



# Chatham County, NC

## Meeting Minutes

### Board of Commissioners

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Monday, September 18, 2023

4:00 PM

Agriculture and Conference Center

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#### Work Session - 4:00 PM - Agriculture and Conference Center

**Present:** 5 - Vice Chair Mike Dasher, Commissioner David Delaney, Chair Karen Howard, Commissioner Katie Kenlan and Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores

#### PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

*No one signed up to speak.*

#### BOARD PRIORITIES

[23-4922](#)

Vote to approve the recommended ARPA Nonprofit process awards as proposed by staff and approve a budget amendment to facilitate the disbursement of awards.

**Attachments:** [FY24 ARPA NP Recommended Awards](#)  
[FY24 Criteria Grid](#)  
[FY24 ARPA Award FINAL](#)

*Budget Analyst Erik Lindley and Equity and Community Engagement Officer Brenda Clegg gave a presentation to the Board. (presentation attached).*

*Mr. Lindley reviewed the public engagement process from last year so that the Board can understand how staff came to decisions about who receives the grant funding. Staff used Foundant grant administrative software for managing and housing all applications.*

*The follow-up questions addressed areas that were not explicitly covered by the application process (whether because of the "one-time" nature of the award or the working timetable of the process - the Human Services process wasn't designed with ARPA funds in mind) All 16 applying programs responded (12 agencies). The responses were detailed, thorough, and some, by necessity, lengthy. From those responses, we distilled the following conclusions.*

*Staff believes the complete effect of funding these programs is greater than the sum of the individual facets. They are all impactful but together they are transformational.*

*Many agencies overlap in more than one area. CORA was the only program that directly addressed food insecurities. Mr. Lindley said that housing insecurity was brought up multiple times by the programs and he was glad to see that 47% of the funding was recommended toward housing equaling \$472,000.*

Staff operated on the knowledge (gained through the application/review/scoring process) that all programs were viable and addressed issues deemed important to the county and "Worthy of being funded".

Early in the review process staff recognized that it would be undesirable to completely defund any "one" program so that any other program could be funded at 100%. They were left with the question of how all the programs can be funded at the highest percent possible. The base number started at a 69% funding rate.

To ensure equity staff modified by score weighting:  
(average multiplier: 3.8% + or -/ 9% largest multiplier)

The County wants to encourage excellence! Bringing the score to bear, even in a small way, encourages strong applications that describe strong programs.

Vice Chair Dasher asked when folks are required to expend the funds? Mr. Lindley stated the ARPA sunset doesn't necessarily apply to them, however, we requested that they give us a program that was one year long in scope. Every program submitted has a plan to use the funds in one year. Assistant County Manager Bryan Thompson said staff recognizes that there could be some outliers, particularly United Way. We contemplate that particular organization may need more than a year and we will work with them specifically to make sure the timeline works for them as well as us.

Commissioner Kenlan asked if these nonprofits are required to have audits. Mr. Lindley said it depends on how much money they manage or how much comes through them. If it is less than \$100,000 a year it only must go through staff review. Not the award, but the actual amount that the organization manages. If less than \$500,000 it triggers a financial review by a CPA and over that requires an actual audit. Commissioner Kenlan asked for more information about the human services committee. Ms. Clegg said the committee represents different departments in the county. DSS, Health, Libraries, court services. Mr. Lindley added it is made up of folks who have interaction with these nonprofits. Chair Howard said it sounds similar to the CITs. Mr. Lindley agreed. Commissioner Kenlan said she didn't see any environmental nonprofits applied. Mr. Lindley said just these 16 nonprofits applied.

Chair Howard asked if there is somewhere the Board can get a sense of what these programs are. Ms. Clegg said staff could get the commissioners that information. Vice Chair Dasher thinks it would be helpful if there was a press release with links.

Commissioner Delaney asked how the ratings staff used correlates with the initiatives of the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Clegg said the Board said it wanted the ARPA funds to be impactful. The Board didn't define what impactful means. Chair Howard said early on Board wanted the community's input and this is more a reflection of that community engagement process and not the Board's initiatives. Mr. Thompson said he would agree with that. The driving priorities were put forth by the community. Commissioner Delaney said the Board should look back and reflect on where those overlaps may be. It would be good to be able to quantify such as a number of homeless individuals that were housed with this funding.

Commissioner Gomez Flores said it would be valuable to receive a presentation in over a year on how impactful these programs and funds were. Mr. Lindley asked if he meant the totality for all \$1 Million dollars. Commissioner Gomez Flores said yes. Mr. Lindley said the nonprofits are required to give a mid-year and end-of-year report with

outputs and outcomes. Vice Chair Dasher thinks this is kind of a unique model for funding and thinks the community engagement part of the process was worth it. Chair Howard said she is happy to see how much is going toward housing and housing insecurity and children/youth.

