

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

Monday, December 7, 2015

9:00 A.M. Worksession

MINUTES

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

Present: Chairman Michael D. Page, Vice Chair Brenda Howerton and Commissioners
Fred Foster, Jr., Wendy Jacobs and Ellen Reckhow

Presider: County Attorney Lowell Siler

Other Business:

15-772 Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of County Commissioners

County Attorney Siler opened the meeting with a description of the process for electing a Commissioner Chair and Vice Chair. He asked if there were any nominations for the Chair position.

Commissioner Reckhow moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs, to nominate Commissioner Michael Page for Chair.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Page opened the floor for nominations for the Vice Chair.

Commissioner Reckhow moved, seconded by Commissioner Foster, to nominate Commissioner Brenda Howerton.

The motion carried unanimously.

15-773 Approval of Public Official Bonds

Vice Chair Howerton moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs, to suspend the rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Reckhow moved, seconded by Vice Chair Howerton, to approve the Public Official Bonds.

The motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Comments

David Harris stated his support for the establishment of a Watershed Improvement Commission.

Heather McLaughlin, from the NC Alliance for Retired Americans, asked the Board to support the opposition for the Transpacific Partnership. She disclosed that Commissioner Foster had a resolution that would be distributed before the meeting ended.

James Chavis requested the enactment of an ordinance regulating dog defecation. The request had been sent to the PAC and it was received with support. He further suggested that the County collaborate with the City in order to create job positions that would clean up dog feces. He requested a response by March 1, 2016.

Commissioner Reckhow recalled that the previous dog defecation ordinance request brought to the Board was supposed to be sent to the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and the Environmental Affairs Board. She requested follow-up to ensure that both boards were able to provide feedback.

Commissioner Jacobs supplied the Board with an update regarding the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee's review of the existing dog defecation ordinance, which only pertained to private property; it was being examined by Lt. Tim Deck and Senior Assistant County Attorney Marie Inserra. Commissioner Reckhow requested that a letter be sent to the Environmental Affairs Board regarding the topic since cities usually create ordinances regulating dog defecation.

John Tarantino stated his concurrence with Mr. Chavis' citizen comment and performed an original song in support of the dog defecation ordinance.

Gwyn Silver described the limited recreation opportunities and underutilization of Holton Career & Resource Center. She discovered that Saturday gym open hours started in September and ended on October 21st, Sunday gym open hours ended on December 20th. The Holton Career & Resource Center would resume gym open hours on March 5th.

Commissioner Reckhow questioned why there was a gap of gym open hours during the winter months. Vice Chair Howerton asked Ms. Silver if she had brought this up with the City. Ms. Silver responded in the affirmative.

Chairman Page stated that they could pull this item and discuss it with the City, he and Ms. Silver agreed to be in contact. Commissioner Reckhow requested that the Board be kept apprised as well.

Chairman Page and Commissioner Reckhow concurred that the issue needed to be addressed as soon as possible. Chairman Page stated that follow-up would be done with Recreation Supervisor Keith DosReis, Jr.

Joy Mickle, representative of the Coalition for Affordable Housing and Transit (CAHT), read a letter from CAHT which proposed that there be a policy for affordable housing development on publicly owned land near transit.

Commissioner Jacobs thanked Ms. Mickle and mentioned that the County had discussed the Human Services Complex parking lot redevelopment in the past and affordable housing was one of the considerations.

Directive: Send letter to the Environmental Affairs Board regarding the dog defecation ordinance.

Discussion Items:

15-767 Charter School Update to County Commissioners

Lisa Gordon Stella, Board Vice President at Maureen Joy Charter School, introduced Brian Crawford, Executive Director of Carter Community School; Pamela Blizzard, Executive Director of Research Triangle High School; Jennifer Lucas, Executive Director of Voyager Academy; Mark Tracy, Executive Director of Kestrel Heights Charter School; Mark Bailey, Executive Director of Maureen Joy Charter School; with the following attendees in the audience Vicky Patton, founder and board president of Central Park School for Children; John Heffernan, principal of Central Park School for Children; and Sidney Reynolds, consultant from Healthy Start Academy. Ms. Gordon Stella went over the presentation which included the history of the Durham Charter Collaborative; Durham charter schools' program offerings, finance and accountability data, and student achievement data; as well as the ways charter schools and DPS could work together. The Durham Charter Collaborative met monthly to discuss education issues that were affecting their school, collaborated to find solutions, and shared ideas.

