

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

Thursday, June 14, 2001

10:15 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 Joe W. Bowser, Philip R. Cousin Jr., and Becky M. Heron

Absent: None

Presider: Chairman Black

Pay-As-You-Go or Capital Finance Plan

Chairman Black called on County Manager Michael M. Ruffin to introduce the agenda items.

County Manager Ruffin stated that staff would begin by discussing the Capital Finance Plan. He would like to resolve questions and issues related to the plan and then move to other budget matters.

The County Manager reviewed the following documents for the Commissioners: Capital Financing, FY 2001-02 County Support for Capital Improvement Plan, and Durham County 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

The Commissioners asked several questions about the Capital Improvement Plan. County Manager Ruffin and staff responded.

Mr. Bradham provided a brief presentation on the One-Stop-Shopping project to be implemented by the Planning and Inspection Departments.

The Commissioners asked questions and made comments about the project.

Youth Coordinating Board--FY 2001-2002 Budget

Budget Director Pamela Meyer answered various questions raised by the Commissioners at earlier worksessions regarding the Youth Coordinating Board's budget.

Youth Coordinating Board Director Anita Daniels-Kenney and Deputy County Manager Carolyn Titus also responded to the questions and comments.

FY02 Changes to Manager's Recommended Budget

Commissioner Bowser asked a question about the \$15,225 TTA contract increase.

Budget Director Meyer said the \$15,225 is an additional allocation for the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program.

Commissioner Bowser said he was of the opinion that the \$89,000 approved in last year's budget was a one-time expenditure. Why is it ongoing?

Commissioner Reckhow explained that the purpose of the additional allocation is to hire an employee to administer the TDM program. The program requires much outreach and work. The funding increase will not be an ongoing request.

Commissioner Bowser said he thought the allocation was for one year. I did not want to allocate the money last year, and I certainly don't want to do it this year. Commissioner Bowser's concern centered around Research Triangle Park. Of the 40,000 employees in the park, 35,000 live in other communities. Why should Durham County citizens pay for a program to reduce traffic for outsiders who are not contributing to the program financially? Employers in other communities should be asked to share the cost.

Commissioner Reckhow responded to Commissioner Bowser's concern.

Commissioner Bowser said he could not support sending money to the Research Triangle Park to finance the TDM program. Nonprofit agencies should be given the money to provide services for Durham County citizens.

Commissioner Bowser requested information on the TJCOG Center of Region Study. The total requested amount was \$10,000.

County Manager Ruffin responded to Commissioner Bowser's questions.

Commissioner Bowser said he could not support these two items. Too many needs exist here in Durham.

A lengthy discussion was held by the Commissioners concerning the Center of Region Study and the TTA contract for TDM.

Commissioner Bowser asked questions about replacement vehicles for the Sheriff's Department.

Storm Water Program

County Engineer Glen Whistler made a presentation concerning the proposal for next year and how the storm water program will be implemented.

Commissioner Reckhow made remarks about taxing and revenue to pay for the program. Staff should consider ways the program could be funded.

Attorney Chuck Kitchen updated the Commissioners on the Storm Water Program local act.

FY02 Changes to Manager's Recommended Budget (continued)

County Manager Ruffin suggested that public health revenues be reduced by \$24,036 to \$150,000.

The Manager also recommended that the court-ordered care reduction line item in the expenditures be decreased to \$200,000.

Commissioner Heron expressed concern about the Child Care Services Association contribution being increased by \$10,000 in the nonprofits line item. She asked that the Board revisit that item before making a final decision.

County Manager Ruffin called on Deputy County Manager Titus to explain the EMS expenses of \$143,889 due Durham Regional Hospital.

County Attorney Chuck Kitchen assisted with the questions and comments.

A lengthy discussion followed about the EMS expenses due the hospital.

Triangle J Council of Governments--Center of Region Study

Chairman Black said this \$10,000 expenditure was voted on and approved at the Board's last regular meeting. Commissioner Bowser would like to change his vote.

Commissioner Bowser decided to leave his vote as originally cast.

