

APPROVED 9/5/23

**MINUTES  
ORANGE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BUDGET AND CIP PUBLIC HEARING AND WORK SESSION  
JUNE 1, 2023  
7:00 p.m.**

The Orange County Board of Commissioners met for a Business Meeting on Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Whitted Human Services Center in Hillsborough, NC.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chair Jamezetta Bedford, Vice Chair Earl Vice-Chair McKee, and Commissioners Amy Fowler, Sally Greene, Jean Hamilton (arrived at 7:20 p.m.), and Phyllis Portie-Ascott

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Commissioner Anna Richards

**COUNTY ATTORNEYS PRESENT:** John Roberts

**COUNTY STAFF PRESENT:** County Manager Bonnie Hammersley, Deputy County Manager Travis Myren, and Clerk to the Board Laura Jensen. (All other staff members will be identified appropriately below)

Chair Bedford called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. All commissioners were present, except for Commissioners Richards and Hamilton.

### 1. Opening Remarks

Chair Bedford dispensed with reading the public charge. She explained how the public hearing would be conducted.

### 2. Presentation of the County's Manager's Recommended FY 2023-24 Budget

County Manager Bonnie Hammersley made the following presentation:

Slide #1



Each commissioner described the budget amendments that they are proposing.

## Slide #2

## FY2023-24 RECOMMENDED BUDGET OPERATING AMENDMENTS

Amendment #	Sponsor	Budget Page	Department	Amendment	Revenue	Expense	General Fund Total
OPER-001	Bedford	191	Library Non-Departmental	Add funding to Town of Chapel Hill Library	\$0	\$85,000	\$85,000
OPER-002	Bedford	67	Asset Management Services	Utilize County Capital Reserve to perform Efland Cheeks Community Center Feasibility Study	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0
OPER-003	Bedford	165	Housing Dept.	Provide additional funding for IFC's Permanent Supportive Housing program. Supported by .07 cent tax increase	\$158,059	\$150,000	(\$8,059)



Bonnie Hammersley read the amendments proposed by Commissioners Richards and Hamilton.

## Slide #3

## FY2023-24 RECOMMENDED BUDGET OPERATING AMENDMENTS

Amendment #	Sponsor	Budget Page	Department	Amendment	Revenue	Expense	General Fund Total
OPER-004	Richards	114	CJRD	Create OC Build Pilot Program, conditional on receiving offsetting revenue from ABC Board (\$70k) and ToCH Police Dept. (\$20k)	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$0
OPER-005	Hamilton	224	Sportsplex	Have Sportsplex pay back 20% of Pandemic recovery funding to GF.	\$158,000	\$0	(\$158,000)
OPER-005a	Hamilton	224	Sportsplex	Reduce Tax Rate by .07	(\$158,059)	\$0	\$158,059
OPER-006	Hamilton	224	Visitors Bureau	Have Visitors Bureau pay back 20% of Pandemic recovery funding to GF.	\$112,000	\$0	(\$112,000)



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## FY2023-24 RECOMMENDED BUDGET OPERATING AMENDMENTS

Amendment #	Sponsor	Budget Page	Department	Amendment	Revenue	Expense	General Fund Total
OPER-006a	Hamilton	224	Visitors Bureau	Reduce Tax Rate by .05	(\$112,890)	\$0	(\$112,890)
OPER-007	Hamilton	64	Article 46	Cut \$20,000 in Article 46 funding for Durham Tech Innovation Hub, reallocated to County Economic Development pool.			
OPER-008	Fowler	299	Policies	Return Fund Balance Policy to 2017 version (attached) to be discussed in Fall.			
OPER-009	Bedford	N/A	Policies	Amend the Outside Agency Funding Policy (attached) to remove funding target			



Travis Myren reviewed the proposed staff amendments.

Slide #5

## FY2023-24 RECOMMENDED BUDGET OPERATING AMENDMENTS

Amendment #	Sponsor	Budget Page	Department	Amendment	Revenue	Expense	General Fund Total
OPER-010	Staff	212	DSS	Add 50% offsetting revenue for new DSS Community Technician FTEs.	\$37,490	\$0	(\$37,490)
OPER-011	Staff	113	Courts	Add One-Time County Capital to offset badge readers/security upgrades	\$20,000	\$0	(\$20,000)
OPER-012	Staff	189	Human Services Non-Departmental	Reduce Funding to Social Justice Reserve Fund to balance budget	\$0	(\$20,400)	(\$20,400)
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>\$310,600</b>	<b>\$310,600</b>	<b>\$0</b>



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## FY2023-24 RECOMMENDED BUDGET CIP AMENDMENTS

Amendment #	Sponsor	Budget Page	Department	Amendment	Revenue	Expense
CIP-001	Bedford	114	School Capital	Change Policy for allocation of Article 46 proceeds to school district by excluding Charter Students in formula. This provides CHCCS an additional \$75,549 in funding for technology capital expenses, and reduces OCS's funding by the same amount.	\$0	\$0



Bonnie Hammersley reviewed the budget calendar.

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## FY2023-24 RECOMMENDED BUDGET BUDGET CALENDAR

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS	DATE
Budget and Capital Investment Plan (CIP)	May 9 – & June 1
BUDGET WORK SESSION SCHEDULE	DATE
K-12 Schools and Outside Agencies	May 11
Durham Tech, Fire District, Public Safety and Human Services	May 18
Support Services, General Government and Community Services	May 23
Budget Amendments and Resolution of Intent to Adopt	June 8
BOCC BUDGET ADOPTION	DATE
FY2022-23 Operating and CIP Budget Adoption	June 20



Slide #8

## FY2023-24 RECOMMENDED BUDGET MISSION STATEMENT

Orange County exists to provide governmental services needed by our  
Residents or mandated by the State of North Carolina.

