

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

Monday, December 4, 2000

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 MaryAnn E. Black, Joe W. Bowser, Philip R.  
Cousin Jr., Becky M. Heron, and Ellen W. Reckhow

Absent: None

Presider: Commissioner-Elect Black

**Call to Order**

Commissioner Black called the meeting to order.

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

Commissioner Black introduced the Honorable Orlando F. Hudson Sr., Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, to administer the Oath of Office to Brenda A. Howerton and Thomas C. Davidson as Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Board members. The oaths follow:

**OATH  
DURHAM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

I, BRENDA A. HOWERTON, 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, BRENDA A. HOWERTON, 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/ BRENDA A. HOWERTON, Member  
Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

Subscribed and sworn before me,

this 4th day of December, 2000.

/s/ ORLANDO F. HUDSON SR.  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge

(SEAL)

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OATH  
DURHAM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

I, THOMAS C. DAVIDSON, 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, THOMAS C. DAVIDSON, 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/ THOMAS C. DAVIDSON, Member  
Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

Subscribed and sworn before me,  
this 4th day of December, 2000.

/s/ ORLANDO F. HUDSON SR.  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge

(SEAL)

**Installation of the Register of Deeds**

The Honorable Orlando F. Hudson Sr. administered the Oath of Office to Willie L. Covington, Register of Deeds-Elect. The oath follows:

OATH  
DURHAM COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS

I, WILLIE LEE COVINGTON, 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 North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as Register of Deeds for the County of Durham, so help me, God.

I, WILLIE LEE COVINGTON, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I faithfully and truly, according to the best of my skill and ability, execute the duties of the office of Register of Deeds for the County of Durham, in all things according to the law, so help me, God.

/s/ WILLIE LEE COVINGTON  
Register of Deeds

Subscribed and sworn before me,  
this 4th day of December, 2000.

/s/ ORLANDO F. HUDSON SR.  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge (SEAL)

**Installation of County Commissioners**

The Honorable Orlando F. Hudson Sr. administered en masse the following Oaths of Office to the newly elected County Commissioners:

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 4th day of December, 2000.

/s/ ORLANDO F. HUDSON SR.  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge (SEAL)

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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 4th day of December, 2000.

/s/ ORLANDO F. HUDSON SR.  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge (SEAL)

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OATH  
DURHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER

I, PHILIP R. COUSIN JR., 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, PHILIP R. COUSIN JR., 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/ PHILIP R. COUSIN JR., Member  
Durham County Board of Commissioners

Subscribed and sworn before me,  
this 4th day of December, 2000.

/s/ ORLANDO F. HUDSON SR.  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge (SEAL)

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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 4th day of December, 2000.

/s/ ORLANDO F. HUDSON SR.  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge (SEAL)

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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 4th day of December, 2000.

/s/ ORLANDO F. HUDSON SR.  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge (SEAL)

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The Honorable Orlando F. Hudson Sr. offered congratulations to the Commissioners.

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

County Attorney S. Chuck Kitchen convened the new Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Kitchen said the next order of business is to conduct the election for chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. According to Board rules and regulations, the election must be conducted according to Robert Rules of Order unless changed by a motion of the Board. According to Robert Rules of Order, the election is done by nomination without second and then a vote on the nominees.

County Attorney Kitchen asked for nominations for chairman of the Board.

Commissioner Heron nominated Commissioner Black.

County Attorney Kitchen asked for other nominations.

No one responded.

Mr. Kitchen declared the nominations closed.

The motion carried unanimously.

County Attorney Kitchen congratulated Chairman Black.

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

Commissioner Bowser nominated Commissioner Reckhow.

Chairman Black asked for other nominations.

No one responded.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Black congratulated Vice-Chairman Reckhow.

**Approval of Public Official Bonds**

The Board of Commissioners is required to approve the bonds of public officials on the first Monday of December of each year. Following approval, the bonds will be recorded in the Register of Deeds Office and then sent to the Clerk of Superior Court for safekeeping.

