

December 7, 1998

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

Monday, December 7, 1998

9:00 A.M. Special Session

**MINUTES**

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

Present: Commissioners-Elect William V. Bell, MaryAnn E. Black, Joe W. Bowser,  
Becky M. Heron, and Ellen W. Reckhow

Absent: None

Presider: Commissioner Black

**Call to Order**

Commissioner Black called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Installation of Soil and Water Conservation District Board**

Commissioner Black introduced the Honorable James Leo Carr, Clerk of Superior Court, to administer the Oath of Office to Raymond L. Eurquhart and Edward C. Harrison as Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Board members. The oaths follow:

December 7, 1998

OATH  
DURHAM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

I, RAYMOND L. EURQUHART, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as member of the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District, so help me, God.

I, RAYMOND L. EURQUHART, do swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly execute the duties of the office of Durham Soil and Water Conservation District member according to the best of my skill and ability, according to the law, so help me, God.

/s/ RAYMOND L. EURQUHART, Member  
Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

Subscribed and sworn before me,  
this 7th day of December, 1998.

/s/ JAMES LEO CARR  
Clerk of Superior Court

(SEAL)

---

OATH  
DURHAM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

I, EDWARD C. HARRISON, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as member of the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District, so help me, God.

I, EDWARD C. HARRISON, do swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly execute the duties of the office of Durham Soil and Water Conservation District member according to the best of my skill and ability, according to the law, so help me, God.

/s/ EDWARD C. HARRISON, Member  
Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

Subscribed and sworn before me,  
this 7th day of December, 1998.

/s/ JAMES LEO CARR  
Clerk of Superior Court

(SEAL)

Mr. Carr congratulated Mr. Eurquhart and Mr. Harrison.

**Installation of County Commissioners**

Mr. Carr administered en masse the following Oaths of Office to the newly-elected County Commissioners:

OATH  
DURHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER

I, WILLIAM V. BELL, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as County Commissioner, so help me, God.

December 7, 1998

I, WILLIAM V. BELL, do swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly execute the duties of the office of County Commissioner according to the best of my skill and ability, according to the law, so help me, God.

/s/ WILLIAM V. BELL, Member  
Durham County Board of Commissioners

Subscribed and sworn before me,  
this 7th day of December, 1998.

/s/ JAMES LEO CARR  
Clerk of Superior Court (SEAL)

---

OATH  
DURHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER

I, MARYANN E. BLACK, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as County Commissioner, so help me, God.

I, MARYANN E. BLACK, do swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly execute the duties of the office of County Commissioner according to the best of my skill and ability, according to the law, so help me, God.

/s/ MARYANN E. BLACK, Member  
Durham County Board of Commissioners

Subscribed and sworn before me,  
this 7th day of December, 1998.

/s/ JAMES LEO CARR  
Clerk of Superior Court (SEAL)

---

OATH  
DURHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER

I, BECKY M. HERON, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as County Commissioner, so help me, God.

I, BECKY M. HERON, do swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly execute the duties of the office of County Commissioner according to the best of my skill and ability, according to the law, so help me, God.

/s/ BECKY M. HERON, Member  
Durham County Board of Commissioners

Subscribed and sworn before me,  
this 7th day of December, 1998.

/s/ JAMES LEO CARR  
Clerk of Superior Court (SEAL)

---

December 7, 1998

OATH  
DURHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER

I, ELLEN W. RECKHOW, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as County Commissioner, so help me, God.

I, ELLEN W. RECKHOW, do swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly execute the duties of the office of County Commissioner according to the best of my skill and ability, according to the law, so help me, God.

/s/ ELLEN W. RECKHOW, Member  
Durham County Board of Commissioners

Subscribed and sworn before me,  
this 7th day of December, 1998.

/s/ JAMES LEO CARR  
Clerk of Superior Court

(SEAL)

---

OATH  
DURHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER

I, JOE W. BOWSER, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as County Commissioner, so help me, God.

I, JOE W. BOWSER, do swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly execute the duties of the office of County Commissioner according to the best of my skill and ability, according to the law, so help me, God.

/s/ JOE W. BOWSER, Member  
Durham County Board of Commissioners

Subscribed and sworn before me,  
this 7th day of December, 1998.

/s/ JAMES LEO CARR  
Clerk of Superior Court

(SEAL)

Mr. Carr offered congratulations to the Commissioners.

**Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners**

Mr. S. C. Kitchen, County Attorney, convened the new Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Kitchen asked for nominations for chairman of the Board.

Commissioner Bell nominated Commissioner Black.  
Commissioner Reckhow seconded the nomination.

County Attorney Kitchen asked for other nominations.

No one responded.

Mr. Kitchen declared the nominations closed.

December 7, 1998

The motion carried unanimously.

County Attorney Kitchen congratulated Chairman Black.