To provide these quality services efficiently, we must;

- Serve the Residents of Orange County – Our Residents Come First;
- Depend on the energy, skills, and dedication of all our employees and volunteers;
- Treat all our Residents and Employees with fairness, respect, and understanding.

*Orange County Residents Come First*



### 3. Public Comments

The board held a public hearing to receive comments on the FY24 recommended budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Greene and seconded by Commissioner Fowler to open the public hearing.

#### **VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Patrick Mitchell, the music teacher at River Park Elementary School, said he is the robotics teacher for Team 587. He said that he has seen an increase in the number of children at River Park Elementary interested in STEAM and joining the robotics team. He said there are growing interests but those that do not have transportation after school find it difficult to impossible and the other problem is that there are not enough seats in the program to fit all the interest. He asked the Board to consider funding a full-time robotics teacher in the FY24 budget. He said it would help all children participate and significantly improve their overall education.

*Commissioner Hamilton arrived at 7:20 p.m.*

Erick Castro is a student and on the River Park Elementary afterschool robotics team. He asked the Board to fund a STEM teacher at River Park so his friends could have an opportunity to participate in the team.

Rosalia Panek is the captain of a robotics team and student at River Park. She said the involvement in robotics allows children to be challenged to think of a problem in the world and try to solve it. She said it also brings students together and helps them find more people interested in the same things as them. She said that hiring a STEM teacher at River Park would allow more students the chance to explore STEM and encourage more creativity.

Bill Rohe said he is an Orange County citizen and a former professor at UNC Chapel Hill where he studied the impacts of affordable housing. He said is a regular volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. He thanked the Board for past support of affordable housing and urged the Board for future support of affordable housing. He acknowledged that there is never enough funding for affordable housing. He said the timeline in the CIP of \$15 million over ten years would be improved if it was bumped up to \$20 million over ten years. He said in the operating budget that he was happy to see the funding for the home preservation program. He said for a minor amount of funding, they can keep people in their homes.

Chief Lehew of the Town of Chapel Hill Police Department and Sarah Belcher said they were there to support OC Build and the Mobile Crisis Team Pilot. Chief Lehew asked the Board to support Commissioner Richards' amendment for OC Build. She said that this provides intervention exactly when it is most needed in their lives. She said that the program has been successful in neighboring Durham County for several years. Sarah Belcher said the Mobile Crisis Team includes a crisis counselor, a community paramedic, and a peer support specialist that would respond to 911 behavioral health calls. She said that funding for the position is in the Chapel Hill Manager's budget. She said that a fourth clinical position would work in the 911 response center. She said this will allow trained individuals to respond to trauma, psychiatric emergencies, and police can deal with more emergent calls. She said that this year is the 50<sup>th</sup> year that the Chapel Hill Police Department has had a crisis response unit. She said they truly understand the tremendous impact and look forward to seeing this program implemented.

Jennifer Panek said she is a parent of students at River Park Elementary and Orange High School. She said that learning STEM skills is invaluable to a student's long-term success. She said that they learn cooperative activities and these things are critical for students to grow. She said that having a dedicated specials teacher for STEAM would free up the guidance counselors and media specialists from having to fulfill these roles. She said the counselors are critical these days and there are problems that students need to be addressed. She said that students that would like to participate but they cannot. She said that her daughter could not be on the team when she had to ride the bus due to transportation. She said providing opportunities is important whether they ride the bus or not. She said that those that are needed in the future for STEM work, are usually those who are required to ride the bus now.

Woodrena Baker-Hammell, Chief Public Defender for Orange County, said she was there to support the OC Build. She said she saw it at work in Durham County with her previous clients. She said there are more kids involved in juvenile court and they need more resources. She said she still is involved in juvenile court because she believes if they help them when they are young, they won't be on her caseload when they are older. She said their role models were people involved in the court system. She said some have just stopped caring about themselves. She said this project teaches the youth to care about themselves and care about their future. She said they can have a future that does not involve being in gangs. She asked the Board to support Project Build because it is needed in the community.

Deborah Smith introduced her grandson, Demarcus Smith. She said he lost his father when he was four years old. She said that her husband then fell ill, and she had to take care of him. She said at 15, Demarcus was out of school and at 16, he was in the court system. She said that she was determined that she would not lose her grandson to the court system. She said that she met Bishop Glover and that she thanks the Lord for that. She said through Fathers on the Move, she learned how to speak to her grandson, and her grandson found benefits through the program. She is grateful for the program. She said he is now 24 years old and is still with that group. She said he is incredibly smart and that the lack of a mentor in his life caused him to get into trouble.

Demarcus Smith said he was matched with Fathers on the Move by the court system to keep him out of trouble. He said through that there has been a positive impact in his life. He said he has seen it make a positive impact on the lives of his friends and he is going to start mentoring

as well. He said many children have a need for someone to talk to. He said it has been 7 or 8 years and he still has work to do, but it has made a positive impact on his life. He said he is thankful for Fathers on the Move.

Tracy Summers said her grandson, Treyden Graves, has been with Fathers on the Move since third grade. She said since Fathers on the Move has come into their lives, it has helped her grandson with his attitude and anger and has relieved the stress on her and his mother. She said they help guide him in the right direction as a young man. She said she appreciates Fathers on the Move.

Treyden Graves said that Victor of Fathers on the Move has helped him for a while now. He said he is a father figure for him and has helped his family in many ways. He said that he wanted to help get money for Fathers on the Move. He said it has helped make him a better person.

Anthony Moore said he has been involved with Fathers on the Move for 11 years. He said it is a necessary program and helped him developed as a man. He said he benefited from a mentor when he was young and wanted to give back. He said there are a lot of fatherless homes, and this program provides a father figure for those. He said Fathers on the Move is an intervention program. He said it is not a 12- or 18-month program. He said he keeps up with his mentees on a weekly basis. He said mothers also need to be involved. He said they walk in life with their mentees. He asked the Board to consider Fathers on the Move.

