chatham County Parks & Recreation Master Plan that was adopted in 2019. Thus, it is clear that the public supports the Board in the allocation of funds for trails and open space. I think that everyone agrees that the current reliance on grant funding and "pay as you go" has not resulted in the timely implementation of various plans for trails and greenways. It is therefore time to accept that a different approach is needed, whether it be a general obligation bond, increased property taxes and/or use of the over \$1 million in recreation exaction funds that can be used to fund land and easement purchases. In closing, I want to thank you for the opportunity to present comments and for your consideration. The Carolina Canoe Club appreciates your public service and your goal to maintain the high quality of life in Chatham County.

Katherine Pettiss

Please thank the commissioners for including funds for a part time arborist in the

budget this year. It is a vital position to help with all the development happening in Chatham County.

Kelly Woods

Thank you for allocating some funds for an arborist who can objectively evaluate tree preservation in Chatham County.

Susan McMichaels

It's heartening that the budget includes money for an arborist to help protect one of Chatham County's most valuable resources. Thank you for your vision as you navigate this period of rapid development.

Elizabeth Carriel

This is a very positive step for our county. We need this position to be a reality as the county continues to grow, and developers need to be informed about cutting down so many trees. Thank you for voting yes.

Cathy Holt

I was delighted to learn that the board is considering hiring an arborist to help protect our outstanding trees still left in Chatham County. They are such a resource for us, providing beauty and cleaner air, and a connection to nature, which Science has now proven has a strong beneficial effect on our well-being. Thank you for having the vision to do this before we lose many more.

Colleen Sharp

Thank you for allocating \$10k for a part-time arborist. Given the stress on the environment and climate as well as increasing development in Chatham, this will just begin to help address the impact and help educate all of us on how to preserve our precious trees.

Marjorie Hudson

Would you pass a long my thanks to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners - I learned that they have included \$10,000 in this year's budget to support a part-time arborist. How wonderful! Chatham County has much of value to preserve. I would also urge them to raise the budget line item for more trails and parks in the County. Just walking along most roads gets perilous with increased traffic! With thanks for all your hard work.

Sharon Garbutt

I will be unable to attend either of the BOC meetings today, so I am writing to voice my support for the inclusion of \$10,000 in the proposed FY 2025-2026 budget to hire a part-time arborist. Chatham County staff, elected officials, citizens and consultants worked hard together to establish strong tree protection requirements in our UDO. We now need an ISA certified arborist to oversee the preservation of existing trees and to give clarification to staff and developers on issues related to the tree protection requirements in our UDO. I would also like to voice support for funding of local trails, especially the Haw River State Trail. I hope you will consider funding through sources such as bonds, property tax allocations and grants. Trails allow our citizens to get outside and enjoy the trees! Trails can also attract visitors from outside Chatham County to enjoy a hike and spend some money at our local restaurants and shops. Thank you again for including funding for an arborist in the proposed budget!

Joy Hewett

To begin, let me say how much I appreciate your caring about our environment and

working on concerns about climate change. Thank you for the steps you've taken on farmland preservation. Thank you for funding positions that help with protecting our rural heritage, our parklands, and our waterways. I thank you for funding the position of Greenspace and Trails and Open Space Planner that Diana Hales put in the budget a few years ago. Ben Ripe has done an extra ordinary job. Most of all, I personally thank you for the acquisition of the parcel of land along the Haw River next to Bynum Beach, thus expanding our county park. Having more access for swimmers, picnickers, photographers, birders, and fisher folks along the river is so important. Our paddle access is improving, too, and your commitment to conservation and preservation through recreation serves many goals. In your budget, please consider the many benefits money for trails in the county and more parkland serves. Conservation through recreation improves community health, helps mitigate climate change and pollution, provides enjoyment for all ages, and protects sensitive areas with unique ecosystems. The benefits of nature you may already know, so I won't elaborate more. Haw River State Trail deserves and needs your support. So does more funding for our county parks. Adding a part time arborist to the budget will be a big benefit in protecting and maintaining some of our beautiful trees and forested areas, so thank you for that, too. While funds are tight and stretched in many directions, I hope your commitment to the 2017 Comprehensive Land Use Plan stays strong. Land that could have been purchased for \$3,000 an acre years ago is now vastly more expensive. The goal of protecting 33% of our natural resources is still vitally important; the more development that brings more people here the less acreage may be available for public shared space. These various budget designations that ensure our natural resources are protected and enhanced need to be fully funded while there is still time. Budgeting that protects and preserves our environment can't wait. The time is now. Is \$20,000 going to be cut from our Chatham County Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department at a time when it has been expanding to meet the needs of a growing population and serve all parts of our huge county? If that is the case, perhaps encouraging any more large residential developments at this time would be unwise. Could the county stop rezoning residential and agricultural lands at the request of developers? We have enough people already and developments are raising property prices while increasing property taxes through these higher land values. Higher property taxes don't benefit those who want to stay in place until we die. If it is legal, can you limit more large residential development requiring rezoning for a few years? Rezoning can mean harming long time residents and small scale farmers who live nearby. I don't mean to overstep here, but it seems if the county wants to meet the needs of the increased population already here it needs to be able to fully fund the departments that do that before adding more population density to the situation. Again, I thank you for the steps you have already taken in protecting our natural resources and our environment. The priority of continued or expanded funding at this time is critical; even with funding sources being limited, I hope you can find a way to continue your commitment to rural land preservation, waterways protection and access, trees, and open spaces. All those work together for our quality of life and climate resilience.

JC Garbutt

I am writing to voice my support for the inclusion of \$10,000 in the proposed FY 2025-2026 budget to hire a part-time arborist. I'm a Board member of The Grand Trees of Chatham and, in that capacity, have had the opportunity to visit many amazing trees and landscapes in our County. What a beautiful forested County! We need to protect it! Chatham County staff, elected officials, citizens and consultants worked hard to establish strong tree protection requirements in our UDO. To make sure this hard work is not in vain we should have the guidance of an ISA certified arborist to oversee the preservation of existing trees and to give clarification to staff and developers on issues related to the tree protection requirements in our UDO. So, thank you for taking a first

step and including \$10,000 in the budget for a part-time arborist. I wanted to also offer my support to seek funding to support local trails, especially the Haw River State Trail. This is another great way to support trees and nature while providing recreational opportunities for our citizens. For years we've been saying Chatham County is going to expand and we need to take action to protect our environment. Well, the expansion is here and the time is NOW! Thank you for your foresight!

