

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

Monday, January 6, 2014

9:00 A.M. Worksession

AGENDA

Reckhow – Foster suspend rules to excuse Jacobs – All in favor

Reckhow – Foster to excuse Jacobs from this morning meeting – all in favor

Moment of silence for Jacobs

1. Citizen Comments (30 min)

- 1) The Board of County Commissioners will provide a 30-minute comment period at the beginning of its Worksession meeting on the first Monday of each month. Any citizen of Durham County wishing to speak shall have an opportunity to do so. The Board may direct staff to research and reply to the concerns, if appropriate. Speakers must sign in prior to the start of the meeting providing a mail/email address and telephone number so that staff may reply to comments and/or questions. Citizens who request an immediate response from the Board are encouraged to submit a brief description of the issue to the Clerk to the Board two weeks prior to the Worksession to allow an opportunity for research prior to the meeting. **All speakers shall have three minutes to speak and are requested to refrain from addressing issues related to personnel matters.**

John Mininger – thank commissioners for the rebuilding of the bridge. Happy with the area of the Rougemount water system. Ensure that boundary is 250 feet. Drew responded that the footage is correct.

Resource Person(s): V. Michelle Parker-Evans, Clerk to the Board

County Manager's Recommendation: The Manager recommends that the Board receive citizen comments and direct staff to respond, as deemed appropriate.

2. Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau Update (20 min)

- 1) Shelly Green, President of the Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau (DCVB) will provide an update on DCVB activities.

Shelly Green shared a presentation of the previous activities of DCVB and the marketing plan for the upcoming 3yrs. Discussed primary purpose (not funded by tax dollars, funded by visitors); Group Services; Durham named the tastiest town in the south; Visitor Services – Way finders (2500 volunteers to provide hours for events – 60,000 hours have been provided); Branding – 9million visitors in Durham last year. Discussed 3yr strategic blueprint marking – 4 primary segments: leading edge boomers, LGBT, Generation Y and daytrippers. Secondary markets: Civil War Enthusiast (working on for 2015), Newcomers, Sports Fans (opportunities for football-promotions for chick fil a bowl). Groups – (see slide).

Reckhow – commend for the Way Finders program.

Foster – also commend for the program. Encouraged Shelly to stick around for the sports update.

Resource Persons: Shelly Green, President, Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board receive the presentation and advise staff if any additional information is needed.

3. Crime Lab Update (30 min)

- 1) Staff will give the Board an update on research into creating a local crime laboratory. Currently, an individual arrested on a drug or alcohol charge will either remain incarcerated or be released on bail until their samples are analyzed. However, the State Bureau of Investigation's crime laboratory currently faces a backlog, and the turnaround time for test results has been increased to around six to eight months. Without this backlog, the analysis would take about a week to complete.
- 2) At its February 4, 2013 work session, the Board heard the Crime Cabinet's recommendation that Durham County address the backlog by funding three chemist positions within the SBI's crime laboratory. These chemists would be solely responsible for analyzing samples that originate from Durham County. Under this arrangement, local funds will be required to fund three analyst positions while the SBI will conduct the hiring process and continue to bear equipment and facility costs.
- 3) Another option for addressing the backlog is the creation of a local crime laboratory here in Durham. In July, Durham County was tentatively approved for a North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) grant to fund local a blood alcohol drug testing laboratory in Durham County. (The grant application is attached.) This grant would fund the equipment and initial personnel and accreditation costs. Under this arrangement, local funds would be required to fund any necessary building modifications, as well as ongoing personnel, equipment, maintenance, and accreditation costs.

Manager – giving changes that have happened, will get additional information on a topic in the report.

Lee – shared a presentation on a Crime Lab. Discussed the SBI option and considered hosting a lab for Durham County. Recommendation with SBI was to fund three chemist positions. Lee discussed background. Reckhow inquired about the positions and the hiring date of those positions. Lee mentioned he was unsure of that number. Option 1 discussed – Advantages/Disadvantages Discussed – Option 2 – Host Durham Crime Lab for Blood Alcohol Content Analysis Only – Advantages/Disadvantages Discussed. Option 3 – Incorporate Full Lab into Future Satellite Jail – Advantages/Disadvantages. Recommendations – Short Term, fund positions at SBI...Long-term, Incorporate laboratory into satellite jail project.

Manager – the city could assist with the laboratory cost. This could help with their crime lab as well. Discuss with the city to help fund this project.

Lee – Manager and Lee met with the DA who agrees with what

Foster – how long would the contract with the SBI be for and would there be a termination date. Lee – there would be a contract and those details would be negotiated. All contracts would be brought to the board for approval. Foster – is there a escape clause, Lee – the contract is critical. The contract would have to include a good way to get out of it. Foster – how far down the road are we with the jail annex. Lee – asked Glen to answer that question, any building is not in line for a lab, existing buildings will have to have work done. Glenn mentioned the planning on the satellite building is underway and all details would be provided to the board in the future. Incorporating a crime lab would be fairly easy to do. Foster – so there is no time? It could be 5-10yrs down the road. Lee – Yes. Foster - would the grant be used for those. Lee – no the grant will not be able to fund this. That would be the SBI. Listen to tape.

