

January 4, 1999

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

Monday, January 4, 1999

9:00 A.M. Worksession

**MINUTES**

Place: Commissioners' Room, second floor, Durham County Government Administrative Complex, 200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC

Present: Chairman MaryAnn E. Black, Vice-Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow, and Commissioners William V. Bell, and Joe W. Bowser

Absent: Becky M. Heron

Presider: Chairman Black

Chairman Black opened the Worksession.

**Citizen Comment—Ralph McKinney**

Mr. Ralph McKinney, 500 Fairfield Street, requested time on the agenda to make comments to the Commissioners. Mr. McKinney expressed that he plans to speak at future BOCC meetings until the Commissioners commit to eliminating racism and protecting all citizens in the area.

Mr. McKinney spoke about racism and the equal protection of citizens.

No action was taken on his comments.

**Citizen Comment—Jack A. Steer**

Mr. Jack Steer, 2416 Dawn Trail, a representative of the Friends of Durham, addressed the most important challenges facing the Commissioners during the next two years.

Mr. Steer spoke in reference to the following:

- I. City/County Merger Issues
  - (a) The principle of merger
  - (b) The advantages
  - (c) The program

- II. Durham School System Issues

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- (a) The budget
- (b) Educational funding

III. Planning Issues

- (a) The 2020 Plan
- (b) The Small Area Plan
- (c) Regional Planning

No action was taken on these comments.

**Proposed High-Level Nuclear Waste Expansion at the Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant**

Jim Warren, Executive Director, NC WARN (Waste Awareness and Reduction Network), made a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners on the proposed high-level nuclear waste expansion at the Shearon Harris nuclear plant.

Mr. Warren stated the primary significance for Durham County is that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission acknowledges that high-level nuclear waste storage carries the risk of a potentially catastrophic accident and release of radiation; NRC identifies a 50-mile radius from the plant as the accident impact zone. Durham County is well within that area. Mr. Warren explained that the storage facility would be doubled in size, making it the largest nuclear storage facility in the United States.

NC WARN was asking that the public's rights be considered; the public must be informed of an issue of such importance. Carolina Power and Light should let the public learn about the proposed plan and have meaningful input into the process.

At present, NC WARN has not taken a position against the proposed expansion, but it does have serious questions about storing such a significant amount of nuclear waste at one location.

County Manager's Recommendation: That public hearings be held prior to any expansion of storage facilities, as per Orange County's resolution. However, the County Manager recommends taking no other action until assessment of this situation has been made by our Environmental Affairs Board in the same manner that Orange County consulted with its Commission for the Environment.

The Commissioners asked several questions about the proposal to which Mr. Warren responded.

Vice-Chairman Reckhow suggested that a resolution, if approved, be sent to the NRC and our congressmen.

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Vice-Chairman Reckhow requested that the Board be given a copy of the formal request that was sent to the NRC on Christmas Eve. The resolution should reflect that the company extend the comment period to 90 days.

County Manager Thompson said the Board should formally request that the Environmental Affairs Board review the information. Staff will draft the request and resolution for the next meeting on January 11, 1999.

**Foundation for Better Health of Durham**

James A. Russell, Executive Director, Foundation for Better Health of Durham, made a presentation to the Commissioners in reference to the proposed Durham Health Fund.

County Manager's Recommendation: No action is required at this Worksession. Previously, the Board discussed the need to consider utilization and protection of the funds derived from the lease of Durham Regional Hospital. Staff has not reviewed this presentation.

Dr. Gerry Musante introduced the subject matter. He gave background information in reference to the proposal.

The following individuals prepared the proposal: Jim Russell, Executive Director, Foundation for Better Health of Durham; Eugene Staples, Chairman-Elect, DCHC Board of Trustees; and Carolyn W. London, Healthy Carolinians. They also assisted with the presentation.

Ms. London, 2211 Wilshire Drive, talked about the establishment of the Durham County Healthy Carolinians in 1994.

Dr. Musante discussed the federation that comprises the Foundation for Better Health of Durham, Durham County Healthy Carolinians, and City of Medicine, USA.

The following letter refers to the federation's proposal:

December 21, 1998

Commissioner MaryAnn Black, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners  
Durham County  
200 E. Main Street  
Durham, NC 27701

Dear Commissioner Black,

January 4, 1999

The attached proposal to the Durham County Board of County Commissioners relating to the proposed Durham Health Fund has not significantly changed from the draft version that was shared with groups and individuals in the community some time ago.

