



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Monday, September 20, 2021

2:00 PM

Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Work Session - 2:00 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

- Present:** 4 - Vice Chair Diana Hales, Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, Commissioner Jim Crawford and Commissioner Karen Howard
- Absent:** 1 - Chair Mike Dasher

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Bob Bruckner submitted the following comments: Unattended ropes on the Haw River in the Bynum community compromise the safety of canoeists, kayakers, tubers and swimmers. They should be removed. Here are the main issues: First, unattended ropes on rivers are dangerous. A paddler runs the risk of being clotheslined and seriously injured if a rope catches them on the upper body. The boat will continue downstream while the paddler is held fast, Also, abandoned ropes can wrap around the arms and legs of swimmers. This is not a hypothetical problem. In April 2021, paddler Paul Ferguson's canoe was caught by a rope stretched across the Eno River before someone loosened the tension. In a trip report, Ferguson wrote that he "wondered what would have happened if the rope had gone over my bow and caught me at the waist." There are two North Carolina laws prohibiting obstructions on rivers and streams. One of them, N.C.G.S. § 77-12 states that "If any person shall obstruct the free passage of boats along any river or creek, by felling trees, or by any other means whatever, he shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor." Second, allowing unattended ropes to remain sets a bad precedent at a time when more people are being drawn to the river corridor. Third, an officer with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission said that since the homeowner in Bynum could prove ownership of property under the Haw that he had control of what happens on the river's surface. However, an N.C. Attorney General's advisory opinion issued Jan. 20, 1998, found that the public can travel on waters in North Carolina: "Citizens have the right to travel by 'useful vessels' such as canoes and kayaks, 'in the usual and ordinary mode' on waters which are in their natural condition capable of such use, without the consent of the owners of the shore." In 1995, the N.C. Supreme Court ruled in the Gwathmey case that "if a body of water in its natural condition can be navigated by watercraft, it is navigable in fact and, therefore, navigable in law, even if it has not been used for such purpose. Lands lying beneath such waters that are navigable in law are the subject of the public trust doctrine." 342 N.C. at 301, 464 S.E.2d at 682.

James Garbutt thanked the Commissioners for the all the work they had done during the pandemic. He said it had been a challenging time and he greatly appreciated their service. Mr. Garbutt said the loss of nature and need for enhancement and protection of the natural Chatham world should be considered for the American Rescue Plan funds. He said it provided outdoor activities for citizens and enhanced air and water quality. He believed the County should act now or it would regret the missed opportunity. Protection of these areas was also part of the County's land use plan for

many years.

Vice Chair Hales would like the County Manager and the Parks and Recreation Department to assess the situation with the ropes across the river. Assistant County Manager, Bryan Thompson, said the rope went from the bank twenty feet or so to the bridge's pillar. Commissioner Crawford asked about whether the ropes belonged to residents. Mr. Thompson stated he was not sure who placed the ropes, but staff was in consultation with the County Attorney and North Carolina Wildlife to establish the proper chain of authority for handling the situation.

BOARD PRIORITIES

[21-4006](#)

Receive presentation given by DCHC MPO Staff regarding the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the Triangle region developed and coordinated by The Capital Area and the Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro MPOs and provide feedback regarding Chatham County Board of Commissioners general support for roadway, transit and bike/ped improvement and comments on specific projects.

Attachments: [2050MTP-AltAn-Chatham \(2\)](#)

Chance Mullis introduced the item.

Andy Henry, Transportation Planner with DCHC-MPO gave a presentation to the Board to discuss the long range plan. (Presentation attached)

Mr. Henry outlined the northeast corner of Chatham on a map to be included in the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). MTP projects get scored through the prioritization process and if scored well they moved to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to be funded. The Metropolitan (MPO) hosted opportunities for public comment and a survey resulted in themes about walking, biking, support of more and larger transit buses, and support of low income and minority populations.

Commissioner Howard asked if hubs like Chatham Park were taken into account. Mr. Henry said mixed use areas like Chatham Park were taken into account. He said community visualization helped to project the population employment. Travel choice neighborhoods are when the MPO zoomed into smaller areas where differences would be found. The major commuter corridors are viewed for changes in the region. The emissions in 2050 are projected to decrease as compared to 2016 except carbon dioxide. This would be a result of decreased vehicle fleets and tailpipe efficiencies. Vehicle miles traveled increased seventy five percent.

Equity measures from the mobility division of the North Carolina Department of Transportation were identified for low income or minority populations. The disadvantages found were pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and serious injury were higher in those areas. People of color (POC) were more likely to take transit and had an average forty three minute commute time versus a twenty four minute average commute time for vehicles.

Commissioner Howard asked if the incidents within the POC communities were results as a whole and if it was caused by those communities that were less navigable or had less sidewalks. Mr. Henry said there were higher incidents for serious crashes and fatalities in those areas.