Reckhow – 3 people at the SBI was to catch up on the back log. Has there been discussion in the back log and whether if we will have to fund three instead of two. Lee – no we have not gotten to that part. Reckhow – would like this to include that type of follow-up considering the data is from 1yr ago. Supposes moving forward. Joint venturing with the city will benefit as well. Asked Manager if he has follow up with Commissioner David Geiss, repurposing with the Guess Road facility. Asked Jane Coris to follow up on the Guess Road facility regarding considering the reuse. Suggest Mike make the call to Commissioner Geiss. The problem will be the 180 days has expired so it will have to be reinstated.

Howerton – Stressed the importance of the Crime Lab in Durham. Questioned the responsibility of those that will be hired. Once they are on staff in Raleigh, how accountable are they in the County of Durham. Inquired about how much backlog Durham has. Lee stated the backlog depends on the type of analysis that needs to be done. The DA suggest 6 months is the amount of time needed to catch up on the backlog. Having personal not work for the county means less control. But by drawing up the contract this will help insure Durham gets the results we expect.

Manager recommends going to the City to ask for assistance with funding in this. Manager mentioned the grant. Durham has decided not to accept this grant of \$700,000. Reckhow – has the question been asked on the willingness to transfer that support to another area of support. Foster – the 19 they will hire, a conversation will take place with the city prior to the next worksession. Lee – will ask the city to host the lab, talk with SBI where they are with the hiring process, how will the backlog be handled. Reckhow – so you are going to speak with the city, have you spoke with them about hosting the lab that we have the grant for on the off chance; can the three positions be housed at the City. Could the staff have the conversation this week.

Foster – are there any labs in Alamance, Chatham, could we work with those counties? Working out an interlocal agreement. The only lab closest to us is in Wake County.

Resource Persons: Lee Worsley, Deputy County Manager; Leon Stanback, District Attorney; Glen Whisler, County Engineer; Mattie Sue Stevens, ICMA Fellow

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board direct staff to prepare a draft agreement with the SBI for presentation at a future work session and to incorporate a crime lab into the design of a future jail annex.

4. **Rougemont Water System Update (30 min)**

- 1) The Board is requested to receive this update about the Rougemont Water System Project. The Rougemont Water System will be constructed to address petroleum contamination in private well systems in the Rougemont area.
- 2) On November 30, 2013, a Request for Qualifications was advertised for engineering and hydrogeological consulting services. Submittals for these services were received on December 18, 2013. An agenda action item for award of this consulting contract will be considered at the January 13, 2014 Board of County Commissioners Meeting.
- 3) Partial funding for this project was provided by a Community Development Block Grant and an NCDENR Underground Storage Tank Grant. Due to grant timelines, this project must be expedited. A preliminary schedule for this project is attached.

Drew – planning community meeting in Rougemont in February.

Page – would like a overview on where we are with this project. Is there still concerns not being addressed. Drew – some concerns arrived from citizens not understating this two projects. On the water side, petroleumun contamination is a problem. People will not be able to sell homes and their health is in danger. This project is on a faster track while the village of Rougemont has some slower tracks.

Howerton – keeping the projects separate. Would like to schedule a meeting on these two projects so that the community can get a better understanding.

Reckhow – would like to review the schedule, appears longer. Are we able to access all the grant schedules. Lee – yes, this does. Reckhow – is there any way to overlap the construction

Joe Pearce, explained the timeline.

Resource Persons: Drew Cummings, Asst. County Manager; Joe Pearce, Utility Division Manager

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board receive this update about the Rougemont Water System Project.

5. Triangle Sports Commission Study (45 min)

- 1) The Board is requested to consider an affiliation with the Triangle Sports Commission (TSC). TSC promotes athletic events across the Triangle and has stated its desire to “further confirm our organization’s intent to join together with Durham County and Durham County partners to establish a stronger sports tourism economic presence in, and results for, Durham County.” Hill Carrow, CEO of the TSC is present to discuss the affiliation and how TSC would use new resources to promote events in Durham County.

Manager – How can Triangle Sports Commission assist with promoting more sporting events. Discuss the concepts on what the affiliation could mean to Durham County.

Hill – working on ACC bid for the DBAP. Shared a presentation on the TSC and its potential partnership with Durham County.

Howerton – Whats the layout for the county? Hill – no funding or handout has been asked from the county. \$500,000 in funding would come from the outside sources. This is intended to have the government as a partner. The community will benefit from this.