Chair Howard asked if Vice Chair Dasher should recuse himself due to conflicts of interest. The County Attorney confirmed that the Board could have two separate votes so that Vice Chair Dasher could recuse himself for voting on those two awards.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Delaney, to approve funding to all agencies with the exception of the Chatham Arts Council and the Chatham Partnership for Children. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

*Commissioner Delaney motioned to recuse Vice Chair Dasher.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Delaney, seconded by Commissioner Kenlan, to excuse Vice Chair Mike Dasher from voting on the funding for the Chatham Arts Council and the Chatham Partnership for Children. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Recuse:** 1 - Vice Chair Dasher

*Commissioner Kenlan motioned to approve ARPA funding for Chatham County Art's Council and Chatham County Partnership for Children.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Kenlan, seconded by Commissioner Delaney, to approve funding for the Chatham Arts Council and the Chatham Partnership for Children. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Excused:** 1 - Vice Chair Dasher

## [23-4952](#)

Discussion of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedure

**Attachments:** [Commissioner Delaney Suggested Edits to BOC Rules of Procedure](#)

*Commissioner Delaney reviewed his proposed edits to the Rules of Procedure around civil discourse. One edit was to the purpose statement the other edits were in the conduct of debate section. He stated he could make a motion to advance these edits or have an open discussion with the Board.*

*Chair Howard asked the County Attorney if the clause in Rule 7.1 is intended to apply to commissioners or the public. Mr. Buansi said if one looks at the entirety of the Rules of Procedure they will see certain terms being used. The Board member or member is generally referred to as a commissioner. The term speaker is also used and is used in this rule. He believes the term speaker has been used to refer to members of the public making comments. Chair Howard said she still feels this is an extension of a rule that was intended to manage conversations between the Board.*

*She would not want to diminish the conversation at the Board level. She feels the proposed edit goes far beyond the intent of the original rule.*

*Commissioner Delaney stated the County Attorney did not have any concerns with the proposed edits. He sees that the edit to Rule Seven applies to anyone in the public meeting. He believes all members of the Board seek an inclusive environment in the meetings and this edit is a specific way the Board can do this.*

*Vice Chair Dasher said Commissioner Delaney's clarification makes him feel better that it isn't intended to shut down dissent or silence particular people. He suggested they work on that section. Vice Chair Dasher asked if with a 3-2 board the three would have the ability to shut down dissenting opinions. Commissioner Gomez Flores thinks Commissioner Delaney's intent is about courtesy, not silencing dissent. Vice Chair Dasher said he does not question Commissioner Delaney's intent, but he thinks people in the future may try to use that rule to shut down dissenting opinions. Commissioner Delaney said the goal is not to shut down conflicting interests. He referred back to discussions they had at the January retreat when there was concern about issues with civil discourse in the past. He sees it as a checks and balances system. This does not reach the point of censure which is a far graver situation for a board.*

*Commissioner Kenlan said she appreciates Commissioner Delaney's expertise and that the Board supports robust conversation and debate. She doesn't think the second part needs to be added but does agree with the first part. Chair Howard said she was very concerned. The Board has historically had very vigorous disagreements and spirited debate. On paper and in conversation it makes sense. Chair Howard said having felt very compelled to speak her mind, in a polite but persuasive way, she would not be able to support a change in the rules that would limit that discourse. She and former commissioner Walter Petty disagreed on many issues, but it did not make them enemies.*

*Commissioner Delaney said he believes they are in full agreement and none of the edits would diminish that debate and discussion. He feels the Board may be in a place where their views differ on what standards of courtesy ought to be by all Board members. Commissioner Delaney stated he has personally seen these differences in closed sessions and Commissioner Gomez Flores previously expressed in January that this has been an ongoing problem. Vice Chair Dasher said such objections are going to be subjective. He has been through some pretty vigorous debates and agrees with the Chair that it is part of the business of being an elected official. He doesn't necessarily have an objection to the change but the ability to object is already there and this just adds language around the objection of the chair. Commissioner Delaney asked if Vice Chair Dasher was ready to make a motion.*

*Vice Chair Dasher said the only thing left to clear up is clarifying if the speaker refers specifically to a member of the public or to board members. Commissioner Delaney asked if it would be possible to move forward with incorporating the public hearing rules, the first sentence proposed in Section Two, and the proposed changes in the Purpose section so that the Board can maintain some momentum.*

*Vice Chair Dasher moved to incorporate the public hearing rules, add the first sentence proposed in Section Two into the Rules of Procedure. Commissioner Kenlan seconded the motion.*

*Commissioner Delaney asked if there was interest in also incorporating the proposed*

*edits to the Purpose section. Vice Chair Dasher amended his motion to incorporate the public hearing rules for planning zoning items and subdivision first plats, add the first sentence proposed in Section Two, and add the proposed edits in the Purpose section. Commissioner Kenlan maintained her second to the motion.*

*Commissioner Delaney asked if the Board was okay to send the language around the objection of the chair to the County Attorney and if so if there were a specific goal they would like help with from the attorney. Chair Howard said she believes what Commissioner Delaney wishes to do is ask the attorney whether your interpretation of that language is correct or if her own interpretation of the language is correct. Commissioner Delaney said he would like to get the attorney's perspective on what constitutes a speaker, and we would take that into consideration for what, if any changes, may be useful along those lines. In other words, the Board agrees to revisit this at a future time.*

*Mr. Buansi stated that he and County Attorney Bob Hagemann are of one mind after speaking about this particular interpretation. Vice Chair Dasher said if all members of the Board agree, and the attorneys agree then some clarifying language would be helpful to review at a future meeting. Commissioner Kenlan appreciates the opportunity to reflect on this and how to have their discussions with each other and the public. She does not see a need to go further with it but understands if other members do. This is just one of many ways the Board can continue to work with each other and have robust discussions.*

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Dasher, seconded by Commissioner Kenlan, to approve incorporating the Rules of Procedure for Zoning Public Hearings and Major Subdivision applications into the Board of Commissioner Rules of Procedure as well as incorporating Commissioner Delaney's suggested edits to the Board of Commissioner Rules of Procedure for to the Purpose section and the first sentence suggested for Section 2: Conduct of Debate. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

*Chair Howard wants to be clear that the members of the Board are not always going to agree. Commissioners have to have thick skin and we can disagree while being respectful. She will not mitigate her speech to placate the feelings of another commissioner.*