Vice Chair Hales asked what were considered the communities of concern. Mr. Henry said African American, Hispanic, young, and old communities. He said the communities were mixed together and two of the meetings had translators.

Mr. Henry said there would be DCHC and Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) meeting for the discussion of border issues. The board was not happy with the options at the September 1st meeting and requested an additional option. The vision option will keep more transit and bicycle routes in the plan and the MPO has a February 2022 deadline.

Vice Chair Hales said that everyone uses the same roads and the gasoline tax was how tax is collected and electric vehicles defunded transportation dollars. She was glad the MPO had looked at the environmental and climate change realm. She said the high residential areas with use were able to add bike lanes and increase transit but the suburbs and rural areas are the big challenge.

Commissioner Howard thanked Mr. Henry, his staff and the planning department staff for their focus on a plan that was more reflective of core values. She asked how the board could collaborate more with the Town of Pittsboro for Chatham County purposes. The board has not had conversations and access to TARPO and what input they received. Mr. Henry said the collaboration with TARPO was usually project by project.

Commissioner Howard said the same people will be some of the same commuters from Durham and Orange in the future. Vice Chair Hales said the commute time will increase. Mr. Henry said the Durham to Pittsboro commute will be sixty eight minutes by the year 2050 and congestion on major roads would be expected.

This Agenda Item was received and filed.

[21-4020](#)

Receive presentation on the Haw River Trail from Friends of Lower Haw River State Natural Area

Attachments: [Haw River Trail Presentation to BOC 2021-09-20](#)

Gretchen Smith gave a presentation to the Board. (Presentation attached)

Ms. Smith thanked Tracy Burnett, J. Stamey, Bryan Thompson and Hilary Pollan for their help in getting the Haw River Trail Steering Committee up and running.

Ms. Smith added the following comments:

Before concluding my presentation, I would like to add these comments. I have been pleased to see this evening's Consent Agenda a request for approval to apply for an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant for a Haw River Trails corridor feasibility study. If there will have been no visible progress by January, partners would lose interest and drop out. The study will have shown the steering committee that Chatham County would get things done. She asked the Board if the county would commit to issue the RFP now, regardless of the source of funding.

The county needs voluntary land access and easements. Ms. Smith said there would be too much to lose.

Commissioner Crawford asked the County Manager if a project were to begin, would it effect the ability to receive the grant award. Dan LaMontagne said there had been conversations with the EDA. Mr. Thompson said exploration of options available and

conversations with the Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) had raised concern for an early RFP. This would potentially reduce its competitiveness and federal dollars would be under uniform guidance with unclear additional requirements for the new revenue stream.

Commissioner Crawford said it would be a question of tactics and not whether the board supported the project. Mr. Thompson said that was fair and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget with Parks and Recreation would try to leverage those building dollars through the CIP process. The Board would see the Haw River Trail discussion will be more focused.

Ms. Smith asked if RFPs could be issued with a statement that it is not contingent on the availability of funding. Mr. Thompson said from a local government standpoint the county this would have real complications with timing if the county issued the RFP in advance. Ms. Smith said her concern would be a full year with nothing happening. Commissioner Howard asked if the county does not receive the grant funding will the Board commit to the study. Mr. Thompson said those are conversations staff will have with the Board. Commissioner Howard asked if the funds could be found in the Article 46 sales tax. She said the Board would need to have the conversation.

Commissioner Crawford said he believed the Board would agree to the study with alternative funding sources. Vice Chair Hales said there may be farmland preservation funds through Article 46 that have an impact along the Haw River. She did not believe the solution would linger for one year. Vice Chair Hales said local government typically used grant funds to kick start projects. Ms. Smith said the steering committee did not recommend only grant funding. Commissioner Howard agreed that the grant would only be part of the funding for the project to be sustainable. Vice Chair Hales said the Board was committed to the Haw River Trail.

This Agenda Item was received and filed.

[21-4023](#)

Receive Library Advisory Committee Annual Report

Attachments: [LAC_FY2021_Report\(003\).docx](#)

Jeanne-Marie Patterson, Chair of the Library Advisory Committee, gave an annual report to the Board. (Report attached)

Ms. Patterson said the key elements of the report with the limitations of COVID were services had continued to the community through digital technology for classes and author events. The libraries were closed to the public but by mid-March curbside services began and distance protocol and masks had been implemented for normal operation hours by the end of May. Youth services were outdoor story time and some virtual format used. The library community assessment resulted in unprecedentedly high reporting from the community and overdue book fines have been discontinued due to a nation-wide initiative. The Goldston Library had forty three children participants in the summer reading program with 300,000 minutes read. Commissioner Crawford said a silver lining of COVID was the library. Ms. Patterson said adult programming used virtual open mic and book discussions. Vice Chair Hales said she checked out books at all three library locations. She said with COVID and the cyber incident the library should be commended. Commissioner Gomez Flores asked if there were any suggestions for how to maintain the trajectory created by the libraries. Ms. Patterson said the libraries were on the point of no return. The libraries are community centers and initiatives were in the report. Linda Clarke said the libraries did not have technology when she was growing up and the library must remain responsive to trends and needs not just in the County but within cultures. Commissioner Howard said the

child programming will lead to lifelong users of the library. It goes beyond checking out a physical book. Ms. Clarke said it had been difficult to build relationships because of COVID, but the library must be responsive to the community. Parents specifically requested story time on the weekend. Vice Chair Hales said libraries were the community focal point especially for young children. Ms. Patterson said the library staff also went to assisted living and retirement centers.