Commissioner Reckhow pointed out that the school system audit found that more than 5,800 students would be attending Durham charter schools, a much higher figure than what was shown on the presentation. Ms. Lucas noted that there were students attending Durham charter schools as well as Durham residents attending charter schools in surrounding counties.

Ms. Blizzard described the Research Triangle High School student demographics and some of the educational strategies used to aid low-achieving students. Research Triangle High School was one (1) of 19 schools in the nation to be partnering with Summit to implement the Personalized Learning Plan—which yielded strong results. Chairman Page questioned how many counties were represented in Research Triangle High School's student body. Ms. Blizzard informed him that their students came from 11 counties and that 40% of their students were from Durham.

Mr. Tracy described the diverse student demographics of Kestrel Heights Charter School and their belief in Paideia schooling methods. Vice Chair Howerton requested clarification in reference to Mr. Tracy's statement regarding charter schools not having the same amount of funding as public schools. Mr. Tracy stated that roughly 25% of Kestrel Heights Charter

School's budget was allocated for facilities costs and that limited the capital, human resources and learning materials that went towards students. Ms. Gordon Stella further explained that a discrepancy existed between the amount charter schools received per pupil and what they were able to allot towards instruction and educational materials—out of the per-pupil funding, they must subtract what they need for facilities as they do not receive funding specifically for them whereas the public schools do.

Commissioner Reckhow applauded the high level of diversity in the student population served by Kestrel Heights Charter School and inquired about the substantial increase in performance from previous years. Mr. Tracy stated that the previous year was his first year at Kestrel Heights, but he believed that his attention to detail, academic rigor, and individual students were what propelled the increase. He described the process that would take place if a student was not achieving the necessary scores.

Mr. Bailey described the history, student demographics, academic achievements, and various programs that Maureen Joy Charter School offers. Commissioner Jacobs inquired as to why the grade level retention rate in the third grade increased from the previous year's rate. Mr. Bailey believed it was due to the adjustments in the assessment and the language barrier—the previous year's third grade class contained the highest number of English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) students. Commissioner Jacobs asked what strategies would be used for the students that were going to be retained. Mr. Bailey explained the intervention methods employed to assist remedial students.

Commissioner Reckhow applauded the improvement in Read to Achieve scores at Maureen Joy Charter School and inquired as to the specific steps that were used to accomplish the significant increase in the early grades. Mr. Bailey listed the different ways they reallocated resources and concentrated them on the students that needed them the most. Commissioner Reckhow asked what the ratio of low reading-level students per additional teaching personnel was. Mr. Bailey stated that the ratio was about 5:1. Commissioner Reckhow inquired as to whether after-school tutoring was offered. Mr. Bailey explained that it was not offered due to transportation challenges as well as not wanting to elongate the school day—Maureen Joy's school day runs about an hour longer than traditional schools. Commissioner Reckhow questioned if the teachers were paid more for the longer days. Ms. Gordon Stella stated that each school had different salary structures.

Mr. Heffernan discussed the history of the Central Park School for Children as well as the goals the school has, how they've modeled their teaching methods, and how they've created a racially integrated and socioeconomically diverse school via the student lottery program.

Commissioner Reckhow applauded Central Park School for Children's efforts at increasing diversity and inquired as to which schools provided transportation Ms. Gordon Stella listed the charter schools that provided transportation and Ms. Lucas and Mr. Tracy described alternative transportation methods that their charter schools provided. Commissioner Reckhow was concerned with low-income families' ability to access charter schools if they were not made aware of provided transportation. Mr. Heffernan added that around the nation, accessibility was

greatly improved when counties partnered with charter schools and shared resources—including transportation.

Commissioner Jacobs inquired about the lottery utilized by Central Park School for Children. Mr. Heffernan stated that it was a pilot program and only Central Park School for Children was able to use that specific lottery method. Ms. Blizzard clarified that the State Board of Education declined to expand the policy beyond Central Park School for Children, but a large group of charter schools were meeting with the State Board to push policy initiatives such as this one.

