

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Monday, May 24, 2018

9:00 A.M. Budget Work Session

MINUTES

Place: Commissioners’ Chambers, second floor, Durham County Government Administrative Complex, 200 E. Main Street, Durham, North Carolina

Present: Chair Wendy Jacobs, Vice-Chair James Hill and Commissioners Heidi Carter, Brenda Howerton and Ellen Reckhow

Presider: Chair Wendy Jacobs

Sheriff – Update on Mental Health Pod(s)

Chair Jacobs welcomed Durham County Sheriff Mike Andrews and thanked him on behalf of the Board for his 39 years of service to the community and to the Durham County Sheriff Department.

David McNulty, Sheriff’s Office Finance Manager shared a presentation titled “Budget Priorities and Request” which highlighted the following focus areas: protecting vulnerable populations; meeting workload demand; and recruiting and retaining a modern workforce.

Chair Jacobs inquired about the 50 percent Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) not served. Colonel Anthony Prignano responded that many cases were extended, and the Sheriff’s Office would attempt to serve the DVPO again; if it was not served, then the case did not go back to court. Chair Jacobs asked for the status of the Domestic Violence Program in the Family Justice Center. Sheriff Andrews responded that the program had computers and internet, but no phone service.

Chair Jacobs asked why the number of people having mental issues remained around 30 percent in the detention center after all the diversions. Mr. McNulty responded the state had closed beds at institutions which made counties and jails mental health providers. Chair Jacobs inquired about the fees related to the medical cost and requested the 2018 data. Gayle Harris, General Manager stated that the 2017 data showed 524 uses of medical at \$20 each use which totaled \$11,000. She added that the 2018 data would be forwarded to the Board as requested.

Chair Jacobs asked about the local food pilot program. Colonel Prignano stated smaller vendors do not have what was required by the state to be utilized as food vendors. Jay Gibson, General Manager, responded four or five smaller vendors would become certified through funding this year and additional funding had been requested to help get more vendors certified.

Chair Jacobs asked would the five new SROs requested be on ready for the start of school in July. Sheriff Andrews answered three were vetted and were ready to start in July, and shared he

was working to staff the other two positions. Commissioner Carter asked who requested that School Resource Officers (SRO) have body cameras. Sheriff Andrews responded that the request was by the Sheriff Department. Chair Jacobs asked how much money was set aside in the budget for compensation pay for law enforcement officers. Jodi Miller, General Manager, responded \$700,000 was set aside and the County was waiting for the compensation study results.

Commissioner Reckhow inquired about the thirteen employees hired for the Women's Mental Health Pod. Colonel Prignano answered three employees would work on four shifts including one shift leader. Commissioner Reckhow asked about the status of the vent replacements in the detention center. Mr. McNulty responded that the Sheriff Department was currently working with architects to determine the best solution and the estimate cost was \$750,000. He added the Sheriff Department would return to the Board with final recommendations and request for funding. Commissioner Reckhow asked about the replacement of windows in the detention center. Colonel Prignano answered six cells are not being used due to broken windows; however, could wait until 2020 for the replacement of all windows.

Commissioner Howerton asked if the padding for the detention center was included in the budget request. Mr. McNulty responded the padding would be included in a later request along with the vents and other improvements.

Directives:

- **Gayle Harris to provide the Board with the 2018 medical costs of the Domestic Violence Program in the Family Justice Center and information regarding how the system was functioning.**
- **Colonel Prignano to provide the Board with information regarding the top ten crimes were in the last year in Durham County that lead to arrest.**
- **Sheriff Department to provide the Board with data on the Mental Health Pods.**
- **Staff to add the overall crime trend data in the report and the top ten crimes committed in Durham that lead to arrest in FY17-18.**
- **Staff to provide data on the Mental Health Pod when it became available.**

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) – Community Paramedicine and In-House Training

Kevin Underhill, EMS Director, shared a presentation titled "FY 2018-19 Recommended Budget" which highlighted the reallocation of five existing positions with EMS and the purchase of five new ambulances to replace the older ambulances in current fleet.

Commissioner Reckhow asked how much of the intergovernmental revenue was from the Duke payment that supported EMS. David Ades, Budget Analyst II, responded \$2.5 million dollars in the EMS budget was from the Duke agreement.

Commissioner Carter asked about working with Durham Public Schools to offer intern program for students. Mr. Underhill responded in the past, most students left after one year due to school schedules. He stated that he was not opposed to working with partners and hiring students.

Vice-Chair Hill asked about the status of Station One. Mr. Underhill responded a complete tear down and construction would start in August or September.