This Agenda Item was received and filed.

[21-4024](#)

Receive Chatham County Livestock, Equine, and Forages Program Update

Attachments: [Livestock, Equine, and Forages Presentation.pptx](#)

This item was postponed to a future meeting.

This Agenda Item was received and filed.

[21-4034](#)

County Board of Commissioners Post-Census Redistricting Presentation and Discussion

Attachments: [Redistricting Presentation - Sept 2021](#)

Bryan Thompson gave a presentation to the Board. (Presentation attached)

Vice Chair Hales asked if state legislation required two public hearings. Mr. Thompson said the County was not legally required to redraw its residency districts for the 2022 election. If the public hearing were scheduled for October 8th the first notice would need to be published on September 28th in the Chatham News and Record newspaper. State legislation required only one public hearing noticed for two consecutive weeks. Clerk to the Board, Lindsay Ray, offered the Board a timeline from the 2011 redistricting.

Vice Chair Hales said the populations would increase in the eastern part of the county along the US 15-501 corridor and Jordan Lake. Commissioner Howard said the timeline would be difficult to gather meaningful public input. She asked if it would be possible for multiple public hearings at multiple locations on the same night. Ms. Ray said she would be concerned about the logistics. Commissioner Crawford attended the briefing with Chair Dasher and they thought the timeline seemed rushed. Commissioner Gomez Flores agreed that the timeline seemed rushed.

The Board agreed by consensus not to proceed with redistricting at this time prior to the October 7th deadline. Commission Crawford said how to proceed could be brought up at the Board's retreat.

This Agenda Item was received and filed.

[21-4033](#)

Receive information on possible options for adopting rules of procedure for public hearings and subdivision applications.

County Attorney, Bob Hagemann, presented to the Board.

Mr. Hagemann suggested the Board examine both legislative public hearings and

major subdivision approvals. He said the City of Durham gave fifteen minutes each to proponents and opponent, so there would be time reserved for rebuttal with a total time of thirty minutes.

The City of Cary gave all speakers five minutes to speak.

If there were no opposition the City of Charlotte gave the proponent three minutes. If there were opposition, then the applicant would have ten minutes and the opponents would get ten minutes with a two minute rebuttal.

Orange County like Chatham County gave three minutes per speaker and no one could yield their time to anyone else. Mr. Hagemann asked if the Board wanted to put a limit on time for the applicant and what would that limit be. Commissioner Howard said fifteen minutes for the applicant and ten minutes for staff. She said it sounded difficult for staff to limit the number of speakers but the amount of time granted per speaker and the fact that everyone submitted their comments in writing was fair and predictable.

Ms. Ray said many jurisdictions requested groups identify one person to represent the group or community organization. Commissioner Crawford said opposition should be handled on a case-by-case basis. He was wary of limited people to speak on a project.

Commissioner Gomez Flores said applicants could prerecord their presentations. Commissioner Crawford said if given a recording assignment they would not get to the point so quickly. Commissioner Gomez Flores said the Board could limit the timing of the recordings submitted.

Vice Chair Hales liked the suggestion of fifteen minute presentations. The Planning Department presented first and the developer received a fifteen minute time limit. Commissioner Crawford thought two minutes would give people a chance to get to their point. Commissioner Howard said comments could be submitted in writing. Vice Chair Hales said this would always be encouraged. Ms. Ray said the public comment online form prompted the public for written comment submissions in lieu of in person speakers at the meetings. All of the application materials would be available online and in writing before the board meetings.

Mr. Sullivan said staff notified the applicants before the meetings about their fifteen minutes for subdivision issues, otherwise they are given ten minutes. He said if the Commissioners decided on text amendments to rezoning's then he would bring these amendments to the Planning Board Chair and Vice Chair.

Chair Howard suggested fifteen minutes granted for applicants, fifteen minutes for planning staff, two minutes for the public and five minutes for applicant rebuttal. Mr. Sullivan thought fifteen minutes would be gracious for the planning staff. Mr. LaMontagne stated separation of opponents and proponents would be challenging for the Clerk's office. Mr. Hagemann said this decision would not permanent.