## **RECESS**

*The meeting was recessed until 6:00 pm.*

## **End of Work Session**

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

**Present:** 5 - Vice Chair Mike Dasher, Commissioner David Delaney, Chair Karen Howard, Commissioner Katie Kenlan and Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores

## **INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Howard delivered the invocation after which she invited 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 6:00 PM.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4947](#)

Vote to approve the August 7, 2023 Regular Session and August 21, 2023 Work and Regular Session Minutes

**Attachments:** [Draft Minutes 08.07.23](#)  
[Draft Minutes 08.21.2023](#)

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4912](#)

Vote to approve the re-naming of one private road in Chatham County

**Attachments:** [Morgan Pond Rd Petition](#)  
[Morgan Pond Rd Map](#)  
[Morgan Pond Rd Area Map](#)

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4923](#)

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

**Attachments:** [McNel Way Petition](#)  
[McNel Way Map](#)  
[McNel Way area map](#)

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4920](#)

Vote to reappoint Judith Malone, RN, to fill a second (2nd) term on the Board of Health as a public member, effective January 27, 2023.

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4918](#)

Vote to accept \$42,789 from the State of North Carolina for the Low-Income Household Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4941](#)

Vote to accept \$10,909 from the State of North Carolina for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP).

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4921](#)

Vote to accept \$100,150 in Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant funds through Piedmont Health Services (PHS) to establish a doula collaborative.

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4924](#)

Vote to approve a request by Warren Mitchell, P.E. on behalf of Vickers Bennett Group, LLC for a **twelve (12) month extension of First Plat to extend the current first plat expiration date for Vickers Village from November 15, 2023 to November 15, 2024, consisting of 183 lots**, located off US 15-501 N, Vickers Rd, SR-1719, and Jack Bennett Rd SR-1717 parcels #18847, 18848, 60719, 18636, 60653, 79965, 89281, 89395, 80493, 69057, 89206, 18857, 87996, 89272, 18856, 87093, 93157, 79288, 93156, 93155, 93154, 85875, and 18914.

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

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4930](#)

Vote to approve Sheriff's Office (Animal Resource Center Budget) Vehicle Purchase 2024-2025.

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4934](#)

Vote to approve Tax Releases and Refunds

**Attachments:** [August 2023 Release and Refund Report](#)  
[August 2023 NCVTS Pending Refund Report](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Gomez Flores, seconded by Commissioner Kenlan, 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:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4935](#)

Vote to approve Tax Department - Charging Off Tax Bills

**Attachments:** [2023 Tax Charge Off](#)

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4937](#)

Vote to approve Chatham County Tax Department utility bill debt write-off for delinquent utility bills

**Attachments:** [2023 Utility Write-off](#)

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4931](#)

Vote to approve lease with the Town of Goldston for the Goldston Library



**Attachments:**     [2023 Goldston Library Lease](#)

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4940](#)

Vote to approve a competitive bid exemption and sole source for Priority Dispatch Corp. for emergency police dispatch (EPD) protocols and associated software and license fees for the 911 center

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4939](#)

Vote to approve a contract with Priority Dispatch Corp. in the amount of \$124,539.80 for Priority Dispatch Corp. for emergency police dispatch (EPD) protocols and associated software and license fees for the 911 center

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4944](#)

Vote to adopt the Project Ordinance for the Chatham County Northwest District Park Dam (Camp Maranatha Lake Dam).

**Attachments:**     [Project Ordinance Northwest District Park Dam](#)

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4943](#)

Vote to adopt the Fiber Optic Cabling Project Ordinance that will directly connect the Chatham County Backup Emergency Operations Center and Siler City Health Clinic to the core county network.

**Attachments:**     [Project Ordinance Fiber Cable From Pittsboro to EOC Backup Center in Siler City](#)

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4938](#)

Vote to approve the attached contracts with Performance Cabling Technologies to install fiber optic cabling from the new EOC Building (112 Innovation Way) to the Chatham County Backup EOC (3670 Alston Bridge Rd) & Siler City Public Health Clinic (1000 S Tenth Ave) for the purposes of network & internet connectivity at the cost of \$1,125,587.13.

**Attachments:** [12616-03 SM 96 Strand to Siler City to Pittsboro \(bore\) Q try](#)  
[12655-01 Siler City Health Building \(Bore+Plow\) Q](#)  
[Performance Cabling 20230706 093907](#)  
[12655-0 Siler City Health Build](#)  
[543 FY23 Chatham-ELC Enhancing Detection Activities-COVID](#)

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4932](#)

Vote to approve Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget Amendments

**Attachments:** [Budget Amendment 2022-2023 Sep 23](#)

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4933](#)

Vote to approve Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Amendments

**Attachments:** [Budget Amendment 2023-2024 Sep23](#)

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4949](#)

Vote to approve attached Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) for the purposes of collecting QL1 LiDAR data in Chatham County, NC at the cost of \$200,000

**Attachments:** [LIDAR 2024 MOA Chatham County Revised 2](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Gomez Flores, seconded by**

Commissioner Kenlan, that this Contract, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4954](#)

Vote to approve an amendment to previously approved agreement with PublicInput

**Attachments:** [Chatham County-PublicInput Agreement Revised-Amended 9-12-2023](#)

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4955](#)

Vote on a request to approve the reappointment of Emily Foushee to the Chatham County Jury Commission

**Attachments:** [NCGS 9-1\\_c18dmh\\_14101SDO](#)  
[Jury Commission Statement of Sources](#)  
[2022-2023\\_c18dmh\\_14100SDO](#)  
[County Chair Letter 2023](#)  
[Emily Foushee Appointment 2023](#)

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

## End of Consent Agenda

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION

[23-4919](#)

Vote to adopt a resolution proclaiming October 1-7, 2023 as National 4-H week in Chatham County

**Attachments:** [2023 - Chatham County Proclamation for National 4-H Week](#)

*Chair Howard read the resolution into the record.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Gomez Flores, seconded by Commissioner Delaney, that this Resolution #23-45 proclaiming October 1-7, 2023 as 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:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores

## PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

*No one signed up to speak.*

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

[23-4946](#)

Public hearing to receive public comment on the preferred alternative option for redefining Commissioner Districts and vote to adopt the Resolution Pursuant to Section 22.1 of Chapter 153A of the General Statutes of North Carolina Redefining Commissioner Districts.