Commissioner Jacobs inquired as to how the County could collaborate with charter schools to increase diversity as well as academic achievement. Mr. Heffernan described what he believed to be the best way to begin the collaboration.

Vice Chair Howerton inquired about the use of suspensions or expulsions. Mr. Crawford described the methods that Carter Community School used to stop suspensions altogether including behavior modification through self-awareness and education; in-school suspensions were used when necessary, but not often. Mr. Crawford and Ms. Lucas added that they also considered students' home life before issuing suspensions—this motivated them to find alternative solutions that kept students in school and focused with productive activities.

Commissioner Reckhow and Mr. Crawford discussed retention rates for Carter Community School and collaboration between the charter schools. Ms. Gordon Stella added that effective teaching methods and programs varied by school according to the population it served and not one set of best practices would necessarily work for all schools and students.

Ms. Lucas discussed the changes in student population demographics at Voyager Academy since inception as well as different academic methods and character building programs they offered.

Commissioner Jacobs inquired about achievement gaps. Ms. Lucas addressed the achievement gaps at Voyager Academy and the efforts made to close them. Commissioner Jacobs noted the negative correlation between the percentage of low-income students and the rates of academic achievement in charter schools and DPS; more collaborative efforts needed to be made to improve educational outcomes.

Commissioner Reckhow inquired about funding sources and the differences in the charter school budgets. Ms. Lucas clarified the way that charters were funded and how two schools with similar student population sizes could have differing budget sizes.

Manager Davis thanked the panel for their work and gave closing statements.

Directive: Commissioner Reckhow requested that the PowerPoint be sent to the Board, so that it could be added it to the County's website for public access, once corrections were made to it.

15-794 Durham Public Schools Audit

George K. Quick, Chief Financial Officer, introduced Susan Tezai, Deputy Chief Financial Officer and presented the FY2015 audit of Durham Public Schools to the Board. The presentation addressed the fund balance status and its relationship to the request by Durham Public Schools (DPS) for \$2.2 million in additional funds to cover raises for classified employees and an increase in stipends for teachers providing after-school program support.

Chairman Page requested information regarding the specific employees that were to receive raises. Mr. Quick referred to the classified employee list which listed position titles and how many were currently employed at DPS. He added that the positions which prompted citizens to protest—bus drivers, janitors, cafeteria workers, teacher assistants, and other low-wage positions—were included in the classified employee list, but the Superintendent as well as other mid- and high-salaried office staff positions were too.

Commissioner Foster attempted to discern whether the classified employees were State or County employees. Mr. Quick did not have the necessary information to answer the questions. Commissioner Foster asked if the County could give the funds with the stipulation that they only be used for raises for certain employee positions on the classified employee list. Mr. Quick stated that according to his understanding, DPS was attempting to give raises to classified employees, no mention was made of which specific positions were to receive them.

Vice Chair Howerton and Commissioner Reckhow requested more information regarding some positions on the classified employees list. Manager Davis informed the Board that, according to the Superintendent, the directors and senior staff were not included in the classified three (3) percent raise, only the hourly staff were. Commissioner Reckhow inquired whether communication with DPS could be established in order determine which positions on the classified employees list were compensated by the hour and which were salaried. Manager Davis began contacting DPS.

Mr. Quick stated that the classified employees received \$250 and \$750 bonuses in 2014 and 2015, respectively; although bonuses were not included in the retirement system calculation, the employees' total compensation did increase during the two (2) years. Chairman Page clarified that the bonuses were from the State. Commissioner Jacobs added that the bonuses were prorated on an hourly basis which resulted in only some employees receiving the entire bonus amount and taxes also lowered the take-home amount.

Mr. Quick and Ms. Tezai discussed the past movements of the fund balance. Mr. Quick reviewed data provided by DPS that compared Johnston, Cabarrus, and Gaston counties to Durham County; the three (3) counties had student population demographics similar to DPS and they outperformed Durham on the state-wide tests, but were less funded, a difference of \$80 million on average. Commissioner Reckhow believed that the three (3) counties' student population demographics were different from Durham's, but agreed that a good point was made.

Mr. Quick determined that, due to the size of the DPS budget, very little adjustment would be needed to absolve the cost of the classified employee raises themselves; the requested amount of additional funds was less than half of one percent (< 0.5%) of their total budget. He was also

concerned with the County giving a one-time contribution for a recurring expense because it would require that DPS fund the following year what they were not able to fund the current year—the County would be building it into the DPS budget for the following year.