Ms. Ray said this would also apply to subdivisions. Currently, subdivision applications were not public hearings but would be placed on the public input sign up form. Mr. Hagemann stated it would be ideal to have this in place for the November meeting.

Ms. Ray said no one submitted any items for the October 4th Regular Board meeting and today was the deadline. Vice Chair Hales said cancel the meeting.

This Agenda Item was received and filed.

CLOSED SESSION

[21-4039](#)

Vote on a request to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body

This item was removed from the agenda.

RECESS

End of Work Session

Regular Session - 6:00 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

Present: 4 - Vice Chair Diana Hales, Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, Commissioner Jim Crawford and Commissioner Karen Howard

Absent: 1 - Chair Mike Dasher

INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Hales called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Hales asked that a Resolution item #21-4038 formally apologizing for any part an elected official or an appointed local official in Chatham County in 1921 lynching of Eugene Daniel be added as the first item under the Special Presentations section of the Agenda. She asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda and consent agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that this Agenda and Consent Agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-3956](#)

Vote on a request to accept \$3,000 grant from NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Attachments: [Tick Borne](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-3958](#)

Vote on a request to accept \$2,500 to support prenatal care data extraction from UNC Family Medicine grant

Attachments: [\\$2,500 Prenatal Care Data extraction grant funds from UNC Family Medicine](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-3959](#)

Vote on a request to accept \$10,307 FY22 Minority Diabetes Prevention Program Funds.

Attachments: [\\$ 10,307 Alamance MDPP Chatham County - signed-FY21-22](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-3987](#)

Vote on a request to accept \$4,000 grant funds from UNC Chapel Hill

Attachments: [LOS EMBRACE UNC 3.21
Community Implementation of Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy and Postpartum Safety Bundle](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-3998](#)

Vote on a request to accept \$115,000 COVID-19 School Health Liaison Funds

Attachments: [Revision - 361-1 FY22 Chatham - Agreement Addendum](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4008](#)

Vote on a request to accept \$39,900 Advancing Equity Funds

Attachments: [\\$39,900 Advancing Equity State Funds](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-3986](#)

Vote on a request to approve the naming of two (2) private roads in Chatham County

Attachments: [Cillian Wilhelm Lane Petition](#)
[Cillian Wilhelm Lane Map](#)
[Cillian Wilhelm Lane Area Map](#)
[Owls Ridge Lane Petition](#)
[Owls Ridge Lane Map](#)
[Owls Ridge Lane Area Map](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-3990](#)

Vote on a request to approve the naming of one (1) private road in Chatham County

Attachments: [Hard Drive Petition](#)
[HARD DRIVE MAP](#)
[HARD DRIVE AREA MAP](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-3989](#)

Vote on a request to approve to appoint Zachary A. Brian to fill the upcoming vacant Dentist Seat on the Board of Health effective 10-21-21.

Attachments: [Zachary A. Brian - BOH Dentist Seat Application](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-3991](#)

Vote on a Request to Approve a Pyrotechnics Display at the Bennett Baptist Church, 68 E. Bonlee Street, Bennett, NC 27208, on October 23, 2021.

Attachments: [Attachment A-N.C.G.S. Pyrotechnic Displays](#)
[Attachment B - Pyrotechnic Display Request Bennett Baptist 2021](#)
[Attachment C - Pyrotechnic License](#)
[Attachment D - Hale Artif. Certificate of Insurance](#)
[Attachment E - Hale Artif. ATF License](#)
[Attachment F - Bennett Baptist Site Plan 2021](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-3995](#)

Vote on a request to approve Pyrotechnic display at the Chatham Charter School located at 2200 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City, NC on October 1, 2021

Attachments: [Attachment A-N.C.G.S 14-410 and 14-413](#)
[Attachment B- Letter of Request Chatham Charter 2021](#)
[Attachment C-NC Pyrotechnic Display Operators License](#)
[Attachment D- Hale Certificate of Insurance 2021](#)
[Attachment E- Hale ATF License 2021](#)
[Attachment F-Site Plan Chatham Charter 2021](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-3996](#)

Vote on a request to adopt rates for public use of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-3999](#)

Vote on a request to approve a contract with the NC Forest Service for \$115,147.

Attachments: [Forestry unsigned](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4026](#)

Vote on a request to approve two contracts with LilyPad EV for electric vehicle charging station installation, operation, and maintenance and authorize the County Manager to sign the contracts on behalf of the Board.

Attachments: [LilyPad EV Contract CCACC 09012021](#)

[LilyPad EV quote - Ag Ctr](#)

[LilyPad EV Contract Smithfields 09012021](#)

[LilyPad EV quote - Smithfields DC Fast](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that these Contracts, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4028](#)

Vote on a Request to Approve Purchase of a Roll-off Truck for Solid Waste & Recycling

Attachments: [Transource, Inc. Roll-off truck quote](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4019](#)

Vote on a request to approve contract for economic development services with the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation

Attachments: [ContractWithEDC2021-2022](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4005](#)

Vote on a request to approve an amendment to the lease with Rosemary Street Properties and authorize the County Manager to execute the agreement.

