

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Wednesday, April 7, 1999

9:00 A.M. Worksession

AGENDA

1. Citizen Comment—Ralph McKinney

Mr. Ralph McKinney has requested time on the agenda to make comments to the Commissioners relative to racism and hate by businesses in Durham County.

2. Citizen Comment—Jack A. Steer

Mr. Jack Steer, representing the Friends of Durham, will address the Commissioners on the Durham Public Schools budget and City-County merger.

3. Adoption of Farmland Preservation Ordinance

The Farmland Preservation Ordinance was last considered by the Board at the November 2, 1998 Worksession. Since that meeting, County Manager David F. Thompson and County Attorney Chuck Kitchen met with Wayne Cash, Chairman of the Farmland Preservation Board. The County Manager recommends that the acquisition of determinable conservation easements and repurchase of conservation easements be deleted from the proposed ordinance.

On March 19, 1999, the Farmland Preservation Board met and voted that the acquisition of determinable of conservation easements and repurchase of conservation easements remain in the proposed ordinance.

Also, on March 19, 1999, Farmland Preservation Board approved the guidelines for the Farmland Ranking System.

County Manager's Recommendation: Discuss the ordinance with the Farmland Ranking System. However, the acquisition of determinable conservation easements and repurchase of conservation easements should be deleted from the proposed ordinance.

4. Noise Ordinance

The current Durham County NOISE Ordinance does not comply with the applicable case law in NC. Attached, please find a copy of State v. Garren, a 1994 North Carolina Court of Appeals case which is the leading case on noise enforcement in NC. The proposed ordinance complies with the State v. Garren decision. Cite more significant changes.

The proposed ordinance is more concise than the current ordinance. Special emphasis will have to be placed on training law enforcement personnel on how to investigate and prepare cases prior to enforcing violation in court.

Mr. Lowell Siler, Deputy County Attorney, will review the State v. Garren decision and our Proposed Ordinance.

County Manager's Recommendation: Mr. Siler will incorporate the Board's guidance/input from the Worksession and submit a final version to the Board for their approval.

5. Automation Project for Register of Deeds Office

For the past eighteen months, a team from the Register of Deeds Office, along with the Information Technology Department and the Purchasing Department, have been investigating the best means through which to implement a highly successful automated document management and imaging system for the County. This investigation has included an in-depth analysis of technical needs, process overflow, and collection of data. Several site visits were conducted to examine the implementation of automated systems in other jurisdictions.

The Register of Deeds Office is requesting that the following action be taken by the Durham County Board of Commissioners at the April 12th meeting.

- Receive and approve recommendation for an automated software solution.
- Reject all bids submitted for hardware and file conversion for the Register of Deeds automation project.
 - Rejecting the hardware and file conversion portion of the ROD automation project bids will provide very substantial cost savings.
- A recommendation for the purchase of hardware under the State convenience contract and a request to enter into an agreement for file conversion will be made at the April 26th meeting.

Receive report and direct staff.

6. Discussion of the Chamber of Commerce Request

Patrick Byker, Vice President of Government Relations from the Chamber of Commerce will ask the Board to join in hosting a reception for members of the North Carolina General Assembly on May 4th, along with the City of Durham. The total cost for hosting the event is to be split evenly between the County, the City and the Chamber. Durham County is asked to contribute \$1500. The last such event was held in November 1997 and the County contributed \$1448.47 to that effort.

Discuss and direct staff.

7. Discussion of support for NACo 2000 Fund

Mecklenburg County will host the 2000 Annual Conference for the National Association of Counties. The president of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners has written a letter asking all North Carolina counties seeking support for the conference in the form of a contribution to the NACo 200 Fund. The contributions can be through special fundraising, appropriations from budgets, or in-kind donations for example. A response is due by June 1st.

Discuss and direct staff.

8. Update on FY 1999-2000 Budget Preparation

Claudia Odom, Budget Director, will give the Commissioners an update on the 1999-2000 Fiscal Year budget preparation.

Receive the report.

9. **Update on the Legislative Proposal**

Deborah Craig-Ray, Public Information and Governmental Affairs Director, will present the Commissions an update on the Legislative Proposal.

Receive the report.