In brief, the federation, consisting of the Foundation for Better Health of Durham, Durham County Healthy Carolinians, and City of Medicine, USA, proposes that:

- (1) The proceeds from the rental of Durham Regional Hospital and investment earnings from those funds should be permanently restricted to providing health and wellness services and programs in Durham County.
- (2) The Foundation for Better Health of Durham be selected as the vehicle through which those assets be invested and maximized.
- (3) The efforts of the federation in conducting a community goal-setting and strategic planning process for health services in Durham be endorsed.
- (4) The Foundation for Better Health be appointed to structure and organize an allocations process that supports programs and projects flowing from the strategic plan.

The federation looks forward to the challenge of working with the various community stakeholders in devising a community health system that unifies the people of Durham in pursuit of the common good.

We look forward to the opportunity of discussing this proposal with you and your colleagues on January 4, 1999.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ James A. Russell  
Executive Director

Cc: City of Medicine  
Durham County Healthy Carolinians

Mr. Russell talked about fund management.

The County Commissioners asked questions and made comments about the Durham Health Fund.

Mr. Russell and Ms. London responded.

Chairman Black asked County Attorney Chuck Kitchen to answer questions relating to the control the County Commissioners would have in transferring money to another entity.

Mr. Kitchen responded to the request.

The Commissioners expressed concern about several areas of the proposal.

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Ms. London commented that Durham must draft a long-range plan for health in Durham County.

Chairman Black stated that she asked County Manager David F. Thompson and County Attorney Chuck Kitchen to do the due diligence on this project.

Chairman Black asked the County Attorney to come back to the Board with the very best plan for this community.

County Manager Thompson said a report will be brought to the Commissioners at the February 1, 1999 Worksession relative to the utilization and protection of funds derived from the lease of Durham Regional Hospital.

**Resolution—Dr. David York Garrett Jr.**

Chairman Black requested that a resolution be prepared in memory of Dr. David York Garrett Jr.

**Presentation on Space Requirements for the Emergency Shelter for H.O.P.E.**

A presentation was conducted on space requirements for the Emergency Shelter for H.O.P.E. Currently, the building is ill adapted to function efficiently as a shelter, having inadequate bathrooms and sleeping quarters, scattered office and storage space, and maintenance problems. Living conditions for families being served are especially in need of attention. The Board of Directors of H.O.P.E. maintain that substantial changes are needed to provide adequate services to the homeless and to bring the facility up to existing governmental codes for housing, fire protection, and health.

The support material included a description of need, estimated development costs for renovating the shelter, and a description of sources of funding. County staff is working with representatives from the Emergency Shelter for H.O.P.E. to include the request for facility renovations in the FY2000-FY2005 Capital Improvement Program.

Resource Persons: Maggie Lee and Jack Preiss

County Manager's Recommendation: The purpose of this presentation by Emergency Shelter for H.O.P.E. representatives is to outline their position on the need for renovations and additions to this facility. If the Board agrees with the need, David Powell will work with this group to prepare a request under the upcoming CIP. This is a County facility; therefore, if approved, it will become a County project subject to State bidding laws. The Shelter Board completed the description of funding sources and cost estimates. Providing this becomes a County project, the County Manager will direct staff to prepare estimates since Durham County will be the responsible party.

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Mr. Hap Johnson, Chairman of the Durham County Community Shelter for Hope, presented the pre-development and rehabilitation plan for the shelter.

Mr. Johnson introduced Maggie Lee, Jack Preiss, and Kendall Abernathy.

Mr. Johnson said the Board of Directors, at the beginning of the year, made the following resolution: "Women and children will be our first priority at the shelter; we are going to be an emergency shelter."

The Commissioners were urged to visit the shelter.

Ms. Lee told the Commissioners the community is in dire need of a new shelter. Many children at the shelter need assistance with physical and mental health problems.

The Commissioners made comments and asked questions about the shelter operations.

Ms. Lee responded.

Chairman Black said we must consider mental health programs to help residents with special needs.

Ms. Lee said, "We don't need a larger shelter to house more people, but a better shelter to house the people we serve."

Mr. Johnson stated, "We are not trying to build a larger shelter, but improve the quality of life." The \$200,000 raised each year by the Board of Directors is insufficient to provide programs to prepare residents to move out on their own.

Chairman Black said it disturbs her that babies and small children live in the shelter.

Vice-Chairman Reckhow said the County Manager should convene an appropriate group to study the existing situation. An alternative for infants and small children must be considered, in addition to programs to prepare the adults to move out.

Michael Palmer, Deputy County Manager, said staff has worked for several months with the coalition of providers in the homeless community to discuss the issue of Durham County's homeless. We are looking at other communities around the nation to determine how they are attacking the issue. The report will be ready at the February Worksession.

Commissioner Bell said he hopes the Board can solve this problem. The shelter is needed in Durham. Infants and children should be in a comfortable environment.

