



Wake County

301 South McDowell Street
Raleigh, NC

Meeting Minutes Board of Commissioners

Monday, June 19, 2017

2:00 PM

Wake County Justice Center

Meeting Called to Order: Chairman Sig Hutchinson

Present: 7 - Chairman Sig Hutchinson, Vice-Chair Matt Calabria, Commissioner John D. Burns, Commissioner Greg Ford, Commissioner Jessica Holmes, Commissioner Erv Portman, and Commissioner James West

Others Present: Jim Hartmann, County Manager; Scott Warren, County Attorney; Denise Hogan, Clerk to the Board; Yvonne Gilyard, Deputy Clerk to the Board; Johnna Rogers, Deputy County Manager

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Commissioner Erv Portman

Items of Business

1. [Approval of Agenda](#)

Commissioner West moved, seconded by Commissioner Portman, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

2. [Approval of the Minutes of the June 5, 2017 Regular Meeting and Budget Public Hearings](#)

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, to approve the Minutes of the June 5, 2017 Regular Meeting and Budget Public Hearings. The minutes passed unanimously.

3. [Honor LINKS Program 2017 High School Graduates](#)

Attachments: [Agenda Item](#)

[Summary of foster care youth post graduation plans](#)

Ms. Kim Harrington, Wake County Human Services Adolescent Unit

Foster Care Supervisor, said that Wake County Human Services provides independent living skills to youth supporting a solid bridge to independence upon reaching their age of majority or permanency goal through the LINKS Independent Living Program. LINKS is not an acronym but a word that describes how social workers help youth by linking them to needed services and supports to transition successfully into adulthood.

Ms. Harrington said LINKS enhances skills in the areas of economic and housing stability; postponement of parenthood; avoidance of high risk behaviors, forging positive connections and relationships; promoting healthy physical and mental health; and educational success. She said this school year the LINKS Program has been able to work with the youth more closely during their career planning process.

She said every year youth in foster care work extremely hard on their educational goals despite the challenges they have faced. This year Wake County Human Services is excited to announce that we have a total of 31 graduating high school seniors!

She said all of the seniors have set goals for themselves and are looking forward to putting their plans into action. Wake County Human Services is very proud to announce that twelve of this year's graduates plan to continue their education by attending college. Out of the twelve graduates, six youth are planning to attend Wake Technical Community College, and have been connected to the county's partnership for educational support through the Fostering Bright Futures Program.

She said Wake County Human Services is very proud of the efforts that our youth are making and would like to wish them continued success.

She said the youth were honored on June 14, 2017 by the Wake County Human Services Child Welfare Division.

Ms. Lisa Cauley, Wake County Child Welfare Division Director, said there were 34 youth slated to graduate and of that 34 there were 31 graduates. She said the other three youth will work with the Expanded Foster Care Program toward graduation next year. She asked each graduate to share information about their career paths.

Ms. Cauley recognized relatives and foster parents of the graduates that were present.

Chairman Hutchinson congratulated staff and the graduates.

Commissioner Holmes said that the Board of Commissioners is happy about the program and she congratulated the team.

Commissioner Portman said that one generation educates the next. He thanked the Foster parents for standing in the gap.

4. [Presentation from the Wake Tech Foundation - Fostering Bright Futures Program](#)

Attachments: [Fostering Bright Future Item Summary.docx](#)

Ms. Michelle Blackmon, Program Director, Fostering Bright Futures, said the program was put into place in 2008 to eliminate barriers for the youth aging out of foster care. She said that Wake Technical Community College is the only community college with a program of its kind. She said nine youth in the program have graduated with six moving onto universities. She spoke of the students in the program that have been assisted and completed the program. She said there are 21 current students in the program. She thanked the Wake County Board of Commissioners for their support of the program.

Mr. Matthew Smith, Executive Director, Foundations Office, Wake Technical Community College, said that it takes support from the Board of Commissioners for the program.

5. [Resolution Endorsing the Goals of the Paris Climate Agreement](#)

Attachments: [Paris Accords Resolution 6-19-17.docx](#)

[Revised Climate Resolution.docx](#)

[Open Letter re Paris Agreement.pdf](#)

Commissioner John Burns said that on June 1, 2017, President Donald Trump announced that the United States would unilaterally withdraw from the terms of the Paris Climate Agreement. He said various corporations, communities, states stated that they would rededicate themselves to the goals pronounced by the Paris Climate Agreement that are consistent with the goals of sustainability that Wake County has previously addressed. He asked the Board of Commissioners to consider a formal resolution in support of the Paris Climate Agreement and in an effort to reaffirm the county's commitment to sustainable and environmentally responsible business practices.

He read aloud the resolution endorsing the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Commissioner Burns said the resolution is an important policy and economic statement for Wake County.

Commissioner Holmes thanked Commissioner Burns for the leadership on the issue.

Commissioner Portman said the issue is not controversial and provides a competitive advantage to the business. He said that this provides a leadership role for Wake County that has been vacated by others.

Commissioner West said in 2010 there was a group that reviewed environmental and water quality. He said that the issue has global implications for a desired future and it is important that the elected officials support it.

Vice-Chair Calabria said the issue is not controversial and it is up to the Board of Commissioners to do their part in supporting the resolution. He asked which three countries do not support the agreement.

Commissioner Burns said that the United States and Syria oppose it and Nicaragua did not sign the agreement.

Commissioner Ford said the health of the planet should be above politics and this is the opportunity at the local level for the board to take action and unity.

Chairman Hutchinson thanked Commissioner Burns for his work with the Growth, Land Use, and Environment Committee and the Water Partnership. He said Wake County is a clean tech cluster. He said it creates jobs and saves money.

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Portman, that the Board of Commissioners approve the attached Resolution endorsing the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and commits itself in its own operations and policies to continuing its efforts towards sustainability and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The motion passed unanimously.

6. [Retiree Recognition](#)

Attachments: [Item Summary 6.19.docx](#)
 [Gerald Baker Bio.docx](#)
 [Daisy Williams Bio.docx](#)
 [Donna Young Bio.docx](#)

Mr. Jim Hartmann, County Manager, recognized the following retirees:

Mr. Gerald Baker, Sheriff's Department, 27 years of service.
Ms. Donna Young, Human Services, 38 years of service.

He presented them with plaques commemorative to their service to Wake County.

Public Comments

Mr. Arthur Matthews, 2507 Beechridge Road Raleigh, NC 27608, spoke about the dissatisfaction with the service that he received by Wake County Animal Services. He shared his concerns about someone entering his property and taking his dog. He asked the Board of Commissioners to dismiss his trespass notice and evaluate the fees to obtain his dog including veterinarian evaluation.

Ms. Octavia Rainey thanked the Board of Commissioners for assisting the residents of the Forest Hills Apartment Community. She said that the Town of Garner has not been kept abreast of the situation. She spoke of a resident's struggle financially and finding housing.

A resident of Forest Hills Apartment Community spoke of the struggle that she has had with securing housing.

Ms. Shaatika Dillard, resident of Forest Hills Apartment Community, spoke of the struggle to secure affordable housing.

Ms. Yvonne Moore, resident of Forest Hills Apartment Community, spoke of her struggle to find affordable housing and the long waiting lists. She said that her housing voucher has expired.

Ms. Dimeena Hartman, resident of Forest Hills Apartment Community, spoke of her struggles to find affordable housing.

Ms. Cecila Ebron, resident of Forest Hills Apartment Community, spoke of her mother's health and her struggle in finding affordable housing.

Ms. Selena Richardson, resident of Forest Hills Apartment Community, spoke about her struggle in finding affordable housing.

Ms. Yolanda Smith, resident of Forest Hills Apartment Community, thanked the Board of Commissioners for assisting the residents of the Forest Hills Apartments.

Chairman Hutchinson encouraged residents to offer housing options to single women if it is available.

A resident of Forest Hills Apartment Community asked the Board of Commissioners to provide bus transportation for her community near the main campus of Wake Technical Community College.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner West asked that item # 10 (Approval of Funding Agreement with Alliance Behavioral Health Services) be removed and discussed by the full board.

Commissioner Portman asked that item #13 (Wake Coordinated Transportation Services Vendor Contract) and item #15 (Approve Southgate Library Lease Extension) be removed and discussed by the full board.

Commissioner West moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to accept the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

7. [Wake County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Annual Plan and Certification for FY 2017-18](#)

Attachments: [Agenda Item](#)
 [JCPC Annual Plan](#)
 [Page 6 of JCPC Annual Plan.pdf](#)
 [JCPC Council Certification](#)

Commissioner West moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, that the Board of Commissioners adopt the Wake County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Annual Plan for FY 2017-2018 and affix signatures on appropriate forms. The motion passed unanimously.

8. [Resolution to Allow Donation of Surplus County Fire Equipment](#)

Attachments: [Agenda Item - Donation of Surplus property 6-5-17.doc](#)
 [Surplus Turnout clothing 2017.pdf](#)
 [Fire Tax District MOU for surplus equipment.docx](#)
 [05.25.17 Waiver Release Assumption of Risk PPE.docx](#)
 [Resolution for donation of surplus property 05.30.17.doc](#)

Commissioner West moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, that the Board of Commissioners authorize donation of surplus firefighter protective clothing, which has reached its manufacturer's end of service life, to fire departments outside of Wake County, which are in need of such equipment. The motion passed unanimously.

9. [Memorandum of Understanding with the Wake County Sheriff for Human Resources Administration](#)

Attachments: [MOU with Sheriff's Office for HR Item Summary 6-19-17.docx](#)
 [MOU with Sheriff.pdf](#)

Commissioner West moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, that

the Board of Commissioners approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Sheriff of Wake County and the County of Wake, subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.

10. [Approval of Funding Agreement with Alliance Behavioral Healthcare for Behavioral Health Services](#)

Attachments: [FY18 Funding Agreement Item Summary.docx](#)
 [FY18 Wake Alliance Funding Agreement Final for Approval.docx](#)

Commissioner Portman asked about the historical funding agreement for behavioral health services. He said that he served on the Board of Commissioners when the LME was created. He said it is important to understand the amount of the contract and the trend.

Ms. Denise Foreman, Assistant the County Manager, said that Wake County has provided funding for Alliance Behavioral Healthcare since Fiscal Year 2014. She said that Wake County is providing over \$26 million in funds to Alliance for the fiscal year 2018: over \$13 million will support crisis services, outpatient and specialty treatment programs, criminal justice system support, residential programs and support, community support programs, recovery programs, and administrative fees. She said that \$2 million will support inpatient care at Holly Hill Hospital and almost \$11 million will support services provided by UNC Health Care covered through separate funding agreements.

Ms. Foreman said that Wake County coordinates with Alliance to distribute unused fund balance reserves. She shared a chart of fund balance information for the service categories.

Ms Foreman shared a brief description of each service category.

Crisis Services \$5,350,000

Crisis services will provide funding for inpatient psychiatric care at Holly Hill Hospital (in addition to \$2,000,000 in Holly Hill inpatient funding provided through an existing multi-year agreement).

Outpatient and Specialty Treatment Programs \$ 3,908,821

Outpatient and Specialty Treatment Programs will fund services for adults who have a behavioral health diagnosis or co-occurring MH/SA diagnoses and have no payor source. Services will be available in Raleigh, Cary and each regional center. Services included assessments, individual and group therapy, and medication management. Additionally, funding will be used to the support special needs of families/children in the foster care system.

Criminal Justice System Support \$ 1,341,446

Support for the judiciary system will include a continuum of treatment including forensic mental health consultation within the detention setting, court consultation and outpatient treatments of adults who have criminal justice system involvement.

Residential Programs and Support \$ 970,344

Residential Programs and Support will provide funding to support transitional living beds, short term rental assistance and case management to support independent living for adults with mental illness.

Community Support Programs \$ 1,377,781

Community Support Program funding supports programs that do not directly provide treatment on their own but instead are meant to be utilized in conjunction with other programs. Programs include school-based mental health coordination and services, facility support for the CASAWORKS perinatal programs, recreation programming for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and increased access to social security for eligible adults.