Jim Kramer said he is involved with Fathers on the Move. He said he was a retired corrections officer in New York. He said that he worked to keep guys in prison to now, keeping them out. He said they go to Butner correctional facility. He said they meet on Zoom. He said they teach people how to be mentors themselves. He said the effect they have is interesting. He said they work with Partnership Academy, the alternative high school. He said there is a huge need, and it works. He said it is a lifetime deal, and all of their mentees will tell you the difference it has made in their lives.

Bishop Victor Glover, executive director of Fathers on the Move, said they are no longer a program, but a movement that originated in Orange County. He said they are not recommended for funding, but that they have momentum and traction now to meet their mission to save kids' lives. He said that understanding what is going on right now is crucial. He said people want to be part of this movement. He said that when they submitted the application, there were discrepancies. He said the person who submitted the application understood the issues. He described many of the people, departments, and programs that they work with. He asked the Board to fund the program.

Nancy Ramirez said she teaches in the community, and she has had challenges finding an affordable home that is safe. She asked the Board to support affordable housing. She said that she received a call from Habitat for Humanity, and she now is a homeowner, and this will change her son's life. She thanked those who support affordable housing so that more families in Orange County can have an affordable place they call home.

Ella Cauwels said she is a fourth grader at River Park and is in the robotics club. She said only a certain number of spots are available and not everyone could get a ride home. She said she thinks that there should be a STEM class so that everyone gets the chance to do it.

Sophia Cauwels said she is a mechanical engineering student and graduate of Orange County High School. She said that she joined the robotics program in high school, and this changed her life. She said in Orange County, students are exposed to STEM in seventh grade. She said her younger sister has the ability to participate because her parents are able to give her a ride. She said that by adding a STEM teacher, the kids will be learning the skills at a younger age, and this will help them to be more successful. She said that her sister looks up to her and she has tried to show that it is possible to do hard things. She said that by adding STEAM classes, students will be confident in problem-solving and self-esteem. She said this will impact them for their whole lives.

Christine Cauwels said she also has a son who is a sophomore at Cedar Ridge and is on the Hedgehogs robotics team. She said that her youngest daughter has dyslexia, and this makes it harder for her to learn by just reading. She said that STEAM education allows for children to learn with their hands. She said that STEAM education is great, and it teaches kids new ways to learn and new ways to solve problems. She said that they are not just teaching engineering skills, they are opening up a wealth of information for kids. She thanked the Board for their consideration.

Camille Wells said her daughter enjoys doing things with her hands and building. She said she has made several cardboard robots, a dollhouse, and a wardrobe at home. She said when robotics was offered at her school, they were excited for her daughter to join. She said it is important to help kids continue to dream. She said they want the best for our children. She said having a STEAM program at the school would help many students and parents. She asked why it should be an extracurricular rather than part of the curriculum. She said River Park is ready for this.

Zariyah Wells said she loves robotics, and it is fun and amazing. She said that she got to make new friends and learn something new. She said she appreciates her amazing teacher, Mr. Mitchell.

Yaara Cohen is part of Robo-Tigers at River Park Elementary. She said that she wants to be an engineer one day. She said it would be a great opportunity to have a STEAM teacher at her school.

Elisa Cohen said her sister is in robotics and it inspires her. She said that next year when she is in third grade, she wants to join. She said that STEM can inspire others too, thanks to Mr. Mitchell

Katie Harper spoke in favor of the Fairview Park renovations. She said they would love more tennis courts at the location. She said that she would also like them to consider baseball fields as well. She said she was wondering about the Efland Park and the Meridian Community Foundation on the plans for baseball fields. She said she was in favor of the proposed budget for both school systems. She said that she is concerned about the consolidation of privilege and the consolidation of need in Orange County. She said that she does not know the answer to the problem, but she hopes they can acknowledge the disparities in student demographics between charter schools and public schools in Orange County. She said that the Board is taking the best approach and that she appreciates the Board.

Quinton Harper spoke on behalf of the IFC in support of its emergency shelter program. He said they need emergency shelter and emergency funds for housing. He said their unhoused neighbors are depending on the Board to support the IFC as they strive to meet the basic need of folks in the community. He thanked the Board for their support in the recommended budget. He said that IFC provides a safe place to sleep, and this is the only shelter in Orange County. He said he wants the Board to consider what the community would look like if there were not people who worked to make sure everyone is housed.

Darin Campbell said he was there to support IFC. He said unhoused people depend on shelters on a day-to-day basis for almost everything. He said that access to resources is crucial for those seeking to better their life situation. He thanked the Board for their support and asked the Board to continue supporting IFC.

Jennifer Kushner said she was there to support the recommended CIP budget for affordable housing. She said she has two teenage daughters, one of whom will be a summer counselor for Orange County. She said finding affordable housing has been challenging for her. She said she is part of the first cohort for the Habitat for Humanity community at Weavers Grove. She said it is a relief for her family.

Naseem Alshugar said she supported the affordable housing program. She said she is a single mom with four children. She said that she lives in Chapel Hill and she works two jobs. She said that she was so happy to be selected for the next Habitat for Humanity homes and that she volunteers now with them. She said she is here because one of her sons moved out and she



worked so hard to pay everything and support them. She said she wants them to have a permanent place to live that they can call a home.

A motion was made by Commissioner Greene and seconded by Commissioner Fowler to close the public hearing.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

The Board transitioned to a Work Session.

**4. Discussion on Possible Merging of Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee and Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee**

The Board discussed the possibility of merging the Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee (ACHCAC) and Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee (NHCAC) into one committee.