Lyle Estill

Thank you so much for including an allocation for an arborist in this year's budget. Thank you for thinking of and speaking for the trees. An arborist can help us protect our existing tree resources--good move in the right direction.

In Person

Robert Waldrop

I'm Robert Waldrop of the Chatham County Board of Elections (effective tomorrow) and a five year veteran elections worker. I'm here to express the urgent need for a critical expansion item in our 2026 budget to allow us to comply with new state laws. Recent changes to North Carolina law, specifically Session Law 2024-57, have fundamentally altered how elections must be run. We used to have two weeks to process absentee and provisional ballots but now we have just two and a half days. This must happen during the same time we are performing state-mandated audits, finalizing results and addressing any anomalies. The state is mandating new deadlines for training and reporting. These are not optional. Intense scrutiny by election officials and the public has caused many seasoned election workers to leave, requiring more training of many new poll workers. These demands cannot be ignored unless you want us to fail and raise the ire of the public. We are asking you to add a new position of Election Coordinator who will: Manage and improve poll worker training for hundreds of workers. Help us to meet compressed legal deadlines without sacrificing accuracy. Handle a surge in public records requests. And lastly, lead voter outreach and education efforts across the county. Without this, we will pay thousands of dollars in un-forecast overtime to an exhausted staff, which could lead to costly and legal errors. When we are not conducting elections, this person will be overseeing public outreach, registering voters, maintaining voter rolls, processing voter ID's, and processing public records requests. Without this resource, we face: A very real risk of noncompliance with election law. Increased voter wait times and dissatisfaction. A lower voter turnout and less attention from decision-makers in Raleigh. I've given you an article by the North Carolina Budget and Tax Center, with highlighted segments, which proves a correlation between the money spent on elections and voter turnout. Chatham County consistently has some of the highest voter turnouts in the state, but did you also know that we only spend \$11.99 Per Voter! This research says that while the voting population has increased 33% since 2007, the funding of elections from the State Budget has decreased by 19%. Counties have had to make up the difference. We're not just asking for funding, but to: Make sure we comply with state and federal law and avoid costly lawsuits like we just witnessed over the past 6 months. Ensure every citizen has easy access to vote and that every vote is counted in a timely manner. Maintain Chatham's influence in the State Capital. Thank you for standing with us as we work to meet these new demands.

Joseph W Jacob Jr

Thank you for the opportunity to both submit this letter and to present my comments in person. In my seventy-nine years on this earth, most of that time I have taken for granted that as a citizen of the United States, it has been my first amendment right to do so. In this current federal administration, I no longer take my rights of free speech and assembly for granted. I hope that as leaders in our county you will continue to

emphasize the importance of those rights and protect them. I understand that because of cuts to federal programs that help to support local efforts to provide public services, this is a particularly difficult year for all counties, not just Chatham County, to continue providing those services to which we have all become accustomed. Throughout these comments, I will make reference to "where there is the will, there is a way. It just takes a can do and never give up attitude". Back on April 5, 2021, I made comments to the then Chatham County Commissioners who were deciding the next county budget. In my comments, I tried to make the case that there needed to be one person who got up each day devoted to creating both a Haw River land and river trail. I am happy to say that a county trails and open space coordinator position was created and filled by a very competent professional, but, unfortunately, that is not enough. Let me explain why. I had based my comments on the success that Alamance County had made during those 17 years. From 2005 until 2021, Alamance County had acquired legal rights and built over 20 miles of land trail and 13 river-side accesses. Some of the larger accesses have interior land trails of their own along with restrooms and campsites. In those years since 2021, they have added another 4 miles of land trail and an additional 3 river-side accesses. If all goes as planned this year, they will add at least another mile of land trail. In 2014, state legislators from Alamance County led the effort to gain legislative support to designate the Haw River Trail as a State Trail from Haw River State Park north of Greensboro to Jordan Lake State Park in Chatham County. That same year, more than 550,000 people visited these river-side accesses to hike, camp and paddle along the Haw River. They have done all this trail building work during both good and bad economic times. Alamance County had the will, and they found a way. Did Chatham County have the will and find a way? Now, let's review Chatham County's record on the Haw River Trail during these past 20 years. Sadly, there have been no miles of land trail built along the Haw River, let alone acquisition by Chatham County of legal rights to build any. Why is that? I hope you will ask yourselves that question. How did Alamance County acquire and develop over 25 miles of land trail and Chatham County none? That's another question I hope you will ask yourselves. During the past 20 years there have been 4 river-side accesses acquired in Chatham County; two by State Parks, one by the Carolina Canoe Club which was later transferred to the county, one by the Triangle Land Conservancy and I believed a fourth was land owned by the Corps of Engineers with the funds for a river-side access provided by the Friends of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area. Most of this activity took place with very little involvement by Chatham County and before the trails and open space coordinator was hired. Again, do you want to ask yourselves why that is? Here's my answer. Without the vision and leadership from previous Chatham County Commissioners and all county staff, there have always been other priorities. There has been no will, so it follows that there has not been a way to duplicate the success of Alamance County. I was wrong back in 2021 when I thought the secret was someone who got up every day and worked toward building the Haw River Trail. In Alamance County, it's been a team effort that included department heads, senior-level staff, the county attorney, the chamber of commerce, business leaders, county commissioners and legislators. "If you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you always got". For the past 20 years in Chatham County, it has always been excuses. The truth is that in Chatham County the Haw River Trail has never risen to the position of being a priority. That's not what Alamance County did during the same good and bad economic times. There was the will, so they found a way". That's what leaders do. They have a vision and find a way, not an excuse. Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Carl Fisher

