



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Thursday, May 30, 2019

9:00 AM

Agriculture and Conference Center

Budget Work Session

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dasher welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Present: 5 - Commissioner Mike Dasher, Vice Chair Diana Hales, Commissioner Jim Crawford, Chair Karen Howard and Commissioner Andy Wilkie

BOARD PRIORITIES

[19-3104](#)

Receive request from the Town of Siler City for a Fire District tax increase.

Mr. Scott Murphy, the Fire Chief for Siler City, reviewed the history of the fire district.

Mr. Murphy explained that the 3 cent increase by the city would provide for 3 drivers, enabling 24-hour a day coverage. With the 3 cents from the County, they would be able to add a deputy chief. The deputy chief would be sent to investigation school. They believe the additional tax would amount to a \$25-\$50 increase per homeowner.

Vice Chair Hales asked Mr. Murphy to confirm that they would be adding 4 personnel total. Mr. Murphy stated that was correct.

Siler City Town Manager Bryan Thompson said he likes to think there is a return on investment. They believe the additional funds will allow them to make the upgrades that will improve the ISO rating which will, in turn, lower the homeowner's fire insurance.

Vice Chair Hales asked if the three cents would be dedicated to fire or if it would go to general fund. Mr. Thompson responded that it goes to the general fund but is then dedicated to the fire district.

Commissioner Crawford asked if anyone had voiced opposition to the three cent increase. Mr. Thompson said that no one had but the public hearing is on June 17th. Mr. Murphy informed the Board that the volunteers are actually the ones driving the request for paid staff.

Commissioner Crawford stated Siler City has the largest population in the county and also the most vulnerable people. This would also help when the megasite is occupied.

Commissioner Wilkie asked if Mountaire will add to Siler City the tax base. Mr. Thompson said that Mountaire has a five-year tax incentive.

Vice Chair Hales stated it would be a good idea to explain the tax increase at the Siler City public hearing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crawford, seconded by Commissioner Howard, that the Request for a Fire District Tax Increase of three cents be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford, Chair Howard and Commissioner Wilkie

[19-3105](#)

Discussion

The Board had no further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Dasher, Vice Chair Hales, Commissioner Crawford, Chair Howard and Commissioner Wilkie