**BACKGROUND:** Over the past few years, it has become increasingly more difficult to recruit and train qualified applicants for both the ACHCAC and NHCAC. During the pandemic, both committees became inactive given the tight restrictions on entering facilities, and the required training provided by the State was paused and has not resumed to date. This reality has impacted attracting and training new potential volunteers/appointees.

It should be noted that both Committees continue to be led by very active Committee Chairs, Shade Little for ACHCAC and Vibeke Talley for NHCAC, who along with their fellow members have invested significant time and resources to serve the needs of the public.

**COMMITTEE OVERVIEWS**

**Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee**

Members are appointed by the Board of Commissioners to all positions. Autumn Cox is the Regional Ombudsman assigned to Orange County through the Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG). Prior to any appointment, Autumn Cox vets applicants. If a qualified applicant is selected, that individual must attend State mandated training and must pass the course before being recommended for appointment. There is an initial one-year training term, with subsequent eligibility for three additional two-year terms. The Committee works to maintain the intent of the Adult Care Home Residents' Bill of Rights for those residing in licensed adult care homes. The members of this Committee also promote community involvement and cooperation with these homes to ensure quality care for the elderly and disabled adults. The members of the Committee make visits to facilities at least once per year.

**Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee**

Members are appointed by the Board of Commissioners to all positions. Autumn Cox is the Regional Ombudsman assigned to Orange County through the Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG). Prior to any appointment, Autumn Cox vets applicants. If a qualified applicant is selected, that individual must attend State mandated training and must pass the course before being recommended for appointment. There is an initial one-year training term, with subsequent eligibility for two additional three-year terms. The Committee helps to maintain the intent of the Residents' Bill of Rights, promotes community involvement and provides public education on long-term care issues. The members of the Committee make visits to facilities at least four times per year.

After completion of the visits, the team members of both committees prepare a State report of their findings during the visit. The report is then presented at the regular Committee business meetings. The report is discussed and a vote is taken to gain approval of the report. The Ombudsman then formats the report for submission to the County. The information is then published on the County’s website for public view.

**LIST OF CURRENT VACANCIES**

**Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee**

<b>POSITION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>	<b>VACANCY INFORMATION</b>
At-Large	06/30/2023	<b>Vacant since 10/01/2022</b>
At-Large	06/30/2024	<b>Vacant since 10/17/2020</b>
At-Large	10/31/2024	<b>Vacant since 10/17/2020</b>
At-Large	10/31/2023	<b>Vacant since 05/12/2020</b>
At-Large	06/30/2024	<b>Vacant since 10/31/2017</b>
At-Large	03/31/2025	<b>Vacant since 10/01/2022</b>

**Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee**

<b>POSITION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>	<b>VACANCY INFORMATION</b>
At-Large	01/31/2025	<b>Vacant since 01/31/2023</b>
At-Large	06/30/2025	<b>Vacant since 08/25/2021</b>
At-Large	09/30/2023	<b>Vacant since 11/06/2019</b>
Nursing Home Administration	06/30/2023	<b>Vacant since 12/12/2018</b>
At-Large	03/31/2026	<b>Vacant since 06/21/2017</b>

Autumn Cox, the Regional Ombudsman with TJCOG who is assigned to Orange County, will be available at the meeting to provide additional background and insight for the Board.

Tara May, Deputy Clerk to the Board, introduced the item.

Autumn Cox described said that the Adult Care CAC has four members with one applicant in training. She said the Nursing Home CAC has six members with one person in training. She said both of those would be full with ten positions. She said if they merge the two, that would be 14 members total. She said the Commissioners can allow up to 25 members if the committees merged. She said her group covers a 7-county region, of which 4 have joint CACs. She said that Jacquelyn Podger and Shade Little joined members have switched committees and that was a seamless process due to their previous approvals by the state.

Jacquelyn Podger said that she and Shade Little were both in agreement that it meets their immediate needs in terms of what they need to. She said they offer a richer experience. She said that in terms of the master aging plan, one of their mandates is to extend programming to people with learning disabilities. She said by combining the committees they will be able to reach more people and work together.

Commissioner Fowler asked if others on the CACs are interested in a merger.

Jacquelyn Podger said that during discussions in the committee, no one voiced opposition. She said their meetings might take longer because they have more facilities to discuss.

Commissioner Fowler asked if the trainings were the same.

Jacquelyn Podger said yes. She said in terms of transition training, they will have one guided visit.

Chair Bedford said that there was a discussion about this two years ago and there was not interest. She asked Autumn Cox what has happened to change that.

Autumn Cox said the training is now 36 hours broken into three phases, 8 hours of independent study, 10 hours of field training, and a joint committee would split the field training up five & five; divided by Adult Care and Nursing Homes. She said the last phase has been the hold up at the state level. She said there is a start date of June 21<sup>st</sup>. She said the two applicants that have been interested will take their training this summer.

Commissioner Hamilton asked how the field training differs for the two CACs.

Jacquelyn Podger said there are some differences, but a lot of similarities. She said she accompanied Shade Little on a visit to Carol Woods the previous week. She wanted to see how their questions differ.

Commissioner Hamilton asked Jacquelyn Podger to list specifics.

Jacquelyn Podger said staffing is one of those differences. She said they review staffing vs. census to make sure it is posted for each day. She said that the other checklist did not have that specific question.

Shade Little said that any time they visit, they have a check list which they review. He said that the real part of what they do is to talk and listen to the clients and that happens no matter where they are or what type of facility. He said their interactions with the people is what they are all about.

Autumn Cox said that during the previous discussion, there was no plan for how the trainings would be implemented. She said that now that they have a plan, they know it is not going to be as much of a burden on applicants. She said Chatham County is a joint county and has not had any issues.