Good evening. First of all, thank you for your service. Yeah, I'm sure you don't get thanked enough. Secondly, I was going to read this, and I've struggled all day long to

make myself read it. But that's not my style so I'll try to summarize. Back in 2021. I presented the comments to the Commissioners about the Hall River trail, and that what it needed was one person getting up every day thinking about how they're going to create the trail. And let me compare that. And you did. Great. You hired a special person. Okay, so my compliments. Since that time, I can compare what Chatham County has been able to accomplish to Alamance County in the past 20 years. To that 2021 date they were able to build 13 mile, 2520 miles of trails and 13 sites along the river where people had access to the river. Now keep in mind even in 2,008, when the economy was so bad they were building trails, they were building accesses. So, my point is, it's not all about money. There is more compensation in money, and then life, more compensation in life than money. But there's also more ways to get things done than spending money. So I'm not asking for money for the budget. Okay. Since that time, 2021, they've added another 4 miles of trail and another 3 access sites. So, what is Chatham County done in these 20 years. 0 miles of trail 0 legal rights to acquire easements. The passion hasn't been there for Chatham County. It has been for helmets, and the point I just want to make is that where there's a will you can find a way. I don't see the culture, and I'm not fussing at you because there's 20 years' worth of commissioners and staff that also did not find a way. I'm just asking you all to start thinking about finding a way to create this trail. Thanks very much. I'm here this evening to ask you to provide local funding to let us get started on the Hall River State trail in Chatham County. We need funding for permits and surveys and other steps that are needed to make the project shuttle ready. More than a year ago I took a 2-day trail building class sponsored by Chatham County. I'd hoped and expected to have built some trail by now, but we have not been able to get started. We have an opportunity to attract tourism revenue to our county, but we must actively Alamance County's tourism revenue is consistently 3 times that of Chatham and one of Alamance's top. 2 draws is their section of the chat of the Har River Trail. Land prices along the Harvard corridor are increasing dramatically and will continue to go up. Time is not on our side, and we have an urgent need for county resources, both money and staff. To get this trail done, we have land acquisition opportunities right now along the Hall River corridor. The county has over 1 million dollars in recreation, exaction funds to use for land and easement acquisition. I urge you to provide funding to this cause by tapping into any of several available resources, including unspent, exact, unspent recreation, exaction, fees, general obligation, bonds for parks, trails, and open spaces, spaces. Installation, finance, installment, financing, or a penny for parks and trails dedicated funding stream as is done in several nearby counties. Thank you for your action on this important topic. Thank you.

Victoria Shea

I'm speaking on behalf of the Orange, Durham and Chatham League of Women Voters. The League's position is that efficient and economical Government requires competent personnel. The clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government. The Chatham County Board of Elections is requesting an election coordinator position that would have responsibilities precisely in line with the principles the League advocates voter, outreach, and education throughout the county will be increasingly important as election laws and procedures are modified by the General Assembly adding to voters confusion about how they can register when they can vote, and how they can know that their votes will count training needs of poll workers have become similarly complex as State laws and procedures change and multiply. Further, the county's expanding population has increased the year-round demand on election staff from May 2024 to May 2025, Chatham saw an increase of 1,875 registered voters, and an even higher rate of new registrations is expected in advance of the Presidential cycle. In addition to carefully processing and updating voter Registrations Board of Elections office staff

must be sufficient in number to handle increases in voter questions to answer absentee and provisional ballots, to research and cure, record requests to comply with and audits, legal challenges, hearings, and recounts to prepare for also, after every election. The processing of ballots that used to be done in 9 days now must be finished in 3 days. We are hopeful that the Board of Commissioners will support the request of the Board of Elections for the much-needed election coordinator position. Thank you.

Maria Troiani-Howard

Mom to Matthew, 30 y/o young man with Down Syndrome, Coordinator All-Together! Friends Group, Community Inclusion Advocate, Inclusive Dance and Art Teacher. What is a day program? A Day Program provides a place for adults with disabilities to be active in the community, socialize with peers, and learn new skills. Every Person deserves to have meaning and purpose in their lives, to be active, learn new skills, and be happy and healthy. To be in a place that's upbeat, bright, and positive, with opportunities to be happy and engaged. The day program we're envisioning will be rich in meaningful activities, have positive socialization, and provide community partnerships, and community opportunities. We're looking to serve adults with I/DD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Adults with Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Autism, and other adults who are a part of the diverse community of people with I/DD). History of day program projects in Chatham: Approx 10 years ago (plus/minus), an EC (Exceptional Children) teacher in Chatham said she didn't want "her students leaving high school and sitting at home with nothing to do" or no social interactions. She and several parents began an endeavor to create an activities based day program. Their survey found about 35 families interested for a family member to attend. Funding, space, and an organization to run it proved to be challenges, and it didn't come to fruition. Since then, results of the Chatham Health Assessment had identified lack of programs/activities in Chatham County for adults with disabilities, as identified by Chatham citizens. Chatham Dept of Public Health has identified this as a need to address. What have our adults with disabilities in Chatham been doing? There really hasn't been anything to do in Chatham. We piece together activities, and some go out of county for services. Five of our friends/families have moved out of Chatham to get services for their adult family members with disabilities. (To Wake and Orange Counties). Chatham Trades in Siler City is a work program for adults with disabilities (I/DD). Their main focus is work activities at their location. My son and many adults are not geared to a work program and they would not be happy there. I started all together friends group in July 2024 where we do art, dance, games, field trips, movies, bowling. We have a Garden Club and Taiko Drum Group. These are community partners who come to us for activities. We planted and decorated a pollinator garden patch at the Chatham Alliance Teaching Garden in Pittsboro colorful garden flags and Peace Pole. The master gardener volunteers lead this, and got an Arts Equity Grant from Chatham Arts Council. We are planning an integrated performance with Earth Spirit Taiko drum group at a Fall Festival. 13 years ago I started and Inclusive Art and Dance class. We had spring dance recitals, and displayed art at the NC Arts Incubator Art Walks. In 2024, several parents were instrumental in starting some classes with Chatham parks and recreation: basketball and music group. Still these activities are not enough to fulfill daily needs. They are 1-2 hours a few days a month. And parents are overwhelmed caring for their family needs, but we start these activities because there's nothing in Chatham for our adult children. We're ready for an 'official' day program! Stories from adults with I/DD and families in Chatham. Why is this Day Program important to you? And how does it affect you not having it? See attached stories below. OUR TEAM TODAY This brings us to today. We have an awesome team who has been looking at creating such a Day Program in Chatham. Chatham Dept of Public Health, Vaya Health (MCO who manages health/service plans for people

