



# Chatham County, NC

## Meeting Minutes

### Board of Commissioners

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Monday, July 18, 2022

6:00 PM

Historic Courthouse Courtroom

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#### Regular Session - 6:00 PM - Historic Courthouse Courtroom

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Robert Logan

#### INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

#### CALL TO ORDER

*Chair Howard welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.*

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA

*Chair Howard announced that four agenda items were added to the Consent Agenda after it was posted on the website and had since been updated. The following items were added:*

*Agenda Item #22-4404 -Vote on a Request to Approve appointments to the Siler City Planning Board.*

*Agenda Item #22-4392 -Vote on a Request to Approve a lease amendment with Richard E. Fox (d.b.a. FoxCo) and authorize the County Manager to execute the agreement.*

*Agenda Item #22-4398 -Vote on a Request to Approve Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget Ordinance Amendment*

*Agenda Item #22-4405 -Vote on a Request to Approve \$76,215 from the State of NC for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP).*

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

#### [22-4275](#)

Vote on a quasi-judicial request by Chatham County Emergency Operations to approve a new 380-foot telecommunications tower to be located at 5410 Big Woods Rd, Northeast Park, Parcel 19573, in an

area of approximately .275 acres of the 66-acre tract, Williams Township.

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

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Vice Chair Gomez Flores, that this Resolution #2022-01 RES TITLE, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

#### [22-4276](#)

Vote on a legislative request to approve by the Chatham County Manager to amend Attachment A, Permitted Uses, of the Watershed Protection Ordinance to add the following use - Wireless Telecommunication Towers.

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

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

#### [22-4372](#)

Vote on a Request to Approve a Pyrotechnics Display at the Silk Hope Ruritan's Club, 4221 Silk Hope Rd, Siler City NC, 27344 on July 23, 2022.

**Attachments:** [Attachment A-N.C.G.S. Pyrotechnic Displays](#)  
[Attachment B - Pyrotechnic Display Request Silk Hope 2022](#)  
[Attachment C - Nunn Pyrotechnic License 2022](#)  
[Attachment D - Hale Artif. Certificate of Insurance 2022](#)  
[Attachment E - Hale Artif. ATF License 2022](#)  
[Attachment F - Silk Hope Ruritan Site Plan 2022](#)

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

#### [22-4375](#)

Vote on request to approve grants to recreation agencies recommendations.

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

**vote:**

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4376](#)

Vote on request to approve appointment of Kyle Shipp to the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4377](#)

Vote on a request to approve Tax Releases and Refunds

**Attachments:**     [June 2022 Release and Refund Report](#)  
                              [June 2022 NCVTS Pending Refund Report](#)  
                              [June 2022 Manual NCVTS Pending Refund Report](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Vice Chair 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 - Commissioner Dasher, Commissioner Hales, Vice Chair Gomez Flores, and Chair Howard

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4378](#)

Vote on a Request to Approve Order of Collection for 2022 Property Taxes.

**Attachments:**     [Chatham County Charge 2022](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Vice Chair Gomez Flores, that the Order of Collection for 2022 Property Taxes, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4379](#)

Vote on a Request to Approve Annual Settlement and Resolution, Charging the Tax Collector with Collections of Delinquent Taxes

**Attachments:**     [Tax Settlement Resolution 2022](#)  
                              [Outstanding Property Tax](#)  
                              [2022 Annual Settlement](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Vice Chair Gomez Flores, that the Annual Settlement be approved and Resolution #2022-02 Charging the Tax Collector with Collections of Delinquent Taxes, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4380](#)

Vote on a Request to Approve an Easement for Duke Energy overhead power lines over Martha's Chapel Road collection center and authorize the County Manager to Sign

**Attachments:**     [Duke Easement 07 2022 Exhibit A](#)  
                                 [Duke Easement 07 2022](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Vice Chair 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 - Commissioner Dasher, Commissioner Hales, Vice Chair Gomez Flores, and Chair Howard

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4381](#)

Vote on a request from the Chatham County Tax Department to approve competitive bid exemption and sole source for Spatialest integrated software solution and authorize County Manager to negotiate and execute all contracts and agreements for \$99,750 over a three-year period

**Attachments:**     [Spatialest Single Supplier Letter - Chatham County](#)  
                                 [Chatham County NC Spatialest MSA](#)

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4382](#)

Vote on a request to accept the awarded three-year grant funding of \$100,000/year from the Building Integrated Communities Acceleration Grant through the North Carolina Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation to assist with the implementation of projects and programs identified through the Building Integrated Communities planning process and authorize the county manager to execute the grant agreement for the same.