Commissioner Portie-Ascott asked if they have combined the Board of Health and Social Services in Chatham County.

Janice Tyler, Director of the Department on Aging, said she does not think so.

Commissioner Portie-Ascott asked who monitors the adult care homes and the nursing homes.

Autumn Cox said that nursing homes are overseen by the federal government and abide by those regulators. She said for the adult care home side, there are the state regulators and also county monitors with the Department of Social Services.

Commissioner Portie-Ascott asked if they go in monthly.

Autumn Cox said they go in quarterly or as needed.

Janice Tyler said they go in for residents' rights and it is not regulatory.

Autumn Cox said they are not regulatory. She said that the rights are similar and the first one is treat everyone with respect, the golden rule. She said that if that is followed, the rest will fall in line. She has a poster in every room with the rights and the role is to be the extra eyes and ears in the facility. She said they are not seen as adversarial to the facilities. She said they have to be able to work with the administrators on some sort of resolution.

Chair Bedford asked if members from both groups will be able to find a meeting time that works for everyone.

Janice Tyler said they currently meet back-to-back on the same day and in the same room.

Autumn Cox said it is 4:00pm and then 5:30pm and all four staff are at them both.

Chair Bedford asked if the Board should allow members of the CAC to serve three terms given the scarcity of eligible volunteers.

John Roberts said that it is within the Board's power to make that decision if the circumstances necessitate it.

Autumn Cox said that is also ok with the state and it is up to each county to determine how that is handled. She said that if there are members that have gone through the training and they are willing to continue, they should be able to.

Commissioner Fowler thanked them all for what they do, given the amount of time that they put into it.

The Board agreed by consensus to move forward with a merger, and asked the County Attorney to work out the language for extending the number of terms people can serve.

Commissioner Portie-Ascott asked if anyone had spoken to the Director of Social Services about the merger.

Autumn Cox said no but she got approval from the state’s long term ombudsman office. She said they just need a letter from the secretary of the commissioners and then they will approve it.

Janice Tyler said these two committees have been part of the Department on Aging.

Autumn Cox said she believes that Orange County’s letter in support of the training and the push did a lot. She said the COG director also commends them for that because it seems to have gotten it moving.

**5. Agricultural Preservation Board – Appointments Discussion**

The Board discussed appointments to the Agricultural Preservation Board.

The Agricultural Preservation Board is charged to promote the economic and cultural importance of agriculture in the county, and to encourage voluntary preservation and protection of farmland for future production.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints all fifteen members, including eight (8) At-Large members, and one (1) member from each of the seven (7) Agricultural Districts in the county.

The following individuals are presented for Board consideration:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>TYPE OF APPOINTMENT TERM</b>	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>
Vaughn Compton	Cedar Grove Voluntary Agricultural District	First Full Term (Reappointment)	06/30/2026
Kim Woods	Caldwell Voluntary Agricultural District	Second Full Term	06/30/2026
Dr. Jane Saiers	New Hope/Hillsborough Voluntary Agricultural District	Third Full Term	06/30/2025

If the individuals listed above are appointed, the following vacancies remain:

<b>POSITION DESIGNATION</b>	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>	<b>VACANCY INFORMATION</b>
Schley/Eno Voluntary Agricultural District	06/30/2024	<b>Vacant since 02/24/2023</b>
At-Large	06/30/2025	<b>Vacant since 01/17/2023</b>

Tara May, Deputy Clerk to the Board, introduced the item.

The Board agreed by consensus to appoint Vaughn Compton (Cedar Grove Voluntary Agricultural District), Kim Woods (Caldwell Voluntary Agricultural District), and Jane Saiers (New Hope/Hillsborough Voluntary Agricultural District).

Vice-Chair McKee noted that the Agricultural Preservation Board asked for time to recruit the remaining vacant positions.

Commissioner Fowler asked if owning a farm is a requirement to be appointed.

Tara May said it is not a requirement for the At-Large position, but it was an interest of the Agricultural Preservation Board for a person with experience to be appointed to the board. She said they were looking for someone with experience in food or timber production. She said for the Schley/Eno Voluntary Agricultural District position, the person appointed would have to have a farm in the area that participated in the VAD program.

Commissioner Fowler said the person who applied for the At-Large position had experience that might be valuable to the board.

Chair Bedford said that if they do not find anyone by the fall, the Board of Commissioners could consider the applicant for the At-Large position.

**6. Alcoholic Beverage Control Board – Appointments Discussion**

The Board considered appointments to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

**BACKGROUND:** The ABC Board has the authority to buy, sell, transport and possess alcoholic beverages for the operation of its stores. This Board also adopts rules for the ABC system and has the authority to hire and dismiss employees.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints all five (5) At-Large members.

The following individuals are presented for Board consideration:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>TYPE OF APPOINTMENT TERM</b>	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>
Mike Zito	At-Large	Second Full Term	06/30/2026
Melvin Green	At-Large	First Full Term (reappointment)	06/30/2026

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 18B-700, the Board of Commissioners shall designate a member of the local ABC Board to serve as Chair. Patrick Burns has volunteered to be re-appointed as Chair, with support from the ABC Board members.

One of the following ABC Board members may be designated as Chair:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>
Patrick Burns (current chair)	At-Large	06/30/2024
Judson Williamson	At-Large	06/30/2024
Mike Zito	At-Large	06/30/2023
Melvin Green	At-Large	06/30/2023
Elizabeth Carter	At-Large	06/30/2025

Tara May, Deputy Clerk to the Board, introduced the item.

The Board agreed by consensus to appoint Mike Zito and Melvin Green to the ABC Board and to keep Patrick Burns as chair of the ABC Board.

**7. Animal Services Advisory Board – Appointments Discussion**

The Board considered appointments to the Animal Services Advisory Board.