with I/DD in Chatham), Monarch (agency who operates approx. 17 other Day Programs in NC), Self-Advocates (People with I/DD), families and other community members. All who have been supporting this effort since January 2024 when we took a tour of the Monarch Creative Arts and Community Center in Southern Pines. That tour happened when 5 of us families with our adult children attended the open house of the Monarch Behavioral/Mental Health Center (office) in Pittsboro. All the necessary parties were there and heard us: Chatham Dept of Public Health, Vaya Health, Monarch. They were interested in touring Monarch's Day Program in Southern Pines. Our teams work so far: survey: Chatham Dept of Health created a survey of interest. 75 Families and self-advocates responded with interest in a Chatham Day Program!!! We toured Monarch's Creative Arts and Community Center Day Program in Southern Pines: Arts, activities, dance, pottery, Life Learning Skills, physical health/exercise, Daily living skills, community volunteering. MCACC has an art gallery where they partner with community artists and sell art together. We envision our center to be similar to this, as we evolve. We selected Monarch as the agency to operate the day program. They operate 17 other day programs in NC. We considered other agencies. We presented to the Chatham Board of Health who passed along their concurrence for a Day Program. We are honing in on a space, and have several in mind. General financial needs: Thank you for considering this significant budget item! Chatham County monies are needed for startup for a couple first years, then the program is expected to continue operations with it's own funding and grants. Vaya also has identified significant funding for this project startup. The Team and Monarch are looking at other funding sources for grants. Thank you! With your help, we hope to create a robust, fun, positive, community integrated day program for our adults with disabilities. We all deserve a meaning and purpose in our lives, including our community of adults with I/DD too. Self advocate and family stories: MTH, Mom of 29 year-old young man with Down Syndrome I started (volunteer) All-Together! Friends Group in Pittsboro because my son and his peers have no place to go in Chatham. For 2 hours every Thursday we do activities led by volunteers and participants themselves: art, dance, garden club, learn community, cultural, self-advocacy, and civic subjects, story-telling, board games, socialize. While there is a work-focused program in Chatham for adults with I/DD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities), a work program is not suitable for my son and many other adults. Along with so many adults with I/DD, He needs meaningful, active, daily, community activities with peers to learn new skills, maintain his mental wellness and be content and happy. When he stays home, his anxiety triggers heighten, his skills regress, he becomes agitated and exhibits behavior issues. This affects the health, sleep, and stress within our whole family (the dog too). He and other adults with I/DD in Chatham deserve to have active, social, meaningful and purposeful lives, not sit at home. An activities, community-integrated day program is desperately needed. I drove my son an hour to a day program in Wake County where he thrived, but I could not sustain that drive. Almost 70 Chatham area people responded they're interested in a Chatham activities day program for a family member or themselves. TW, Mom of 31 year-old young man with Down Syndrome A day program that offers activities other than "work" is greatly needed in this area. The social aspect alone is greatly needed and to be provided in a safe environment with activities geared towards engaging and incorporating skills would be beneficial. This part of the county suffers in terms of access with most things being closer to Chapel Hill and quite honestly, for some, that is not an option. It would bring us together as a community and give us the opportunity to support each other. Not having a program, isolates this population since there are no activities designed around the needs, wants, interests of the people. They have no outlet and no involvement with others. JH, Young Woman with Asperger's and IDD, age 30 I feel that the reason we don't have a day program yet is because of payment and finding our own building and I like to show others about the activities we could do in the community and how we can make our county great if we all join together. I mean

we could do gardening and Cooking classes, Art, Dance and much more. To be honest I like to start my own movie club if we ever do open the day program. MJ, Mom to 27 year old-young man with autism M (son) currently goes to a day program in Wake County 2 days/week. He loves having something to do, a focus, something to keep him busy. My husband and I both work and M can't stay home alone so having somewhere safe for him is a paramount concern. Making friends is hard for him so it's helpful to have a place where he can go be with similar age peers and feel accepted. And it helps him with becoming more independent, to go somewhere without his family and experience new things. JLS, Young Man with Down Syndrome, age 23 I get excited for Thursday (All-Together! Friends) group. I Like to learn things, do art and dance, and see my friends. I love getting out doing stuff, talking to people. (From support caregiver because he doesn't like to acknowledge sad feelings: He's sad and restless at home, pacing and crying at times, because all he can do at home is play video games and listen to music). LT, Young Woman with cerebral palsy and I/DD, age 31 I'm happy being with my friends in a group, doing crafts, dancing, and group lunch. I'm not happy being at home all the time. MJF, Young Man with autism, age 27 "I am so happy". (Expressed during Thursday ALL-Together! Friends Group dance. Proud and happy helping out with setup and cleanup). GT, Mom to 31-year-old Young woman with cerebral palsy Since my daughter is out of school her opportunities for socializing is limited. She really enjoys getting together with her friends and participating in activities. She especially enjoys dancing, arts and crafts and anything involving music. A day program would provide an outlet for all these things and would be a real benefit to my daughter.

Mark Barroso

Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to make the case for funding the Board of Elections. I am asking you to give them whatever they want because the stakes of under funding them are greater than perhaps you realize. They're smart and frugal and know what it takes to run a smooth election. Everything they ask for is reasonable. First, let me say that in my 5 and a half years on the Board of Elections I have witnessed, Republicans and Democrats work together to count every vote in a fair and friendly environment. Nothing I am about to say is meant to disparage any local Republican. Unfortunately, there's a lot to fear when it comes to the Republicans in State government. It's not hyperbole to say they are coming for Chatham County for the sole reason that we are a Blue County. Gop leaders padded a State bill that provided hurricane relief with a power grab to take control of the State Board of Elections. Meanwhile Republican judges have expressed support for changing election results. After people have voted they failed this last election, thanks to a single Federal judge. But mark my word, they will try again. Republicans on the State level have proven that they will. Gerrymander districts promote bogus claims of voting fraud and say in court that laws that they passed are unconstitutional when they lose. I know it's pretty confusing. The whole point is to sow chaos and create doubt about the validity of elections. I'm asking you to protect all citizens of Chatham from the impending menace of State Republicans who want to make it harder for people to vote break the election process and then demand that the Republican judges pick the winners. Here's just one example. In the last election we counted 3,610 mail-in ballots over the course of 8 weeks. But now the Republicans say Chatham must count them all on election night, because no one knows why these laws came online just months ago, perhaps after Staff could consider their needs. More laws and rules to make voting harder and more complicated are just around the corner. Once the new Republican Board of Elections gets rolling. The only defense we, the citizens of Chatham and our democracy has is our local board of elections. I implore you. No, I'm begging you to give them what they need for this fight and keep all Republican and Democratic votes safe and all of our voices hurt.