**Attachments:** [Resolution - Chatham County Commissioners Residency Districts Redistricting - September 2023](#)  
[Additional Information on Preferred Option 1 on the Chatham County website](#)

*Assistant County Manager Bryan Thompson reviewed the specifics of the request.*

*The Chair opened the hearing.*

*No one signed up to speak.*

*Commissioner Gomez Flores asked the Board to reconsider this option. His district extends all the way to the East. There is a very good possibility that the population in the West may not feel their views and values are represented by someone who lives closer to the eastern boundary. He asked for clarification that the Board is not legally required to redistrict. Mr. Thompson said that was correct. Chair Howard said the Board members do not serve a district; each serves the entire county but lives in a residency district. Residents have equal access to all five members of the Board. The future commissioners of District Five could move anywhere within that district. She said the desire was to make sure sitting commissioners were not re-districted out of their district.*

*Commissioner Gomez Flores believes there is a difference between having a representative who lives, works, and engages in the economy in the West and having someone in the East representing the West. He proposes amending the map or not redistricting at all.*

*Commissioner Delaney asked if Commissioner Gomez Flores believed shifting the boundary lines of District Four and District Five would affect a different outcome. Commissioner Gomez Flores said he is currently the only commissioner living in the west. He could choose not run again or get married to someone on the other side of the county and he did not want to lose representation from the West.*

*Vice Chair Dasher you have the possibility with this option that two people represent the West. Where people live does not control who runs for public office. Who wants to run determines who runs and wins. Commissioner Gomez Flores said that is the concern he has. There are conflicting desires and values between the Eastern and Western parts of the county. If two individuals ran for District Five or Four, it is very common for people in those districts to have similar goals and perspectives. Vice Chair Dasher said Chatham County voters do not vote only on who represents their district. All Chatham County voters vote for all five commissioners.*

Chair Howard said the map is really just a residency map for the commissioners. We have had commissioners from deeper in Chatham in the past and quite recently. She challenges the notion that there is some sort of homogeneity in some parts of the East or the West.

Commissioner Delaney said the Board is in an enviable position because it can take the do-nothing approach all the way up to fully starting from scratch. The Board has asked staff to invest a significant amount of time and he is not interested in going back to doing nothing. He would be comfortable for staff to make some adjustments on the western side of the map.

Commissioner Kenlan thinks the criteria used were thoughtfully put into this map, so we didn't have a district where four commissioners came from one general area. Vice Chair Dasher said it would be interesting to see historically where commissioners came from. He thinks commissioners have come from all over the county.

Chair Howard asked Mr. Thompson if he could review the timeline again for the Board. Mr. Thompson said there is an opportunity to come back with changes on October 2nd. He does not know that going back to the drawing board is an option. The Board would have to hold another public hearing and the deadline to approve redistricting is October 7th. Mr. Buansi said that any alterations to this option would require an additional public hearing and notice.

Mr. Thompson summarized Commissioner Gomez Flores's desire to move District Five's eastern boundary further west. He does not know that they could alter two districts. When you remove population from one it gets added to another.

Commissioner Delaney said in reality there could be an infinite number of possible changes. Chair Howard asked if this is meant to be a geographical change or a change in population numbers. Commissioner Gomez Flores said geographical. Vice Chair Dasher said the goal of creating the redistricting options is to make the population in the districts more equal. Commissioner Kenlan believes the equal distribution of the population is important. Mr. Thompson said staff can also look at redistricting when the Board finds there is an imbalance in the population of the districts.

Chair Howard said the question for today is whether the Board wants to move forward with this option. If population is not the issue and it is instead a geographical boundary line, it may not be meeting the goal of this process. Commissioner Kenlan the Census is seven years away and the districts are already out of balance. Mr. Thompson said the Board has already said there is population disparity and he does not know if that can be walked back.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Kenlan, seconded by Vice Chair Dasher, that this Resolution #23-46 Pursuant to Section 22.1 of Chapter 153A of the General Statutes of North Carolina Redefining Commissioner Districts, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof, be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard and Commissioner Kenlan

**No:** 1 - Commissioner Gomez Flores

[23-4928](#)

A legislative public hearing requested by Drafting and Design Services

on behalf of Darryl Knight dba Knight Landscaping Supply to rezone Parcel 9808, located at 14959 US 421 S, Gulf Township, from R-1 Residential to Conditional District Regional Business for a landscaping supply, grading, and outdoor storage to include boat and RVs business.