**BACKGROUND:** The charge of the Animal Services Advisory Board is to advise the Board of County Commissioners on matters of concern regarding animal issues and animal services in Orange County, and to work with the Animal Services Director on various policy concerns and issues regarding County animal services.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints all thirteen (13) members with representation from various related fields and municipalities.

The following individuals are recommended for Board consideration:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>TYPE OF APPOINTMENT TERM</b>	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>
Dr. Lee Pickett	Veterinarian from Board of Health	Second Full Term	06/23/2026
Dawn Roberts	Non-Municipality	Second Full Term	06/30/2026
Judy Miller	Animal Welfare/Advocacy	First Full Term (Reappointment)	06/30/2026
Kimberly Rider	Owner/Manager Retail Pet Services	First Full Term (Reappointment)	06/30/2026
Lynne DuBose	Non-Municipality	Partial Term	06/24/2023

If the individuals listed above are appointed, the following vacancies remain:

<b>POSITION DESIGNATION</b>	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>	<b>VACANCY INFORMATION</b>
Town of Hillsborough	06/30/2024	<b>Vacant since 10/18/2022</b>
At-Large	06/30/2025	<b>Vacant since 09/21/2022</b>

Tara May, Deputy Clerk to the Board, introduced the item. She said Lynne DuBose’s term would end June 30, 2024, not June 24, 2023 as indicated in the agenda materials.

The Board agreed by consensus on the recommended applicants.

Chair Bedford asked if Tracy Little lived in the Town of Hillsborough and noted the strengths of her application.

Tara May said the only reason she was not recommended was because she had not yet been able to attend a meeting to meet the board.

Chair Bedford noted that the Town of Hillsborough position had been open for a while and suggested that the Board go ahead and appoint Tracy Little to the vacancy.

The Board agreed by consensus to appoint Tracy Little to the Animal Services Advisory Board.

Commissioner Hamilton said it would be helpful to know the internal board processes for vetting candidates before making appointments.

### 8. Animal Services Hearing Panel Pool – Appointments Discussion

The Board considered appointments to the Animal Services Hearing Panel Pool.

**BACKGROUND:** The charge of the Animal Services Hearing Panel Pool is to hear appeals concerning violations of the Orange County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 4 (“Animal Control Ordinance”), as provided in the Orange County Code of Ordinances, Section 4-53 Appeals and also potentially dangerous dog appeals as prescribed by North Carolina General Statute §67-4.1(c). It is the responsibility of pool members to conduct fair and impartial hearings for these appeals and they will receive training in both law and proper procedure prior to participating in a hearing.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints twelve (12) members, with representation from various fields. The Towns of Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and Hillsborough each appoint two (2) members from their respective jurisdictions.

The following individuals and positions are presented for Board consideration:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>TYPE OF APPOINTMENT TERM</b>	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>
Cathy Munnier	At-Large Unincorporated County	One year extension	03/31/2024
Allan Polak	Animal Services Advisory Board Member	First Full Term (reappointment)	03/31/2025
BOCC Appointee	At-Large Unincorporated	Partial Term	03/31/2025
BOCC Appointee	Animal Services Advisory Board Member	First Full Term	03/31/2026
BOCC Appointee	Animal Services Advisory Board Member	Partial Term	03/31/2025

If the individuals listed above are appointed, the following vacancies remain:

<b>POSITION DESIGNATION</b>	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>	<b>VACANCY INFORMATION</b>
Town of Carrboro	03/31/2026	<b>Vacant since 03/31/2023</b>
Town of Chapel Hill	03/31/2025	<b>Vacant since 03/31/2022</b>
Town of Chapel Hill	03/31/2026	<b>Vacant since 03/31/2023</b>
Public Health Field	03/31/2026	<b>Vacant since 03/31/2023</b>
Public Safety Field	03/31/2024	<b>Vacant since 05/18/2021</b>
At-Large	03/31/2025	<b>Vacant since 03/31/2022</b>
At-Large	03/31/2026	<b>Vacant since 03/31/2023</b>

Tara May, Deputy Clerk to the Board, introduced the item.

The Board agreed by consensus to appoint the following individuals:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>TYPE OF APPOINTMENT TERM</b>	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>
Cathy Munnier	At-Large Unincorporated County	One-year extension	03/31/2024
Allan Polak	Animal Services Advisory Board Member	First Full Term (reappointment)	03/31/2025
Lynne DuBose	At-Large Unincorporated	Partial Term	03/31/2025
Dawn Roberts	Animal Services Advisory Board Member	First Full Term	03/31/2026
Michael Delafield	Town of Chapel Hill	Partial Term	03/31/2025

### **9. Arts Commission – Appointments Discussion**

The Board discussed appointments to the Arts Commission.

**BACKGROUND:** The Arts Commission recommends strategies to promote the artistic and cultural growth of Orange County, advises the Board of Commissioners on matters involving the arts, and acts as the granting panel for funding programs available to individual artists and non-profit groups sponsoring arts projects in Orange County.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints all fifteen (15) At-Large members.

The following individuals are recommended for Board consideration:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>TYPE OF APPOINTMENT TERM</b>	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>
Jenny Schultz-Thomas	At-Large	Partial Term	03/31/2024
Sadie Allen	UNC Student Representative	One year term	06/30/2024

If the positions listed above are filled, no vacancies remain.

Tara May, Deputy Clerk to the Board, introduced the item.

The Board agreed by consensus on the recommended applicants.

Tara May said there was a request coming later in the meeting regarding Jenny Schultz-Thomas serving on the Visitor's Bureau.



### 10. Board of Social Services – Appointment Discussion

The Board considered an appointment to the Board of Social Services.

**BACKGROUND:** The Board of Social Services is charged with selecting the Director of Social Services and advising the County and municipalities on ways to improve the social conditions of the community. It also consults with the Director of Social Services to solve problems and to plan the budget.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints one (1) County resident and one (1) member of the Board of Commissioners.