Laura Heise

Good evening. I'm the current chair of the Chatham County Board of Elections, and I'm also here tonight to ask for this additional position to the office. We know we've been seeking additional staffing and funds each of these last few years, and we're grateful for the support we've received from the Commissioners. It may seem that we should wait a few years before making additional staffing requests, but circumstances have arisen to make our current request more urgent as I detailed in a letter to the Board several weeks ago, we have lost the incredibly valuable services of a longtime temp, who basically worked full time, nearly full time. As a staffer. His retirement leaves a gap in our staff that will be hard to fill. We think the elections coordinator position most fully replicates the services this temp provided us for many years. In addition, there have been some major changes in State election law that will only be fully rolled out in the coming election cycle. These new laws tighten up the time. Election staff has to process all votes and make drastic makes drastic cuts in the time available to process and research provisional votes. These are the votes cast for which voter registration must be researched in multiple databases. To make certain a voter is eligible to vote the voter id law and the accept form which accompanies it have proved difficult to properly and uniformly implement all across the State, and we will need to add additional hours of poll worker training to ensure that all properly registered voters retain their voting privileges. It seems to be a widespread misconception that election staff are only busy in the month or 2 right around election day. While this may once have been true in today's world, the work election staff engages in goes on year round. It takes months, months of preparation to ensure voters enjoy access and excuse me. Successful experience during early voting and on election day from recruiting and training as many as 220 poll workers maintaining accurate and up-to-date voter roles providing registration and election information to voters and training a large contingent of temporary workers. We had 12 working in the elections office for the 2024 Presidential election to capably manage the flow of election business before and after the elections. It truly is a year-round job requiring a full staff of dedicated professionals. The need for the position is real, while the full implications of the new North Carolina elections laws are still uncertain. There's no doubt we are in a period where changes in election law are frequent and seemingly aimed at restricting voter access. A fully staffed county elections office will be crucial to maintaining Chatham voters. Legitimate participation in our elections. Thanks for your consideration of our request.

Ben Clarke

Thank you for the opportunity to have my voice heard today. I was born and raised on the Hall River as a member of the Carolina Canoe Club and a lifelong paddler. I play on the Haw River, and now, as the Chatham County Outpost Coordinator for the Haw River Canoe and Kayak Company. I even work on the Haw River. The hall has always been where I go to think to center myself and remember how much I appreciate life and it's my deepest passion has always been my deepest passion to share the hall with others. As a Chatham County resident and Whitewater paddlers. I grew up thinking that we had the best part of the Haw but since starting to work on the river in Alamance County. I have been stunned by the incredible work that has been done to make their part of the Hall an accessible natural resource. I am very glad that Ben Ripey and many other hardworking folks are working on improving our paddle accesses and river trails, because, quite frankly, we have fallen behind, and we're letting our incredible sections of the haw down. I still believe our part of the hall is the jewel of the river. But what does that do for anyone, if no one really gets to see or appreciate it. This is why I fervently advocate for increased funding, for trails and paddle access improvements along the hall. Most importantly, I urge you to find funding for land and

easement acquisitions along the river. In my talks with Alamance County Parks folks, it seems like, for all the incredible work they've done their greatest hardships have come from missing land parcels along the river which force their trails to either deviate wildly from ideal routes, or even to stall entirely for years. Land along the hall in this county is only going to become more and more expensive and more developed, and likely a pretty fast pace. We should focus on land acquisition now, so that we can capture this incredible resource for our people. Now, when the land is pristine and relatively inexpensive. And since I have a little more time. I also want to point out that this isn't just great for recreation. It's also really important. Economically, just this year there have been improvements to the Bynum Mill access, and that got our company interested in, hey? Why don't we introduce recreation or commercial tubing to Bynum, and that kind of thing can bring in people from counties all over the place who are going to spend money on, you know, beer and food and everything else in this area. So that brings revenue too. I don't know if it's going to pay for itself, but definitely it doesn't hurt. Thank you so much.

Daphne Vogelsang

I'm a Chatham County resident and a lover of the Haw River. I'm here to suggest using more county funds for the Haw River State Trail. My focus is on the natural resources and conserving them conservation through the nature-based recreation with our segment of the Haw River State Trail, has many benefits by helping with the following. It's going to keep good water quality by conserving riparian areas that filter pollutants, conserving and connecting wildlife habitats providing climate resilience by mitigating flooding risk. It's conserving a scenic landscape for all of us to see. We need to become more resilient by creating public awareness and appreciation for conserving these natural resources by creating economic development. A sustainable, non-destructive, outdoor recreation economy is capable of producing substantial tourism, revenue and jobs for Chatham County. We need the help of these Chatham County natural cultural, natural resource funds, funding options available. Local governments are needed to make significant progress with the plans for the Haw River State Trail for example, there's the general obligation bonds. They are used by many other local governments for parks, trails, and open space. These have very high voter approval. Chatham County could also take advantage of that source of immediate and substantial funding for the Haw River State Trail. The county has over 1 million dollars in recreation, exaction funds to use in the Eastern district for land and easement acquisition. Right now the Hall River State Trail has land acquisition opportunities along the Ha River corridor that can be used. Additional local government funding options are also available to Chatham County for Charles to include installment, financing, capital and special reserve funds, property tax, such as the penny for parks and trails and part of the article 46 sales tax. Please consider using additional funding to support the Haw River State trail.