Attachments: [Rosemary Street](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4001](#)

Vote on a request to waive the competitive bid process and award a piggyback bid for the purchase of activated carbon powder for the Chatham County Water Treatment Plant to Calgon Carbon Corporation.

Attachments: [Attachment - 21-08 Cary Notice of intent to award \(002\)](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4002](#)

Vote on a request to adopt a resolution approving conveyance of personal property to CORA.

Attachments: [Conveyance of Personal Property - Resolution](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that this Resolution #2021-34 approving conveyance of personal property to CORA, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4021](#)

Vote on a request to adopt a resolution approving an interlocal agreement with the City of Sanford and making certain findings and determinations in connection therewith.

Attachments: [RES Interlocal Agreement - Sanford - Joint Water Treatment Plant Engineering Design](#)
 [Chatham County ILA engineering design 081221 \(0034\)](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that this Resolution #2021-35 approving an interlocal agreement with the City of Sanford and making certain findings and determinations in connection therewith, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4007](#)

Vote on a request by the Chatham County Planning and Watershed Protection Departments to schedule the public hearing for October 18, 2021 to consider amendments to the Chatham County Watershed Protection Ordinance; specifically, Article 100 Section 103 (D) Exceptions to Applicability; Section 106 (A) Remedies; Section 109 General Definitions; Article 500 Section 501 Watershed Administrator and Duties; and updating department and division titles throughout the document.

Attachments: [Watershed Amendments Redline](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4010](#)

Vote on a request to approve Tax Releases and Refunds

Attachments: [August 2021 Release and Refund Report](#)
[August 2021 NCVTS Pending Refund Report](#)
[June 2021 Manual NCVTS Pending Refund Report](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that the Tax Releases and Refunds, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4011](#)

Vote on a Request to Approve Tax Department - Charging Off Tax Bills

Attachments: [2021 Tax Charge Off](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4012](#)

Vote on a request to approve Tax Department - Utility Bill Debt Write-off

Attachments: [2021 Utility Write-off](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4013](#)

Vote on a recommendation from the Chatham County Tax Department to approve and accept the proposal for a full measure and list reappraisal to be conducted by Vincent Valuations for \$1,462,500 and authorize the County Manager to negotiate and execute all contracts and agreements.

Attachments: [Vincent Valuations Proposal 2021](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4015](#)

Vote on a request to approve Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Amendments

Attachments: [Budget Amendment 2020-2021 Sept21](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4016](#)

Vote on a request to approve Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Amendments

Attachments: [Budget Amendment 2021-2022 Sept](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4027](#)

Vote on a request to approve a grant application to the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) for a Haw River trails corridor/feasibility study.

Attachments: [Grant Application Request - EDA ARP Grant](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4029](#)

Vote on Request to Approve Competitive Bid Exemption for Standardization and Sole Source for Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity (CORE)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4030](#)

Vote on Request to Approve Competitive Bid Exemption for

Standardization and Sole Source for the North Carolina Institute for Public Health at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4031](#)

Vote on a request to approve a Resolution Accepting American Rescue Plan Act Funds

Attachments: [ARPA Resolution.doc](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that this Resolution #2021-36 Accepting American Rescue Plan Act Funds, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4017](#)

Vote on a request to adopt the proposed American Rescue Plan Funds Grant Project Ordinance

Attachments: [ARP Grant Project Ordinance 9.20.21](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4032](#)

Vote on a request to approve a residency amendment to the county manager's contract.

Attachments: [Residency Amendment to Mgr Contract 9'20'2021](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4036](#)

Vote on a request to approve appointment of Sheryl Andrews to the

Chatham County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4037](#)

Vote on a request to adopt a resolution authorizing the filing of applications with the NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division for grant years FY2023-FY2027 for federal transportation assistance.

Attachments: [FY 2023-2027 5311 DESIGNEE CERTIFICATION FORM](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that this Resolution #2021-37 authorizing the filing of applications with the NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division for grant years FY2023-FY2027 for federal transportation assistance, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

End of Consent Agenda

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

[21-4038](#)

Vote on a request to adopt a resolution formally apologizing for any part an elected official or an appointed local official in Chatham County played in the 1921 lynching of Eugene Daniel.

Commissioner Howard attended a memorial ceremony for Eugene Daniel. Commissioner Howard read the resolution into the record.

Commissioner Crawford said a reckoning in this country with white supremacy and this was how a community acknowledged the roots of injustices. He said this was important to the family and the pain of those that knew Mr. Daniel. This was atonement for injustice. The Historic Courthouse Courtroom was used the day after Mr. Daniel's lynching to gather the young African Americans to give them a talking to. The purpose was to understand the county's past.