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

*Planning Director Jason Sullivan reviewed the specifics of the request. (Presentation attached)*

*Vice Chair Dasher asked staff if they are thinking about Hwy 421 becoming a future interstate from a planning perspective. Mr. Sullivan stated that Hwy 421 is already a controlled access road. The NC Department of Transportation does not have a layout yet for the future interstate, so it is hard to base any planning decisions on unknowns.*

*Chair Howard asked if there were any residential properties adjacent to this property. Mr. Sullivan said there are houses on either side that would have been invited to the community meeting. Staff have not received any comments from the public.*

*Michael Blakely of Drafting and Design Services represented the applicant. Mr. Blakely said the site is very simple. They are meeting the buffer requirements of the ordinance. The Appearance Commission had requests for more natural vegetation and fewer invasive species. Because it is residential around the property, the buffer was greater. The front buffer allows for some variation to ensure there will be visibility to the site.*

*Commissioner Delaney asked if the Appearance Commission allowed the applicants to have lower shrubbery on the front to improve visibility from the road. Mr. Blakely said yes. Chair Howard asked if there were parking spots in the back of the development. Mr. Blakely said yes that the landscaping will be in the front, and RV and boat storage will be in the back.*

*The Chair opened the hearing.*

*No one signed up to speak.*

*The Chair closed the hearing.*

**This Agenda Item was referred to the Planning Board.**

### [23-4927](#)

A legislative public hearing requested for a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance by Dave Gaddis to reduce the minimum acreage requirements for all public or private campgrounds from 20 acres to 10 acres in all districts.

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

*Planning Director Jason Sullivan reviewed the specifics of the request. (Presentation attached)*

*Mr. Sullivan said if this were extended county-wide the County does have the 10/70 process, but it still requires a special permit.*

*Chair Howard asked if the development was specific to RV camping. Mr. Sullivan said in theory someone could mix primitive tent camping and RV camping. Commissioner*

Kenlan asked if by changing this they are saying more people can apply for special use permit. Mr. Sullivan said that was correct.

Commissioner Delaney asked if Mr. Sullivan would recommend the Board wait for the finalization of the UDO. Mr. Sullivan said yes it would be best instead of reconfiguring now.

The Chair opened the hearing.

Anne Stomp submitted the following written comments:

*I am opposed to changing the Zoning ordinance. The proposed change will only provide more opportunities for abuse of the current state of habitation in RV's. Moncure has 5 RV campgrounds that are not in compliance with the County zoning regulation which I include here. To whit (see highlighted section):*

*Chatham County Zoning Ordinance Page 28*

*4. Regulation of Recreational Vehicles (RV's).*

*a. Recreational Vehicles are permitted to be stored unoccupied on residential lots. Such storage of the Vehicle shall not be within any required setback. The unoccupied vehicle may not be used to store any materials, items, pets, farm animals, and the like. Recreational vehicles are not designed nor intended for permanent habitation, therefore an RV cannot be considered as a primary residence. A Recreational Vehicle stored in accordance with this ordinance shall:*

*i. Not be connected to any permanent utility service. The use of extension cords for cleaning and/or repair is allowed on a temporary basis.*

*ii. Have its wheels and axels remain at all times*

*iii. Maintain proper insurance and registration being fully licensed and ready for highway use.*

*iv. Have no accessory structures supported by the Vehicle, this includes decks, porches, and awnings.*

*b. Permanent habitation is not permitted. In order to provide for the health, safety, and welfare, the use of a recreational vehicle for permanent habitation shall be deemed unlawful.*

*Chatham County Zoning Ordinance Page 29*

*c. A Recreational Vehicle can be utilized for temporary occupation for no more than 180 days if the following requirements are met:*

*i. It is used during the construction of a single -family dwelling or placement of modular / mobile home.*

*ii. It is used while a damaged/destroyed home is being replaced due to damage by fire, flood, hurricane, tornado, or other emergency event or natural disaster.*

*iii. Extensions of the 180 day time period can be granted by the zoning official when work is ongoing with a valid building permit.*

*It is well known that many of the RV's that are parked in Moncure are being used as permanent residences by their owners who are not "camping" in Moncure. The game that is being played is to remove the RV from its parking spot every 180 days and then return, pretending that such behavior is in compliance with the ordinance. By changing the current ordinance and downsizing the required minimum for an RV campground invites further proliferation of non-complying RV parking lots. I have brought the situation of RV's to the attention of the Commissioners on two previous occasions and nothing is being done. The comments of the applicant reveal the true intent of the change which is to provide permanent housing in RVs for workers in Chatham County:*

*"...approving the text amendment would offer equal and fair opportunity for residents to fill a diverse need to host the growing platform of workers operating in and close to Chatham County. In other words, we would be providing an imperative service to companies investing in our county. "*

*I fully understand the expanding housing needs in Chatham County, but permitting permanent housing in RV's is not the answer. Rather the county should enforce the ordinances already in place and end the current abuse occurring in existing RV "campgrounds".*

*The Chair closed the hearing.*

*\*\*\*Vice Chair Dasher asked to revisit this agenda item later in the meeting at the end of the hearing for item #23-4929.*

**This Agenda Item was referred to the Planning Board.**

### [23-4925](#)

A legislative public hearing requested by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to consider amendments to the Chatham County Subdivision Regulations; amend Sections 4 Types of Subdivisions; 5.2 Major Subdivisions; and 5.3 Minor Subdivisions.

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

*Planner Hunter Glenn reviewed the specifics of the request. Ask Hunter for his notes.*

*Commissioner Kenlan asked what the text amendment was from last year. Mr. Glenn said it was to remove language that said you had to go through the major subdivision process for extending a right of way and it was changed to go through the minor subdivision process. Tonight some of the changes proposed are clarifying what a minor subdivision is.*

*Mr. Glenn residential developers have been unable to stay within agreed time frames, largely due to the pandemic. A common issue is the turnaround time on engineering work, state agency approvals, and other county department approvals. This would allow developers two years to bring their construction plans. The goal of the amendments is to limit the number of times that planning staff and the developers have to come back before the Board for extension requests. This doesn't change the process of how the approvals work for the major subdivision process.*

*Commissioner Kenlan asked if this is something other county planning departments have extended. Mr. Glenn said he could look into it, but Chatham already has a shorter time frame than other counties. It varies from county to county because counties have their own ordinances. Commissioner Kenlan wants to make sure it is reasonable, and*



she would be interested in how other counties do this. Mr. Glenn typically looks at surrounding counties and it is typically one to four years or no limit at all.