Vice-Chairman Reckhow will inform Triangle J Council of Governments that it cannot access Durham County's \$10,000 until all Triangle J counties are participating in the project.

Triangle Transit Authority Contract Increase (for TDM)

Commissioner Bowser said he wanted to vote against the \$15,225 for the Travel Demand Management program because it is in addition to the Travel Reduction program. He supports the \$69,875 in the Travel Reduction program since it is of direct benefit to Durham County citizens. He has a problem with benefiting people outside of Durham County. In his opinion, the Traffic Demand Management and Travel Reduction programs should be separated.

Chairman Black requested that Commissioner Bowser make a motion.

Commissioner Bowser said he could not present a motion on what he is against.

Chairman Black said the \$15,225 will help pay for a part-time person to work with the 150 Durham County employers.

Commissioner Bowser wanted to vote against the \$47,949 going to the Triangle Transit Authority.

Commissioner Reckhow moved to force a contract next year with Triangle Transit Authority to administrator our Travel Management program in the amount of \$37,150.

Commissioner Heron seconded the motion.

A discussion followed.

Commissioner Bowser asked County Manager Ruffin if this budget item would come out of our books.

The County Manager responded that if the motion passes, the budget ordinance will reflect this amount. You may vote against the appropriation, but it will be reflected in the budget ordinance if approved by a majority vote of the Board. That puts you in a position where you can support the budget ordinance, but you have memorialized your opposition to this particular change. The minutes will clearly show that you did not agree with that expenditure. You can vote for the budget ordinance without having to hold out for just \$37,150.

Commissioner Bowser said when the budget is finalized, there will be a budgeted line item for \$37,150 for Triangle Transit Authority. The Travel Reduction program will have a budgeted amount of \$50,000+.

Budget Director Meyer said the \$10,000 budgeted in the Travel Reduction program will support the Durham County program.

Commissioner Bowser said the \$10,000 budgeted for the Durham County program is the amount I want to remain in the final budget document.

County Manager Ruffin said we will go back to the budget book and redo that narrative to be sure that those explanations are incorporated.

The motion carried with the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Cousin, Reckhow, Black, and Heron

Noes: Commissioner Bowser

Absent: None

Child Care Services Association

A lengthy discussion was held about the \$33,040 requested in the Child Care Services Association's proposed budget for FY 2001-2002.

The County Manager recommended \$20,000 for FY 01-02 which was \$10,000 less than the amount budgeted in FY 00-01. The Commissioners discussed the \$10,000 reduction.

Chairman Black suggested that the funding be restored to \$30,000.

The Commissioners concurred to fund \$30,000 to Child Care Services Association for FY 2001-2002.

Deputy County Manager Titus was instructed to inform the Association that the Commissioners will not fund the \$30,000 in FY 02-03.

Veterans Services Office

Commissioner Bowser felt that the office should be reopened.

County Manager Ruffin said the office will be reestablished and opened on a half-time basis for one year and then reevaluated to determine whether it is feasible to make it a full-time position.

The Board of County Commissioners supported reopening the Veterans Services Office.

Worksession to be Held in the Fall

Chairman Black said the Board will schedule a fall worksession to discuss nonprofits and the health trust fund. The purpose of the worksession is to put several policies in place.

Closed Session and Regular Session

Chairman Black said the June 25, 2001 Closed Session would begin early so the Board can perform the required, yearly evaluations and set salaries for the appointed and elected officials.

The 7:00 p.m. Regular Session agenda will include adoption of the FY 2001-2002 proposed Budget Ordinance. Commissioner Bowser will not vote against the budget ordinance, but he will make a comment about the Transportation Demand Management program.

Civic Center Authority Budget

Commissioner Heron wished to see revenue amounts that the County receives from the Civic Center Authority. The Budget Director and Internal Auditor would provide the figures for the Commissioners.

Operation Breakthrough Inc.

Commissioner Bowser asked the Board to increase the budget payment to Operation Breakthrough Inc. by \$2,500. The Commissioners agreed with the increase.

Adjournment

Chairman Black adjourned the worksession at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garry E. Umstead, CMC
Clerk to the Board