Allan Tyson

I'm Bob Tyson, member of the Chatham County Board of Elections. I'm here to request that an election coordinator be hired by the Board of Elections, an unusually productive and versatile worker recently retired, who is willing to work as needed on an hourly basis. It's unlikely that we could find an hourly worker to replace him. There are significant election law changes that came into effect on January 1st, we will receive guidance on these changes from the State Board and require effort to implement these changes. A particular concern is the reduction of time allowed for dealing with provisional ballots. Our workload is not even over the election cycle, but we have to be able to meet tight statutory deadlines. The issue of disputed registrations. That was the crux of the Riggs Griffin controversy probably hasn't gone away. It may require effort on our part. There may also probably be revised guidance on other election laws

that will require additional effort by the Board having an additional election coordinator would help ensure that every eligible ballot is counted. We will, of course, continue to do our utmost to run smooth, fair elections, but if there are any problems it could lead to voters being inconvenient and could even result in lawsuits. Please fund the election coordinator position. You'll be glad you did. Thank you.

John Clark

My name is John Clark, and I'm a 3rd grade teacher at Chatham Grove, elementary and a proud member of the CCAE. I came here tonight to both highlight and applaud the proposed restoration of master's pay for educators who fall outside the State's 2013, grandfather Limit. When I decided to become an educator while in college in 2016. I remember hearing nonstop from professors and peers how North Carolina education was a highly competitive field that required the utmost dedication and qualifications and certifications you name it. This spurred me to continue my education and get a Master's degree to assure my standing in a supposedly highly contested job market fast forward a few years in my career, and I found myself in a peculiar situation. I had the same credentials, same accolades, and the same job, but my coworkers earned more just because I was younger, and I got my master's after they did what the State did was a clear and obvious attack on education, their reasoning, if you can even call it. That was that there was, quote no correlation between a teacher having a master's degree, and their students test scores lovely. That sends an alarming message to me that the State of North Carolina will look to save money by stripping potential new educators of a reason to teach here the Master's degree. Graduating classes at UNC. College system shrinks every year. For this reason, among many others earlier, I did some number crunching and found out just how much money I could have made if that State mandate never occurred. The amount was staggering \$28,690 of just base pay, adding that number to the master supplement. That number would have soared well past 30. Grand! That's just the amount missing from the 7 years that I've been a teacher. That number's life changing. It's a down payment on a house in a literally impossible housing market for a hopeful 1st time home buyer. Its money needed to start a family and grow roots in this community. I truly love it here. I got married right down the road at what I thought was the courthouse but turned out to be the Detention center. Long story. I want to live here, but I live 45 min away in Holly Springs. I want to support this community in every way I can, but that dream is gone, because enough legislators at the State level are legitimately terrible and soulless people and fail to realize that a highly educated teacher is a highly qualified and, yes, highly effective teacher. As I just mentioned, fewer and fewer graduates are entering the education profession due to a multitude of factors. The well of new teachers is running drier and drier each year with the restoration of master's pay. I think Chatham will further cement itself as a district that attracts the dwindling resources of new, highly qualified educators. Last year I stood here and said I wanted Chatham County to be a beacon of light for educators, a place where you're valued and respected. Last year's actions with the supplement increase was a clear sign of that respect and appreciation. I thank you all for it. This year the restoration of masters pay will be yet another bright beacon lit, letting all young and highly qualified teachers know that Chatham County is here and Chatham County wants you here. Thank you.

Alirio Estevez

Good evening Commissioners. Thank you for having us. Thank you. Everybody for listening to our talk here on behalf of the teacher, and especially one dear colleague of mine. She couldn't come here. She was supposed to talk, so she said, well then, you talk, and I'm here on behalf. Her name is Kirsty. She's a very great, wonderful, magnificent teacher inside her city. I love her and she is us and she wants to. She wants me to tell you that 1st of all. Thank you for having a recommended masters to

receive masters. Pay in this for the schools. She's very grateful and her situation is this, she's a mother. She has 2 children. She takes care of them all by herself. She went to Meredith College to get her Master's degree in order to improve her teaching skills. And I have worked with her. And, as I repeat again and emphasize, she's wonderful. She's excellent, but she has to pay for her room school student loans. She has to work hard, and she has to take, as I said, take care of her children. She wants to stay here. She lives near Pittsburgh, near Bynum. Excuse me, but she feels tempted to go to another district. Wake County a duke, I mean Durham counties, because they offer Master Spain now. Even Chatter Chapel Hill schools are trying to offer that, but she wants to stay here, and she is thankful that her dream is going to come true to stay here because she wants to help the kids here. She has been living in Shannon all her life, and she wants to have children here, and with this she will be able to take care of her children and pay for her loans. So we want to say, thank you for everything you have done for education. We want to say thank you for taking care of our students, our children, because they are the best, and thank you again, and please support this recommendation. Thank you very much.

Brandy Varner

First, I will absolutely thank you all for your continued support of free breakfast and lunch for all Chatham County students and your approval of the school budget overall. And I must especially thank you for the inclusion of Master's Pay for those teachers left behind by the State. I love my work as a teacher and I worked incredibly hard for army Master's degree. I got lucky if you will and happened to complete my degree the year before the state stopped honoring them and I have worked for many years next to those who were not so fortunate. With this budget and with the support you've shown Chatham County Schools, you move us in the right direction. You move us to a place where children can thrive with highly-qualified educators. And that's where I need to spend the rest of my time, in speaking of this move forward. A strong public education system ensures every child, regardless of their background, has a chance to succeed. It nurtures curiosity, builds critical thinking, and instills the values of citizenship and collaboration. It creates a well-educated community. A well-educated community drives economic growth, reduces inequality, and fosters innovation. Simply put, when our schools thrive, our entire community thrives. But as we know, a thriving school system does not happen by chance. It requires resources, dedication, and leadership. It is here that we, as a community, must take a stand. Our schools depend not only on passionate teachers and engaged parents but also on the unwavering support of local and state leaders. And, as we also know, many of our state leaders are falling short and have been for some time. In light of that your dedication has become more important than ever. So thank you for your support thus far and I can't wait to see what you, our elected leaders, and us, your caring constituents, can achieve in the future.

Julie Herrera

My name is Juliana Herrera, and I like to talk about our day program. I feel that the reason we don't have a day program yet is because of payment and funding for our buildings. And I'd like to show others the activities we could do in the community, and how we can make our county great if we all join together. I mean, we could do gardening and cooking classes, art dance, and much more. To be honest, I like to start my own movie club. If we ever do open the day program. You can't. Okay. Chatham County BOC: Thank you for your patience.