Page – All three counties will benefit from this endeavor. Hill – the goal is to have a region wide approach. We would like to start with Durham County. Page – You would be promoting the activities or bringing them. Hill – there is a lot of recruiting done as well as bidding for events.

Shelly – DCVB has looked at Sports as a market. Did not come up as a primary market due to bid fees. Is not allowed to subsidize events with promotional money. There are a lot of people interested in sports, a meeting has been called to discuss sports in general and do we want to do this and fund it. Meeting scheduled to take place on Jan 21.

Page – Is orange and Wake already on board. Hill – this effort is just beginning so they are not currently on board.

Reckhow – how can we better utilize our stadium.

Tommy Hunt – agrees with Ellen, the NC high school association has their playoffs in three locations. The TSC can help us fund by bringing events into our area. Mr. Hunt mentioned the many uses of the County Stadium so several events will be able to

Foster – The idea was to keep money in Durham County. We should concentrate on keeping the money here and keep the money into this county. We need a Durham Sports Authority.

Reckhow interjected that there is nothing in this presentation that mentions taking the money out of Durham. This is for a regional approach that would involve bringing bigger events to our area.

Manager – there is a meeting on Jan 21 where Mr. Hill will discuss the concept as well. At the Durham Chamber at 12noon.

Reckhow – requested some back ground information on the three areas (Richmond, etc.)

Resource Persons: Wendy Jacobs, County Commissioner; Hill Ca
rrow, CEO, Triangle Sports Commission; Tommy Hunt, Chairman, Durham County
Stadium Authority; Mike Ruffin, County Manager

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board consider the affiliation and advise the staff if additional information is needed.

6. **Discussion of 2014 Federal Legislative Agenda (15 min)**

- 1) The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) is asking counties to submit federal issues of statewide importance to all counties for possible inclusion in the organization's 2014 Federal Legislative Agenda. NCACC's Board of Directors will vote to determine which issues to present to the N. C. Congressional delegation at NACo's Legislative Conference in early March.
- 2) Counties are asked to submit items for consideration and to answer questions including: has a bill been introduced in Congress; how the issue impacts counties, does the issue include a cost to counties; and does issue impact county authority. The deadline is **Friday, January 10th**. Staff recommends that the Board suspend the rules and take action today.
- 3) Items submitted for discussion include:
 - Funding for SNAP, mental health, Medicaid HUD, veterans and homeless housing, pre-K education/childcare
 - Transit Funding
 - Universal gun background checks and efforts to reform mental health reporting
 - Minimum wage
 - Immigration reform

Deborah – asking to suspend the rules so a vote can be made on the items needed to take forward. Deborah discussed each item and asked the BOCC to review and vote.

Reckhow – brought background on minimum wage and would like to increase the minimum wage.

Howerton – Funding for SNAP and other programs, will this be on one document or on several documents. Deborah – these could be unwrapped and done separately, it is at the BOCC discretion.

Page – what happened to the State initiative? Deborah, we have more time for the State initiative and it is on the list.

Reckhow – supports this list, revisions – bullet two (transportation funding generally, due to re-approval of the transportation bill) Amend minimum wage to say support for the fair minimum wage act for 2014.

Foster – is NCACC considering extending the unemployment benefits. Deborah will follow up.

Reckhow – increase support for workforce preparedness. There has been a reduction in the past years. Deborah – will suggest and increase

Suspend – Howerton – Reckhow to suspend the rules for 2014 Fed. Agenda

Move – Howerton – Reckhow to move ahead with the 2014 Fed. Legis Agenda with revisions

Resource Persons: Deborah Craig-Ray, Assistant County Manager and Lowell L. Siler, County Attorney

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board discuss and approve federal priority items to send to NCACC and further to suspend the rules to give final approval to the list at this meeting.

7. Review of November BOCC Directives (10 min)

- 1) The Board is requested to review the previous month's directives for staff and make comments as necessary. This set of directives covers August, September, October, November and December of 2013.

Dionne Hines – review the directives and review any comments.

Reckhow – asked for contingency of compared counties – Dionne will forward information to the Board.

Howerton – did the meeting occur with DSS. Manager – we are working on that. Mr. Becketts has been out of the country and the information requested has not been provided.

Foster – December directives – Dionne, they are still pending.

Howerton – Question regarding the budget and the date of the retreat. Manager – normally is scheduled late February.

Page – asking for 2 weeks so that meetings can take place to prepare the budget retreat and other information.

Resource Persons: Dionne Hines, County Intern

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

8. Closed Session (30 min)

- 1) The Board is requested to adjourn to closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege and to discuss the case in the matter of Geraldine Robinson v. Joe Bowser et al.;
- 2) The Board is requested to adjourn to closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege;
- 3) The Board is requested to adjourn to closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege in the matter of IBM.

Moved Reckhow - Howerton

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board adjourn to Closed Session and direct staff as appropriate.