Chairman Page inquired whether Mr. Quick had addressed this concern with DPS. Mr. Quick informed him that he had discussed it with Aaron Beaulieu, Chief Financial Officer for DPS, and referenced a memo written by Mr. Beaulieu in which he stated “over the next several years the Board will need to reduce dependency on fund balance. County funding is a major source of income for the Board therefore the County’s economic outlook directly affects that of the School Board.” Chairman Page inquired whether it was being suggested that there was a mismanagement of funds occurring. Mr. Quick replied that he did not have enough information to come to a conclusion, but that a performance or operating audit needed to be done to determine why Durham was spending over \$80 million more than similar counties and getting lower performance results.

Chairman Page inquired whether the County would be financially responsible the following year if the requested amount was given to DPS, since it would be used for recurring expenses. Mr. Quick stated that officially the County would not be responsible, but the school employees would still expect to be compensated at the level that their salaries would be raised to. Manager Davis clarified that if they funded the raises, the County would be building it into the school system’s base budget for the following year.

Chairman Page expressed his concern that the School Board did not consider the classified employee raises during the deliberation and submission of their budget. Mr. Quick concurred and added that choosing which priorities to invest in, and leaving out the ones that did not rise to the level of importance that was needed, was part of the budget process.

Commissioner Reckhow requested information on some line items in the DPS budget. Mr. Quick and Ms. Tezai clarified what they were. Commissioner Reckhow attempted to track the location of \$15 million. Keith Lane, Senior Budget Analyst, informed the Board that \$6 million of the \$15 million was for the charter schools and he stated where the funds were accounted for in the budget item lines.

Commissioner Reckhow noted the large spike in cost-per-pupil between the years of 2014 and 2105, an increase of about 6.59% and over \$700 per student, and student enrollment increased by about 350 students.

Commissioner Reckhow requested that student attendance and suspensions be discussed in the Joint BOCC and School Board meeting taking place on Tuesday, December 15, 2015. Vice Chair Howerton suggested that DeWarren Langley, Juvenile Crime Prevention Council member, be invited in order to discuss how out-of-school suspensions affected the school-to-prison pipeline.

Commissioner Jacobs noted that DPS student enrollment had increased by about 2,300 students since 2006, but expenses had increased by over \$110 million. She concurred with Mr. Quick’s

statements regarding staff salary raises being included in the budget if they had been considered priorities. Commissioner Jacobs stated that the sustainability of fulfilling the request was also a concern due to DPS having past negative fund balance transfers.

Commissioner Reckhow suggested supporting the Manager's recommendation of giving \$1.1 million to DPS, about half of the requested amount, and challenging the School Board to locate the other half within their budget for the current year as well as for the following years. She noted that the County currently had about half of \$1.1 million in the base budget and would not need to find the full amount the following year; a portion would already be there since it would go unspent during the current year.

Chief Financial Officer Quick reminded the Board that any amount given to DPS would be an appropriation to the school system and thus a percentage of the contribution would be transferred to the charter schools; the partition could not be restricted by the County.

Manager Davis inquired about a \$400 thousand surplus—created by student enrollment projections that went unmet—found in the DPS budget. Claudia Hager, Director of Budget and Management Services, informed the Board of the surplus amount recognized by DPS which, according to the presentation she attended, included the surplus amounts in charter schools as well.

Vice Chair Howerton and Commissioner Jacobs supported the Manager's recommendation of supplying Durham Public Schools with \$1.1 million to allow for raises for classified employees. Commissioner Jacobs hoped that the same amount would be allotted in future budgets so as not to rely on State funding and still ensure employees received a livable wage.

Commissioner Foster noted that protestors misleadingly mentioned only a fraction of the classified employees on the list for raises; they excluded the professional and salaried positions. He warned that once Counties began providing for unfunded mandates, State legislators would expect them to be continuously funded. Commissioner Foster agreed with the Manager's recommendations of giving DPS \$1.1 million, but believed that there was a mismanagement of funds and questioned why classified employee wage raises were not made a priority in earlier years.