Chair Jacobs asked if Duke Health were helping to fund the Community Medic. Mr. Underhill responded no. Chair Jacobs asked how the staging of the EMS trucks around the County was working. Mr. Underhill responded staging was cut back significantly due to the data showing no increase in response time and low morale. Mr. Underhill added the number of engaged employees went up 10 percent due to spending more time together at the stations. Commissioner Jacobs asked for an explanation of in-house training. Mr. Underhill responded the training would be in-house at Durham County to allow for hands-on training instead of online with Lenoir Community College or going to Johnston Community College.

Directive:

- **Chair Jacobs suggested taking the information to Duke Health to ask for assistance with the Community Medic.**

Fire Marshall/Emergency Management – Haz Mat and Durham County Fire and Rescue

Jim Groves, Fire Marshall and Director of Emergency Management, presented the Fire Marshall/Emergency Management Recommended Budget.

Vice-Chair Hill asked if Durham County was working with Duke and North Carolina State University with the chemicals on their sites. Mr. Groves responded the State was working with the entities to ensure that radioactive materials are handled properly.

Chair Jacobs inquired about how to involve the community with the implementation of East Durham. Mr. Groves responded the community was allowed to know what was going on around them with Community Right to Know Act. Chair Jacobs asked if Emergency Management was working with the Planning Department. Mr. Groves responded no, but they were trying to get a position created on the Planning Review Board.

Public Health – Realigning Positions

Gayle Harris, General Manager presented the Public Health Recommended Budget.

Vice Chair Hill asked what would cause the Environmental Health Division to monitor the complex food service operations. Ms. Harris responded they would require more visits with an example being a food service that handled raw chicken.

Commissioner Reckhow asked was not being able to charge fees mandated by the state. Chris Salter, Environmental Health Director, responded the County could only charge initial fees for new permits for new establishments. He added the state collected \$120 yearly fees after the initial fees and the County received \$70 back from the state from each collected. Commissioner Reckhow stated the County should push various channels to get the State fees raised.

Commissioner Carter asked if the County ever paid over the base budget for medical care in the Detention Center. Ms. Harris responded \$400,000 was for off-site medical care and any money not spent of the \$400,000 would come back to the County. Commissioner Carter asked if the care was the same when it was managed by the County. Ms. Harris responded yes.

Chair Jacobs asked if the complaints from the medical unit at the Detention Center were available. Ms. Harris responded yes, and the complaints were sent to her for monitoring.

Directive:

- **Gayle Harris to provide the Board with a report about the Bull City United.**

Veteran Services

Lois Harvin-Ravin presented the Veteran Services Recommended Budget.

Commissioner Reckhow asked when did Jonathon Crooms, Veterans Services Officer, become certified. Ms. Harvin-Ravin responded October 2017. Commissioner Reckhow asked after a year of being fully staffed, would a new Veteran Services Officer still be needed. Ms. Harvin-Ravin responded yes. Commissioner Reckhow asked if the veterans were filling out the paperwork themselves or going online. Ms. Harvin-Ravin responded both; however, some veterans who completed paperwork themselves, filled out the paperwork incorrectly. She added this resulted in veterans coming in the office for help with the paperwork or the appeal process.

Department of Social Services (DSS)

Ben Rose presented the DSS Recommended Budget.

Commissioner Carter inquired about school social workers. Mr. Rose stated the school social workers had to be reallocated and the program was not mandated. He added it was planned for the two staff to return as school social workers.

Housing Initiative (Department of Social Services (DSS), Alliance)

Ben Rose, Director of Social Services, shared a presentation titled “FY 2018-19 Proposed Budget” which touched on the building blocks of a high functioning Homeless Housing System, coordinated entry and intake, eviction diversion, the Permanent Supportive Housing Pilot Program and homeless housing and eviction priorities.

Commissioner Reckhow asked if Alliance provided case managers. Gayle Harris, General Manager responded no, case managers were funded by the State. She added \$5.3 million dollars of the \$6.1 million dollars budgeted to Alliance would be applied to the Crisis Operation Center.

Commissioner Howerton asked would there be assistance to help a tenant facing eviction for a second time. Mr. Rose responded that was not built in the plan. Commissioner Howerton asked how to make the homeless program more sustainable. Mr. Rose responded try to find more affordable housing.

Directive:

- **Gayle Harris to provide the Board with updated second Quarter data and information as to whether Alliance could fund the requested \$67,000 from their current budget.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Macio Carlton
Senior Administrative Assistant