Commissioner Delany asked for clarification as to whether some counties do not have a time limit. Planning Director Jason Sullivan said other jurisdictions do not have a time limit. However, leaving it open-ended can be problematic. He believes 100% of their major subdivision applications are having issues with permitting. Permitting and approvals from multiple agencies is very problematic.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

No one signed up to speak in person and the Clerk will forward written comments received to the Board and staff tomorrow.

The Chair closed the public hearing.

**This Agenda Item was referred to the Planning Board.**

### [23-4926](#)

A legislative public hearing requested by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to consider amendments to the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance; specifically, Sections 7.2 Definitions and 10.13 Table of Permitted Uses to make changes to in-home childcare regulations.

**Attachments:** [More information from the Planning department website](#)  
[Redline Zoning 2.1.1](#)

Planner Hunter Glenn reviewed the specifics of the request. The staff is proposing two new definitions. One updated definition is for "childcare". Staff is using the state's definition. A second update is the definition of "in-home childcare". This is the definition used by The Partnership for Children and also is in the state statute.

Commissioner Kenlan asked if there is a reason they are reducing the number. Mr. Glenn said the state statutes changed and the number has lowered from fifteen to nine. Commissioner Kenlan asked if Chatham could have a number higher than the state. Mr. Glenn said Chatham could not. Vice Chair Dasher appreciates staff looking into this.

Franklin Gomez Flores asked if that number is independent of how many supervisors they have at a time. Mr. Glenn said other county departments would regulate how many teachers and operators are in the home. Commissioner Gomez Flores asked if this is consistent with what they currently have. Mr. Glenn said this is just changing the process of getting approved for a childcare center. Chair Howard said the license will say what is required for operation.

The Chair opened the hearing.

No one signed up to speak.

The Chair closed the hearing.

**This Agenda Item was referred to the Planning Board.**

### [23-4929](#)

A quasi-judicial public hearing requested by the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department for a Special Use Permit for new

county-owned park on Parcel 5809, located at 994 Pea Ridge Rd, Cape Fear Township.

**Attachments:** [More information from the Planning department website](#)  
[Parkers Ridge Joint Public](#)

*The Chair administered the oath to all individuals wishing to speak on the item and opened the public hearing.*

*Planning Director Jason Sullivan reviewed the specifics of the request. (Presentation attached)*

*Mr. Sullivan showed the map for Parker's Ridge Park in Moncure. The County Zoning Ordinance requires a special use permit (SUP) for park facilities. The property is currently zoned R1-Residential. There are blue line water features on the site and buffers will be part of the development. There is a little bit of flood plain on the property. The property is in the WS4 Protected Area Watershed and a portion is in the River Corridor Special Area. There are no issues with either of those watersheds.*

*Mr. Sullivan said the County purchased this property in 2011 for the purpose of building a County park. Mr. Sullivan reviewed the five findings of fact. The applicant will be working on an updated traffic impact analysis due to VinFast and the transportation changes resulting from the company locating to Chatham County. The Appearance Commission did review the site plan in July and the commissioner recommended approval of the application.*

*Mr. Sullivan stated the application has been reviewed at the pre-application level and the Technical Review Committee level by County departments. From those meetings there have been no issues outside of the regular permitting that would apply to the site. Mr. Sullivan continued that there is a need for parks in the county. There is an entire chapter in Plan Chatham that relates to parks and recreation. County water is available and will serve the site and all of the County and State regulatory permitting will apply to the property.*

*Mr. Sullivan said he had no other comments and pulled up the site plan.*

*Commissioner Kenlan asked what the acreage is for the property. Mr. Sullivan said 138 acres. He reviewed the site plan.*

*Chair Howard asked to see the entrances and egress. Mr. Sullivan showed the access would be just off Pea Ridge Road.*

*Landscape Architect Stephen Faber gave a presentation to the Board. (presentation attached) Mr. Faber said the property has been farmed for over seventy years and that is fading out. In 2011 it was sold to Chatham County and then adopted by the Board of Commissioners in 2019. The goal for the property is recreation and green space. There are some historical features on the site. The site has been logged over the years so there is old growth and new growth. He reviewed the blue line streams and watersheds.*

*Mr. Faber continued by showing some decommissioned structures on the property. The applicants did hold a community meeting. He reviewed the different features planned for the park including natural trails. They looked at other park facilities within twenty miles of the property. Mr. Faber reviewed the different animals and flora and fauna found on the site. There will be space reserved for a community center.*

*Mr. Faber said they are working on a traffic impact analysis. They hope to break ground next year.*

*Commissioner Kenlan appreciated seeing the different elements of the park and community feedback.*

*Chair Howard said she was surprised there were no pickleball courts. Mr. Faber said pickleball was more of an average activity based on community input. There will be some tennis courts and they hope to make those multiuse so folks can play pickleball. He does not see that being an issue.*

*Vice Chair Dasher asked if there was any signage for the future park. Mr. Faber said not at this time. Vice Chair Dasher asked if it was a possibility. Mr. Faber said they can certainly talk about it.*

*Chair Howard asked the Clerk if anyone signed up to speak. Ms. Ray said no one signed up to speak on this agenda item.*