Manager Davis informed the Board that, according to the Superintendent, all the classified employee positions listed were low level salary employees, no hourly employees. He stated that it was important to understand that the fund balance management methods currently used by DPS were not sustainable and indicated a need for discussing them with the School Board.

Chairman Page inquired if there was any way they could instruct the School Board to use the \$400 thousand enrollment surplus funds for the classified employee raises. Mr. Quick informed him that they could include a resolution that designated what they should do with the funds, but the decisions would ultimately depend on the School Board.

Commissioner Reckhow believed the responsible action would be to give the \$1.1 million that the Manager was able to find in the County budget.

Chairman Page allowed a present Durham County citizen to speak. Eileen Pruitt urged the Board to consider denying the School Board's request or to give the \$1.1 million and require the School Board to provide the other half that was needed for the classified employee raises. She believed DPS managed their budget funds "very poorly."

Commissioner Jacobs thanked Ms. Pruitt for her comment and stated that the main concern was for the classified employees who had not received a raise in many years.

Commissioner Reckhow moved, seconded by Vice Chair Howerton, to suspend the rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Vice Chair Howerton, to accept the Manager's recommendation of giving \$1.1 million to Durham Public Schools to be specified for the classified employee raises.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Page requested adding an amendment to encourage the School Board to look for the remaining resources to meet the salary raise requirements and to suggest using the enrollment dividend.

Commissioner Reckhow moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs, to add a friendly amendment encouraging the School Board to look for the remaining resources to meet the salary raise requirements, suggesting using the enrollment dividend, and challenge them to incorporate those matching resources in the upcoming FY16-17 budget.

The motion carried unanimously.

Directive: Commissioner Reckhow requested that student attendance and suspensions be discussed in the Joint BOCC and School Board meeting taking place on Tuesday, December 15, 2015.

Commissioner Howerton requested to invite DeWarren Langley, Juvenile Crime Prevention Council member, to the Joint BOCC and School Board meeting taking place on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 in order to discuss how out-of-school suspensions affect the school-to-prison pipeline.

15-760 Discussion about the Watershed Improvement Commission/GS 319

Eddie Culberson, Director of the Soil & Water Conservation District, introduced Dr. Curtis J. Richardson, Professor of Resource Ecology and founding Director of the Duke University Wetland Center in the Nicholas School of the Environment.

Dr. Richardson described his background and presented a PowerPoint to the Board regarding the establishment of a Watershed Improvement Commission (WIC)/GS 139. Durham County lies within the watersheds of two major water supply reservoirs for the Triangle region of NC, Falls Lake and Jordan Lake. Due to impaired water quality in both the Jordan Lake and Falls Lake, the NC Environmental Management Commission adopted Nutrient Reduction strategies for both watersheds in the effort to improve the overall health of the lakes. Both strategies establish rules for reducing Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) from entering the lakes, but at different rates. The ultimate goal of the rules was to improve the health of both lakes and surrounding watersheds. New development, existing development, agriculture and wastewater initiatives within the watersheds were impacted by the rules and must meet designated nutrient reduction requirements, often through undertaking costly pollution reduction measures.

In order to comply with the watershed rules, Durham County would need to utilize best management practices (BMPs) to maximize pollution reduction and minimize cost. Installation of ‘Green Infrastructures’ (i.e. stormwater mitigation practices, agricultural best management practices, wastewater treatment plant upgrades, stream-wetland restorations etc.) will be vitally helpful in meeting reductions in both watersheds. Given the large-scale green infrastructure investments needed to comply with the rules, it was critical for entities in Durham County to work together to cooperatively address the reductions required while preparing Durham County for the future demands placed on its natural resources. Potential Watershed improvement Commission/GS 139 outcomes were as follows: 1) Improve water quality in Durham (Goal 4); 2) Increase collaboration of City and County to work together reducing cost to tax payers (Goal 5); 3) To provide BMP recommendations & implementation of specific projects to remediate “Hot Spots”; 4) Green Infrastructure mapping and planning; and 5) Jobs for the community.

Commissioner Reckhow noted that most of the polluted streams were within city limits and questioned whether polluted water was a feature of an urbanized environment. Dr. Richardson confirmed that it was typical.

Commissioner Jacobs thanked the panel and inquired as to which entities were envisioned to be represented on the board—the County, the City, Soil & Water Conservation District, Stormwater & GIS Services, Joint City-County Sustainability, Open Space Preservation Commission, community groups etc. Dr. Richardson stated that having a WIC would concentrate and focus the efforts of all the organizations in order to sufficiently deal with water pollution problems.