The following individual is recommended for Board consideration:

NAME	POSITION DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF APPOINTMENT TERM	EXPIRATION DATE
Jane Garrett	Citizen (BOCC Appointee)	Second Full Term	06/30/2026

If the individual listed above is appointed, no vacancies remain.

Tara May, Deputy Clerk to the Board, introduced the item.

The Board agreed by consensus on the recommended applicant.

### 11. Chapel Hill Orange County Visitors Bureau Advisory Board – Appointment Discussion

The Board considered an appointment to the Chapel Hill Orange County Visitors Bureau Advisory Board.

**BACKGROUND:** The Chapel Hill Orange County Visitors Bureau Advisory Board is charged with developing and coordinating visitor services in Orange County. It also implements marketing programs that will enhance the economic activity and quality of life in the community.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints all seventeen members, with representation from specific entities and fields.

The following individual is recommended for Board consideration:

NAME	POSITION DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF APPOINTMENT TERM	EXPIRATION DATE
Jon Hartman-Brown	Economic Development Staff-Town of Carrboro	Second Full Term	06/30/2026

If the individual listed above is appointed, the following vacancy remains:

POSITION DESIGNATION	EXPIRATION DATE	VACANCY INFORMATION
Orange County Arts Commission	12/31/2023	Vacant since 02/28/2022

Tara May introduced the item.

The Board agreed by consensus on the recommended applicant, Jon Hartman-Brown, for the Economic Development Staff – Town of Carrboro position.

The Board agreed by consensus to appoint Jenny Schultz-Thomas to the Orange County Arts Commission position.

**12. Economic Development Advisory Board – Appointment Discussion**

The Board considered an appointment to the Economic Development Advisory Board.

**BACKGROUND:** The Economic Development Advisory Board works cohesively with the County's Economic Development staff and other economic development partners to position Orange County as a competitive location for business opportunities.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints all ten (10) members, with representation from various fields.

The following individual is presented for Board consideration:

NAME	POSITION DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF APPOINTMENT TERM	EXPIRATION DATE
Sharon Hill	Entrepreneur	One-year extension	06/30/2024

If the individual listed above is appointed, no vacancies remain.

Tara May introduced the item.

The Board agreed by consensus to extend Sharon Hill's appointment by one year.

Commissioner Greene said she is not usually in favor of one-year extensions, but there was a good argument in this case.

Commissioner Fowler said the board should be planning for the future for when Sharon Hill is no longer eligible to serve.

**13. Hillsborough Board of Adjustment – Appointment Discussion**

The Board considered an appointment to the Hillsborough Board of Adjustment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Hillsborough Board of Adjustment reviews non-residential building projects, variance requests, and appeals.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints two (2) regular members and one (1) alternate member who are all residents of the Hillsborough Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ).

The following individual is presented for Board consideration:

NAME	POSITION DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF APPOINTMENT TERM	EXPIRATION DATE
Raul Herrera	Hillsborough ETJ	Second Full Term	06/30/2026

If the individual listed above is appointed, no vacancies remain.

Tara May introduced the item.

The Board agreed by consensus to appoint Raul Herrera to the Hillsborough Board of Adjustment.

**14. Historic Preservation Commission – Appointment Discussion**

The Board considered an appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission.

**BACKGROUND:** The Historic Preservation Commission is charged with undertaking an inventory of properties of historical, prehistorical, architectural, and/or cultural significance. It recommends areas to be designated or removed as "historic districts" and reviews and acts upon proposals for alterations, demolition, new construction, etc.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints all seven (7) At-Large members.

The following individual is recommended for Board consideration:

NAME	POSITION DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF APPOINTMENT TERM	EXPIRATION DATE
Thomas Loter	At-Large	One Year Extension	06/30/2024

If the individual listed above is appointed, no vacancies remain.

Tara May introduced the item.

Chair Bedford noted that the other applicant was chair of the history department at Rutgers University.

Tara May said that the commission stated that the other applicant did not have the recommended background in history, architecture, building restoration, landscape architecture, or archeology.

Commissioner Greene said she was willing to honor the commission’s request.

The Board agreed by consensus on the recommended applicant, Thomas Loter.

**15. Human Relations Commission – Appointments Discussion**

The Board considered appointments to the Human Relations Commission.

**BACKGROUND:** The Human Relations Commission advises the Board of County Commissioners on solutions to problems in the field of human relationships. It also makes recommendations designed to promote goodwill and harmony among groups in the County irrespective of their race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints all twelve (12) members.

The following individuals are recommended for Board consideration:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>TYPE OF APPOINTMENT TERM</b>	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>
Jenn Sykes	At-Large	First Full Term (Reappointment)	06/30/2026
Josh Ravitch	At-Large	First Full Term (Reappointment)	06/30/2026
Mark Goldner	Town of Carrboro	First Full Term	06/30/2025

If the individuals listed above are appointed, no vacancies remain.

Tara May, Deputy Clerk to the Board, introduced the item.  
The Board agreed by consensus on the recommended applicants.

#### **16. Mebane Planning Board – Appointment Discussion**

The Board considered an appointment to the Mebane Planning Board.

**BACKGROUND:** The Mebane Planning Board reviews plans and makes recommendations to the Mebane City Council for proposed and actual developments in Mebane. It also develops and recommends policies, ordinances, and administrative procedures regarding land use and development. This board has four (4) year terms.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints one (1) member, representing the Mebane Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ).

The following individual is presented for Board consideration:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>TYPE OF APPOINTMENT TERM</b>	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>
Keith Hoover	Mebane ETJ	Second Full Term	06/30/2027

If the individual listed above is appointed, no vacancies remain.