*Chair Howard recognized a resident wishing to speak. Resident Diana Hales wants to know if there will be a lot of pickleball courts. She hears all the time that Chatham has very limited resources for pickleball. She has friends traveling to tournaments all over the South because communities are making their courts a destination. It is an ongoing need. People will travel far and wide to play. She is very excited about the way the plan is coming together.*

*Mr. Faber said he misspoke and there will be space dedicated to pickleball courts.*

*The Chair closed the hearing.*

*\*\*\*Vice Chair Dasher asked to go back to agenda item #23-4927. It was his understanding that the RV ordinance that the Board passed a couple of years ago did not apply to RV parks but instead to private lots using an RV for full-time residence. Mr. Sullivan said that was a clarification about someone having an RV on personal property outside of an RV park. The county has several RV parks, particularly in the Moncure area. Several of them have been there for quite many years and pre-date the County even having rules in place.*

*Mr. Sullivan said the owners of some of the newer ones over the past ten or fifteen years are supposed to be moving those RVs. The owner is supposed to keep a log. Zoning Administrator Angela Plummer always added a stipulation to those that were conditional use permits about them maintaining a log so that staff can confirm those lots are not being used for full-time residences. Vice Chair Dasher asked what would make it a permanent residence. Mr. Sullivan said he did not remember what the specific condition is, but staff can follow up on that.*

**This Agenda Item was referred to the Planning Board.**

## **BOARD PRIORITIES**

[23-4936](#)

Receive presentation on FY2024 budget survey feedback and discuss potential changes to budget processes for FY2025.

**Attachments:** [FY 2024 Budget Survey and Process Review presentation](#)  
[FY24 Budget Survey Results 9-18-23](#)  
[FY24 Budget Survey Results 9-18-23](#)

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

*County Manager Dan LaMontagne asked the Board to give consensus on the substantive changes to the current budget process. He said the staff would like to see consensus about asking outside county departments to present at the retreat on their budget requests.*

*Vice Chair Dasher said the Board should devote one morning of the retreat to all the agencies under the County's budget process that are not under the County Manager's oversight. He does not feel there should be a morning for each entity. They are invited at the request of a commissioner. If they are not requested by the Board, staff does not invite that agency. Chair Howard agreed.*

*Commissioner Delaney said he thinks those outside departments should all be invited each year, and they have the option to decline. Mr. LaMontagne said staff will get a better feel for what they will need as staff continues through the budget year. Chair Howard said it is cumbersome to invite people who do not have any need to come.*

*Vice Chair Dasher said if a commissioner feels some need to have some clarification around an expansion request they can request to hear from that department. Commissioner Kenlan agreed. Having the schools present every year makes sense but she wants to be careful with how the Board goes about the budget process with the systems that are already in place.*

*Commissioner Gomez Flores said he would like to see the expansion requests to better discern if there is a need to hear from one of these departments. Mr. LaMontagne said this is specific to those outside departments so that the process is uniform for all of them.*

*Mr. Butts said the Clerk shared with him another way to think of the agencies the Board may want to request to hear from at the retreat. The departments or agencies in question are the agencies that are treated just like any other county department but ones that are not under the county manager's control. They are agencies that go through the County's budget process but are overseen by an elected official or a state agency. This is not meant to include the nonprofits and outside agencies who go through the nonprofit process to receive funding from the Board.*

*Commissioner Delaney said the School of Government facilitated an activity at the January Retreat. He asked how the staff plans for that part. Mr. LaMontagne said staff would not do that again as it was more confusing than beneficial. The retreat is a time to go over goals, trends, and expectations, and to hear from outside agencies.*

*Vice Chair Dasher said it would be helpful for him to be prepared to talk about commissioners' priorities and not commissioner-centered goals. He wants to know what individual commissioners want to get done. He asked if the Board could have a shared document the members could add to so that leading up to the retreat, they could see what commissioners are thinking.*

*Commissioner Gomez Flores asked if there is still any appetite for having a dashboard for these types of things. Assistant County Manager Bryan Thompson said staff can*

*produce a list of things the Board has requested to hear back about at the retreat and provide it at the wrap of the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) process prior to the retreat.*

*Commissioner Delaney said he found the facilitation portion of the retreat very helpful. He would like to separate the process of strategic planning and setting priorities from the budget. Vice Chair Dasher said his priorities are his individual, but he wants to work on them collectively. It is hard to have big overarching strategies and goals if commissioners are not aware of what each member wants individually. Commissioner Kenlan said she appreciated what Mr. LaMontagne and Vice Chair Dasher said about not relying on the retreat to hash out a lot of big things that are vague. Mr. Butts said he hears a common theme of needing additional information and communicating that information as timely as possible.*

*Commissioner Kenlan and Chair Howard said they do not have an interest in getting all expansion requests. Vice Chair Dasher said if a commissioner wants a deeper level of detail for a department, they can request it. Mr. Thompson said the timing would be affected by changing the current process. He asked if the commissioners want the information early knowing it may change significantly or have it later when it is more refined. Mr. LaMontagne reviewed the different levels of review for budget requests. Vice Chair Dasher said it is a super complicated process, but it is not secretive. Any of that information is available to us upon request.*

*Mr. Butts said historically, commissioners have not submitted expansion requests individually. Any expansion request should come from a majority of the Board. Commissioner Delaney said if the commissioners have a project and they want to see a dollar amount, the Board will have conversations to get a majority of the Board's consensus on the policy and give budget direction to staff. Mr. LaMontagne said a good example of that was the trail coordinator position. If commissioners can submit requests as individuals, staff will bump that request to the highest priority when the entire Board has not given staff direction that the request should be a priority. Commissioner Kenlan said if a commissioner is interested in moving forward with something and the commissioners need additional information one way to work through that is to have conversations with other Board members individually and with the Chair. The Board does not necessarily have to vote on an issue to direct staff to research it but it needs to be clear it is not just a request from one commissioner. Chair Howard said the best way to do that is at a Board meeting to get a consensus of the Board. Raise the question/issue, see if there is consensus, and then direct staff. Vice Chair Dasher said if a commissioner is bringing consensus to a budget retreat to look into an issue, they are probably not going to get it that year.*