Recovery Programs \$ 385,567

Recovery Programs will support recovery focused services including a peer-led recovery center using evidenced-based practices, in order to serve adults with severe mental illness with a focus on physical health education and support.

Administrative Fees \$ 260,349

Provide Alliance with 1% of the funding for all contract services to cover administrative costs associated with administering the obligations set forth in the FY18 funding agreements (1% of \$26,034,871.)

Ms. Foreman said that Wake County has made a commitment to fund behavioral health at the same level as in past years. She shared a chart of the 2015-2018 Fiscal Year Historical Perspective. She said that Wake County is looking to the State and Federal Government to provide funding for treatment and triage and additional investment for supportive housing. She said these are additional investments that are not representative of the contract with Alliance Behavioral Healthcare.

Ms. Foreman shared a chart of the Alliance Fiscal Year 2018 General Fund Revenues that include Medicaid, State, County, and Administrative funding. She also shared a chart of funding comparison from Cumberland, Durham, and Wake Counties. Ms. Foreman said that \$366,040,589 would be required to provide the same level of service equivalent to Medicaid. She said that 18,788 residents are served by State funding and 45,500 is provided by Medicaid funding.

Ms. Foreman said there are efforts in progress as follows: data

analytics are used to target interventions for familiar faces, increase quality and supply of permanent and bridge supportive housing, and Alliance Reinvestment Plan. She said the Reinvestment Plan includes new crisis facility for adults (Raleigh) and new crisis facility for youth (Fuquay-Varina).

Vice-Chair Calabria asked for the state's potential impact on the Crisis Facility for the Fuquay-Varina and Raleigh project.

Ms. Kelly Goodfellow, Chief Financial Officer, Alliance Behavioral Healthcare, said the Senate and House have proposed reductions in single stream reductions. She said their budgets should be finalized by July and more information will be available.

Commissioner Portman asked if the fund balance agreement is formal or informal. Ms. Foreman said fund balance is part of the formal agreement with Alliance Behavioral Healthcare.

Commissioner Ford said that he serves as a liaison on the Alliance Behavioral Healthcare Board and they are supportive of affordable housing. He thanked staff for the report.

Commissioner Portman asked for a future update of the progress of Alliance Behavioral Healthcare since the LME was formed. He suggested a future Work Session item be provided.

Chairman Hutchinson thanked staff for the report to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Ford said Alliance Behavioral Healthcare has a county based approach and is moving to a regional model and emphasizes the long-term impacts. Ms. Foreman said the services impacts everything in the county. Alliance Behavioral Healthcare has focused their attention on the county as a whole from Human Services, Criminal Justice, and Environmental Services unlike other LME's across the state.

Chairman Hutchinson said that he agreed with discussing how Medicaid expansion impacts the citizens of Wake County at a future Work Session.

Commissioner Portman moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the County Manager to enter into a funding agreement not to exceed \$13,594,308 with Alliance Behavioral Healthcare that provides funding for behavioral health services subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney, contingent upon the approval of the FY 2018 Budget. The

motion passed unanimously.

11. [Funding Agreement with the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization \(CAMPO\) for the Triangle Bikeway Study](#)

Attachments: [BOC-061917-Triangle Bikeway-2](#)
 [BOC-061917-Bikeway Agreement](#)
 [BOC-061917-Triangle Bikeway Map](#)
 [Budget Memo - FY 2017 Grants Fund.xlsx](#)

Commissioner West moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, that the Board of Commissioners approve and authorize the County Manager to sign a funding agreement with CAMPO that includes budget appropriation of \$23,200 to complete the Triangle Bikeway alignment study that will connect RTP in the west to the Capital Area Greenway Trail System in the east, pursuant to the terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.

12. [Approval of the County Funding Plan for the Home and Community Care Block Grant](#)

Attachments: [Agenda Item](#)
 [HCCBG FY18](#)

Commissioner West moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, that the Board of Commissioners approve the County Funding Plan submitted by Wake County Human Services, Meals on Wheels and Resources for Seniors and affix required signatures. The motion passed unanimously.

13. [Wake Coordinated Transportation Services Vendor Contract](#)

Attachments: [Wake Coordinated Transportation Services Vendor Contract Item Summary.docx](#)
 [Synopsis of RFP Process.docx](#)
 [RFP for WCTS and COR-Go Raleigh Transportation.pdf](#)
 [Addendum#1 Q&A Attachments.pdf](#)
 [Addendum#2 Q&A Attachments.pdf](#)
 [RFP Evaluation Form.docx](#)

Commissioner West commended staff for their work toward the contract and said that progress comes at a cost. He said he was concerned about the trend and the minority participation. He said the policies and structures need re-examining. He said being creative with vulnerable communities is necessary. He said that Wake County should take inventory of the number of contractors that are used.

Ms. Annemarie Maiorano, Human Services Deputy Director, said that

MV Transportation, Inc. will improve the quality of services with the transportation program. She said cost efficiencies will result in more trips and access to serve more people. She said an introduction would be made to the vendors and the City of Raleigh provides a taxi service. She said the starting salary would be \$11 an hour and there will be opportunity for performance increases.

Commissioner West moved, seconded by Commissioner Portman, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the County Manager to enter into a multi-year contract with transportation service vendor MV Transportation, Inc. for the provision of demand response and human service agency transportation services, subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.

14. [Amendment of a Construction and Acquisition Agreement between Wake County Public School System and County of Wake](#)

Attachments: [June 19 Agenda Item.docx](#)
[First Addendum Construction and Acquisition Agreement.doc](#)
[Construction and Acquisition Agmt Executed.pdf](#)

Commissioner West moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, that the Board of Commissioners execute an Amendment to the Construction and Acquisition Agreement between the Wake County Public School System and County of Wake to facilitate the school system's acquisition of easements for Willow Spring High School and Apex High School. The motion was passed unanimously.

15. [Approve Southgate Library Lease Extension](#)

Attachments: [Southgate Lease Extension Agenda Item.docx](#)
[LibraryRenewal17.docx](#)
[Southgate Upfit Requests.pdf](#)

Commissioner West said sustainability of the Southgate Library is important. He said there was a grass roots effort for the development of the library. He asked about the 48 month extension and the lease terms

Mr. Tommy Moorman, Wake County Facilities, Design and Construction Project Manager, said the provision for the terms of the lease amendment is a right to terminate after three years. He said it is a 180 day notice.

Commissioner West moved, seconded by Commissioner Ford, that the Board of Commissioners:

1. Approve the Third Amendment to the Southgate Library Lease to

extend the lease term through June 30, 2021, in accordance with the terms and conditions

2. Authorize the County Manager to execute the lease amendment on behalf of Wake County, subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.

16. [Annual Approval of the Wake County Board of Alcoholic Control Travel Policy for Fiscal Year 2017](#)

Attachments: [Annual Approval of the Wake ABC Travel Policy 6-19-17.docx](#)
[Travel Policy request for approval 2017.pdf](#)
[Wake County ABC Travel Policy.pdf](#)
[GSB.pdf](#)

Commissioner West moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, that the Board of Commissioners approve the Wake ABC Board's travel policy as conforming to the County's and directs the Clerk to send a copy of the June 19, 2017, Board minutes including such approval to the ABC Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

17. [FY 2017 Budget Revisions](#)

Attachments: [Wrap Up Agenda Item - Upload in Legistar.doc](#)
[Corrected General Fund Operating Budget Ordinance with Purpose and Function Revised.docx](#)
[Budget Memo - FY 2017 Non-Departmental.xlsx](#)
[Budget Memo - FY 2017 Register of Deeds.xlsx](#)
[Budget Memo - FY 2017 Human Services.xlsx](#)
[Budget Memo - FY 2017 Sheriff.xlsx](#)
[Budget Memo - FY 2017 Board of Elections.xlsx](#)
[Budget Memo - FY 2017 EMS.xlsx](#)
[Budget Memo - FY 2017 Major Facilities.xlsx](#)
[Budget Memo - FY 2017 South Wake Landfill Fund.xlsx](#)
[Budget Memo - FY 2017 Fleet Internal Services.xlsx](#)
[Budget Memo - FY 2017 County Capital Appropriation.xlsx](#)

Commissioner West moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, that the Board of Commissioners:

1) Hereby amend Section 3 of the FY 2017 General Fund Budget Ordinance;

2) Approve budget revisions to the FY 2017 General Fund; Major

Facilities Special Revenue Fund; South Wake Landfill Partnership Fund; County Capital Projects Fund; Fleet Internal Service Fund; and Debt Service Fund.

The motion passed unanimously.

18. [Cancellation of July 3rd Board of Commissioner's Meeting](#)

Attachments: [Cancellation of July 3rd BOC Meeting Item Summary 6-19-17.docx](#)

Commissioner West moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, that the Board of Commissioners approve the cancellation of the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting of July 3, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

Regular Agenda

19. [Public Hearing on ZP-889-16 to Rezone a 16.89-acre Portion of a 66.85-acre Parcel Located at 9927 Falls of Neuse Road from Residential-80 Watershed \(R-80W\) to Residential-40 Watershed \(R-40W\) as a Technical Correction of the Zoning Map](#)

Attachments: [ZP-889-16 Item Summary TM.docx](#)
[ZP-889-16 BOC PPCSAR.pptx](#)
[ZP-889-16 BOC SR.doc](#)
[ZP-889-16 Ordinance for Consistency, Reasonableness and Public Interest.doc](#)
[ZP-889-16 Ordinance for Approval of Rezoning Petition.doc](#)
[Petition--Final Revisions.pdf](#)
[ZP-889-16 Rezoning Survey Exhibit.pdf](#)
[ZP-889-16 Maps.pdf](#)
[Withers and Ravenel Memos.pdf](#)
[Planning Board Minute Excerpt.docx](#)
[E-mail From City of Raleigh Staff.pdf](#)
[E-mail from NCDEQ.pdf](#)
[E-mail from Capital Area Preservation.pdf](#)
[Nieghborhood Meeting Information.pdf](#)

Mr. Keith Lankford, Wake County Planner II, said that the rezoning request is the New Life Camp site located at the northwestern corner of the intersection of Falls of Neuse Road and Durant Road.. He said the request is to rezone a 16.89-acre portion of the 66.85-acre parcel from R-80W (critical area) to R-40W (noncritical area) based upon the availability of more accurate topographic data.

He said the stated purpose of the rezoning is:

- To allow for the reconstruction of the existing cabins that have

become deteriorated due to age and to make some ancillary site improvements

- Rezoning decision must be based upon all possible uses

He shared maps of the area. He shared the land use history.

- General zoning was first applied to the northwestern portion of Wake County
- 1984: R-40W and R-80W zoning were created and applied to watershed areas
- 1997: Rezoning of 1,790 acres around Raleigh's water treatment plant's intake to expand the critical area (R-80W)

He shared the watershed area map. He shared the zoning/critical area history.

- This wider critical (R-80W) area was based upon a 200-minute time-of-concentration engineering study from 1992, which was the basis for the R-80W / R-40W zoning line
- The current critical (R-80W) area extends 1.09 miles from the lake onto the subject property

He shared the petitioner's basis for rezoning.

- The original study was based upon older inaccurate topographic data with 10-foot contour intervals versus today's much more accurate data with 2-foot contour intervals
- The petitioner's engineer coordinated with Raleigh's staff to recreate the study

He shared a map of the line of property. He said the requested rezoning of a portion of the site from R-80W to R-40W, the existing and proposed continued use, and the possible range of uses, are consistent with the LUP designation and three stated goals. He shared the relevant review parties.

- City of Raleigh Public Utilities and Stormwater Management Staff
- NC Department of Environmental Quality
- Capital Area Preservation
- General Public (3 calls, no opposition)

Her said the next steps are that any future site improvements will require a detailed site plan review process to ensure compliance with all applicable Wake County standards to protect the public health, safety and general welfare. He shared the reasonableness/public interest information.

The petitioner has noted that the rezoning would:

- Meet a public need while maintaining the rural character
- Preserve the scenic area and natural resources
- Provide a site where visitors can interact with nature and develop an appreciation for natural resources
- Preserve environmental features to protect the water quality and the surrounding properties
- Continued use as a youth camp will not create any negative impacts on the adjacent roadways or the surrounding properties

He shared the staff findings.