Commissioner Howard said members of Mr. Daniel's family just found out about this story. This was difficult for her as a mother of five boys. The thought of having one of them being ripped away and the thought of being silenced for one hundred years was even worse. She said there was a need for discussion with neighbors and friends about who we were, who we are, and who we want to be.

Commissioner Gomez Flores said Latinos also had fear. He appreciated the level of openness to really get to know one another. People similar or not were one family under God and that was what mattered to him.

Vice Chair Hales said she also attended the reconciliation ceremony and it was extremely moving and a way forward.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crawford, seconded by Commissioner Howard, that this Resolution #2021-49 formally apologizing for any part an elected official or an appointed local official in Chatham County played in the 1921 lynching of Eugene Daniel, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4025](#)

Vote on a request to approve a Resolution Recognizing and Commemorating the 76th Anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Attachments: [Disability Employment Awareness Resolution.doc](#)

Commission Hales read the resolution into the record.

Commissioner Howard made the motion as a mother of an autistic man. Some employer will be lucky to have him as an employee one day.

Commissioner Hales asked Shawn Poe to receive the framed resolution. Mr. Poe said since 1980 Chatham Trades has provided employment for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Staff worked hard to make the community aware of the talent available. He thanked the Board for their recognition.

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that this Resolution #2021-47 Recognizing and Commemorating the 76th Anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

[21-4000](#)

Vote on a request to approve a Resolution Proclaiming National 4-H Week in Chatham County

Attachments: [4-H Proclamation 2021.docx](#)

Vice Chair Hales read the resolution into the record.

Commissioner Howard has had little experience with 4-H but at the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) annual conference the County gets to send a 4-H youth to the conference and she has really enjoyed working with them.

Vice Chair Hales asked Liz Mauney and Kaley Lawing to receive the framed resolution.

They thanked the Board for the adoption of the resolution and their support.

A motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Flores, that this Resolution #2021-48 Proclaiming National 4-H Week in Chatham County, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Doug Sedlak submitted the following comments:

I recently bumped into a couple locals over dinner. These post-55 year old white men, both PhDs, described "inner white Supremacism" they try to keep bottled up. THAT can result in unconscious racism even from erudite PhDs. It follows there are many more problematic residents to contend with in terms of biased or discriminatory conduct. So, without County oversight of "vaccine passports", discrimination WILL occur, and could become commonplace. People barred from entry and microaggressions occurring. Especially with fake vaccination cards going around, it's trivial for the "door monitor" to deny entry "because your card looks fake." The "Confederates" still tote their flags right here - outside. Does anyone think if they are the card checkers, they won't discriminate? Additionally there is systemic educational level discrimination I've detailed using County educational and vaccination demographics - Commissioner Gomez HAS that, ask him for it. Dr. John Dykers confirmed the logic sound. The worst affected groups in order will be: the disabled, Hispanics, and Blacks. The County MUST ACT. Banning "vaccine passports" preserves Countians civil rights. Commissioners, please speak to the people, and ACT on behalf of all residents, especially disabled, Brown, and Black Countians. Mr. Sedlak also urged the Commissioners to hire more CDL drivers.

Francis DiGiano spoke in support of a wastewater study commission for northeast Chatham County. He felt developers currently were not giving enough consideration to wastewater issues. Mr. DiGiano founded a nonprofit Clean Jordan Lake with support from the County. Thousands of volunteers raised public awareness through programs. He served on a wastewater study in Fearington Village. Phase one would be an excellent start to look at state of the art management. He urged the Board to approve of this wastewater study committee.

Shelley Colbert submitted the following comments:

My name is Shelley Colbert; I'm a resident of Baldwin Township in Chatham County, and I live in the Briar Chapel subdivision. I will be providing additional public input concerning specific upcoming agenda items on the 8/16/21 agenda, but I would like to submit written comments of a more general nature and context for the public record and the Commissioners' consideration. Less than sixty days ago, I submitted written comments concerning wastewater treatment and other planning and development issues, citing the need for strategic future planning decisions by the county and better information and justification from developers proposing changes to existing zoning. (I am repeating portions of my prior public comments from 6/21/2021 at the end of this submission). 2020 tract-level census data was released by the Commerce Department on August 12, 2021. I live in tract 201.05, which is now the most densely-populated tract in Chatham County. Expressed as persons per square mile, its population density is 908.1, over eight times greater than the county-wide density of 111.9. Adjacent

