

Summary of the Chatham County Local Government Meetings February-May 2018

The Chatham County Unit of the League of Women Voters is requesting volunteers to participate in the Observer Corps Program for 2018. This activity is to communicate to all members more about what is going on in our county, and how the local government meetings address important issues that affect all of us. Detailed Information regarding this program can be obtained by contacting Pat McDaniels at mcda4034@bellsouth.net.

*Please contact respective Boards to confirm day and time for future meetings.

To sign up for electronic notification of meetings: <http://www.chathamnc.org/about-us/sign-up-for-e-notifier>

Chatham County Board of Elections

Meeting March 20

Voting machines were tested by the (previous) Board members, changes were made to the facilities use contract to be presented to remote voting sites; details of the double wide trailer used for early voting were discussed and approved; training for poll workers was scheduled. After the unaffiliated members of the new State Board of Elections were finalized, the new County Boards were to be named. The (old) Board also discussed the lack of a Republican Primary ballot since there were no contested Republican races.

Meeting April 5

Organizational meeting for new Board (Laurie Heise--Chair, Charles Ramos—Vice Chair, Sue Clark, Amy Robena).

1. The State Board of Elections was still figuring out how to run four-person Boards: it remained unclear how to make decisions if the votes are not unanimous: some votes, such as early voting hours and absentee ballot approval, are required to be unanimous by law. Memos on various issues requiring resolution were to be posted on the NC Board of Elections web site under "News": however, the most recent notice of rulemaking is dated May 26, 2017.
2. In response to a question about new voting machines, the Board stated that money has been allocated but acceptable machines have not been certified by the NC Board of Elections: certifying acceptable machines will be a priority over the next year.
3. There will be a permanent early voting site for the 2020 election in the new Health Sciences Building on Rt. 15-501.
4. Each Board member planned to drop in at each early voting site during the primary.

Meeting May 18

CANVASS meeting at which the records kept at each precinct were reviewed and certified by the Board, prior to being sent to the NC Board of Elections.

Publicizing the early voting sites for the general election was discussed: LWVODC agreed to try to add early voting site information to VOTE411.org through discussion at the LWVUS Convention.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting is Tuesday August 21, 2018 at 5:30 pm at the Board of Elections office, [984 Thompson Street, Pittsboro](#)

Chatham County Board of Commissioners:

Meeting February 19:

1. The County received 5 replies from private IT companies to expand broadband serve. Currently state law prohibits any town or county from owning their own broadband utility. The proposals are under review with recommendations forthcoming.

2. In response to the Climate Change Action Plan, 3 priorities were selected: 1.) promoting renewable energy, 2.) preservation of agriculture and woodlands and 3.) encourage mixed use development and expand public transit.
3. It was proposed that CountyBOE fund 2 years free tuition to students who are part of the CCCC's Career and College Promise Program. It was referred to the County Manager to look into numbers to create a budget.
4. An amended noise ordinance was unanimously passed. Refer to County website for specific parameters.
5. Revisions to Chatham County Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances referred to Planning Board.
6. Planning Dept. was directed by BOC to contact owners of 35 vacant properties in the western part of the county to see if they may need more flexibility regarding their rezoning.

Meetings March 19/April 16:

1. Twenty-seven Hispanic families will lose their homes because the mobile home court property where they live was purchased by Mountaire as part of their new chicken processing operation in Siler City. Request for \$10,000 from Hispanic Liaison for the Johnson Mobile Home Park residents being displaced was approved at the April meeting.
2. Also discussed was the ICE raid that occurred the week before the commissioners' meeting. 3 individuals from Chatham County were taken along with 22 others from the Triangle area and put in detention for illegally being in the US. The 3 from Chatham county have 3 wives and 7 American children. Two of the men are from Guatemala and 1 from El Salvador. They have been in the area about 15 years with no prior arrests. A letter of support for two detained Chatham County residents was approved at the April meeting.
3. **June 18, 6 p.m. Public Hearing on system development fee study for water facilities for the county.** This is a one-time fee for new development/growth (not for improvements/maintenance). The population is expected to double in Chatham County by 2027. This is a \$77 million project that is not related to Chatham Park (which is working with the town of Pittsboro, not the county, regarding infrastructure).
4. Request for \$13,000 for emergency housing of the homeless in Chatham County. Chatham county does not have a homeless shelter. There are non-profit agencies in Chatham county that help the homeless. The nearest facility is in Burlington. Homelessness in Chatham county is a growing problem. Right now churches and non-profits are the only resources for these people. The board approved to move forward with the grant request. In April voted to allow the County Manager to finalize a contract to participate in Central Piedmont Community Action's Coordinated Assessment Plan, which maintains a Homeless Management Information Systems Database that assists participating agencies to assess whether an individual needs rapid rehousing services.
5. Ranking of transportation projects in Chatham County. In April, the BOC endorsed a ranked list of Chatham County transportation projects to formulate local input points for the Triangle Area Planning Organization (TARPO). The approved list is available as an attachment to the April 2018 BOC minutes.
6. The BOC unanimously passed motions to set up a task force of 9 members to consider the expansion of BOC made up of Chatham residents to explore all options regarding potentially new County Commissioner districts and methods of their election, which would include but not be limited to district only voting; at large representation; a continuation of the current method; and/or some combination thereof. Selections should emphasize geographic and political diversity. The task force will be composed of 3 Democrats, 3 Republicans, 3 Unaffiliated Chatham registered voters using the county application process, to be selected by the full Board, in consultation with NC Association of County Commissioners.
7. In April, the BOC voted to amend Chatham County Zoning Ordinances: development projects must be at least 10 acres in size to trigger an Environmental Impact Statement; the area of a riparian buffer counts toward lot size even if the buffer is held as common area; new expedited review classification created for certain minor subdivisions; certain standards for subdivision plats clarified; if BOC approves a rezoning contrary to the Comprehensive Plan, BOC must state reasons why and Comprehensive Plan is automatically amended; "agritourist" was defined in relation to the Bona Fide Farm Exemption.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday June 18, 2018 at 6:00pm at the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro.

Chatham County Board of Education Nothing to report at this time.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday June 11, 2018 at 5:00pm at the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, which encourages informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy.
www.lwvdc.org

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