1. The proposed rezoning, the existing and proposed continued use, and the permissible range of uses, are consistent with the LUP's designation, are reasonable, and appropriate for the area.
2. Allows for limited nonresidential uses including the continued use of the site as a youth camp
3. Complies with three (3) stated goals of the Wake County Land Use Plan
4. There are no environmental concerns, no anticipated increase in traffic, or other issues that would be detrimental to the public interest
5. A detailed site plan must be approved by Wake County prior to any site improvements.
6. The City of Raleigh's Public Utilities and Stormwater Management staff support the requested rezoning.
7. The NC Department of Environmental Quality considers this a minor adjustment to the critical area
8. The Wake County Planning Staff has received no objections from the surrounding property owners or the general public.

Commissioner Portman asked for clarification of the watershed protections for the ponds nearby. Mr. Lankford said the ponds nearby are part of the water treatment plant and the intake and water treatment plant are located in different areas.

Commissioner Ford said this property is in his district and said that it is the hope that the camp continues to service the youth in the community. He said the cabins are in need of repair.

Chairman Hutchinson opened the public hearing.
No one came forward.
Chairman Hutchinson closed the public hearing.

Mr. Lankford said the Planning Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners adopt the attached drafted statements of:

- (1) Consistency with the Land Use Plan, reasonableness, and public interest,
- (2) Recommendation of approval of the rezoning petition, ZP-889-16, as presented.

Mr. Lankford said the Planning Board recommends that the Board of Commissioners adopt the attached drafted statements of:

- (1) Consistency with the Land Use Plan, reasonableness, and public interest (vote 7-0)
- (2) Recommendation of approval of the rezoning petition, ZP-889-16, as presented (vote 7-0)

Commissioner Ford moved, seconded by Commissioner Portman, that the Board of Commissioners holds a public hearing to consider rezoning petition ZP-889-16 and adopt the draft statement finding that the requested rezoning to Residential-40 Watershed, the existing and proposed continued use, and the permissible range of uses, are consistent with the Wake County Land Use Plan, reasonable, and in the public interest; The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Portman suggested that the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget and Project Ordinances and the Personnel Authorization Ordinance be moved up due to citizens present to hear the items. All board members agreed.

Commissioner Ford moved, seconded by Commissioner Portman, that the Board of Commissioners approve the rezoning request as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

26. [Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget and Project Ordinances and the Personnel Authorization Ordinance](#)

Attachments: [Budget Adoption Item Summary Final.docx](#)
[01 General Fund Operating Budget Ordinance with Purpose and Function Revised.docx](#)
[02 Purpose and Function Primer.docx](#)
[03 Debt Service Fund Ordinance.docx](#)
[04 Fire Tax District Project Ordinance.docx](#)
[05 Major Facilities Project Ordinance.docx](#)
[06 Solid Waste Enterprise.docx](#)
[07 South Wake Landfill Partnership Fund.docx](#)
[08 Corporate Fleet Fund Ordinance.docx](#)
[09 Transportation Project Ordinance.docx](#)
[10 Capital Project Ordinance.docx](#)
[11 Housing and Community Revitalization.docx](#)
[12 Capital Area Workforce Development Project Ordinance.docx](#)
[13 Grants and Donations Project Ordinance.docx](#)
[14 Personnel Ordinance.docx](#)

Chairman Hutchinson said on May 15, 2017, County Manager Jim Hartmann presented his fiscal year 2018 recommended budget. Then on June 5th, the Board of Commissioners held public hearings on the budget. He said on June 12, commissioners held a Work Session on the budget and the County Manager shared technical corrections to the budget that are reflected in the final ordinances.

Chairman Hutchinson said at the Work Session, commissioners discussed various requests for additional funding. He said prior to the adoption of the full budget, he would like to ask if there are any amendments to the budget so that the board can entertain those motions. He said once the motions are on the floor, the board would discuss them at one time.

Vice-Chair Calabria moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, that the County Manager's budget be amended to increase the Wake County Public School System appropriation by \$5 million for a total of \$430,911,000 to be funded through:

- **The balance of re-estimated sales tax revenue in the amount of \$1,420,000 which is currently in a Reserve for Future Use,**
- **A \$1,790,000 reduction in the Transfer to Debt Service for a total of \$194,683,000,**
- **A \$1,790,000 reduction in the transfer to WCPSS Capital for a total of \$43,811,000,**

- **For a reduction of .25 cents in the tax rate dedicated to debt and capital and an increase in the amount of tax rate for the operating budget, with no change to the recommended tax rate of \$61.5 cents**

Vice-Chair Calabria moved, seconded by Commissioner Portman, that the County Manager's budget ordinance reflect the inclusion of a policy statement requesting the Wake County Public School System Board of Education's collaboration in operating budget development.

Vice-Chair Calabria read aloud the language for the Wake County Public Schools policy statement.

OPERATING BUDGET COLLABORATION BETWEEN WAKE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND THE WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM ("WCPSS"). The Wake County Board of Commissioners ("BOC") recognizes its role in ensuring that every child has the opportunity to attend a great public school. It therefore declares its desire to collaborate with the Wake County Board of Education ("BOE") on a work plan ("Work Plan") for developing a rolling multi-year local operating budget forecast ("Forecast") for WCPSS. The desired outcome of the Forecast is to clearly articulate, validate, and communicate the assumptions, drivers and priorities that will inform future funding requests from WCPSS without limiting the rights or duties of either party. The Forecast should identify programmatic goals, outline steps to meet those goals, state the anticipated cost and timing of each step, and identify and describe metrics that will be used to measure success.

Development of the Work Plan should begin within 30 days of the passage of a reciprocal resolution by the BOE. Components of the Work Plan should provide for the creation of at least the following:

1. A Joint Operating Budget Team composed of Wake County staff and WCPSS staff that will engage in regular, informed and interactive communications concerning the Forecast. In light of the success of the Joint School Facilities Team, it is recommended that a similar approach be used for the operating budget. The Work Plan should include a written process governing collaboration within the Joint Operating Budget Team.
2. A timeline for completion of the initial Forecast and an annual timeline for updating it.

3. An Operating Assumptions Document that clearly outlines, validates, and justifies budget assumptions and drivers to be used in validating and developing costs for the Forecast.
4. A calendar of facilitated quarterly joint board meetings to be held for the purpose of discussing the Forecast developed by staff as well as other matters that warrant review and discussion by both boards.

The Wake County Board of Commissioners invites and encourages its colleagues on the Wake County Board of Education to take action to partner with us in developing and executing this Work Plan.

Commissioner Ford moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, that the County Manager's budget be amended to increase the Community Services appropriation by \$80,000 for the extension to Sunday hours for three libraries, to be funded with re-estimation of sales tax revenue.

Commissioner West moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, that the County Manager's budget be amended to increase the Public Agencies appropriation by \$50,000 funded with a reduction in the Salary and Benefit Reserve.

Commissioner Holmes said that to clarify for those who did not attend the June 12, 2017 Work Session, that the funds for legal aid be used specifically for housing.

Commissioner West said that he has worked with the sub-group closely and has been to three or four meetings with community agencies including Legal Aid. He said there are discussions with the District Attorney and housing finance agencies. He said there is a tremendous gap relating to the inmate training and recidivism.

Commissioner Holmes moved, seconded by Commissioner West, that up to \$25,000 be allocated for emergency housing for Forest Hill residents to insure that they do not end up homeless. The criteria for eligibility will be determined by staff and community partners. Any funds not used for this specific purpose will revert back to the county. These funds can come from the \$1.5 million in additional sales tax revenue, ABC funds, fund balance or any other funds that are appropriate for one- time expenditure.

Chairman Hutchinson called for discussion on the amendment to the Community Services budget for libraries.

Commissioner Ford said there are 22 libraries in Wake County, but only 7 are regional libraries of which have Sunday services from 1-5 p.m. The amendment would expand Sunday service hours to three of the local community libraries, and staff has made recommendations for those three. Staff had several criteria that they looked at, the majority of which were based on the values of equity and access, but data based in looking at the increased services on Saturdays, and the communities throughout Wake County that would most likely benefit and access those services.

He said this recommendation includes expansion to Sunday services for the following three libraries: Fuquay- Varina, Green Road and Richard B. Harrison. He said this option increases the percent of residents living within a ten minute drive time of a library from 58.8% in Wake County to 68.2%, and there's further breakdown based on data and the two values of equity and access. He asked his fellow commissioners for support for the motion.

Commissioner Holmes said that she was in favor of this addition. She said the General Assembly is moving from funding of technology as opposed to textbooks. She said one of the reasons this particular addition was important to her is that focus be on libraries in vulnerable areas so that children who may not have access to the internet or computers at home would have access to those items they need to be successful at school on Saturdays and Sundays. She said that three libraries that are in vulnerable communities need these services.

Commissioner Ford said that libraries are 37 percent busier on weekdays and 67 percent more in terms of circulation. He said that it is a fine investment in assets and properties.

Commissioner Burns added that the first budget that the four commissioners elected together voted on was a budget that held back on the book fund for the libraries and on \$1 million to fund other projects in the budget. He said it's important to show the library system is important and a great asset of the community, and this enables more

citizens to have access to it on Sundays. He said that he supports the motion.

Vice-Chair Calabria commended Commissioner Ford for shepherding the process for the libraries.

The Chairman called for a vote on the following motion:

Commissioner Ford moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, that the County Manager's budget be amended to increase the Community Services appropriation by \$80,000 for the extension to Sunday hours for three libraries, to be funded with re-estimation of sales tax revenue. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hutchinson called for discussion on the budget amendment to increase the Public Agencies appropriation by \$50,000.

Commissioner West said the motion fits the vulnerable communities initiative for one of the board's nine goals and is important that there is support related to the most vulnerable citizens in Wake County.

Commissioner West said as it relates to the Housing Finance Agency there is legality involving the extension of time and developing a monitoring system to those apartment complexes that are moving to market rate at the expense of affordable housing.

Commissioner Burns said that Legal Aid plays a major role in making our court system work for everyone. He said Legal Aid does a wonderful job with almost non-existent resources to aid those citizens that are less fortunate. He said the small allocation is important for the board to show that commissioners understand and appreciate the role that they have played in this particular crisis, but to also show that we disagree as a county with motions and movements at the state and national level to take money away from legal aid and legal services, which is happening more and more frequently on the budget being considered by legislators. He said that he supported the motion.

Chairman Hutchinson commended Mr. George Hausen, Executive Director, Legal Aid, for assisting the residents of the Forest Hills

Apartment Community.

Chairman Hutchinson called for a vote on the following motion:

Commissioner West moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, that the County Manager's budget be amended to increase the Public Agencies appropriation by \$50,000 funded with a reduction in the Salary and Benefit Reserve. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hutchinson called for discussion that up to \$25,000 be allocated for emergency housing for Forest Hill residents.

Commissioner Holmes said the Forest Hills Apartments issue been a learning curve for the entire board, staff, and our community partners. She commended the board for stepping up to the plate and acknowledged all of the commissioners for accepting the challenge to go and walk in the shoes of a Forest Hill resident.

She said she had the pleasure of walking with Ms. Bland. She said there are waiting lists of one year, two years, up to three years for most apartment communities for affordable housing. She said there is a lack of capacity and inventory within our staff and within the county's community partners to deal with situations like this. She said Wake County is bordering an affordable housing crisis.

She said that she stood before the residents of Forest Hills along with my colleagues and made a promise to them that the board would not let them be without a place to live. She said this motion is a way of keeping the promise. She said the county can't house individuals indefinitely, but the goal of securing \$25,000 is to make sure that if there is a short waiting list, and to provide an opportunity to continue working with these individuals as housing is secured. She said that many residents have challenges that are unique from being disabled to their vouchers expiring.

Commissioner Holmes said the motion indicated that the criteria for eligibility will be determined by county staff and our community partners and one of the primary issues is emergency housing. She said there is concern about the cost of an apartment or a house being in excess of

the voucher amount. She said ideally, the difference between that voucher amount and the rent would be something else that these funds could be used.