Melissa Jones

Hi. My name is Melissa Jones. I'm a resident of Chatham County, and I'm here to speak in support of the day program. My son Michael. This is my son Michael. He's the oldest of my 5. He's 27, and I am fortunate enough that I have the finances, the time,

and the ability to drive him to carry 2 days a week to go to the day program, because I think it's that important. And I know a lot of parents don't have any of those things that would allow them to do that. It requires a lot of time in the car for me and for Michael, and the advantage of having one in Chatham County was. He could go more days a week and reap more benefits. On the days he's not in the program I have to work to support myself and my family. So he sits in front of a screen for a large portion of that time. It's not good for him. It's not good for anybody. But I do have to work, and it's somewhere that I know he's safe because there's nowhere else in Chatham County to send him. There's just not but instead of focusing on the negatives, I want to focus on the positives that he does get from the day program and then I believe, the day program in Chatham County would bring to a lot of other Chatham County developmentally disabled adults. The 1st is the social integration, and when he goes he interacts with his peers, his leaders. He walks in the room, and they're all Hi, Michael! And he's waving and smiling. And that seems so simple to most of us. But for him and his peer group, that's huge to have those friends to build those relationships, new skills and independence. The day program gives Michael Space away from me and from his family that can sometimes jump in when maybe we should hold back. But he can practice his skills, including working together money, management and personal advocacy among others. But the day program he's active. He goes on walks, they play physical games, they participate in exercise. Zumba, Yoga, just dancing increased communication. He's encouraged of the day program to verbalize his wants and needs as a mom. Sometimes me, sometimes his siblings, sometimes his dad will jump in and anticipate his needs and wants, but he's learning at the day program to speak up for himself to enunciate clearly and make his wants and needs known. At the day program he gets out in the community. They take him on field trips. They take him to stores, they take him to parks. They take him to restaurants sometimes, and where he learns to interact in the community with just an inclusive community of people. It gives him chances to experience new things in new settings, and being successful in these new situations, increases his self-confidence and boosts his self-esteem. What more can we want for our kids? His home community having one in his home community, I think, would also introduce him to other peers that are on his on his level, that he could live close to and have a better relationship with. Thank you.

The public hearing was closed.

This Agenda Item was received and filed

[25-0156](#)

Hold a public hearing to receive comments on the renaming of one (1) state maintained road from Paul Farrington Road to Lakeside Drive in Chatham County and vote to approve

Attachments: [Lakeside Drive Petition](#)
[Lakeside Dr Map](#)
[Lakeside Dr Area Map](#)
[Click Here To Sign Up For This Public Hearing](#)

Chair Howard opened the public hearing for the renaming of one (1) state maintained road from Paul Farrington Road to Lakeside Drive in Chatham County and vote to approve. Chair Howard called on the Clerk to the Board to read the name of those who signed up to speak. Clerk to the Board Jenifer Johnson stated that no one was signed up to speak during the public hearing.

The public hearing was closed.

Chair Howard stated that this item would be added to the next agenda.

This Agenda Item was received and filed

25-0223

Hold a quasi-judicial public hearing for a Special Use Permit revision to the Chatham Downs shopping center, located on Parcel 18906, located at 88 Chatham Downs Dr., to add a fueling station, Williams Township

Attachments: [More information from the Planning department website](#)
[Click Here To Sign Up For This Public Hearing](#)

Chair Howard stated that the next item on the agenda is the quasi-judicial public hearing for a Special Use Permit revision to the Chatham Downs shopping center, located on Parcel 18906, located at 88 Chatham Downs Dr., to add a fueling station, Williams Township.

Howard noted that the Board of Commissioners is required to act in a "quasi-judicial" capacity as it receives evidence and makes a decision. Howard stated that this means that the applicant is entitled to a full evidentiary hearing. During the hearing the Board of Commissioners will receive legally acceptable evidence to establish sufficient facts to apply the ordinance. Chair Howard stated that anyone who intends to testify on a quasi-judicial manner must be sworn in, including staff. Chair Howard asked all the individuals who will be speaking in the public hearing to stand to be sworn in.

The following oath was administered for those individuals: Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the evidence or testimony you are about to provide is factual and truthful to the best of your knowledge.

Chair Howard opened the quasi-judicial public hearing for a Special Use Permit revision to the Chatham Downs shopping center, located on Parcel 18906, located at 88 Chatham Downs Drive, to add a fueling station in Williams Township.

Zoning Administrator Angela Plummer presented the item. Plummer stated that the applicants met with the Appearance Commission on February 26, 2025, and they made some recommended changes which those have them implemented into the plans. Chatham Downs was originally approved in 2003. This is where you have the Harris Teeter, a bank, a doctor's office, the ace hardware, and a nail salon. Plummer stated that the applicant is proposing this to be a 24-hour, 7 day a week operation for the pumps. There will be a small kiosk on site for little convenience to get some drinks or chips, but it will only be operating from 6am to 10pm on a daily basis. The applicant hopes to employ six to eight employees, with a total of two shifts per day. The applicant is proposing a brick and mortar material to match the existing Harris Teeter shopping center to keep in uniformity of that appearance. They will have to install about a ten foot tall, retaining wall on that Lystar Road side for stability. During the Appearance Commission, the applicant opted for some different types of vegetation to give a softer appearance. The site includes implementation of a water quality device which will treat the surface water runoff before it's released into the existing system as well as air safety regulations the proposed fuel tanks. There would be two tanks, an 18,000 gallon and an 25,000 gallon in the ground fuel tank. Those will be required to meet State and Federal guidelines for underground storage tanks or the UST regulations. They will also comply with the national emissions, standards for hazardous air pollutants, and is compliant with Federal and State guidelines for storage. There is no new access proposed for this site, it will utilize the existing turn off 15-501, or the one on Lystar Road. An internal connection only, which is one of the things that is

recommended by our land use plan. The lighting will meet the Chatham County lighting regulations, full cutoffs on buildings and light poles with low, level security, night lighting enough to for the canopies and so forth. Plummer stated that the Planning Department has not heard from anyone concerning the request.