neighborhood tracts 201.08 to the south, location of the proposed "Farrington Preserve" had population density of 179.1, and adjacent eastern tract 201.03, location of the Vickers proposals, has density of 502.2 (the third-highest in Chatham County). My census.gov data map source may be viewed at the following link: 2020 Census Demographic Data Map Viewer Citizens continue to see piecemeal, inchoate and ill-defined proposals to amend prior county planning decisions, such as the CCO boundaries, which, if approved, would undermine prior strategic planning, unfairly shift infrastructure burdens to adjoining neighborhoods and neighbors, and would result in a patchwork of inconsistent and inequitable standards for contiguous neighbors, parcels and subdivisions. To the extent that any development schemes, including those on the August 16 agenda, propose to transfer infrastructure burdens to neighboring tracts which already have high population density, and which are already struggling with inadequate infrastructure such as wastewater treatment, schools, recreation, traffic management and public transportation, the commissioners should deny those requests. Also of concern is the extent to which proposed high-density intrusions and expansion into less-dense census tracts, through the manipulation of the CCO boundaries and requirements, would result in subverting well-established County planning goals. It is a step backward to tolerate ad hoc, incremental CCO amendments, predictably resulting in disruption to individual residential property owners and farms, and increased traffic volume along secondary roads never designed to function as commercial arteries, and to locate commercial and multi-family projects in areas with no reasonable expectation of walkability or even future public transportation access.

BOARD PRIORITIES

21-4022

Receive presentation on Wastewater Study Commission for Northeast Chatham and discuss next steps.

Attachments: [WW Study Commission](#)

Mr. LaMontagne introduced the item.

*Charles Archer with Freese and Nichols gave a presentation to the Board.
(Presentation attached)*

Mr. Archer laid out a plan for phase one of the commission to the Board. He said phase one would start the exploration into options about the problem. Mr. Archer presented the steps of the commission for exploration with five commission meetings.

The first meeting would be an orientation for the members. The second meeting would explore advantages and disadvantages of packaged wastewater plants. The third meeting would discuss the option of a publicly owned wastewater plant in this part of the county. The fourth meeting would look at conventional septic systems. The final meeting would be to discuss technology and reach a consensus of the commission for a final report to the Board of Commissioners and what would be needed for phase two.

Commissioner Howard asked about the time frame. Mr. Archer said the commission's phase one would commence at the end of February 2022. Mr. LaMontagne hoped for completion of phase one after five to six months. Commissioner Howard asked about the call for applications and appointment of the members' timeframe. Mr. LaMontagne said it would commence next month. He asked if the Board would like to proceed with this commission option. The Board agreed yes.

Commissioner Gomez Flores asked if the commission would only focus on the

northeast of the county. Mr. LaMontagne said the US 15-501 corridor was chosen because it had received the most development pressure.

Mr. LaMontagne said staff would need guidance on how to proceed with how to appoint the commission members. He hoped groups of citizens and stakeholders would come together to develop the options. Current stakeholders in the area would include Briar Chapel, Fearington Village, Stop Chatham North, and private providers like Fish, Aqua, and Old North State.

Commissioner Crawford said the Board needed to proceed with extreme caution with systemic changes. He said there are problems with the Briar Chapel and Fearington Village neighborhoods, but the impact could undo what has been done with the County's land use plan. Mr. LaMontagne said this commission would be only phase one and phase two would include the changes recommended by the commission.

Commissioner Hales said lots of education would be needed for residents moving from other municipalities.

Ms. Ray could prepare an application specific to this study commission and have an application period. Staff could review applications and appointments could be made by the Board at the October 18th meeting.

The Board gave consensus to move forward.

[21-4009](#)

Vote on a request from the Chatham County Planning Board and Environmental Review Advisory Committee to schedule a public hearing to consider amendments to the conservation subdivision standards in the Subdivision Regulations and Conservation Subdivision Guidelines for Conservation Space Selection.

Attachments: [Final Conservation Subdivision Guidelines-5-20-19](#)
[Redlined Sections](#)

Jon Spoon, Planning Board Chair, presented this request.

Mr. Spoon said a few years ago a model for conservation subdivisions was created to protect some of the county's natural area while accommodating residential growth. Some projects submitted to the Planning Board were the result of a density bonus and not focused on conservation. The Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) process would fix these in the future, but stop gap fixes were needed until the UDO's completion.

The County's conservation subdivision guidelines and rules of how they are created were edited by a work group of Planning Board members and the Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERAC) members. The staff members of both Planning and Wastewater Departments assisted and the County Attorney was consulted. He stated some changes to the process would work through the Watershed Protection Department. Projects would conduct on-site inventory first and the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program was mandatory. After completion of these steps, the residential housing would be planned for the projects.

The environmental impact assessments would go through ERAC before presentation to the Planning Board. Flood plains and stream buffers were considered conservation areas but were not considered developmental land. Developers purchased flood plain areas and received the density bonus. This would be the biggest change. A community garden model was added and wastewater systems in natural space were

removed. A vegetative buffer was recommended but would now be mandatory with a fifty foot buffer around all new residential areas. Vice Chair Hales said the UDO was a lengthy process and this covered one specific area of subdivision applications. Mr. Spoon said the Planning Board noticed the need for a stop gap to prevent bad projects approval before the UDO was completed. This would return to the Board in December.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher

PUBLIC HEARINGS

[21-3909](#)

A second legislative public hearing for a Conditional District Compact Community rezoning request by Herndon Farms One, LLC for an active-adult (55 and older) compact community with 161 residential units, congregate care facility, one-story office/daycare, community gardens, and barn for events on approximately 97.86 (previously 96.86 acres) acres being Parcels 93852, 2752, 18750, 18897, 18896, and 18909, located on US 15-501 N split by Williams and Baldwin townships.