She said there are other challenges such as fuel and transportation, preventing these individuals from securing housing. She said that she would like to ensure that the county allows staff and our community partners who have been working most closely with these individuals to determine that criteria, and any funds that are not used would be returned to the county.

Commissioner Burns said he would like to ensure that the funds will assist those in crisis. He said there are many other people in the community who are living on the verge of homelessness, so it is important to ensure that all others are treated as fairly as the residents in the Forest Hills community.

Commissioner Holmes said the Affordable Housing Committee is working on policy and budget recommendations for next fiscal year. She said the \$25,000 will not address homelessness across Wake County, but it's a start, ensuring that the county does not add to the homeless population.

Commissioner West said there is a need for reviewing transitional housing. He said that residents do not have community development planning. He said through the vulnerable community initiative empowerment is needed.

Commissioner Portman asked if there is a risk for the county to target one group of people.

Mr. Scott Warren, County Attorney, said the purpose is in line, focused, and sufficient. He said that moving forward that a transitional housing program and focus on broader issues can be incorporated.

Mr. Jim Hartmann, County Manager, said that the revenue source is a one-time transfer of ABC funds to the housing fund that meets the need at hand.

Chairman Hutchinson called for an amendment on the motion that ABC funding be the source of funding as a one-time expenditure.

Commissioner Burns consented to the amendment that ABC funding is the source of funding for the one-time expenditure.

Commissioner Holmes moved, seconded by Commissioner West, that up to \$25,000 be allocated for emergency housing for Forest Hill residents to insure that they do not end up homeless. The criteria for eligibility will be determined by staff and community partners. Any funds not used for this specific purpose will revert back to the county. These funds can come from the \$1.5 million in additional sales tax revenue, ABC funds, fund balance or any other funds that are appropriate for one- time expenditure. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Calabria asked about Legal Aid and whether the Forest Hills residents would be given an additional year to stay.

Commissioner West said there are negotiations for this request. He said most of tenants want to move because of the environment.

Commissioner Ford expressed his appreciation for the continued leadership on the issue. He acknowledged Commissioner Holmes' leadership toward the issue. He said there was a lack of compassion and action initially.

Commissioner Holmes said there is a lack of capacity, inventory, and resources for the citizens that are dealing with the issue.

Chairman Hutchinson said that there has been discussion with the residents since April and there is an affordable housing crisis in Wake County.

Commissioner Holmes commended Ms. Octavia Rainey for her persistence on the issue and in assisting the Forest Hills Apartment Community residents. She commended Commissioner West for working with Ms. Rainey and the residents.

Chairman Hutchinson called for discussion on the budget to be amended to increase the Wake County Public School System appropriation by \$5 million.

Vice-Chair Calabria thanked his fellow commissioners. He said "there is a tendency in the community, in the world, more broadly, when someone disagrees with you to pathologize. To say, well that person disagrees because they are ignorant or they haven't done their due diligence or they don't understand or they're mean spirited, or they're not listening. And I wanted to start out my comments to say I think everyone who is

sitting on the dais listened. I know because I know we've talked about reading every single one of those emails that come in, and sometimes they come in five an hour just on budget stuff, and keeping up with that and responding to as many as we could, and talking about the conversations we've had in the community, and talking about how we can square every circle, so to speak. So I just wanted to recognize that I am honored to be in the midst of folks who, to a person, have really dug in and have demonstrated that they care about the issues that are involved here."

"Second, I wanted to basically say that based on the hundreds of emails and conversations that each of us has had, I think that there are three things that really come out really clear to me. One, the state is not doing what it should for public education. Last I checked, I think North Carolina is 43rd in the country in per pupil spending, our principals are certainly among the lowest paid in the country. Both the county and the school board have been pummeled over and over by unfunded mandates, and by cuts, even cuts that are made not to seem like cuts. Really on an almost weekly basis sometimes, I know I as a county commissioner, I find out about something new that was baked into a state budget or baked into an amendment that would cause us to take on a greater burden. So it's fine to do good things, but I think it is concerning when the state has continued to push down its responsibility onto county, municipal and school board organs of government, and I think that is problematic."

"I would also note that of the 115 school systems in the state of NC, Wake County is ranked 108th in per pupil funding, even though our cost of living is higher and we are rapidly growing and we have a lot of burdens associated with that. I think that is a dynamic worth attention. That was number one."

"Number two. We have made substantial strides in recent years. We have heard a lot about this during the budget public hearings and a lot of conversations that we've had. The commission is clearly committed to public education. We've seen nearly a thirty percent increase in local school funding over the last four years. We've had the highest teacher salary supplement in the state with an average teacher making \$2500 or \$2400 and change more than they did just two years ago from the county, just from the county. We've done this and so many other things that we've been able to partner with our school board colleagues on

while keeping taxes relatively low. Now, some folks point at that and say that's a good reason it should be higher. I understand that argument. There are some folks who see the tax rate as being low and appreciate that it is low."

"But I think objectively, if we look at it, again, urban Wake County has a tax rate that is lower than 2/3 of NC counties, more than 2/3 of NC counties. Among the 10 largest counties in the state, we have the lowest tax rate and the highest percentage of our budget goes to public education. And I think we're the only one that has the majority of its budget that goes to public education. I think our per capita cost overall has stayed, Johnna you can correct me if I'm wrong, has stayed very trim, and even compares about level with before the recession. So we are certainly trying to be as effective and efficient as we can be, while also acknowledging that we have a lot of catching up to do. Which is the third observation that I feel like I've gleaned from all of this which is that we certainly have a long way to go."

"We have done a great job, but we have a lot of catching up to do, and we all know that and we all have aspirations to do that, I think. We still are working on an average teacher salary that is below the national average. The school board has really highlighted a lot of compelling initiatives, to me among the ones that are very important are expansions among school counselors, improvements in teacher salaries, and also work in equity affairs. So I appreciate our school board for putting forward their budget."

"My proposal is intended to address a number of the things that I've been hearing, some of which I've already discussed. One, we've heard an interest in keeping taxes low, or to what the County Manager has proposed. We've also heard an interest in keeping our level of support for the public school system over and above what the county manager has provided. So my proposal which I really shouldn't say is my proposal, because everyone has weighed in on this to some degree, and Commissioner Ford has really been a coequal collaborator on this. But the proposal being put forward would increase the allocation to the public school system by \$5 million over and above what the County Manager has identified. We can do this by not raising taxes higher than what the County manager has proposed. The money would come from funds identified in the sales tax re-estimate, and with the remainder coming from transfers to debt and capital. So essentially, we are trying

to practice what we preach. We want to be committed to public education and we want to do more for them, for public education as a cause, but it's incumbent upon us to make sure that we are as effective and efficient with our money as possible, and so I am grateful to our staff who has helped us take a very clear-eyed look at our budgeting assumptions and see where we can trend to do more with the same amount of money. So I am very grateful to staff for that, and staff has confirmed that there would not be any substantial programmatic impact as a result of what I am proposing. So I think that this is a proposal that allows us to do a fair amount more for the public school system. Certainly there are folks who wanted the number to be a lot higher, certainly there are folks who didn't want it to be higher at all, or wanted it to be lower. What I am hoping to do is to provide a substantial step forward that will increase our support for public schools while also meeting our interests in being trim, and being responsive to the tax payers at the same time."

Commissioner Ford said that he appreciated the spirit of the collaboration and the board has worked together on many things, and will in the future, but we did not agree on this one. He said he is not in favor of this amendment for a couple of reasons. One being, he doesn't think that this even comes close to what is even a foundational need of the school system. He said that he wanted to expand on this further in his comments on the overall budget and has questions about how this money is derived from capital. He said that he does not agree with that process. He said that he does not support the motion.

Commissioner Holmes said Wake County is the largest school system in North Carolina and the 15th largest school district in the country. She said that \$5 million is not sufficient compromise, nor is it a legitimate move forward in the context of a school system that has a \$1.6 billion dollar budget. She said that at least a portion of the \$5 million is coming from the transfer to debt service, or transfer to Wake County Public School service capital. She said her concern about taking a part of these funds from capital is the reality that we already cannot build schools fast enough. She said many of our schools are capped. She said the Wake County Public School System cannot spend the same check twice, and by basically taking these funds out of their capital and putting it into the schools operational budget is not a move forward that she can support.

Commissioner Burns said that he appreciated the Vice Chairman's comments and approached this question openly. He said that he did not express his opinion of the County Manager's budget on this particular point until after the board had heard from the community. And the message was clear from when we heard from the community, two very specific, very clear points. Number one, \$16 million is not sufficient. Number two, the fourth straight tax increase is beginning to stress our tax payers. He said that he is willing to support this one. He said \$5 million may not be, in the context of a \$1.6 billion budget, not a huge amount of money, but in the context of this increase, it is a 30 percent increase to the annual increase that was proposed.

He said a long-term look was necessary as with the capital plan. He said the school budget is incredibly important and the schools are not benefited by a constant battle over these issues. He said the battle is with the state legislature. He said this board and the school board are doing everything they can to fill in the breach. He said 10 percent of the children in North Carolina are educated and it is time for Jones Street and the legislature to pay attention to those children. He said that he supported the motion.

Chairman Hutchinson said he wanted to keep the tax rate that is recommended by the County Manager. He commended the Board of Commissioners for compromising.

Commissioner West said the entire board cares about the desired future for Wake County Public Schools and supports the \$5 million, but also supports the County Manager Hartmann's budget presentation. He said that the county must have a holistic approach to quality schools. He said there are many moving parts and variables, including pay for our great teachers and the full range of children needs.

He said there must be better communication networks, reduce fragmentation, and provide collective impacts in and out of school. Sometimes I think because we are so tied up in our silos and our paradigms that we forget who is the most important product in the process. He said it has always been this elephant in the room to some degree as it relates to the disparities and particularly the achievement gap in children of color are behind in every walk of life.

He said for instance, former Superintendent Bill McNeill who was

honored at the Wake County education partnership, the national Superintendent of the year, made the statement that the biggest problem relates to poverty and race. The board realizes that they have certain statutory responsibilities as it relates to the schools and we have certain statutory responsibilities, and he supports Vice-Chair Calabria's motion and comments.

Chairman Hutchinson asked for a roll call vote on the motion and the vote was as follows:

Vice-Chair Calabria moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, that the County Manager's budget be amended to increase the Wake County Public School System appropriation by \$5 million for a total of \$430,911,000 to be funded through

- **The balance of re-estimated sales tax revenue in the amount of \$1,420,000 which is currently in a Reserve for Future Use,**
- **A \$1,790,000 reduction in the Transfer to Debt Service for a total of \$194,683,000,**
- **A \$1,790,000 reduction in the transfer to WCPSS Capital for a total of \$43,811,000,**
- **For a reduction of .25 cents in the tax rate dedicated to debt and capital and an increase in the amount of tax rate for the operating budget, with no change to the recommended tax rate of \$61.5 cents**

Commissioner Burns - Aye

Commissioner Ford - Nay

Commissioner Holmes - Nay

Commissioner West - Aye

Commissioner Portman - Aye

Vice-Chair Calabria - Aye

Chairman Hutchinson - Aye

The motion passed with a 5-2 vote.

Chairman Hutchinson called for discussion on the County Manager's budget ordinance to reflect the inclusion of a policy statement requesting the Wake County Public School System Board of Education's collaboration in operating budget development.

Vice-Chair Calabria commended Commissioner Ford for the credit in

working toward the policy statement. He said the budget process leaves a lot to be desired. He said the budget process creates tension between the boards and is a problem state-wide because North Carolina is one of only two states in the country that does not give its school board taxing authority. He said the board should facilitate information in a shared manner.

Commissioner Ford said that he and Vice-Chair Calabria have dedicated time to the language of the policy. He said that he respects Commissioner Burn's comments. He said there has been a struggle to develop a better path forward. He said that it is a challenge and a way to identify the language and it is the hope it is received as good will.

Commissioner Burns said that he started his campaign to search for candidates for public office. He said the Board of Education office is one of the hardest jobs in politics. He said that former Commissioner Yvonne Brannon was involved in the process. He said that the Board of Education has a desire to support education. He said the goal of both boards needs to be the same and aligns. He said joint meetings should include a more collaborative approach.