Tara May introduced the item.  
The Board agreed by consensus on the recommended applicant.

Commissioner Portie-Ascott asked when they have a recommendation to extend a term, but there is another applicant, and asked Tara May why the board would not consider the new applicant.

Tara May said that in the Historic Preservation Commission situation, they conveyed their thoughts about the applicant's background and experience. She said she does ask for the information.

### 17. Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee – Appointment Discussion

The Board considered an appointment to the Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee.

**BACKGROUND:** The Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee helps to maintain the intent of the Residents' Bill of Rights, promotes community involvement, and provides public education on long-term care issues. The Regional Ombudsman with Triangle J Council of Governments provides specialized training and support.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints all ten (10) members.

REMINDER: As of July 1, 2017, House Bill 248 was adopted by the North Carolina General Assembly regarding the training period for pending members of the “Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee and Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee”. Applicants will be selected from the County “Applicant Interest List” for a condensed training and, if the applicant successfully completes the training, they would be recommended for appointment. Therefore, when an applicant is recommended for appointment, it would initially be for a one year preliminary term and the training will have already been completed.

The following individual is recommended for Board consideration:

NAME	POSITION DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF APPOINTMENT TERM	EXPIRATION DATE
Stephanie Boswell	At-Large	Second Full Term	06/30/2026

**SPECIAL NOTATION: None of the other applicants have completed the mandatory pre-appointment training, and are therefore not eligible for appointment at this time.**

If the individual listed above is appointed, the following vacancies remain:

POSITION DESCRIPTION	EXPIRATION DATE	VACANCY INFORMATION
At-Large	01/31/2025	<b>Vacant since 01/31/2023</b>
At-Large	06/30/2025	<b>Vacant since 08/25/2021</b>
At-Large	09/30/2023	<b>Vacant since 11/06/2019</b>
Nursing Home Administration	06/30/2023	<b>Vacant since 12/12/2018</b>
At-Large	03/31/2026	<b>Vacant since 06/21/2017</b>

Tara May introduced the item.

The Board agreed by consensus on the recommended applicant.

Vice-Chair McKee asked for clarification of the training requirements.

Chair Bedford said it has increased to 36 hours, up from fifteen.

### 18. Orange County Housing Authority Board – Appointment Discussion

The Board considered an appointment to the Orange County Housing Authority Board.

**BACKGROUND:** The goal of the Orange County Housing Authority Board is to provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing for the low and moderate income families in the County. Due to the nature of its work, the Housing Authority Board does not make recommendations for appointments.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints all seven (7) members.

The following position is presented for Board consideration:

NAME	POSITION DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF APPOINTMENT TERM	EXPIRATION DATE
BOCC Appointment	At-Large	First Full Term	06/30/2027

If the position listed above is filled, no vacancies remain.

Tara May introduced the item.

Commissioner Fowler asked if it is a requirement that someone who is appointed to the Orange County Housing Authority Board live in Orange County.

Tara May said there was nothing in the statute that requires Orange County residency.

John Roberts said he did not think it was in the statute either, and that this board is not subject to the Orange County Advisory Board Policy.

Chair Bedford suggested Timothy Miles.

The Board agreed by consensus to appoint Timothy Miles.

### 19. Orange County Planning Board – Appointment Discussion

The Board considered an appointment to the Orange County Planning Board.

**BACKGROUND:** The Planning Board studies Orange County and surrounding areas to determine objectives in the development of the County. It prepares and recommends plans to achieve that development, including the suggesting of policies, ordinances, and procedures. It reviews development applications and makes recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. Due to the nature of its work, the Planning Board does not make recommendations for appointments.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints all twelve (12) members.

The following position is presented for Board consideration:

NAME	POSITION DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF APPOINTMENT TERM	EXPIRATION DATE
BOCC Appointee	At-Large	First Full Term	03/31/2026

If the position listed above is filled, no vacancies remain.

Tara May introduced the item.

Commissioner Greene said she was interested in Nicholas Stover.

Commissioner Portie-Ascott said she was interested in Marilyn Carter. She said she thought it would bring gender balance and better regional representation to the board. She said her experience as an electrical engineer would add value to the board.

Commissioner Fowler and Vice-Chair McKee also supported Marilyn Carter.

The Board agreed by consensus to appoint Marilyn Carter to the Planning Board.

**20. Orange Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors – Appointment Discussion**

The Board considered an appointment to the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) Board of Directors.

**BACKGROUND:** The OWASA Board of Directors adopts OWASA’s annual budget, approves bond issues to fund capital projects, makes policy decisions, and sets rates, fees, and charges based on cost-of-service principles. The Board also appoints an Executive Director, independent Auditor, and General Counsel.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints two (2) members.

The following position is presented for Board consideration:

NAME	POSITION DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF APPOINTMENT TERM	EXPIRATION DATE
BOCC Appointee	County Resident	First Full Term	06/30/2026

If the position listed above is filled, no vacancies remain.

Tara May introduced the item.

Commissioner Greene suggested Kim Piracci for the position.

The Board agreed by consensus to appoint Kim Piracci to the County Resident position on the OWASA Board of Directors.

**21. Closed Session**

A motion was made by Commissioner Portie-Ascott, seconded by Commissioner Fowler, to enter in to closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(5) "to discuss the County’s position and to instruct the County Manager and County Attorney on the negotiating position regarding the terms of a contract to purchase real property," North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(3) "to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body," and for the approval of closed session minutes.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

**RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION**

A motion was made by Vice-Chair McKee, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton, to reconvene into regular session at 10:12 p.m.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Fowler, to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 p.m.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

Jamezetta Bedford, Chair

Laura Jensen  
Clerk to the Board

Submitted for approval by Laura Jensen, Clerk to the Board.