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4383](#)

Vote on a request to approve a Letter of Support advocating for federal funding support for the Raleigh-Durham International Airport's (RDU) primary runway 5L-23R to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

**Attachments:** [Letter of Support for RDU Airport Funding - July 2022](#)

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4384](#)

Vote on a request to approve Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget Ordinance Amendment for Water Utility Enterprise Fund.

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4385](#)

Vote on a request to approve the lease amendment with Daymark Recovery Services and authorize the County Manager to execute the agreement.

**Attachments:** [Daymark Recovery Services - First Amendment](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Vice Chair 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 - Commissioner Dasher, Commissioner Hales, Vice Chair Gomez Flores, and Chair Howard

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4386](#)

Vote on a request for County Manager and legal counsel to negotiate and approve the renewal of the three year Microsoft Enterprise Agreement at \$219,443.15 per year and authorize the County Manager to execute the agreement.

**Attachments:**     [SHI Quote-21663585](#)  
[Enterprise Enrollment \(Indirect\)](#)  
[Signature Form](#)  
[Product Selection Form-1218054.003 PSF](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Vice Chair 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 - Commissioner Dasher, Commissioner Hales, Vice Chair Gomez Flores, and Chair Howard

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4387](#)

Vote on a request to approve lease agreement with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety for Office Space at 134 Village Lake Road, Siler City, NC and 40 East Chatham Street, Pittsboro, NC and authorize the County Manager to execute the agreement.

**Attachments:**     [134 Village Lake Road Lease NCDPS](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Vice Chair 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 - Commissioner Dasher, Commissioner Hales, Vice Chair Gomez Flores, and Chair Howard

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4388](#)

Vote on a request to approve submitting a Letter of Support for the Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning (DCHC MPO) Organization Safe Streets for All Grant Application. This letter will showcase Chatham County's support for the grant opportunities available to the DCHC MPO.

**Attachments:**     [Chatham Letter of Support](#)

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4393](#)

Approve recommended changes to the Housing Trust Fund guidelines for the FY23 funding cycle

**Attachments:**     [FY23HousingTrustFundGuidelines\\_PublishingVersion](#)

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

**vote:**

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4396](#)

Vote on a request to repeal Chapter 94 of the Chatham County Code of Ordinances

**Attachments:** [Ordinance Repealing Chapter 94](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Vice Chair 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 - Commissioner Dasher, Commissioner Hales, Vice Chair Gomez Flores, and Chair Howard

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4394](#)

Vote on a request to approve annual agreement with Chatham Trades and authorize the County Manager to execute the agreement.

**Attachments:** [Chatham Trades Contract 2023 Quarters 2-4 Vocational](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Vice Chair 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 - Commissioner Dasher, Commissioner Hales, Vice Chair Gomez Flores, and Chair Howard

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4395](#)

Vote on a request to approve annual agreement with Chatham Transit Network and authorize the County Manager to execute the agreement.

**Attachments:** [Contract for Chatham Transit FY23](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Vice Chair 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 - Commissioner Dasher, Commissioner Hales, Vice Chair Gomez Flores, and Chair Howard

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4397](#)

Vote on a request to approve the annual Chatham County Forestry agreement with the NC Forest Service and authorize the county manager to execute the agreement.

**Attachments:** [FY23 Forestry Contract](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Vice Chair 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 - Commissioner Dasher, Commissioner Hales, Vice Chair Gomez Flores, and Chair Howard

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4401](#)

Vote on a request to approve the contract with Tyler Technologies and to authorize the County Manager to execute the contract.

**Attachments:** [Chatham County NC SaaS Contract 070722](#)

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4399](#)

Vote on a request to adopt a resolution for the addition of streets or roads to the North Carolina System of Secondary Roads for Seaforth Landing Subdivision.

**Attachments:** [RES Seaforth LKR Edits](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Vice Chair Gomez Flores, that this Resolution #2022-03 for the addition of streets or roads to the North Carolina System of Secondary Roads for Seaforth Landing Subdivision, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4403](#)

Vote on a request to approve Home and Community Care Block Grant agreement with TJCOG for the provision of county-based aging services.