Plummer stated that the applicants are here to offer presentation or answer any questions.

Justin Buster with Kimberly Horne gave a overview of the project and answered a few questions from the Board of Commissioners.

Chair Howard asked if anyone signed up to speak. Clerk to the Board Jenifer Johnson stated that no one had signed up.

Chair Howard closed the public hearing and referred the item to the Planning Board.

This Agenda Item was referred to the Planning Board.

BOARD PRIORITIES

25-0178

Receive a presentation and vote to amend the Chatham Promise Program Agreement with Central Carolina Community College

Attachments: [Chatham K14.Promise Presentation 5-19-2025](#)
[Chatham Promise MOU 10-17-2022](#)
[Chatham Promise Redlined Version](#)
[Chatham Promise Program Expansion Agreement 5-19-2025](#)

Central Carolina Community College Chatham County Provost Mark Hall presented an update on the Chatham K-14 Promise program.

Hall shared an overview of data and a proposed amendment to the agreement with Chatham County. For traditional students who are recent high school graduates the amendment has no substantial changes. Added funding limits to reflect tuition costs for two-year-degree. Some language changed to be aligned with new language for non-traditional students. Added language to prioritize funding for traditional students. For non-traditional students language provides support opportunity for students beyond the post high school graduation two-year period. Chatham County resident for at least 12-months, via public schools' method, two forms of substantiating documentation and driver's license. Same funding limit as traditional students: two-year tuition costs. Non-traditional students who do not have college degrees unless pursuing credentials in current high-demand industries.

Hall noted that no additional funding allocation is requested. All county supported funding remains the last dollar and traditional students receive the funding first.

The Board of Commissioners asked questions of Hall and praised the program.

Chair Howard called for a motion to approve the amended agreement.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, that the MOU amendment with Central Carolina Community College for the Chatham Promise program was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Robertson

[25-0224](#)

Waiver request by SXCW Properties II, LLC to section 7, Water and Wastewater of the Compact Communities Ordinance to allow for an industrial pump and haul option to dispose of wastewater that is not reused in the water reclamation system for Commercial Parcel #93106, Briar Chapel

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

Planning Director Jason Sullivan shared the background on the request by SXCW Properties II, LLC to section 7, Water and Wastewater of the Compact Communities Ordinance to allow for an industrial pump and haul option to dispose of wastewater that is not reused in the water reclamation system for Commercial Parcel #93106, Briar Chapel.

Sullivan stated that the applicants are here to answer any questions.

Richard Basham and Genie Lucas presented an overview of the request for waiver.

The Board of Commissioners asked questions of the applicant.

The consensus of the Board of Commissioners was to move the request to the next meeting to gather more information and additional input.

This Agenda Item was tabled.

[25-0220](#)

Vote to appoint three members to the Chatham County Housing Authority Board and reappoint Mary Lee Moore with a term ending 12/30/2026 and Shamilla Godfrey with a term ending 12/30/2027

Attachments: [Adam Feher Advisory Committee Application Chatham County Housing Authority](#)
[Sharon Taylor Gray Advisory Committee Application Chatham County Housing Authority](#)
[Dimitrius Robert Holst Advisory Committee Application Chatham County Housing Authority](#)
[Lourdes M Yanes Reefer Advisory Committee Application Chatham County Housing Authority](#)
[Deepa Sanyal Advisory Committee Application Chatham County Housing Authority](#)
[Betty Varju Advisory Committee Application Chatham County Housing Authority](#)
[Andrea Wiley Advisory Committee Application Chatham County Housing Authority](#)

Chair Howard stated that the next agenda item is to appoint three members to the Chatham County Housing Authority Board and reappoint Mary Lee Moore with a term ending 12/30/2026 and Shamilla Godfrey with a term ending 12/30/2027.

The Board of Commissioners discussed the applicants and stated that they would like

to appoint Sharon Taylor Gray, Dimitrius Hoist, and Deepa Sanyal to the Chatham County Housing Authority Board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, seconded by Vice Chair Katie Kenlan, to appoint Deepa Sanyal with a term ending 12/30/2025, Sharon Taylor Gray with a term ending 12/30/2026, Dimitrius Hoist with a term ending 12/30/2027, and to reappoint Mary Lee Moore with a term ending 12/30/2026 and Shamilla Godfrey with a term ending 12/30/2027 to the Chatham County Housing Authority Board was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Robertson

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk to the Board Jenifer Johnson had nothing to report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Bryan Thompson stated that he will be sending out the performance instrument for his evaluation to do the six-month review and give the Board of Commissioners an opportunity to test the instrument and give feedback for the full year's review.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Chair Howard called on the board members to report.

Commissioner Delaney asked questions about the budget work session. Delaney stated after the budget cycle, he would like to find some time in the schedule for some high-level discussions goals and get information from various individuals about other things that the Board can accomplish. Some of the topics include zero poverty rate, strategic planning, affordable housing, joint land use plans with the cities and Chapel Hill. Delaney stated that he would be willing to follow up with the County Manager over the coming month to do a rough sketch out of agendas for July and August and who will be involved.

Vice Chair Kenlan stated that she attended the grand opening of the new Chatham Art Center, where over two hundred individuals attended. She was able to attend a tour of Chatham County Schools with North Carolina Superintendent Mo Green.

Commissioner Gomez Flores stated that there were some concerns from the Health Department about the risk of losing health rules because of changes in state laws. Gomez Flores expressed some concerns in fake news articles going around that are misaligned with the counties budget numbers and asked if the County Manager could reply with accurate information.

Chair Howard stated that she also got to spend time with Superintendent Green today. She attended the Economic Development Summit in Washington, meeting with Congresswoman Valarie Foushee Representative Hudson and Budd about ensuring that the CHIPS Act funding will continue to flow to North Carolina. She attended the Central Carolina Community College Board of Trustees meeting at the new Moore

Center in Lee County. She was able to attend the student award ceremony for high school students. Howard stated that there is a ribbon cutting at Governor's Village for a sensory gym on Wednesday at 12pm and the Reentry Council is planning another simulation this summer if anyone is interested. Howard stated that the Chatham County Drug Free program is hosting a virtual event on May 20.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Howard called for a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, seconded by Chair Karen Howard, that the meeting was adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Robertson