Commissioner Portman said that the board is handicapped in the way that public education is funded in the state. He said the State of North Carolina has failed to complete its obligations protected in the constitution to fund public education. He said the issue is of strong advocacy. He said if he had the authority he would give the schools taxing authority. He said that he has been an advocate for public education. He cannot support the Board of Education's request. He said the motion was an attempt that both boards work well together. He said a focus outside the annual budget and long-term trends is necessary. He said the board is handicapped and needs to try something different. He said the budget put forward to the Board of Education does not fund all the needs necessary. He said that taxes should not be raised every year and not solve the problem. He said a sustainable tax rate is needed.

Chairman Hutchinson said the greatest successes have included the seven-year rolling capital plan. He said it is time to think of the approach on the operating side. He said that he supports the policy language.

Vice-Chair Calabria said that the policy allows for the Board of Commissioner to work with the Board of Education in a collaborative way and is a work in progress. He said it is the attempt in changing the way the county does business.

Chairman Hutchinson called for a roll call vote on the motion.

Vice-Chair Calabria moved, seconded by Commissioner Portman, that the County Manager's budget ordinance reflect the inclusion of a policy statement requesting the Wake County Public School System Board of Education's collaboration in operating budget development. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hutchinson said the entire budget would be considered. He asked for a motion.

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Portman, that the Board of Commissioners adopt the following FY 2018 budget-related ordinances:

Operating Budget Ordinances

- General Fund Annual Operating Budget
- Debt Service Fund Annual Operating Budget
- Fire Tax Fund Annual Operating Budget
- Major Facilities Fund Annual Operating Budget
- Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Annual Operating Budget
- South Wake Landfill Fund Annual Operating Budget
- Corporate Fleet Fund Annual Operating Budget
- Human Services Transportation Fund Annual Operating Budget

Capital Improvement Fund Project Ordinance, inclusive of:

County Capital Projects Fund

Fire Tax District Capital Projects Fund

Major Facilities Capital Projects Fund

Wake Technical Community College Capital Projects Fund

Wake County Public School System Capital Projects Fund

Solid Waste Capital Projects Fund

Project Ordinances

- Housing and Community Revitalization Fund Project Ordinance
- Capital Area Workforce Development Fund Project Ordinance
- Grants and Donations Fund Project Ordinance

Personnel Authorization Ordinance

All inclusive of adopted amendments voted upon in separate preceding actions of the board. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Each commissioner shared their comments on the budget.

Commissioner Burns said he wanted to talk about progress.

“Three years ago Wake County was losing teachers at a record rate. This county had in the prior four years provided little to no annual increases in education funding despite ongoing and significant growth in county and school populations. Wake County was well behind in per pupil spending. There was singular focus on tax rate over all other issues left us behind our peer counties in school funding and teacher pay. Not only that, we had a shortage of behavioral health services, our fire service budget and pay plan were archaic. Wake County had unspent resources for cultural and sports projects, a frozen and underfunded library system, and long delayed transit plan languished and gathered dust. Significant opportunities for green ways and open spaces had gone unrecognized and lost.”

“In the three years since the people of Wake County under this board’s direction have increased school funding first by \$45 million dollars a year then by \$24 million and this year we will again increase school funding by \$21 million a year. That means in three short budget years the Wake County taxpayer would have directed \$204 million to the Wake County Public Schools. The school’s capital and debt now make up 52 percent of the county budget on an annual basis, and we have developed a seven year rolling plan so that tax payers, community leaders, and parents can see what improvements are coming to their schools and plan accordingly.”

“We have rededicated the county to be sustainable in its operations, begun regional planning for our water needs, and begun new structures for neighborhoods faced with contaminated well water and abandoned streets. We have implemented raises to emergency services workers outside of city limits of Raleigh and Cary. We have improved those services to the point that many tax payers have received notice their fire insurance rates have dropped. We continue to provide emergency management services which now provide the nations best cardiovascular/cardiac emergency care so that our EMS personnel work 12 hour shifts instead of 24, so if you have a heart attack at 5 in the morning, the persons responding are not on the 23rd hour of their shift. We have provided increased but still insufficient resources in behavioral health. As we have heard today just to get our behavioral health

services up to Medicaid levels requires \$366 million more dollars a year. That is a 25.25 cent increase in our property tax rate annually. We aren't meeting those burdens at all. But, we have included new beds and chairs for crisis patients and have begun to free up emergency rooms to handle physical emergencies. We opened a new Western Wake Service Center to provide health services to the western part of the county. Last year we opened a women's clinic on Capital Boulevard in Raleigh that provides pre-natal services to hundreds of women a year. We opened new community libraries, maintained Athens Drive Library, and today provide funding for Sunday hours at 3 community libraries. We have funded significant projects, athletic facilities, performing arts projects, and a beautiful new park at the NC Museum of Art. We have done all this while maintaining the lowest tax rate in the area."

"Eight months ago after 2 years of effort, this County under leadership of the Chair and Vice-Chair finally passed a transit plan that will alter the way this county commutes and develops for the better. By any rational standard this is progress. This is success. Today's budget continues that focus on moving Wake County forward. It is what I promised to do. We promised to do. We promised to be willing to raise taxes where necessary where prudent and called for. Where I could show the taxpayer what they needed to pay for and why. But I also understand that taxes are paid by all of our people. The two types of taxes available to counties are also the most regressive ones available, sales taxes and property taxes. We have no other alternatives."

"A theme in the letters I received was asking if growth doesn't pay for itself why we aren't taxing the new growth. The answer is we cannot. We are not allowed to. It is unconstitutional in North Carolina to do so. Again the answers lie four blocks away on Jones Street. We cannot tax new development to help growth pay for itself. Every time we raise taxes we make it harder for a family to stay on its family property in Southeast Raleigh or Knightdale or Wendell."

"When one compares our rates to rural counties, with 45% taken up by state parks, we aren't comparing apples to apples. Impact to taxpayers has to be considered. There are 250,000 people in this county who live near the federal poverty line. They pay taxes too. While I understand the argument, in fact I have made it, that reasonable tax increases do not place high burdens on the average tax payer in the county; there are many here who are impacted."

"This board has asked them now to pay three years in a row. Our predecessor board did so before us. We are going to ask again next year, it would be dishonest to tell you otherwise. When our 7 year CIP calls for a bond referendum, I intend that referendum to pass. It was my priority this year to hold the line on tax increases, where our Manager said was needed."

"I realize \$16 million was insufficient for the school's budget, based on public feedback. I am happy to say we scoured our budget for a way to provide more. We are increasing the schools allotment by \$21 million dollars that is a 30% increase over the recommendations of our manager. We have talked about the process, it needs to be improved. The constant headlines every June about conflict between our two boards must stop."

"I will vote for this budget because it continues progress toward our board's goals in the community because it improves life in this community. It provides resources to programs that are necessary and improves the health and safety of our residents. It better compensates our deputies and detention officers in our jails who risk their lives every day for our community. It provides significantly more funding to our public schools than they received last year. I also voted for Vice-Chairman Calabria's resolution and I intent to take a serious role in those negotiations."

"We will work with open minds and hearts with colleagues to end repeated headline grabbing crisis to get a true budget and true plan to make our schools the best in the country. And will continue to be prudent with tax payer dollar while maximizing return on investment."

Commissioner Ford said "There are many good things to celebrate in this budget, and I'd like to begin by highlighting a few: We're making improvements in public safety by investing in personnel in the Sheriff's Office and EMS. We are improving community health by investing in more school nurses and we are appropriating significant funds to address the opioid epidemic. Investments in our infrastructure to plan for growth and continued workforce development are all good things that help our community move forward with increased opportunity and prosperity for many of our citizens. I am personally and especially proud of our work in expanding library service hours to tens of thousands of

more Wake County families, as this budget expands Sunday hours beyond our regional libraries to include 3 of our local community libraries: Richard B. Harrison, Green Road, and Fuquay-Varina. These expanded services mean that thousands more Wake County residents won't have to drive more than about 10 minutes to a library to access the internet or book collections or tutoring services on Sunday afternoons. That's good progress."

"However, I do think we could be doing more to address our staggering mental health crisis, to put money where our mouths are on affordable housing where it actually makes a sizable difference for many more citizens, and support for our school system better. And it is on the topic of our great public school system that I'd like to dedicate the majority of my comments today."

"I don't believe the allocation that this board is approving in today's budget even comes close to moving our public school system forward in achieving the vision of what this community expects from our students, teachers and schools - or from those of us who campaigned on supporting them. The allocation does little more than meet required funding for student population growth and the sharply increasing allotment to charter schools. This is not moving the ball forward."

"When I ran for this office a year ago, I resigned from my position as principal of a much-loved school community because I wanted to make sure that our school system continued to get the kind of local support that this board has admirably provided in the past two years. My campaign was based on my experience and public service as a lifelong educator here in Wake County, and also on the solid reputation of this Board's progress in investing in our school system especially in the last two years."

"However, I do not believe this budget allows me to honor the will of the voters and express their desire for continued, progressive increases to our public school system. While others on this board can rightfully and proudly point to votes that clearly show campaign promises were honored, I am being denied that same ability today with this budget, and so are the hundreds of thousands of taxpayers and voters who voted for me on my promise of continued support of our schools."

"Despite two solid years of significant increases to the school system by

this board, I'd like to point out that we still aren't where we once were as a community: per-pupil allotment from Wake County Government still remains lower than it was in 2001. In fact, after adjusting for inflation and charter school appropriations, students in Wake County are receiving less money from the Board of Commissioners than they did in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009. And that is why I am voting no on this budget. Wake County can and should do better for our students, teachers and staff working in our public school system, which is repeatedly cited as a primary economic driver of our local economy and quality of life. The General Assembly's assault on public education exacerbates this further, but it is within our control to do better, and by voting no on this budget today I honor my commitment to my fellow educators, my constituents, and my conscience and certainly to all of the students and families in our public school system - including my own 3 children."

"Surely it must mean something when the two commissioners whose careers are most closely tied to public education are voting against this budget, because we know firsthand what impact this will have on our students, their educational opportunities and classrooms and on our teachers and support staff. As a former Wake teacher and principal, I have to wonder what impact we might have had on our public schools' ability to recruit and retain the best staff if we had the courage to do better this year. Or what impact might the counselors and social workers that could have been hired have had on students' lives. We have a great school system, and we had the opportunity to make it even greater by improving our community's investment in it, and I'm sorry we aren't doing that today."

"I appreciate the idea of a last-minute additional five million dollars on top of the Manager's proposal, but I cannot support it because the majority of those funds come out of capital funds - money dedicated to crucial school construction and renovation projects that are just as important to our schools and our community as operating costs. For me, this seems like financial sleight-of-hand and in good conscience and I can't support it."

"I think it's important to share that I do appreciate and respect others' concerns about repeated local tax increases over the past several years. We serve many citizens here in Wake County and it is good that we are mindful of the impact that such increases can have on people. But I feel

strongly that if we didn't want to raise taxes much this year because of real or perceived impacts on citizens, we could have just as easily stated that directly, as in, "We need to take a break this year." Rather than having that courage, though, instead a narrative was put forward that cast unnecessary doubt on how the public school system is or is not spending taxpayer money - a narrative that I firmly reject. This issue of fund balance, or reserves - or whatever you'd like to call it - is a longstanding red herring. Our own data analysis shows that the school system's fund balance has been relatively consistent in recent years, and falls well within acceptable boundaries of financial accounting standards. Only this year has this issue come up so publicly from this board and our staff. As we are all in the public trust, it is certainly right and proper to ask questions about funding, but the way in which these questions have been framed this year, and the tone and suggestion of something less-than-proper going on, is inexcusable to me and I believe harms us all as a community. And so for that reason I want to offer my apology to the hard working staff and elected officials of our public school system: I am sorry. This should have been handled *better*."

"I would also like to extend an invitation to our school board to come before us later this year, after the federal and state budgets have been finalized and their impact on the school system's ability to do its job has become clear. This can be part of the paradigm shift that all of us here are supporting to ensure a better path forward of cooperation and openness between our boards."