Chairman Black opened the floor for nominations for vice chairman of the Board.

Commissioner Heron nominated Commissioner Reckhow.  
Commissioner Bowser seconded the nomination.

Chairman Black said the nomination was moved and properly seconded.

She asked for other nominations.

Commissioner Bell moved that the nominations be closed.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Black congratulated Vice-Chairman Reckhow.

### County Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Bowser began by thanking everyone for attending the installation ceremony. He thanked his supporters for their hard work in his re-election. He introduced his wife, Melinda, and thanked her for all her help and support. Commissioner Bowser introduced various citizens of the audience who worked in his campaign. He introduced Sam Reed and gave him special thanks for his tireless campaigning. Commissioner Bowser thanked various organizations which supported him. He anticipated working for the citizens, Commissioners, school board, and County administration during the next two years. Many issues must be considered by this Board such as education, economic development, and crime reduction.

Commissioner Heron welcomed the citizens and thanked them for coming to the ceremony. One highlight of her campaign was the grassroots support she received. She thanked her husband for his help in the campaign. Commissioner Heron said the County is in the best condition it has been in for many years. The Board made wise decisions by appointing County Manager David F. Thompson and County Attorney Chuck Kitchen. County Manager Thompson has assembled an excellent staff. The big issue facing the County is not whether it grows, but how it grows. The Commissioners need to maintain the quality of life that produces an area which attracts industry and people. Commissioner Heron recognized two former Commissioners in the audience--Ms. Elna Spaulding and Ms. Deborah Giles. Both have contributed a great deal to Durham County.

Commissioner Bell was very appreciative for his being re-elected to the Board. He has had the pleasure to serve on this Board for many years. Through the years, the Commissioners have done the best job possible for the citizens of Durham County. For the next two years, he will continue in that pursuit. He felt certain the other Commissioners will do likewise. He has had broad support throughout many elections and expressed appreciation for all the endorsements. Commissioner Bell introduced several members of the audience that helped in this year's campaign and in campaigns throughout the years. He encouraged the citizens to advise him of any issues relating to Durham County Government. He wished to hear their opinions.

Vice-Chairman Reckhow thanked the people for coming. She thanked the voters in Durham County for re-electing her to a sixth term on the Board. "It is really an honor to serve as your County Commissioner." She thanked her family and in-laws, Alan and Barbara Reckhow, for their support throughout the year. She also thanked all the people who worked actively in her campaign through the years.

Vice-Chairman Reckhow commented that the Commissioners should schedule a retreat to set a course of action for the next two years. The Board must focus on sustainable growth, timely transportation improvements, and take an active role in working with the

December 7, 1998

school board and Durham Technical Community College to create a stronger vocational education component for our young people dropping out of school. We must develop a mechanism to assure that the advance payment from the hospital lease is available for future health care needs. The Commissioners need to look at the merits of consolidating City and County governments. . During her comments, she stated that the Commissioners should consider four-year terms.

Chairman Black recognized Mayor Tennyson and Register of Deeds Willie Covington. She introduced several people in the audience that assisted in the last campaign and campaigns of prior years. Campaign workers unable to attend the meeting were also recognized by Chairman Black. Gary Hock was introduced as a special campaign worker. (He contributes money each Christmas to foster care children.) Chairman Black stated she was grateful for receiving many political endorsements. She thanked the County Commissioners for choosing her as Chairman of the Board and for giving support to her as Chairman. Chairman Black thanked the citizens for their vote of confidence by re-electing all five Commissioners. She also thanked the many citizens who serve on boards and commissions. Chairman Black thanked the administration and staff for their hard work. She stated that excellence in local government means creating a dynamic organization that is flexible and responsive to the rapid social and technological changes occurring throughout the world. Chairman Black reflected on the following accomplishments of the Board of County Commissioners over the last two years:

1. To maintain the standard of excellence, the Commissioners developed specific organizational goals for Durham County government. In turn, departments pledged their partnership with the Board by ensuring the goals are reflected in their budget requests and by committing to those goals. Many of the goals were accomplished. The goals follows:
  - Increase jobs (Work First to move people from welfare to work)
  - Lower crime by Year 2000 by 6 percent
  - Develop an information technology system for citizen access
  - Assist the school system in meeting its educational goals
  - Enhance revenue streams by evaluating our fee structure; and
  - Beautify Durham County.
2. Financial stability to meet short- and long-term needs.
3. The tax collection rate continues to improve.
4. The tax base continues to grow--\$12.6 billion at present.
5. The tax rate was reduced by .02 cents for last fiscal year, while increasing funding by 5.6 percent for Durham Public Schools.
6. Debt service has declined annually by approximately \$1,723,000 which allows for increased budget flexibility.
7. In the last year, the County's fund balance grew by more than \$8 million (from 9 percent in 1996 to 13 percent last year.)
8. The total fund balance is \$46,296,890 as of June 30, 1998 (audited figures).
9. In the area of service delivery, 27.4 percent of Work First families met employment participation requirements.
10. The Second Chance program was combined with the Day Reporting Center to consolidate wrap-around services for high-risk, adjudicated offenders.
11. The County's Home page was established on the Internet providing citizens with job opportunities, meeting agendas, etc.
12. Durham County has a highly trained and skilled technology workforce.
13. In the past decade, the countywide workforce has increased by 41 percent or 44,000 workers.
14. The lease of Durham Regional Hospital netted the County \$7.1 million annually, the money to remain in health care.

