

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

Monday, January 5, 2009

9:00 A.M. Worksession

**AGENDA**

1. **Citizen Comments**

5 min.

Ms. Theresa El-Amin, PO Box 52731, Durham, NC 27717, requested to speak to the Commissioners about cable access issues.

2. **Review of December BOCC Directives**

5 min.

It was requested that at each month's worksession, the Board of County Commissioners have the opportunity to review the previous month's directives for staff and make comments as necessary.

Resource Persons: Mike Ruffin, County Manager; Laura Jensen, Assistant to the County Manager

County Manager's Recommendation: The Manager recommends that the Board review the December BOCC directives and make comments to staff as necessary.

3. **Financial Update on Major Capital Projects**

45 min.

The Board is being requested to receive a presentation from staff and the County's Financial Advisor, DEC Associates Inc., on the status of several capital projects that are scheduled for the ensuing year and provide direction for proceeding with the County's capital projects that are scheduled for the immediate future (i.e. 12 to 15 months).

The current economic downturn has generated concerns about the County's course of action on projects that are scheduled for debt funding within the next 12 to 15 months. The major capital projects scheduled to begin in the immediate future – that have significant financial implications - are the Human Services Complex and the New Justice Center. Staff, working in concert with the County's Financial Advisor DEC Associates Inc., has evaluated the County's position and will make a presentation to update the BOCC on the current financial status as it relates to moving forward with the County's Capital Plan.

Resource Person(s): Wendell M. Davis, Deputy County Manager; George Quick, Finance Director; Doug Carter, DEC Associates Inc., Financial Advisor; Glen Whisler County Engineer; Mike Turner, General Service Director; and Pam Meyer, Budget Director

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board receive the presentation and provide direction to staff regarding the capital projects that are in the pipeline for construction. The major subject projects are namely the Human Services Complex and the New Justice Center.

4. **County Benefits Update**

30 min.

The Human Resources Director is asking the Board of County Commissioners to receive information and recommendations on bids received for the proposed self-funded employee benefits plan for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009.

Resource Person(s): Marqueta Welton, Director of Human Resources; and Diane Pearson, Benefits Manager

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board receive the report and direct staff on moving forward with proposed benefits changes.

5. **Update from The Durham Center**

30 min.

The Durham Center will give an update to the BOCC regarding their application to be designated to perform Medicaid Utilization Review (UR) for Durham County. The application was submitted to the Division of Medical Assistance on December 15, 2008. Following a review of the written materials, the State will conduct an on-site visit during the first two weeks of January. Announcement of the selected LMEs deemed as ready to perform utilization review will be made later in January.

In 2006, Value Options was awarded a contract to perform utilization review (UR) for all Medicaid clients statewide. Since that time, a great deal has been written and debated about how best to fix the state system that provides services and supports for individuals with mental illness, addictions, and developmental disabilities with Medicaid UR being one of the central issues. During the 2008 short session of the General Assembly, legislation was passed that required DHHS to move toward transiting Medicaid UR back to Local Management Entities (LME) with 30% of the population to be managed locally by July 1, 2009.

Utilization management means that someone is reviewing requests for services, seeing if the request meets the identified needs a person has, and approving (or not) those services for payment. Utilization Review has a great deal to do with improving the care, quality, and coordination of services being provided. With a statewide vendor, such as Value Options, that process is essentially a paper review. However, individuals served by Durham's public system often have very complex needs and many will need some level of support in the communities for an extended period of time. A paper review is insufficient to understand fully the individual and their circumstances much less understand the types of services and expertise available at the local level that might best support that individual.

The presentation will answer the following questions:

- Why is Medicaid UR important to Durham County;
- What has happened since we lost Medicaid UR in 2006;
- What will be the cost;
- What are our risks if we are successful in being designated for Medicaid UR; and
- Challenges to be ready by July 1.

Additionally, Ms. Holliman will provide information regarding how well the LME is performing overall based on statewide indicators.

Resource Person(s): Ellen Holliman, Area Director, The Durham Center

County Manager's Recommendation: The Manager requests that the Board of County Commissioners accept the report.

6. **Durham Cooperative Extension – Coordinated Transportation – Durham County Access (DCA) Update**

15 min.

Durham Cooperative Extension requests time to update the Board of County Commissioners on the status of the operational and procedural changes proposed for Durham County Access (DCA). This update will highlight the outcomes, recommendations, and plans resulting from the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) Institute for Transportation Coordination attended by the six-member Triangle Team on November 17-20, 2008. The update will also address pertinent issues related to the resolution approved by the Board at its November 10, 2008 meeting.