"As for the path forward from today, I have repeatedly shared my belief that regular, ongoing meetings between both the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education on a short-and long-term plan for properly funding our school system is most important, and I support any efforts to do so. All of us - Wake County citizens of today and of the future - will benefit from more openness and transparency in this work and the results of our labor can only make us better as a community."

"I am privileged to serve with good and dedicated commissioners and staff and look forward to working toward solutions that continue to benefit Wake County for years to come. But we can do better. And we should do better."

"Hold us accountable. Thank you."

Commissioner Holmes said “One of my greatest joys in being a Wake County commissioner is the work the board has done with Wake County Smart Start. Wake County Smart Start administers the statewide Pre-K program. The funding we’ve provided allows them to leverage state funds to provide additional seats. Wake County Smart Start means so much to me because it’s a data driven program and for me before there was Chapel Hill, before there was K-12 school system, there was head start. As a first generation college student I understand the impact of early childhood development. When I was elected in 2014 the Wake County Board of Commissioners had not allocated any funds to support early childhood development. This board I commend in standing with the business community to share our commitment to early childhood development.”

“I am also very pleased of the allotment to interact, an organization that provides safety support and awareness to victims and survivors of sexual violence, rape and assault. I also want to applaud the Wake Second Chance Initiative. As Commissioner West mentioned earlier it is an initiative to address recidivism.”

“Another one of my personal pride and joys are the food pantries. The Wake County Public School System, North Carolina Food Bank, as well as the Interfaith Food Shuttle has worked this year to double the number of pantries in our high schools and middle schools that have a high percentage of free and reduced lunch rate.”

“As of this school year, ten schools in Wake County will have access to pantries along with their families. I am very proud of the number of students that this had made food available to. One of the things that I did not account for and didn’t anticipate with the pantries was the fact that I have been told that there are employees of the Wake County Public School System who are also using that pantry to feed not only themselves but their families.”

“I am proud of this board's effort on living wage. We are sending a clear message to our staff and our business community that when an individual puts in the work they deserve to be paid a living wage. Unfortunately while we have applied that rationale to our own employees, there are over 4300 school employees right now who do not make \$15 an hour. I’m talking about our bus drivers who are the first

faces our children see and in the afternoon. I am talking about our cafeteria workers who provide what may be the only meal of the day for those kids. While I am proud of so many great things in this budget, I do not believe the \$16 million sufficiently supports the school system's strategic plan. We pay taxes and as a return on our investment we expect exceptional schools."

"We expect that our children will have resources necessary to be successful. I have concerns about the continued availability of key federal funds that support education with Betsy DeVos at the helm. I also have concern about a General Assembly that keeps pushing unfunded mandates on local government. About lottery funds where none of us know where the money really goes, because they aren't benefiting our schools."

"Switching gears to affordable housing, the situation regarding Forest Hills Apartments has made clear to us that there is an affordable housing crisis. That Wake County does not have the capacity or inventory to deal with. Wake County runs the Wilmington street men's shelter, but we do not have an equivalent safe place for single women. As the only woman on this board, it is my duty to remind us of this inequity. Moreover, there are limited options for single women with children. Our community partners such as Salvation Army are typically at capacity or have long waiting lists leading to unknown number of children and facilities living in hotels and God knows where else."

"The number of homeless children in the school system is on the rise, and this budget doesn't go far enough. Students are facing homelessness, hunger, and racism. From the teddy bear hung by a noose at Wakefield High School, to the snapchat referring to the Step Team as slaves, or the pressure to be perfect and worry about college admission. The most startling piece of information that I learned are the number of suicide assessments conducted in Wake County every week. You would think this would be isolated. According to the counselors who showed up, it is a weekly occurrence. School workers nurses and counselors are not luxuries. These are individuals that are necessary and could literally save a child's life."

"There has been talk about what we've done in year one and year two. I am proud of those accomplishments, but I want to add context. Wake County is in competition with Durham and Orange Counties. We are the

Triangle. The Durham County budget is smaller overall than Wake County, yet spends \$3,280 per pupil. This is per the manager's recommendation for the 2017-2018 operating budget. That means those commissioners could vote to provide funds in addition to that. Orange County is at \$3,991 dollars per the manager's recommendation; the board could go above that as well. This year Wake County will spend \$2,633 dollars per student. We are last amongst our partners in the triangle. There has been talk about the fact that our tax rate is below 2/3 of other North Carolina counties and it is the lowest in the top ten urban counties. No one likes to raise taxes. However, there is capacity and from what I heard at the budget hearing and the emails that I received, the majority of those votes and voices tell me to keep my campaign promise not just in year one, not in year two, not just in year three but for as long as I am a Wake County Commissioner."

"I will advocate for funding for the school system and that should come as no surprise. I have been very honest about my values and where I stand. I support education; I support more affordable housing in Wake County, things like early childhood development. I hope this comes as no surprise because I tried to make sure I kept my word. I am proud to have had two budgets that lived up to those promises to students and to the teachers in my community. While I am so proud and tried to find reasons to support this budget, because of all the amazing things in it, like Smart Start, and Interact and the pantries. Overall I cannot support this budget because it does not go far enough in regards to education. While I am appreciative of the \$25,000 that we allotted today for emergency services, we still don't have a women's shelter, and we still don't have a place in Wake County for single women and children to go, making that \$25,000 necessary to ensure those individuals didn't end up homeless."

"I say all that to say that I cannot, I will not support this budget and the last thing that I will note regarding the \$5 million in additional funds. I am not sure I was as clear as I'd liked to have been before. I wanted to make clear that \$1.7 million of those funds come from a direct reduction in the transfer of WCPSS capital. This again being one of the reasons I cannot support, because they cannot spend this same check twice."

"I want to make clear that I believe every single person on this board is committed to funding the school system and finding a better way to get beyond the bickering and the issues that we have that reoccur every

budget cycle regardless of who is in power, and who is elected. As for this budget and the ask of \$16 million I say no. As to the \$21 million that takes away from designated funds that were already allocated to the schools capital program, I say no.”

Vice-Chair Calabria said “I would like to make a couple of comments in response to some of the things that have been said and then make a few overall comments on the budget.”

“The first is to talk a little bit about how we’ve put together this budget. As Commissioner Burns pointed out, this is about looking at our own budget, our own financial planning, our own assumptions and, scouring I think is the word Commissioner Burns used, but scouring our budget and making sure that we are using every dollar most efficiently. This is not financial sleight of hand. I think we are all very clear about what’s going on and how it’s happening and all of that, there’s no trickery involved, and so I reject that implication.”

“But I would also point out that, repeatedly, in conversations with our staff; we have confirmed that there will be no substantial impact to school capital or construction. Period. Full stop.”

“We build a lot of conservatisms into our models. We also have an anticipated school bond next year that could easily adjust for any circumstance. Not that we would need to because, again, there will be no material impact on our school construction schedule. No schools that were going to get built are not going to get built. No schools that would’ve been built at a certain size are going to be down-sized. That is the information based on what our staff has said. So, I think the concern is absolutely right, but, I am relying, I think rightly, on the due diligence of our staff and the recommendations of our financial advisers regarding the impact that this would have.”

“And, again, I think it is our duty to make sure that we are trim in what we do, and it should also say something that all of the available funds that we sought out through efficiencies, through the additional sales tax revenues, that we found that we are over our projections. Every single one of those dollars, with the except of a few to legal aid and some other projects, every single one of those dollars almost as a default, almost as a no-brainer, was allocated to our schools because that is a, if not the, priority.”

"I agree with a lot of the sentiments that have been expressed today and were expressed earlier, that we've got a lot of catching up to do. That is absolutely true. I hope that we will continue to be on a relatively steep course of improvement until we at least catch up, because no one wants to be fighting to be average, and that is where we find ourselves in a lot of cases."

"I think that as an elected official with taxing authority there are at least two considerations. One is about the rate, the tax rate, the numbers, and a static form. But the other consideration is about the rate of change. I have tried to, personally, I have tried to ground my judgement in a sense of history in our own county, and in a sense of what other counties have done. And by the basic numbers, in terms of the rate of change, the level of change in commitment in what we are trying to do in the county, I have not found a parallel to what we have done in the last couple of years and what we're doing this year."

"I have looked at several different counties within the state, I've looked at counties that we're often compared to outside the state, and, again, it's clear, we have catching up to do, but the rate of improvement here in Wake County, I have not found a parallel for. And that is very important to keep in mind, because that ultimately I think, is the barometer for the progress we've been engaging in, including by passing a budget that has one of the largest increases to school operating funding in the history of the county."

"Certainly, the school system will need additional help. That is absolutely true. But, I say all of that to make sure that what we are doing is not caricatured one way or another. Onto the full budget generally, I want to highlight three important areas, and I'll be very brief, because they've already been highlighted. But, these are areas of advancement that I think are very important."

"One, steps to enhance things for our children even outside of the operating budget. Commissioner Holmes is right to emphasize Smart Start, and I think we've done some great progress and you've really been a leader on that, and I want to appreciate that. We are adding nine additional school nurses through a specific appropriation just for that. Eight nurses and one nurse supervisor that will allow us to have a substantial increase in our school nurse core. Since 2013, the nurse to

student ratio has improved by 44 percent in Wake County.”

“This budget also includes funding to open buildings at Wake Tech, which can, as a result of our budget, better educate the more than 70,000 people who are educated at Wake Tech every single year.”

“Second, I want to highlight some advances in public safety. There’s been a 144 percent increase in opioid related deaths in the last four years. We also know that about 15 percent of our detention officer positions are vacant. This presents a safety issue for our inmates and for our officers, and I’m glad that we are allocating additional revenues to try to fix that problem. And, doing programmatic things to better tackle the opioid epidemic, which is really a national trend but that certainly affects Wake County.”

“And, of course, we’re also increasing our support for EMS in the ways that Commissioner Burns had described. The last area that I want to highlight is that we are supporting our economy and our workforce. Again, advances in Wake Tech mean that we can better and more nimbly address work force needs from the businesses that we are trying to recruit here. I am very proud that Wake County’s living wage is, for the first time ever, going above \$15 an hour to \$15.06 an hour. And I think it’s important to show how we got there, because when we passed our living wage ordinance I guess now two years ago, it was substantially lower than that. I think it was \$13.25 or something like that.”

“But, in that ordinance, we said that every year staff was directed to automatically go back and readjust for cost of living. And, one year after we passed it, I think it was \$14 and change, and two years after we passed it, it is now \$15.06, making us, as far as I can tell, the first North Carolina county to actually hit that mark. Others have identified \$15 as an end goal, I think we are the first to hit that for our county employees, and, that happened not through additional action on the board’s part, but simply as a reflection of how much more expensive it is getting just to live in Wake County every single year.”

“So, I’m really glad and proud that we have been able to hold to that commitment. The last thing I’ll mention is funding for the Second Chance Initiative that Commissioner Holmes has been good to champion, and Commissioner West has been good to champion along with me, on the Public Safety Committee and the Human Services

Committee.”

“This is going to better enable us to return folks to productive citizenship after they get out of our jails. It is a potential life-changer for the people that we will get to serve through case management and GED high-set prep, and vocational training, and it will better enable us to coordinate between our work force and the needs out in our business population. So, being able to do that enables folks to stay out of jail because the sheriff certainly doesn’t want to see them again, enables people to get on their feet more quickly and more often, and I think that we’ll have a lot of really wonderful dividends for our community.”

"Commissioner Portman said "First of all, thank you for the patience of everybody listening to these long comments, but this is an important subject and I hope you have a sense, whether you agree or disagree with the comments being offered, that the issue has been thoroughly vetted and reviewed, trying to find what’s best for our community.”

“I said when I was running for office that Wake County is a great place where we have few problems, and because we have few, we don’t have any good excuses not addressing each of them. One of those issues is what is taking up so much of our time at this table and that is the funding of public education. The headline tomorrow will be “The board of commissioners funded half of the school board budget” or that will be the essence of the headline. The reality is that the board of commissioners is doing to increase funding from \$407 million dollars to \$430 million dollars. And that is not half of the request.”

