

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

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

9:30 A.M. CIP Worksession

Minutes

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

Present: Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow, Vice-Chairman Joe W. Bowser, and Commissioners Philip R. Cousin Jr., Becky M. Heron, and Mary D. Jacobs (arrived at 9:52 a.m.)

Absent: None

Presider: Chairman Reckhow

Agenda Adjustments

Chairman Reckhow noted the main items on the meeting agenda—Durham Public Schools, Durham County Youth Home, and the revenue model. She added an item to discuss the concept of a citizen survey to assess the feasibility of a bond referendum.

Durham Public Schools—Update on the Capital Improvement Plan and the Priority One Projects for Bonds

Chairman Reckhow recognized Dr Ann T. Denlinger, Superintendent, Durham Public Schools.

Dr. Denlinger informed the Board that the CIP presented today is identical to the original plan with the exception of the following four points agreed upon by the Board of Education:

- Request that the Board of Commissioners reduce the facility funding for the current W. G. Pearson Elementary School to a functional, maintenance level for the short term.
- Increase the size of the new elementary school to be built adjacent to Hillside High School on 41 acres owned by Durham Public Schools. The increase to 600+ students will accommodate the current W. G. Pearson students as well as additional students to relieve school overcrowding in the southern part of Durham County.
- Ascertain that sufficient funding exists to refurbish Lowe's Grove Middle School to a standard comparable to other middle schools.

- The Board of Education will not build a school on the old Lowe's Grove Elementary School site and hopes that the land will be used for a library and a park.

The Board of Education will present its final CIP document to the Commissioners on April 24, 2003. Priority One Projects for the 2003 Bond Referendum amount to \$101,038,036.

Chairman Reckhow asked for questions from the County Commissioners.

Superintendent Denlinger responded to the questions.

Durham Public Schools CIP Public Hearings

Dr. Denlinger announced that the first of three CIP public hearings would be held on March 27, 2003 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fuller Central Services Building.

Chairman Reckhow stated that the Commissioners looked forward to hearing the results of the public hearings. She requested that the minutes reflecting public comments be sent to the County Commissioners.

Dr. Denlinger assured the County Commissioners that the citizen comments would be forwarded to the Commissioners.

Durham County Youth Home

Carolyn P. Titus, Deputy County Manager, presented the Durham County Youth Home report to the Board of County Commissioners. She introduced the following team members who prepared the report: Angela Nunn, Youth Home Director; Anthony Allen, Budget Analyst; and Donnie Phillips, Chief Court Counselor.

Ms. Titus provided three basic pieces of information—the background and operations of the Youth Home; three alternatives for consideration; and cost comparisons to other county- and state-operated youth homes across North Carolina.

Deputy County Manager Titus distributed a handout composed of intense community comments she received subsequent to the October 2002 escape at the Youth Home.

The Board of County Commissioners asked questions and made comments about Youth Home operations and the report.

Team members responded to questions and comments.

Chairman Reckhow directed staff to find out whether the Sheriff is receiving any reimbursement to transport Youth Home juveniles throughout the state.

Ms. Titus presented the following three alternatives for the Board's consideration:

1. Continue current Youth Home operations on Broad Street.
2. Close the Youth Home and send Durham County youth to state or county facilities outside Durham County.
3. Provide a new, expanded facility outside the City limits (away from a residential area) and increase capacity and security measures.

Deputy County Manager Titus presented additional information about the alternatives. Alternative No. 1 is a short-term measure. The Youth Home could operate seven more years in its current location. It is unlikely that Durham County could make money on a new youth home. Team members strongly recommended that security measures identified as a result of the October 2002 escape be implemented. The first-year cost is projected at \$83,000. Ms. Titus stated that Ms. Nunn was instructed to include the security items in the Youth Home budget.

Vice-Chairman Bowser suggested that staff revisit the fencing being considered for Youth Home security to determine whether more appealing fencing options are available. The neighborhood should be contacted prior to installing a 12-foot fence with razor wire.

Vice-Chairman Bowser asked that staff submit facts to substantiate that detaining youth offenders in their home county aids in rehabilitation.

Vice-Chairman Reckhow advised that the Board not include a new youth home in the CIP. This project would affect our revenue picture. If the Board opts to pursue building a new youth home in the future, it can petition for state funds.

Commissioner Heron moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs, that staff consider necessary renovation/security projects for the Youth Home and revisit the Board with the suggestions and projected costs.

County Manager Ruffin asked if the renovation costs would be included in the budget process.

Commissioner Heron answered that the costs would be outside the budget process at this point.

Chairman Reckhow summarized that the motion implies that the new youth home will be removed from the CIP. The five security recommendations discussed earlier in the presentation are to be included in the security package.

Chairman Reckhow and Commissioner Heron clarified for Deputy County Manager Titus that the motion included the five security projects.

The motion carried with the following vote:

Ayes: Reckhow, Cousin, Heron, and Jacobs
Noes: Bowser

Revenue Model

County Manager Michael M. Ruffin explained the revenue model. Actions taken by the Board over the past two days had been incorporated into the model.

Keith Lane, Senior Budget Analyst, provided the revenue model figures.

County Manager Ruffin chronicled the decisions made by the Commissioners that were reflected in the revenue model. The Justice Center would be delayed six months so staff could complete the directives given at yesterday's CIP Worksession. (Chairman Reckhow had suggested that the Board adopt the CIP with the Justice Center as a placeholder in terms of size and amount and directed staff to examine relevant issues with the goal of utilizing our space efficiently and effectively and reducing cost when possible. Also, staff was instructed to consider if a better plan could be developed to reduce the square footage of the proposed Justice Center and to utilize better the existing buildings.) The Justice Center project would resume in January 2004 with the programming and land acquisition.

In 2000, the Board removed the Bragtown Library from the CIP with the understanding that the County is moving toward a regional library system. The Board increased the Museum of Life and Science budget by \$675,000. The Durham County Youth Home (just discussed) is not included in the revenue model.

County Manager Ruffin informed the Commissioners that 8.44 cents dedicated to capital financing in the currently adopted CIP would remain the same for FY 2004.

The County Manager remarked that a revised copy of the Capital Financing Plan model would be sent to the Commissioners this weekend.

The Board of County Commissioners asked questions and made comments about the revenue model.

The County Manager and Mr. Lane responded.

Announcement

Chairman Reckhow announced that the Board would hold a closed session on Monday, April 14, 2003 to discuss the workplan for Tax Administrator Kenneth Joyner.

Bond Referendum

Chairman Reckhow asked if the Commissioners would be willing to support a citizen survey to determine community support for a fall bond referendum. The survey would also help establish an amount for the referendum.

The survey firm would be contacted for information and cost figures.

BOCC Worksession

The Monday, April 7, 2003 BOCC Worksession would begin at 9:00 a.m. A number of citizens had requested to speak on domestic partner benefits. After a lunch break, nonprofit agencies would present their budget requests.

Adjournment

Chairman Reckhow adjourned the meeting at 11:55 p.m.

Sincerely,

Garry E. Umstead, CMC
Clerk to the Board