

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

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

9:07 A.M. Budget Worksession

Minutes

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

Present: Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow and Vice-Chairman Joe W. Bowser and Commissioners Philip R. Cousin Jr., Becky M. Heron, and Mary D. Jacobs

Absent: None

Presider: Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow

Chairman Reckhow recognized County Manager Ruffin to lead the budget worksession, since we did not have an agenda.

County Manager Ruffin said he thought we would reference and review responses we have received to questions the Commissioners have generated for additional information.

Pam Meyer, Budget Director, was ready to reference those questions as to what they are.

The County Manager said there are a couple of fee increases in the budget. Nothing that we thought would surprise you. We wanted you to know about those two increases.

The add-delete spread sheet was distributed and reviewed.

Pam said a variety of information has come to the Commissioners for their review. The questions were generated from the May 27, 2004 and the June 1, 2004 Budget Worksessions.

County Manager Ruffin said we have the information from the Durham Public Schools you requested. Wendell Davis' information on the non-profits is ready for you. The directives on the Civic Center have been submitted to you. The Health Department survey was requested. We have that. We have information on the Medicaid budget.

Chairman Reckhow said she was very disappointed by the response on the Civic Center because it did not answer the question that was asked. The question asked was if there were any capital costs that could be deferred. We did not get an answer.

Chairman Reckhow wanted to know how we could upgrade the cleaning in the Main Library.

Chairman Reckhow said there was no written information on the detention officers in the budget request.

Chairman Reckhow recognized Michael Turner, Director of General Services, to report on the cleaning of the Main Library and to talk about the fee increase in the solid waste program.

Michael Turner said we are rebidding all of the janitorial services for 24 county buildings. We are adding back the one day service that was cut two years ago because of budget reductions. We had decreased the Administration Building and the Social Services Building from five days to four days. The library building was reduced from six to five days. We have requested a day porter in the budget for the Main Library and possibly in the Judicial Building.

Michael Turner said the administration is recommending a fee increase in the Solid Waste program from \$65.00 to \$75.00 per household. The actual cost per household is now \$93.04. The increase in cost is due to hauling cost and disposal cost because of increased use in the container sites. The increase cost this year is \$100,000.

Commissioner Bowser wanted to know why the solid waste educational program cost is so much higher for businesses than for the general public.

The County Commissioners asked several questions about the solid waste program. Staff responded to the questions.

Enterprise Fund Proposed Rate Increase

Pam Meyer, Budget Director, said the Enterprise Fund proposed sewer rate increase will rise from the current \$2.15 to 2.37 per hundred cubic feet.

Civic Center Expenditures

County Manager Michael M. Ruffin presented a report that Deputy County Manager Carolyn P. Titus prepared based on the information the County Commissioners requested for the budget review. The report concerned the expenditures the Civic Center wanted to spend for various improvements.

FY 2005 Non-Profit Budget Request Analysis By Mission

The Board of County Commissioners had a detailed and lengthy discussion on the following non-profit organizations:

- Changing a Generation Outreach Ministries Breakfast

- Council for Senior Citizens
- Healing With CAARE
- Urban Ministries of Durham Community Shelter
- Watts School of Nursing
- Community Engagement
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Durham and Orange
- Operation Breakthrough

The Commissioners did not take official action on funding the eight non-profit organizations that were discussed. Official action will come at a latter date.

General Fund Changes FY2004-2005 Budget

Pam Meyer, Budget Director, reviewed the add/delete sheet to explain the increases and decreases in the budget. The add/delete sheet is dated June 15, 2004.

Pam Meyer said the total net expenditure change (\$34,723) and the total net revenue change (\$75,486) at the top of the page are technical changes. The total net expenditure change amounted to \$293,076 and the total net revenue change amounted to \$235,000. The total net change amounted to \$17,313.

The Budget Director said the budget at this point is \$137,000 out of balance.

The total manager/supervisor vacancies countywide as of June 10, 2004 totaled 12 vacancies for an annual payroll of \$591,316. Human Resources Department said the average salary for non-supervisory staff is \$33,341.

Chairman Reckhow suggested one of the two day porters be removed from the budget request. One day porter should be adequate to clean the Judicial Building and the Main Library restrooms.

A lengthy discussion was held by the Commissioners concerning what approach should be taken to provide a day porter to check the restrooms in the Judicial Building and the Main Library. Some of the Commissioners wanted to employ a staff person to take care of the Main Library facilities under the guidance of the Library Director. Some Commissioners wanted to put the day porter position under the contractual arrangement that the County will have to clean the total Main Library.

A decision was not made as to how the day porter would be employed or supervised.

Pam Meyer told the County Commissioners that \$160,970 has been added to the budget to pay for six detention officers. The twelve month cost will be \$214,626.

Commissioner Bowser said Sheriff Hill came before us last night and talked about the officers needed for gangs and intelligence work. This Board needs to give some

consideration to that request before we move forward with a budget shortage of \$137,000.

Commissioner Bowser said he would like to put at least two of those officers in place this year for the Sheriff

County Manager Michael Ruffin said when the Sheriff came, he did not mention the officers at all. The Sheriff had two priorities greater in need, which were detention officers and communication dispatchers. The Commissioners assist with gang intelligence through the jail and the school system. It seems to me that we are partnering with the city. The city is adding eight officers to the initiative of gang resistance and gang response. If we add more detention officers and continuing to fund school resource officers, I feel like we are partnering very well with the city in terms of having a coordinated gang response.

Commissioner Bowser said the Sheriff asked him to support the request in September or October of last year. He talked about the need he had for those officers at that time. Last night it was emphasized that it was a priority. If the City sees the need to put eight additional officers in the area, the County should see the need also

County Manager Michael Ruffin said the chief elected law enforcement officer in the county is not the one that made that request. The Sheriff did not mention it.

Commissioner Heron said the priority for the Sheriff was the six detention officers and the four communications dispatchers.

A lengthy discussion was held about the detention officers, communications dispatchers, and gang resistance officers.

Vice-Chairman Bowser wanted to go on record saying, "I want to give the Sheriff at least two of those officers that he requested through me back in September of last year to deal with the gangs and the intelligence that needs to be gathered surrounding the gangs in the school system and jail".

Tax Collections

County Manager Ruffin requested Kenneth Joyner to come to the budget worksession to answer questions for the County Commissioners concerning the tax collections.

Funding to Balance the Budget

Chairman Reckhow requested the Board approve taking \$125,000 from this years' surplus and transfer it to the Criminal Justice Resource Center to pay for the renovation of the Johnson Motor Company building. This will help to reduce the budget deficit by half.

The Board of Commissioners concurred to reduce the Commissioners' Travel and Training Account by \$10,000 to help fund the budget deficit.

County Manager Michael Ruffin said that staff will review the budget in the next two weeks to see if certain line items such as Training Related Travel and Court Ordered Care can be reduced to help fund the \$125,000 budget deficit. It is better to reduce the expenditures than to increase taxes.

Animal Control Department

Commissioner Heron put in one more request for the Animal Control Department. She said the department needs two Animal control Officers to provide week-in service. If you can not provide two officers, give them one officer.

Budget Adjustment Summary

- Employ two additional gang officers starting January 1, 2005.
- Employ one additional animal control officer starting January 1, 2005
- Training Related Travel Review for additional reductions
- Court Ordered Care Review for additional reductions
- Criminal Justice Resource Center Transfer current surplus to remodel Johnson Motor Company building

Tax Rate

The tax rate will remain at a 3 cent rate increase.

Adjournment

Chairman Reckhow adjourned the Budget Worksession at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garry E. Umstead, CMC
Clerk to the Board