

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

Monday, February 18, 2011

8:00 A.M. Legislative Breakfast

MINUTES

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

Present: Chairman Michael D. Page, Vice-Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow, and
Commissioners Joe W. Bowser, Becky M. Heron, and Brenda A. Howerton

Representatives Larry D. Hall, Henry M. Michaux Jr., and W. A. Wilkins; and
Senators Bob Atwater and Floyd B. McKissick Jr.

Absent: Commissioner Joe W. Bowser and Representative Paul Luebke

Presider: Chairman Page

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Page welcomed everyone to the February 18, 2011 Legislative Breakfast meeting between the Board of County Commissioners and Durham County Delegation.

Opening Comments regarding Current Session

Representative Hall—economic development incentives

Representative Michaux—deficit and job cuts, the governor's budget

Senator Atwater—resented budget cuts proposed in the governor's budget

Senator McKissick—controversial legislation and details of the governor's budget

Vice-Chairman Reckhow—lottery funds usage

Brief Discussion of 2011 Agenda Package

Seek legislation to establish a \$10 permit application fee in addition to the \$5.00 fee for each pistol permit issued.

Captain Lad, Durham County Sheriff's Department, explained the Department's request of the legislation. He addressed the following questions and concerns raised by the Board and Delegation:

- Would the fee cause more weapons to be purchased illegally
- How much would the fee have generated had it been in place several years prior
- More times penton rejections vs. approvals

Seek legislation promoting utilization of 9-1-1 Centers by Protecting Confidentiality .

Jim Soukup, Director, 9-1-1 Emergency Communications, City of Durham, and Deputy Chief Steve Mihaich, Durham Police Department, elaborated on the legislation request. The new legislation would promote the reporting of criminal activity to 9-1-1 centers by protecting the confidentiality of callers through the use of either transcripts or voice altered recordings to prevent recognition and to make appropriate amendments to public records laws.

Representative Wilkins indicated that a legislative bill was underway, which supports the 9-1-1 new legislation request.

Mr. Soukup and Deputy Chief Mihaich responded to the following:

- Holding a discussion with local defense bar regarding the impact of the legislation and to assure that concerns would be addressed

Vice-Chairman Reckhow noted that the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners had adopted the request as one of its legislative goals for 2011.

Seek legislation to create Enhanced Protection for Victims and Witnesses.

Senator McKissick explicated that he submitted the request during the previous session; however, it only passed through the State Senate. He reintroduced the request in hopes of the proposed legislation passing through the State Senate and House.

Representative Hall opposed the proposed legislation, stating his concern with Senate Bill 1393 § 1, lines 15-17: "The court shall determine the admissibility of the statement under this section by a preponderance of the evidence."

The Board and Delegation discussed the following:

- The change from Class H felony to Class C (§ 2[a])
- Witness intimidation

Support Items

The Board and Delegation held discussions regarding the following goals and items:

Priority Goals — NCACC

1. Oppose shift of state transportation responsibility to counties
2. Reinstate ADM and Lottery Funds for school construction
3. Ensure adequate mental health funding
4. Preserve the existing local revenue base
5. Authorize local revenue options

Support Items introduced by others:

1. Support legislation to levy at least a \$1.00 increase in NC's Cigarette Tax
2. Support request for authority to develop a Durham local preference program (add Durham County to the bill)
3. Support request to increase the beer and wine license fees in Durham (Add Durham County to the bill)

Additional Discussions

- The future of unemployment benefits
- LMEs and consolidation
- Incentive for one-time money for cost savings for a year of consolidation for regional and county services and administration
- Reduction in quality based education for students due to budget cuts

Directive

The Board to hold a meeting with the Delegation and Durham Public Schools Board of Education

Citizen Comments

Chairman Page called the following citizens forward for comments and allocated two minutes for each speaker:

Victoria Peterson opposed HB 129 and advocated for additional court fees and revenues to be applied to the County.

Laura Benson, Executive Director, Durham's Partnership for Children, supported early childhood education and maintain quality child care subsidy system.

Allan Lang discussed charter schools' improper care for students.

Deborah Craig-Ray, Assistant County Manager, thanked everyone for their attendance and input and extended additional thanks to staff.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Page adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Yvonne R. Jones
Deputy Clerk to the Board