“So often this conversation is trapped in the ask of the increase, not the entire effort that we’re doing. Three years ago when the majority of this board was elected, there was such an effort to put money in public education because it had been neglected so badly in the prior six, seven years that of all the additional revenue we get every year, and we do get revenue, you hear people say, well so many people moving in, there’s extra revenue, why isn’t the revenue there to fund the schools? So, almost, actually all of the revenue in your first year, plus more, was put into the schools to try to fix this issue.”

“Last year, another significant increase. This year, another significant increase, because we’re not there. But even if we fully funded the school board request this year, we wouldn’t begin to address what the super

intendent identifies as a long list of deferred items reaching directly into the class room. Full funding for text books, continuing extra duty pay for teachers, leadership roles for coaches, daily cleaning of classes, a more robust middle school arts program, technology replacements, and teacher pay that reaches the national average.”

“It’s a list that, at the time this was written, in March or April, totaled \$138 million dollars. And, he tells us, the list is not complete. Here’s my concern, from the position of an advocate for public education. I could not fund improvements to my home, if I didn’t know the total cost of the project. I wouldn’t make down payments without knowing how long it’s going to take, and how much it’s going to cost. That’s what we’re being asked to do. What is the cost? How long will it take us to do it? We need to bring that forward because this approach is three years down the road, and we’re not even scratching the surface of basic needs.”

“I’m calling for a different strategy. A strategy that will more clearly communicate to the community what’s missing, what’s needed, and a rallying for an increase that will fix the job and get the job done. Anything short of that is I think a failure of leadership on both of our boards. We tried to do that this year, frankly. We were full of enthusiasm and excitement. We met; we thought the way to do that was small group meetings, working off camera. Trying to really get at what were the things we needed to add to the budget that would be remarkable, that would justify additional funding.”

“We had several good months of progress on that. And then we were blown off course by HB13, the state’s mandate to reduce class size. And we were blown off course on that subject because, on the one hand, as a commissioner I was told the State was paying for that, and then I was hearing from the school board the State was not paying for that. And I didn’t know which was true. I knew I felt probably the state wasn’t paying for it, so we went on a four to five week expedition, trying to find the answer to that.”

“Frankly, it shouldn’t have taken so long. Because in the end, the answer, which was really never provided, but was deciphered, said that State wasn’t paying for it. The State was mandating an increase of 467 teachers to reduce class size but only paying for 160. So leaving our

school district with an unfunded mandate for 2/3 of it. At the same time, the State did not say, but, you talk about sleight of hand, they were cutting 400 teachers in grades four through twelve. Not good. Not good.”

“That addition of 26 million dollars to the budget really kind of took away any oxygen for us to be able to address the basic needs and the remarkable things that we wanted to do this year. That \$26 million dollar risk is there next year. It’s just been kicked down the road a year. So, I’m hopeful that we can work in a different way to try to get this job done. I think an argument can be made for even greater funding that what has been approved today, but this isn’t that argument.”

“I will ask for a solution that tells us a cost to get to the goal, and the cost to fix the problem in the classroom, and in a manner in which we can get our arms around it and get it done. It may involve another tax increase. Actually, it will involve another tax increase. It will probably be a bigger tax increase than the micro-increases that we’ve been doing. But if we do it right, we can actually fix the problem. And, still have a tax rate, for those that are concerned about every year raising taxes, still have a tax rate well below what it has historically been.”

“If you go back and you look, and I just looked over 40 years, because I’m kind of a geek and I need to see things in trends. Forty years ago, the tax rate was 94 cents. It is, we are going to 61.5 cents. Thirty years ago, it was 63 cents. Twenty years ago, was 59 cents. And ten years ago was 67 cents.”

“So here’s the opportunity, this is the vision, this is the win, and I’ve talked to a lot of folks about this but we’re not on track with our strategy to get it done. I’ve used the analogy, I want to see Sixty Minutes come and land at RDU, and I want them coming into Wake County and doing a story about the incredible changes we’ve made to take a really good school system and make it very, very good. And, we have the opportunity to do it. We certainly have the leadership on the Board of Education to do that. We certainly have the leadership on this board to do that.”

“What we are lacking is a shared strategy to get that done. That’s why I hope the anti-quarrel proposal will help; I’m open to any other changes that will do it. But I know that if we are not able to change the dialogue, then the effort will be lost by us pushing against each other, as opposed

to pushing in the same direction, to try to get the story across.”

“I believe our community will be more supportive of additional funding if we can tell them we are fixing the problem, not a budget that doesn’t include deferred needs and that actually the more we fund, the more we raise taxes, the bigger the deferred needs grows. I don’t think that’s a strategy.”

“Three years ago, in the 2014 budget, the deferred needs weren’t listed as deferred needs, they were listed as items not funded, \$11 million dollars. \$44 million dollar increase to public education. The next year the deferred needs goes to \$90 million dollars, a \$24 million dollar increase. The next year the deferred needs goes to \$97 million dollars. This year’s request, a \$46 million dollar increase. The deferred needs on this budget is some \$170 million dollars. That’s not a good strategy. The more we fund, the bigger the deferred needs.”

“We need a different strategy. I’ll do everything I can, I’m obviously frustrated, I think like many on the school board, that this is where we’re at. But, what’s the old saying, if at first you don’t succeed, try, try again. The objective is still there, the work still needs to be done, we’ve got an opportunity to make that progress. And I hope that we can do it in a way that is more advocacy in terms of accomplishing a specific goal that we can agree upon. The most frustrating thing is that I think we agree on the end goal, what we don’t have is a common strategy to get there.”

"Commissioner West said "I’m not sure there’s a whole lot to say. I’ve been here trying to come up with something I thought would be real profound, but I guess as I think about this, because I’ve been in this thing a long time, and it reminds me a little bit of Peter Singer’s comments, the Fifth Discipline, of the blind men feeling the elephant. And they all came up with a different perspective, and I feel like that’s kind of where we are.”

“It’s all here about perspective. And I think we’ve got to have some real crucial conversation because unfortunately we don’t see the world as it is, we see the world as we are. And I think the thing that still concerns me is what I call community engagement.”

“The people who have the problem, know more about the problem than anyone else, if we’re going to be honest with ourselves, we are not really

talking to the people who have the problem. That requires some real effort, but that's going to be the key. If we can empower communities, empower families, and give them these opportunities, then I think we'll see a real change."

"I think it was President Jimmy Carter that said "There are two ways to bring about change. One is to think, analyze change. And the other is to see, feel change." We very seldom get to that level of change where we see, feel change. I think that we kind of are the experts on top, and the citizens are the experts on tap. And until we somehow get to that point where we get people totally engaged, feeling ownership, feeling good about themselves, and self-sufficient it's going to effect the youth in the community."

"This board has made a whole lot of accomplishments but we've got to pull it together in a synergistic way. There's been discussion about process. It's truly the biggest problem, and we talk often at each other rather than with each other. There's not a shared vision. We all mean extremely well."

"It has been said that complex problems require divergent solutions, and I think that we try to solve complex problems with simple solutions. They just simply do not work that way. It's been said that: should funds drive programs or should needs and programs drive funding? The is also discussion about funding and there is not a clear definition of the true problem."

"Crucial conversations must take place because relationships are the key. Trust is the glue that holds everything together. And we all come with different perspectives, and you know, the issue that I talked about in terms of the gaps, not just Wake County, but the school's gaps across the country. And the only way we are going to be able to deal with those gaps is to better understand each other, and why we make decisions, because often we sometimes enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought. We come into the situation already with our opinions formed, and that tends to lead to solutions that are not extremely good."

"I think that we've had a good process. There is no question that items in the budget are looking more comprehensively in terms of community needs, the schooling needs, that we are certainly moving in the right

direction. They say Rome was not built in a day, and I am truly of the opinion that just focusing strictly on funding and not focusing on some of these other issues that we have, and not engaging a good cross-section of people, those folks that are behind in the walk of life, that we will never change things until we get to the point that people see, feel change, they engage in the process. Lower-income parents understand how to negotiate the system. They have livable wages and all those things that were talked about.”

“I would suggest, not only as we have looked at our plan, that we look at some in-depth evaluation on accountability and resolves. We have to tie everything to resolves, not just in participation, but we’ve got to see if there are some practiced changes. If people’s lives are being changed, because I think we have about 170,000 people that receive some type of services or support from Human Services. And we have more poor people in this county than two Rocky Mount’s.”

“Wake County has more poor people than probably 20 to 25 counties down east. And then when you get in this situation where you string the poor, poverty is poverty. You suffer the same way, no matter where you are located. But when you get in this situation where you have all of this wealth around you, and you are poor, and upward mobility is extremely low, there are some things that we have to seriously look at.”

“From the perspective of what I can see from the outside looking in, that there are many youth that are not getting the opportunities that they deserve. And I realize that that is going to require dollars, but we’ve got to set the priorities in terms of making sure that we can do the first things first, in some kind of order.”

“I think what has been demonstrated is that we’re getting some results. Not only do you have the support of these county commissioners, but you get the support of the people. And I do think the people have the right to say: are we getting the job done?”

"Chairman Hutchinson said “I believe everything has been said, it’s just that not everyone has said it. So I will finish up my comments by providing a few comments that maybe have not been well-articulated.”

“First, Mr. Manager, I want to thank you for your budget. I think it was an outstanding effort to be able to provide for the safety, the health and the

well-being of our citizens at a very reasonable tax rate. Johnna, I want to also thank you and your staff for all of your work, and the budget staff for putting this together. It was just a monumental effort that started back in December or January, and ultimately here we are today.”

“The board relies on the numbers and integrity, and the ability to make these numbers speak and paint pictures. I want to commend staff for their work. I continue to talk as early and as often about what a great staff we have here at Wake County. I feel incredibly blessed to work with these great professionals and we are so appreciative of the fact that you have chosen public service and government to be your career.”

“I want to honor the commissioners here. I was so heartened by the initiatives that you heard tonight, around the initiatives that they have undertaken over the past two to three years. You know you hear things from affordable housing, food security, vulnerable communities, transportation and transit, cleaner environment, a living wage, and Wake County Smart Start.”

“These are amazing, amazing initiatives. And these are leaders who are making Wake County better. I also want to say that it has been such an honor and a privilege to feel so blessed to be able to be a part of this group. As we started these negotiations, there was nothing but the utmost of respect. Everyone was calling everyone; there was open, transparent, respectful communication. There was never one side against another. There were honest disagreements as there should be.”

“We have a big county and there is a lot of interest that needs to be represented. But it is very important that the Wake County citizens know that this board is working collaboratively, honestly, openly and with respect with each other for the betterment of Wake County. And after this vote, we will continue working together.”

“A number one priority of government is to provide for the safety, the health and the well-being of our citizens. And that’s what the budget the manager has proposed is doing. Vice Chair Calabria clearly articulated the additional funds for our detention center to insure the safety of our citizens. He also articulated the additional money for EMS to insure for the health of our community.”

“We have one of the best EMS organizations in the country. There were

90 citizens in Wake County who were clinically dead before EMS showed up on their door steps. And as a result of the work of these great professionals, those 90 citizens are alive today. And yet, that being said, we had over 25 percent increase in calls this year, and 10 percent of our EMS positions currently are vacant. Citizens' lives are being saved, literally, as a result of this amazing work force."

"In addition, \$26 million dollars for mental health. And I so appreciate Denise Foreman, Assistant to the County Manager, who started the conversation about this horribly underfunded need that we have for mental health and behavioral health. The proposed budget includes eight new nurses in our school system to provide for the health of our kids and \$950,000 new dollars which are going to be directed for our opioid epidemic and for tobacco use so that we encourage kids not to smoke. For the citizens who do smoke, now is the time to stop."

"Three new food inspectors have been added to ensure food is safe and three new septic tank inspectors to make sure that your water quality is clean. I also have to give a huge shout-out to Wake Tech. 78,000 students' lives are being changed, and whether its auto-mechanics or analytics, there is something that every citizen can sign up for and get a degree, and get a job."

"And a huge shout-out needs to go out to Dr. Steven Scott, President, Wake Technical Community College, and his leadership of this amazing organization. And I am so proud that we've added \$1.5 million to a \$21 million budget, including the ground breaking of the RTP campus that is going to be working with our technology companies with internships under the great leadership of their chair, Tom Looney."