Mr. Ernie Mills, Executive Director, Durham Rescue Mission, stated his facility is privately funded. We want to work with the County to solve the homeless problem. He discussed the operations of the Durham Rescue Mission.

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Mr. Preiss talked to the Commissioners about the development plan and financing.

County Manager Thompson stated that justification is needed to expand the facility. Staffing, operational costs, and the amount of services must be considered. He also stated that the shelter project should be put in the Capital Improvement Plan during January. If the Commissioners agree to the project, a commitment will be made in February for the availability of funds in July. Mr. Thompson asked the Board to approve that David Powell, Economic Development Director, work on placing this project in the CIP format and develop a plan of action.

Vice-Chairman Reckhow said program needs must be studied. Durham County must do its best for this particular population.

Commissioner Bell desired that the proposed project move forward.

**1999-2000 Budget Process and Community Meetings**

Budget Director Claudia Odom discussed the ongoing 1999-2000 budget process. The 1999-2000 Annual Budget will focus on ensuring departmental work plans are integrated with Board of Commissioner goals and are clearly tied to the requested budget amounts. Special attention will be paid to performance indicators, a requirement of all departmental budget requests.

In an effort to gain additional public input, the County Manager proposes that community conversations be held throughout Durham County. The Cooperative Extension Service has been asked to coordinate community meetings as part of an ongoing community outreach initiative. The community meetings will be useful to staff in relaying the goals and objectives of the County Commission to the citizens and to provide feedback to the Commission.

Staff requested input and direction on these issues from the Board.

County Manager David F. Thompson made introductory remarks about the 1999-2000 budget process which included two-year budget projections, staff development, business incentive plans, program evaluation modification, and community targets. Staff will begin developing adaptive capacity to reach out to the community.

Vice-Chairman Reckhow requested the nonprofit budgets be distributed to the Commissioners by May 1, 1999.

Cheryl Lloyd, Director of the Cooperative Extension Service, outlined the proposed process for community input. Dates and locations follow:

DATE	LOCATION
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**January 4, 1999**

January 26, 1999	Eastway Elementary
January 27, 1999	Little River Elementary
January 28, 1999	Glenn Elementary
February 1, 1999	Southwest Library
February 2, 1999	Main Library
February 3, 1999	Parkwood Library
February 4, 1999	Morehead Elementary
<i>February 8, 1999</i>	<i>Distribute Information to Board &amp; Dept.</i>

**Copier Management Program**

The purpose of this item was to inform the Board of a proposed Copier Management Program based upon paying a pre-specified fee for each copy produced. The Board was requested to authorize the Manager to enter into negotiations with the recommended vendor.

For the past year, a broad-based team of County staff has been diligently exploring alternatives to the traditional equipment ownership and leasing methods of providing copying equipment in an effort to find a more cost-effective and efficient means of providing this service. The team has researched and analyzed the County's usage and requirements for meeting its varied copying needs. The resulting recommendation is to proceed with a Cost Per Copy (CPC) management program. The CPC will result in significant cost savings to the County and will provide major productivity enhancements for staff. Under such a program, all of the County's copying equipment would be replaced with new equipment, and the County will then pay a fixed fee for each copy produced. The fee would include the copiers and all associated costs (maintenance and supplies), excluding paper. The County currently makes approximately ten million copies per year with 68-owned and 19-leased copiers. Of the County-owned copiers, 63 percent are five years old or older. Under a CPC program, the County will realize annual savings of >\$50,000 in copying costs alone. A reduction in administrative costs will be realized through working with only one vendor for our copying requirements and invoicing. Productivity will be enhanced through providing current, fully functional technology that is operationally consistent across all platforms.

County Manager's Recommendation: Accept this report and authorize the County Manager to enter into negotiations with the recommended vendor for approval at a future Board meeting. The Board may want to commend staff for taking the initiative to undertake this complex procurement.

Sandra Phillips, Director of Purchasing, presented this report to the Board.

The Commissioners asked questions about the request.

Ms. Phillips responded to the questions.



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Chairman Black instructed staff to follow through with this agenda item.

**Alcoholic Beverage Control Board—Appointment**

Chairman Black asked the Clerk to the Board to arrange for James Randall to be interviewed by the Commissioners for possible appointment to the ABC Board. The suggested interview dates were January 11, 1999 or January 25, 1999 at 6:15 p.m. prior to the Regular Session.

**Board of County Commissioners and Board of Education Joint Meeting**

The Commissioners concurred to ask the school board to meet with them on January 11, 1999 at 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Schools Capital Improvement Program.

**Adjournment**

Chairman Black adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garry E. Umstead, CMC  
Clerk to the Board

GEU:VCS