Chairman Black suggested the Board strive to recruit additional funds for business and manufacturing firms to supply good salaries and benefits for blue collar jobs.

The Board will meet with primary staff the week of January 18, 1999 to begin discussing goals for the next two years. Several topics of discussion include:

December 7, 1998

- a) Merger of City and County governments;
- b) Transportation issues;
- c) Economic development;
- d) Senior citizen issues;
- e) Teen pregnancy;
- f) Health care issues;
- g) School drop out rate; and
- h) Vocational training

In mid-February, the Commissioners will meet for a day to discuss the budget.

Chairman Black introduced her parents and sister and thanked the citizens for their support and attendance at the installation.

**Sheriff Worth Hill's Salary**

Chairman Black said Sheriff Hill's salary must be reconfirmed so it will not revert back to the former salary.

Commissioner Bowser moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Reckhow, to continue the Sheriff's salary at the rate of \$73,000 for the next year (1999).

The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Official Bonds**

The General Statutes of North Carolina and the Rules of Procedures adopted by the Durham County Board of Commissioners require that the Board annually review the Public Official Bonds.

Upon approval by the Board of County Commissioners, the bonds will be filed in the Clerk of Superior Court of Durham County as required by statutes.

County Manager's Recommendation: A motion to approve the Public Official Bonds as required.

Commissioner Heron moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Reckhow, to approve the Durham County public official bonds.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Public Official Bond certificate follows:

NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

CERTIFICATE

As Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to certify that on Monday December 7, 1998 the following Public Official Bonds were approved by the Board County Commissioners of Durham County; the Public Official, the amount of bond, and the bond number with the name of the surety were set forth:

December 7, 1998

<u>Position</u>	<u>Public Official</u>	<u>Amount of Bond</u>	<u>Surety</u>	<u>Bond #</u>
County Manager	David F Thompson	\$250,000	Hartford	20 PEB GV 3814
Deputy County Manager	Michael Palmer	250,000	Hartford	20 PEB GV 3814
Durham Co. Library Director	Dale Gaddis	250,000	Hartford	20 PEB GV 3814
Local Health Administrator	Chris Burr	250,000	Hartford	20 PEB GV 3814
Business Officer-DSS		250,000	Hartford	20 PEB GV 3814
Mental Health Finance Officer	Dwight Murray	250,000	Hartford	20 PEB GV 3814
Investment Manager	Jessica R. Brown	250,000	Hartford	20 PEB GV 3814
Financial Officer	Patricia Gravinese	250,000	US Fire	610 205 849 1
Tax Collector	Charles A Clark	250,000	US Fire	610 193 861 9
Purchasing Director	Sandra W Phillips	250,000	Hartford	20 PEB GV 3814
Sheriff	Worth Hill	25,000	Hartford	20 PEB GV 3814
Register of Deeds	Willie L Covington	250,000	Hartford	20 PEB GV 3814
Employees Blanket Bond	Loss Inside	250,000	Hartford	20 PEB GV 3814
	Loss Outside	250,000	Hartford	20 PEB GV 3814
	Faithful	250,000	Hartford	20 PEB GV 3814
	Performance			
	Forgery	250,000	Hartford	20 PEB GV 3814
	Money	250,000	Hartford	20 PEB GV 3814
	Securities	250,000	Hartford	20 PEB GV 3814

Each bond is executed under seal in the name of the surety by an agent or attorney in fact. The Clerk of the Durham County Board of Commissioners has been instructed to record each of the bonds enumerated herein with the power of attorney attached thereto in the office of the Register of Deeds of Durham County, together with a copy of this Certificate attached to each bond. After said bonds have been duly recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, the original of bond together with the power of attorney and a copy of the Certificate shall be deposited with the Clerk of Superior Court of Durham County.

/s/ MaryAnn E. Black

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 199\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission expires:\_\_\_\_\_

**Reception in Honor of Those Persons Sworn Into Office**

Chairman Black invited everyone to the reception honoring the public officials sworn into office.

(Floral decorations were provided as a courtesy of the Cooperative Extension Service.)

**Adjournment**

Chairman Black adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garry E. Umstead, CMC  
Clerk to the Board

GEU:VCS