"Friends, we have needs in this county. But we live in a great county. The commissioners are collectively working on your behalf with initiatives that I'm so proud of, and you've heard them tonight, to make your lives better. As I said from the beginning, the first priority of government is to provide for the safety, the health, and the well-being of our citizens. And friends, that's exactly what's happening with these commissioners and this budget. Thank you."

The meeting went into recess and the meeting reconvened.

20. [Public Hearing and Consideration of Business Development Grant Agreement for](#)

Trilliant Networks, Inc., in Cary

Attachments: [Trilliant Business Development Agreement Item Summary 6-19-17.docx](#)
[Trilliant Business Development Grant Agreement Draft June 6 17.docx](#)
[Business Development Grant Program Approved May 2016.docx](#)

Ms. Denise Foreman, Assistant to the County Manager, said on April 18, 2017, Trilliant Networks, Inc. announced it will establish its global headquarters in Cary, creating 130 jobs over the next five years. The company will invest \$1.8 million at its current offices in Cary to accommodate or this expansion of corporate operations. She said that Trilliant qualifies for a grant under the Tier 5/state match provision of the Wake County Business Development Grant Policy. The county is waiving the investment threshold criteria of the state match provision because the company is establishing its global headquarters within the county. In order to receive grant payment from the county, Trilliant must meet performance criteria as outlined in the county's agreement. These performances criteria include: New Investment (>\$1.8 million), New job creation (>130 new jobs with average wages of \$105,348 or greater), and payment of property taxes.

Chairman Hutchinson opened the public hearing.

No one came forward.

Chairman Hutchinson closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Ford moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, that the Board of Commissioners hold a public hearing and approves a Business Development Grant Agreement with Trilliant Networks, Inc., subject to the terms and condition acceptable to the County Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.

21. [Wake County Public School System CIP Reallocations and Appropriations \(First Reading\)](#)

Attachments: [1st Reading Item Summary.docx](#)
[Presentation.pptx](#)
[BOC Resolution 7.17.17.docx](#)
[CIP 2013 Appropriation Summary as of 7.17.17.pdf](#)
[WCPSS Multi-Year CIP Appropriation Summary as of 7.17.2017.pdf](#)
[Board of Education Resolution - Alston Ridge.pdf](#)
[Board of Education Resolution - CIP 2013 Reallocation.pdf](#)

Mr. Joe Desormeaux, Assistant Superintendent for Facilities, Wake County Public School System, shared the key drivers for the request. He said the request is for funding for furniture, fixtures, and equipment at Lincoln Heights Elementary School and an improvement program for construction and public infrastructure at Alston Ridge Middle School.

- Provide funding for Lincoln Heights unforeseen site and public infrastructure costs utilizing savings from CIP 2013.
- Appropriate Continuous CIP funding for construction and public infrastructure for Alston Ridge Middle

He shared a chart of the reallocations and appropriations. He shared the CIP schedule.

Commissioner Portman asked how the reallocation and appropriation aligns with the school budget. Mr. Desormeaux said the contingency at Lincoln Heights Elementary School was reduced initially and the request is for additional funding for offsite issues. Commissioner Portman asked if the schools planned for the year are under or over budget. Mr. Desormeaux said that currently projects are at or under budget.

Vice-Chair Calabria said that the request is for reallocation of unused CIP savings for a different purpose. He asked if any other projects were affected that could have received allocation. Mr. Desormeaux said that other projects would have been reassigned to funding in the Capital Improvement Plan.

The Chairman announced that this is a first reading of the item and no action is necessary.

22. [Land Acquisition for a Parcel of Land Containing 0.367 Acres Located Adjacent to Kingswood Elementary School in Central Cary \(First Reading\)](#)

Attachments: [First Reading Agenda Item.docx](#)
 [Presentation Wimbish - Kingswood ES 1st reading.ppt](#)
 [Purchase Contract - Wimbish parcel.pdf](#)
 [Appraisal Wimbish 516 Ferrell Street, Cary, NC.pdf](#)
 [Boundary survey.pdf](#)

Ms. Betty Parker, Director of Real Estate, said that on April 18, 2017, the Board of Education considered a land bank opportunity to provide for the future expansion of Kingswood Elementary School in the Central Cary area. She shared the Kingswood Elementary site plan. She shared the preliminary feasibility study options chart. Ms. Parker shared the contract terms and information.

23. [Approval of an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Raleigh and Approval of Schematic Design for a Multi-Services Center at 1430 South Wilmington Street in Raleigh](#)

Attachments: [Agenda Item-Oak City SD-ILA.doc](#)
 [Power Point Presentation.pptx](#)
 [Draft Interlocal Agreement.docx](#)
 [Space Program Summary.pdf](#)
 [Budget Memo - FY 2017 County Capital Fund - County Buildings.xlsx](#)

Mr. Mark Forestieri, Wake County Facilities, Design, and Construction Director, said on March 20, 2017 the Wake County Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of a 4.2 acre site at 1430 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC. The property is located adjacent to the South Wilmington Street Center and includes a warehouse building that will be renovated into a Multi-Services Center. Wake County closed on the purchase of the property on April 20, 2017, for the purchase price of \$1,200,000. He shared a map of the location of the site. He shared the scope of service for the project.

- Point of entry to homeless services system
- Wide Variety of Services
- Coordinated assessment of client needs
- Provides immediate referrals and resources
- Provides meals on weekends
- Vital infrastructure for a growing community

Mr. Forestieri shared an Interlocal Agreement/City of Raleigh Funding Commitment information.

1. City Council Authorized Funding Commitment Dec. 6, 2016
2. Authorized City Manager to Execute Agreement with County
3. County Owns Site/Designs & Develops Project
4. County Collaborates with City on Project Development
5. City Commits \$3,148,000 Toward Project Development
6. City Assists County with combining this site w/Men's Shelter
7. City Assists County to Obtain Site Permits/Approvals
8. Parties Collaborate to Plan and Select Operating Vendors

He shared an existing view from Wilmington Street. He shared a photo of existing conditions on the site. He shared a recombination site plan map. He shared the site development plan.

Chairman Hutchinson asked where the Bus Rapid Transit stop is located on the site for pedestrian access. Mr. Forestieri said the stop is across the street from the South Wilmington Street Center near Keeter Center.

Mr. Forestieri shared the floor plan of the site.

Commissioner West asked if these were new services at the Multi-Services Center. Ms. Annemarie Maiorano, Human Services Deputy Director, said most of the services exist at other places, but the goal is to combine services for one stop service. Mr. Forestieri said that staff is working with Catholic Charities that will operate services at the facility. He said that design workshops have been held with General Services and Human Services that have endorsed the design approach.

Mr. Forestieri shared the Exterior Streetfront Facade rendering of the site.

Commissioner Holmes asked about computer access in the center. Mr. Forestieri said there would be eight stations at the center.

Chairman Hutchinson asked if there are bike racks located at the center. Mr. Forestieri said there would be racks. He shared an aerial view of the site. Chairman Hutchinson commended staff for using grass, trees, and shrubs that are native to North Carolina.

Mr. Forestieri shared the sustainable site features.

Commissioner Burns asked about solar strategies for the site and other county buildings. Mr. Forestieri said that roof and other areas of site have been reviewed for solar usage, and county facilities are considered for solar potential.

Mr. Forestieri shared the project budget.

Vice-Chair Calabria asked about the impact fees. Mr. Forestieri said that part of the Interlocal Agreement asks the City of Raleigh to work with Wake County to identify impact fees.

Commissioner Ford asked if a Women's Shelter has been considered on the site. Ms. Maiorano said that discussion initially occurred but determination was made not to have a women's and men's shelter on the site.

Commissioner West said that when he served on the Raleigh City Council there were concerns about the center on the site. Ms. Maiorano said there have been multiple discussions with the neighborhood about the center over time and saturation was a concern.

Commissioner Holmes recognized Ms. Shauna Overdorf, Partnership to End Homelessness, to provide a comment. She said the conversation

about the flow of the space and pathways to services was discussed. She thanked the board and staff for the support.

Mr. Forestieri shared the next steps.

Board Approval of ILA/Schematic Design	June 19, 2017
Board Approval of CMAR Selection	July 17, 2017
Board Approval of Property Recombination	July 17, 2017
City of Raleigh Site Plan Approval- (Estimated)	November 2017
Early Demolition Package (Informal)	November 2017
Board Awards Construction Contract	February 2018
Construction Complete	December 2018

Commissioner West asked how the specialized training and employment opportunities differ from others already in place. Ms. Maiorano said that evaluation is being made for the center, and on site services are preferred. She said collaborative coordination of efforts is the goal. She said employment is also important.

Commissioner Portman asked about the cost per square foot compared to other projects. Mr. Forestieri said a cost per square foot is difficult since a new roof, HVAC, electrical and plumbing is being added. Mr. Forestieri said the cost per square foot looks in line compared to other projects.

Commissioner Holmes asked about the medical services at the site. Ms. Maiorano said the dental van may be used and dental services are available at Human Services site.

Commissioner Holmes moved, seconded by Commissioner West, that the Board of Commissioners:

- 1) Approve and authorize the County Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Raleigh and Wake County for development and renovation of the property at 1430 S. Wilmington Street subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney;**
- 2) Receive and appropriate \$3,148,000 to this project from the City of Raleigh, as approved by City Council on December 6, 2016 and as referenced in the Interlocal Agreement;**

3) Approve Schematic Design for renovation of the property into a Human Services Multi-Services Center known as the Oak City Center. The motion passed unanimously.

24. [Acquisition of 9.67 Acres of Moore Open Space Property in Buffalo Creek](#)

Attachments: [Moore Agenda Item 2017_06_19.docx](#)
 [Moore PP 2017_06_12.pptx](#)
 [Moore Property Area Map.pdf](#)
 [Moore Property Site Map.pdf](#)
 [Moore Appraisal Summary.pdf](#)
 [Budget Memo - FY 2017 Open Space.xlsx](#)

Mr. Chris Snow, Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Director, said that the purpose of the Open Space Preservation Program is to protect and conserve county land and water for current residents and future generations. Mr. Snow said that the Moore property acquisition will provide water quality benefits to Buffalo Creek and allow for the possibility of expanding Roberson Millpond Preserve in the future. He said the 9.67 acre acquisition property was appraised by Art Dec (Certified Appraiser) and valued at \$14,167 or \$136,995. The total acquisition cost is estimated at \$150,000. With the additional costs of surveys, appraisals, taxes, etc., staff estimates the total cost will be funded with existing open space funding.

Chairman Hutchinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, that the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Appropriate \$150,000 of Open Space Funds; and**
- 2. Authorize the County Manager to execute an agreement to purchase the Moore properties, subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.**

25. [Appointment of the 2017 NACo Annual Conference Voting Delegate for Wake County Board of Commissioners](#)

Attachments: [NACo Voting Delegate Item Summary.docx](#)
 [2017 NACo Voting Form.pdf](#)

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Calabria, that the Board of Commissioners appoints Commissioner Sig Hutchinson as the Voting Delegate for the 2017 National Association of Counties Annual Conference being held July 21-24, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Commissioner Burns asked for the Board of Commissioners to acknowledge the seven U. S. sailors that were killed with the merchant ship in Japan. He noted that one of them had connections to Wake County.

Commissioner Burns said that Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth Independence Day or Freedom Day, is an American holiday that commemorates the June 19, 1865 announcement of the abolition of slavery in the U.S. State of Texas, and more generally the emancipation of African-American slaves throughout the former Confederacy of the southern United States.

27. [Informational Items for the Board of Commissioners](#)

Attachments: [Informational Items Summary 6-19-17.docx](#)
 [April 2017 Financials.pdf](#)

Closed Session

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Ford, to go into Closed Session. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Scott Warren, County Attorney, said there was a need for a closed session and the motion was pursuant to N. C. G. S. 143-318 11 (a) 4 to discuss matters related to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by Wake County including an agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by Wake County in negotiations.

The meeting went into recess and the meeting reconvened. No action was taken by the board.

Adjourn

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Ford, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Hogan, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board
Wake County Board of Commissioners