*Commissioner Delaney asked if the Board should have structured time between now and the January retreat to help give staff better direction leading up to the retreat. Mr. Butts said the staff's ultimate goal at the retreat is to give the Board information to proceed with setting goals and priorities and then staff can go back and share that with the departments to make their requests align with the Board's vision. Mr. LaMontagne said staff can have a work session for the commissioners to talk about their priorities.*

*Chair Howard said she is not interested in a brainstorming session to come up with new things to do that are not related to the work we are already doing. The Board is working on current challenges in Chatham County. She does not think it is beneficial for the Board to think of brainstorming all the new and exciting things it could be doing that are not in the context of the Board's current goals and priorities, including the goals of Plan Chatham. Commissioner Delaney asked why it could not be both. Chair*

Howard said she is stating she is not personally interested in that.

Commissioner Delaney said newness in the way to do things that have been done differently is often an important way of getting them done better. If there are parts of Plan Chatham that have been stalled for a number of years there may need to be some new thinking about it. He does not think it is outside of that context. Chair Howard said Plan Chatham does not have that level of specificity. Commissioner Kenlan said maybe brainstorming was not quite the word. All commissioners are interested in getting these things done and tackling the problems. She thinks Chair Howard may mean to say that each Board member focuses on everything they can personally do to inform themselves on an issue so if they do have a new aspect of how they would like to address a problem they can share it with the Board. Chair Howard said that is completely in line with here thinking but they cannot bring these new ideas in with no framework The Board must have a framework. She believes priorities build upon each other. Commissioner Kenlan said Board members need to make sure they ask questions individually and learning as much as they can.

Vice Chair Dasher said they often mix up goals and priorities. Priorities are things he wants to get done, not a goal to fix affordable housing. Their job is to make policy and they get stuck in a goal-setting mode instead of policy making mode. Chair Howard said a good example of this working well was the early conversations about affordable housing and we didn't have a policy analyst. When we started hearing from the policy analyst, we were able to make policy changes that support our goals and the things we have set out to accomplish. She thinks it must start with the input of staff.

Mr. LaMontagne said by statute he must present a balanced budget to the Board. He presents his recommended budget to the Board, and it becomes the Board's budget after that presentation. The Board can make changes to the recommended budget as it sees fit. Commissioner Kenlan clarified that when Mr. LaMontagne says, "it becomes your budget" and then staff takes direction from the Board he means taking direction from at least three commissioners. Mr. LaMontagne said yes that the direction to staff must be directed by a majority of the Board.

Commissioner Delaney said he wants to stay at the 50,000-foot altitude. He would like to look for a way for the Board to have more time after the one-on-ones to make changes to the recommended budget. Vice Chair Dasher said a lot of these conversations can happen over coffee or a phone call with fellow Board members.

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

Clerk Lindsay Ray said she has started the National Association of Counties (NACo) twelve week High Performance Leadership program and there are three other North Carolina counties participating.

Mr. Ray said the Conference Center staff has to reset the meeting room after the Board's meeting ends and she would appreciate everyone cleaning their spaces and exit the meeting room as promptly as possible.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Assistant County Manager Bryan Thompson and County Manager Dan LaMontagne met with Governor Cooper when he delivered school supplies at Moncure School.

Mr. LaMontagne attended Webb Squared's round table event. They are making good

*progress on the hub.*

*He reminded the Board on September 21st the Chatham County Fair will hold the opening ceremony.*

*He reminded the Board that Chatham County Schools' central services building ribbon cutting is September 28th.*

*Tomorrow Mr. LaMontagne will attend the United Way kickoff.*

*Staff is still waiting for the GREAT grant contract from the Department of Information Technology.*

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

*Commissioner Delaney said he enjoyed the NC Association of County Commissioners conference. His focus was on affordable housing and working together as a Board. He and the County Manager will connect to discuss recommendations from the Climate Change Advisory Committee and next steps.*

*Commissioner Gomez Flores there was a State Perinatal presentation that provides guidance for local governments to further the support for mothers and babies. He was the only male in the room at the presentation. The Chatham Hospital board is looking across the state at how we can support the local hospital. He will attend the Board of Health meeting next Monday.*

*Vice Chair Dasher had nothing to report.*

*Commissioner Kenlan attended the three-day affordable housing retreat. Affordable Housing and Community Development Officer Leah Dyson brought in outside groups. It was an opportunity to see how dedicated people are as well as how to manage money and where it is going. This is a national crisis. She will be attending the affordable housing seminar on Oct 6th called Developing Strategies. She also thought the NCACC conference was great. She attended every day and was one of the first people there. The session on the tax code was her favorite session.*

*Chair Howard attended the cyber security session at the NCACC conference. This is her second-year co-chairing the legislative goals committee. The Governors Crime Commission is doing the first strategic plan and how it is going to use those funds for the grant applications coming next year. She will be attending the Chatham County Fair and United Way ribbon cutting. She thanked the staff for all their expertise and high level of work.*

*Clerk Lindsay Ray thanked everyone who donated to the Stuff the Bus service project led by the NC Association of County Clerks.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Aye:** 5 - Vice Chair Dasher, Commissioner Delaney, Chair Howard, Commissioner Kenlan and Commissioner Gomez Flores