Resource Person(s): Delphine A. Sellars, County Extension Director; and William Barlow, North Carolina Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Division (NCDOT-PTD)

County Manager's Recommendation: The Manager recommends that the Board receive the presentation and provide direction to staff as appropriate.

7. **Briefing of Durham County Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Plan**

20 min.

The Durham Soil and Water Department requests that the Board of County Commissioners be informed of the development of the Durham County Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Plan. Once adopted, this plan will help keep farming viable in Durham County while preserving part of Durham's heritage. The Soil and Water Department received a grant (\$30,000) on behalf of Durham County to hire a consultant to orchestrate the development of this plan. The consultant will be introduced to the Board of County Commissioners and County Manager and will give a brief overview of the proposed plan of action in the coming months and answer any questions the board might have.

Resource Person(s): Eddie Culberson, Director of Soil and Water, and Jennifer Brooks, Watershed Conservationist

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board of County Commissioners receive the plan of action as presented by staff and consultant.

8. **Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant Transition to County Operation**

15 min.

The Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant has operated under a contract with United Water Hydro Management, LLC since July 1, 2005. On November 19, 2008, United Water exercised a 90-day termination clause of the contract and will cease operating the facility on February 17, 2009. To ensure the Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant and collection system is cost-effectively operated to meet all permits and regulations, it is proposed that Durham County begin operating the facility with County staff.

The County Utility Division will need additional staff to operate and maintain the Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant and collection system. Therefore, it will be requested that 14 new positions be created and that one existing position be eliminated. The 14 new positions are as follows:

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent
- Two (2) Project Managers (Operations Mgr. and Maintenance/Collection Systems Mgr.)
- Administrative Officer II
- Maintenance Technician II
- Maintenance Technician I
- Three (3) Operations and Maintenance Specialist II
- Three (3) Operations and Maintenance Specialist I
- Lab Technician I
- Staff Specialist

The existing position to be eliminated is a Project Coordinator position, which primarily provides oversight of the contract operations firm's performance. A proposed organizational chart is provided.

In addition to creating and filling these positions, there are many other tasks which must be completed. These tasks include installing new computer networks with operation and maintenance software, establishing new vendors of goods and services, and purchasing vehicles. The Engineering Department Utility Division has received support for this transition from other County departments, including Human Resources, Information Technology, Purchasing, Finance, and Budget. Based upon an evaluation, Durham County can directly operate the Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant at the same cost as operating with a private contractor and meet the standards of care.

Resource Person(s): Glen Whisler, P.E., County Engineer; Joseph R. Pearce, P.E., Utility Division Manager

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board receive the presentation on the proposed County operation of the Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant and collection system, and direct staff to proceed with the transition and establishment of new positions.

9. **Update on Sustainability Initiatives**

30 min.

The Board is requested to receive the Sustainability Manager's report on the status of various sustainability initiatives.

The Sustainability Manager will report on four topics:

- Durham County Government transportation demand management programs
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction plan
- Progress of the Sustainability Office since April 2008
- Plans for the Sustainability Office for future initiatives

Resource Person(s): Tobin L. Freid, Sustainability Manager

County Manager's Recommendation: The Manager's recommendation is that the Board receive the Sustainability Manager's update report and provide direction as deemed appropriate.

10. **Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget Review – Recommended Actions**

30 min.

The decline in the economy has significantly impacted the current budget. Staff has developed projected revenue estimates to review with the Board and recommended actions for the Board to consider bringing expenditures in line with the revised estimates.

Resource Person(s): Mike Ruffin, County Manager; and Pam Meyer, Budget and Management Services Director

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board review and discuss the recommendations.

11. **Discussion of Issues for 2009 Durham County Legislative Agenda**

20 min.

The North Carolina General Assembly will convene the 2009 General Assembly Session at Noon on January 28 in Raleigh. Following a communication to County department heads and other traditional legislative partners, several items were received as possible legislative proposals to be considered for inclusion in the final 2009 Durham County Legislative Agenda.

Staff will conduct the first discussion of these items with the Board of County Commissioners at the worksession. The goal is prepare a strategic, focused package of

legislative items that can be aggressively supported by members of the Durham Delegation.

In addition, staff will seek direction from the Board to set a joint meeting with the Durham Delegation in the coming weeks.

Resource Person(s): Deborah Craig-Ray, Assistant County Manager, and Chuck Kitchen, County Attorney

County Manager's Recommendation: The Manager's recommendation is that the Board receive the proposed legislative agenda items, discuss, and direct staff.

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4 hrs. 5 min.