



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Friday, March 16, 2018

8:30 AM

Agriculture and Conference Center

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hales welcomed invited guest including Senator Valarie Foushee, Representative Robert Reives, representatives from Chatham County, the Town of Pittsboro, the Town of Siler City, the Town of Goldston, Chatham County Schools, Central Carolina Community College and the Chatham Economic Development Corporation.

Present: 3 - Commissioner Jim Crawford, Chair Diana Hales and Vice Chair Mike Dasher

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Walter Petty and Commissioner Karen Howard

BOARD PRIORITIES

[18-2546](#)

Review Issues with State Legislators

Attachments: [2018 Chatham Legislative Issues with Attachments](#)
[CCS Legislative Issues](#)

County Manager Renee Paschal, Assistant County Manager Dan LaMontagne and Community Relations Director Debra Henzey reviewed some issues facing Chatham County. A list of issues is attached.

Chatham County Superintendent Dr. Derrick Jordan reviewed the flexibility for the school-year calendar. All of the educators in the district have expressed their concern with administering exams after the Christmas break. Chatham County Schools also has students dually enrolled at the community college, which operates on a fall and spring semester. Dr. Jordan believes they could expand higher learning opportunities if they had flexibility with the calendar. Central Carolina Community College Provost Mark Hall stated the current calendar, which won't allow schools to begin until after August 25th, makes no educational sense. Dr. Jordan stated inclement weather can aggravate the exam schedule.

Dr. Jordan continued with the 2018 Legislative Priorities of Chatham County Schools. A list of priorities is attached.

Chair Hales opened the meeting up for discussion.

Dr. Jordan raised the issue of the accountability model. They would like to give more credence to growth rather than proficiency.

Commissioner Crawford stated he had questions about the Jordan Lake Rules. Is there any hope that a political coalition could be formed upstream and that this could be discussed in the current legislature. Sen. Foushee said it is not eligible for the short session. Rep. Reives doesn't think Durham and Wake counties are against it.

He doesn't know that he knows anyone in the present leadership that finds this issue important. Sen. Foushee said this meeting needs to happen again before the 2019 session.

Sen. Foushee stated they need support for school construction funding to deal with the decrease in class size.

Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry said as far as the Jordan Lake Rules, maybe local government can step in and supply the first bit of leverage. She has spoken with upstream mayors. One thing that is encouraging is state DEQ funding has allowed the state to oversee the permitting process. Continued funding for DEQ is critical. She would like Commissioner Crawford to work with her to get meetings with upstream mayors and water quality stakeholders. Sen. Foushee said not to pull but push, the mayors need to push the legislators in their districts.

Siler City Mayor John Grimes asked if there is any serious conversation in the legislature about the tier system. Ms. Henzey stated there was a legislative study committee but nothing has been acted upon. Chair Hales stated there may also be opportunity with the Triangle J Council of Governments. Rep. Reives stated the push has got to come from the mayors and other local officials. Mayor Grimes said with only thirteen municipalities in the same tier situation there will not be much of a push. Commissioner Crawford stated a push from a Republican mayor could make an impact. Rep. Reives said it is not a party issue. Mayors and other local officials should be concerned that the legislature continues to take away local government control.

Register of Deeds Lunday Riggsbee thanked Sen. Foushee and Rep. Reives and pointed out how lucky we are to have them representing Chatham County.

Rep. Reives thanked County Manager Renee Paschal, Siler City Town Manager Bryan Thompson, and EDC President Kyle Touchstone for the work they did on the Toyota project.

ADJOURNMENT