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

Zoning Administrator and Planner Angela Plummer reviewed the specifics of the request.

Bryan Perry spoke in opposition of waivers two and three. He said a fifty foot buffer was not substantial enough.

The applicant addressed the Board.

Mr. Sullivan said the tunnel needed to be removed from the site plan before the Planning Board meeting. The bus stop was moved into the development.

Commissioner Crawford asked what the process was when these residences were not restricted to people fifty five years and over. Mr. Sullivan said they would be required to pay impact fees because currently those are waived. The County would not regulate who lived in the dwelling.

This Agenda Item was referred to the Planning Board.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk to the Board Lindsay Ray will attend training with the School of Government on Zoning Regulations in North Carolina. She can set up in the conference room in Manager's office to watch the training. If Commissioners have not gotten off waiting list they can come to the conference room. Ms. Ray will send an email confirmation.

Ms. Ray also stated that Chatham 250 will be bringing a mobile version of the North Carolina History Museum's exhibit Los Jets: Playing for the American Dream, a

bilingual exhibit based on Paul Caudros' book about the Jordan Matthews soccer team to eight different Chatham County Schools. Commissioner are invited to attend program session at Chatham Middle School on Friday, October 1st at 1:30 PM.

MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Dan LaMontagne gave an update on the county's solid waste collection centers. The county had unexpected vacancies with commercial driver's license (CDL) drivers. The Solid Waste Department was down to two CDL drivers from the normal five. The county has had a number of applicants since announcing the collection center closures. They hope to have drivers trained and out working in the coming weeks.

Mr. LaMontagne stated that Commissioner Crawford suggested opening one day a week. Environmental Quality Director Kevin Lindley stated that would be a great way to phase back into opening all the collections centers. Mr. LaMontagne stated that if the county kept all the collection centers open with current staffing levels, the centers would likely be full. He realized this was a huge inconvenience and does not want it to go on any longer than necessary. He stated the County is also looking into a temporary driver staffing service agreement that can be sustained so the County could call in additional drivers if ever in a similar situation again in the future.

Vice Chair Hales stated there is further concern about littering and roadside dumping with collection centers closed. Mr. LaMontagne noted that littering and dumping is illegal and the County has to go out and pick up that waste as well, which makes the problem worse. Commissioner Howard stated this is a unique time with difficult circumstances and she appreciated staff doing what they could to fix the problem quickly.

Commissioner Gomez Flores was curious if the County exhausted all possible options. He asked if bus drivers could drive the vehicles. Mr. LaMontagne stated we currently have a shortage of bus drivers, as well. Commissioner Gomez Flores asked if it would be possible to do a Memorandum of Understanding with surrounding counties so Chatham residents could use other counties' collection centers. Mr. LaMontagne stated that would mean a farther drive for residents. He stated it is more likely residents from other counties are using our facilities.

Mr. LaMontagne stated there is no great solution, but they are trying to do the best they can. The drivers were also consulted on what they felt would be the best solution in the interim. Commissioner Gomez Flores asked how close the County is to adding onto the collection centers in the southwest. Mr. LaMontagne stated those plans are driven by volume.

Mr. LaMontagne stated that the Commissioners approved acceptance of American Rescue Plan Act Funding today. He handed out a synopsis of the County's plan for some of the funds, included purchase of more personal protective equipment (PPE), provided a financial incentive for employees to get vaccinated, purchased and renovated housing for domestic violence victims, fund portion of remodeling for Council on Aging, improved air quality at the Department of Social Services (DSS), conducted a minority needs assessment for entrepreneurs, provided translation and interpretation services to support the hardest hit communities.

The Board gave consensus to move forward with the immediate projects.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Crawford stated he had received many emails expressing opposition to vaccine passports. He had no plans to introduce such a policy.

Commissioner Howard attended the Chatham County Board of Education meeting last week and was excited about some of their new projects. Commissioner Howard also announced she was appointed Chair of the Public Education Steering Committee for the NCACC, was added to the advisory board for My Future NC, and was accepted into the Hunt Institute ElevateNC Higher Education Cohort. She was excited that a lot of her work with other organizations revolved around education.

Commissioner Gomez Flores stated he liked the idea of supporting trails along the Haw River. He would like to see similar investment in recreation in the west. He believed athletic fields to support travel sports would be good for the economy in the west.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chair Dasher