

Citizen Comments Received for the BOCC
December 14, 2020
Regular Session Meeting

Citizen: Barbara Jacobs

I would like to submit the following statement for the public comment period at the next Durham County Commissioners meeting on December 14. Thank you very much for your help. Enjoy the weekend but stay safe.

I read an article in the October 20 N&O about County Manager Wendell Davis's decision to grant hazard pay to many Durham County employees beginning March 15. I assume he had the power to award this. However, I was quite surprised to hear that he had not informed the county commissioners after he made this decision.

Next, I listened to the November 9 County Commissioner meeting. I learned that nothing had been budgeted for this. Is Mr. Davis sure that we are getting 100% reimbursement for this spending from the federal government? Otherwise why does it not appear in the budget?

As a resident and taxpayer, I am concerned that the spending may not be fully reimbursed. Funds will have to be found to cover this spending. Our revenues will be down, and our social service needs are ever greater. Does Mr. Davis realize that our revenues are very limited and are funded by the taxpayers of Durham County? It seems that he does not care.

But, even more important, I'm concerned that Mr. Davis felt there was no need to mention the increased spending to the commissioners back in March when he made the decision. Why did he not mention it at the next meeting? Was he hiding it?

This kind of non-communication makes me wonder what else he may not be communicating. We must be able to trust our county manager and he must be fully transparent.

Thirty-plus years ago, my father and his brothers formed a group called Citizens for Responsible Government in Greensboro. I am proud to be following in their footsteps.