**Attachments:** [HCCBG Contract FY 22-23- Signature Needed](#)

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4402](#)

Vote on a request to approve contract with the TJCOG Area Agency on Aging for administration of ARPA funds for services under the Older Americans Act.



**Attachments:**     [ARPA Contract FY 22-24- Signature Needed](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Vice Chair 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 - Commissioner Dasher, Commissioner Hales, Vice Chair Gomez Flores, and Chair Howard

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4404](#)

Vote on a request to approve appointments to the Siler City Planning Board.

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4392](#)

Vote on a request to approve a lease amendment with Richard E. Fox (d.b.a. FoxCo) and authorize the County Manager to execute the agreement.

**Attachments:**     [FoxCo Lease](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hales, seconded by Vice Chair 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 - Commissioner Dasher, Commissioner Hales, Vice Chair Gomez Flores, and Chair Howard

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4398](#)

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

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

[22-4405](#)

Vote on a request to approve \$76,215 from the State of NC for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP).

**Attachments:**     [2022 07 18 LIHWAP Funding Authorization](#)

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

**vote:**

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

**End of Consent Agenda****PUBLIC INPUT SESSION**

*Larry Ballst gave articles to the commissioners for their review on solar panels. Mr. Ballst said we all know solar panels are good, but no one knows about their pollution when homeowners throw them in the trash. They contain carcinogens. Inflation rates are typically two point five percent, but the current rate is nine percent. When the solar farm on highway 15-501 was built there was no mention of the clean-up cost. They last about twenty years, and it would cost the poor people to clean them up. The Chatham County building department could require electric plugs for new housing rather than car owners plugging into the local McDonald's. This was a step toward cleaner air. There was an energy problem because of President Biden's executive order to raise gas prices. This would increase costs for heating homes. He hoped the Board would not ban woodstoves for heating.*

*Commissioner Hales said solar panels had come to the Board in the past, but she was not sure of where the County was with that information. County Manager Dan LaMontagne said the solar farms were on agricultural land. Mr. LaMontagne said four or five years ago he spoke with the North Carolina State Energy Office that was responsible for recycling lots of solar panels. There was concern about farmers that were left with the panels on their farms. The Climate Change Committee had looked into this and he would follow up with the committee and report back to the Board.*

*Commissioner Hales said she did not think the State had dealt with this yet. She did not know if there were special recommendations for solar energy ready wiring for electric vehicles included in the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). This could be something to include in the UDO.*

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

[22-4389](#)

**Introduction of 2022 YouthVoice Representative Deon Bailey with Chatham County 4-H**

*Clerk to the Board, Lindsay Ray, said the County was excited to have 2022 YouthVoice Representative Deon Bailey attending the conference this year. Commissioner Hales, Vice Chair Gomez Flores, County Manager Dan LaMontagne, Assistant County Manager Carolyn Miller, and Ms. Ray would be in attendance and welcomed Mr. Bailey to join them at their table.*

*Mr. Bailey introduced himself to the Board as a Northwood junior. He was honored to have been chosen.*

*Chair Howard asked what Mr. Bailey did with the 4-H program. Mr. Bailey said he was a member of the STEM club for three years. The club had since been discontinued because of lack of membership.*

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This Agenda Item was received and filed.

## **BOARD PRIORITIES**

[22-4391](#)

Vote on a request to appoint a voting delegate for both the upcoming NCACC Annual Conference in August and the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference in November.

*Clerk to the Board Lindsay Ray said the Board's appointment was due on August 1st. The voting delegate would need to be available on Saturday, August 13th to attend the NCACC Annual Conference as well as November 16th and 17th to attend the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference.*

*Commissioner Hales asked if it could be two people. Chair Howard confirmed.*

*Chair Howard volunteered to be the voting delegate at the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference in November. She said both Commissioner Hales and Vice Chair Gomez Flores would be in attendance at the upcoming NCACC Annual Conference in August. Commissioner Hales said she would be happy to volunteer as voting delegate at the November conference.*

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Franklin Gomez Flores, seconded by Commissioner Mike Dasher, to appoint Commissioner Hales for the NCACC Annual Conference on August on the 13th and Chair Howard as Voting Delegate for the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference on November 16th and 17th. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

*Lindsay Ray said the top priority legislative goals for the NCACC's August meeting were due by mid-September. Ms. Ray would work to narrow down past goals with staff and conference goals to help the Board narrow down its current goals.*

*Ms. Ray said the Board could amend the BOC regular meeting schedule for the August 15th meeting because two commissioners would be absent.*