Vice Chair Howerton questioned how and by whom the WIC would be managed. Dr. Richardson explained that the Board could decide how to create the WIC, but it would be important to ensure that the matter was taken seriously. Director Culberson described the structure of the technical committee in Wake County that supervised their watersheds.

Commissioner Reckhow described a few other watershed organizations which included the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) and the Triangle J Council of Governments Water Resources Team. She believed that more discussions relating to this request needed to be had with various other organizations in order to develop a coordinated strategy.

Danielle Adams, Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors, explained that the WIC would serve similar functions as the UNRBA, but would collectively approach and care only for water resources inside of Durham, most of which must abide by different regulations.

Vice Chair Howerton wanted clarification regarding what the panel was requesting from the Board of County Commissioners. Dr. Richardson stated that they were requesting the establishment of a WIC that would be responsible for Durham County's water resources—even if it were to begin at a low level, it would still enable the County to have a commission that would slowly unify all other Durham watershed management boards. Vice Chair Howerton voiced the need to discuss the item at a Joint City-County Committee meeting in order to ensure that the City participated.

Melissa Rooney, Associate Supervisor at Soil and Water Conservation District, reiterated the importance of quickly establishing the WIC with a watershed comprehensive plan and beginning a County initiative for watershed management because Durham's water quality would be negatively impacted by the spreading pollution in local streams. She noted that creating the WIC would not cost anything and, considering that its sole mission would be the health of Durham County watersheds, it would in fact be beneficial.

Mark Dewitt, Environmental Affairs Board (EAB) member, believed that when the EAB failed to approve the development of the WIC it was due to the board not understanding the request and not having the authority to develop it; he expected that if the request and presentation were to be repeated, it would receive strong support. Commissioner Reckhow suggested that the panel repeat their presentation to the EAB due to the fact that the City Council would more than likely request for the EAB's input on the matter before making a decision—it would not be appropriate to exclude the City and their department's expertise on water resources from the discussion even if they decided against partaking in the endeavors. She stated that County staff could also begin discussions with City officials on the matter.

Commissioner Jacobs requested that the item be added to the Joint City-County Committee agenda for the January 12, 2016 meeting. She asked the panel to prepare a presentation for the City that highlighted why a WIC was necessary and emphasized why it needed to be a collective effort.

Supervisor Adams was opposed to presenting to the EAB again. Commissioner Reckhow believed that the EAB had a dependable history of responding to concerns from the County and City. Director Culberson described how the initial meeting and proposal with the EAB was brought about.

Ray Eurquhart, Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors, stated that they would attempt to meet with the EAB at their December meeting and then present at the Joint City-County Committee meeting in January with the support of the EAB. Commissioner Jacobs notified the panel that the Joint City-County Committee would be meeting on January 12, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in City Hall.

Directive: Add Watershed Improvement Commission item to the Joint City-County Committee agenda for the January 12, 2016 meeting.

Added Item - Transpacific Partnership Resolution

Commissioner Foster presented a resolution opposing the Transpacific Partnership Trade Agreement and requested that the Board be one of the first in the state to oppose it. Many labor unions were against it as it would negatively affect Durham County's workers and jobs, especially those in the manufacturing industry.

Chairman Page asked staff to bring this back as a resolution in order to allow everyone to weigh in on if they wanted to push it or not.

Commissioner Jacobs stated that Agreement was a complex matter and should be considered thoroughly; she suggested allowing community input on the resolution as well. Commissioner Reckhow concurred and informed the Board that Tom White, Former Head of the Chamber of Commerce, would be conducting a public forum to acquaint residents with the facts of the Agreement.

Chairman Page stated that the Board and staff needed time to get educated on the Agreement before they could comfortably decide which stance to take. Commissioner Foster agreed to allow the Board and staff to become familiar with the topic, but he believed that Durham County should be at the table.

Chairman Page requested that staff research the Agreement.

Directive: Staff to research the Transpacific Partnership Trade Agreement.

Adjournment

Commissioner Reckhow moved, seconded by Vice Chair Howerton, that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tania De Los Santos
Administrative Support Assistant