*Commissioner Hales said she had a suggested item for the legislative goals.*

*Chair Howard said if the Board really wanted its goals to be part of the conference agenda it must be mindful that the goals would benefit all one hundred counties of North Carolina, or they would not move forward.*

*Commissioner Hales said her concern was the ability of a homeowner over the age of sixty five or those with disabilities to afford their property taxes. She said there was a program with the Chatham Tax Department, but she could not remember the name of it that forgave the first \$25,000 value of property tax. The homeowner must earn less than \$31,900, it used to be \$28,000 seven years ago. The cutoff for income had risen and with inflation it might be worthwhile to look into these things state-wide. She thought to raise the maximum income to \$31,900 to qualify and property values had risen state-wide.*

Chair Howard asked if the goal would go to the committee or the Tax and Finance Committee. She said she could see other counties that would struggle with this issue.

Ms. Ray looked at an old flow chart from the conference. In the past the goals would first go to the steering committees, then the legislative goals committee and then to the conference. She would follow up to be certain.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Diana Hales, seconded by Commissioner Mike Dasher, to amend the Regular Board of Commissioners meeting schedule from Monday, August 15th to Wednesday, August 24th at 2 PM at the Historic Courthouse be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Dan LaMontagne said the County had received its first round of opioid settlement funds at \$111,729.

A Sheriff's Prevention Partnership group with the Chatham County Sheriff's department looked into setting up a meeting with Dr. Murphy with the Opioid Response Network. The group was planning a meeting to plan, prevention, and recovery for this epidemic.

Mr. LaMontagne asked the Board to please respond to an email about the budget survey.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Commissioner Hales attended the Farms Under Threat webinar hosted by America Farmland Trust a few days ago. There are many acres of farmland being lost to residential development. One statistic predicted a loss of eleven percent of North Carolina farmland by 2040. This would equal eighteen point four acres of farmland. Chatham farmland included pasture, timber, and row crops. Triangle Land Conservancy (TLC) has a new program. Chatham had half a million dollars from Article 46 taxes for the farmland preservation group. She thought it might be time for the County to develop policy documents and look into another strategy for farmland preservation. TLC was looking into a working land easement option for land to resell to future farmers. People of Color (POC) are underrepresented in agriculture. TLC was working on its first fifty-acre easement. Commissioner Hales asked the County Manager for an update on County efforts.

Dan LaMontagne called on Assistant County Manager Bryan Thompson, who was heading the project.

Mr. Thompson said the County had gone through the RFP process and selected a vendor from Mount Olive, Dr. Maddox. The County was waiting for a fully executed copy of the agreement. The funding was less than what was required by the Board to approve. A kickoff meeting will aid to structure with the public and internally with departments. He will update the Board as the process moves forward.

Commissioner Hales asked if there was an initial advance with Dr. Maddox, and when would the Board be involved. Mr. Thompson said structure would be explored and

*about how the Board can be more involved.*

*Commissioner Hales asked when the contract would be executed. Mr. Thompson hoped it would have been the first week of July. He would follow up with Mount Olive.*

*Commissioner Hales said there was a crisis coming when farmland was sold as residential development. This was a way to use Article 46 funding to direct purchase land. She received a letter every day asking to sell her land. The pressure will increase as a manufacturer starts to build in Chatham County. She has not spoken with TLC but will follow up with them and report back to the Board about a possible representative speaking to the Board.*

*Vice Chair Gomez Flores had nothing to report.*

*Commissioner Dasher had nothing to report.*

*Chair Howard thanked the County Manager for bringing Dr. Murphy into contact with the Sheriff's group. Their expertise comes from the state level, especially with harm reduction. Addiction was more than bad behavior. A meaningful improvement with broad and bold conversations about how to spend that money. Now was the time to do the work.*

#### [22-4413](#)

#### Ending Chatham County State of Emergency

*Chair Howard read a Proclamation to end the State of Emergency for Chatham County into the record.*

**This Agenda Item was received and filed.**

### **CLOSED SESSION**

#### [22-4390](#)

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 and pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the performance of the County Manager.

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Franklin Gomez Flores, seconded by Commissioner Mike Dasher, 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 and pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the performance of the County Manager. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Chair Howard announced the August 1, 2022 regular board meeting would be canceled*

*because there was no business submitted to be discussed.*

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Franklin Gomez Flores, seconded by Commissioner Diana Hales, that this was adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Logan