Resource Person(s): Cathy Whisenhunt, Risk Manager

County Manager's Recommendation: Approve the bonds as they meet the statutory requirements.

Commissioner Bowser 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 4, 2000, the following Public Official Bonds were approved by the Board of 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:

POSITION	PUBLIC OFFICIAL	AMOUNT OF BOND	SURETY	BOND #
Interim Financial Officer	Susan Fox-Kirk	\$250,000	Hartford	20BSBAA7559
Tax Collector	William Steven Crysel	\$250,000	Hartford	20BSBAK8597
Sheriff	Worth Hill	\$ 25,000	Hartford	20 SUN 318477
Register of Deeds	Willie L. Covington	\$ 50,000	Hartford	20 SUN 318478
Employees Blanket Bond	Employee Dishonesty Forgery or Alteration Theft, Disappearance and Destruction	\$250,000 \$250,000 \$250,000	Hartford	20 PEB GV3814

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 8<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2000.

/s/ Susan B. Page  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
My Commission expires: 12-20-2000

### **Salary for the Register of Deeds**

The Register of Deeds was duly elected to a second term of office. The election filing fee was based on a minimum starting salary of \$60,000, which was set by the Board of County Commissioners prior to the filing period. The incumbent was reelected, and his current salary of \$75,000 is based on incremental increases granted during the previous four-year term. As there is no intent to decrease the incumbent's salary, and as the salary for the incumbent was reviewed in July of 2000 and will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis, the Board was requested to set the starting salary for the Register of Deeds at \$75,000.

Resource Person(s): Jackye Knight

County Manager's Recommendation: Approve the Register of Deeds salary at \$75,000.

Commissioner Bowser moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Reckhow, to approve the Register of Deeds salary at \$75,000.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Comments From Individuals Sworn Into Office**

Chairman Black gave the people sworn into office an opportunity to make comments.

Brenda A. Howerton thanked Chairman Black for the opportunity to speak. She said she was happy to be appointed to the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Board. "I look forward to serving Durham and thank you very much."

Thomas C. Davidson said he was pleased to serve the citizens of Durham County in soil and water conservation. "It is important to our natural resources. I look forward to the opportunity to serve."

Willie Lee Covington said he was glad to be back. "I have had fun in the first term. During the first term, I installed the new system, the department is automated, and we are on the Internet. I plan to continue the work I started in the first term."

Commissioner Bowser thanked the citizens in Durham County for bestowing this trust upon him once again to serve as a County Commissioner for another two years. “I have enjoyed the last four years. Work has been done but there is lots of work to be done yet. I look forward to the challenge.” He thanked his campaign workers.

Commissioner Heron thanked everyone who voted and especially the ones who voted to reelect her as a County Commissioner. “I appreciate that. This Board of County Commissioners is second to none. This Board works hard. We try to make the best decisions that we can that affect you and the total community. I am here to serve you. I look forward to serving you and I will be available to each one of you. I look forward to a good two-year term.” She thanked her husband for his hard work in the campaign.

Commissioner Cousin took the opportunity to thank all the citizens in Durham and for all the supporters who worked in his campaign. “I feel comfortable with this group of County Commissioners because of the way they work together. I am overwhelmed because I have assumed a seat of a very great man who has left an indelible mark on Durham and that is Commissioner Bell. I will do the best of my ability to serve the best interests of all the citizens of Durham.” He thanked his wife for her outstanding support. Commissioner Cousin said he looks forward to the next two years.

Vice-Chairman Reckhow thanked her fellow Board members for electing her as Vice Chairman. “I pledge to continue to work with the Chairman and all of you to move our agenda forward.” She thanked the citizens of Durham for their confidence and support for electing her for the 7<sup>th</sup> term. She recognized and thanked her family and her campaign supporters. “The term ahead is a new beginning for this Board with a new Board member and a new County Manager. I hope the Board will set a priority agenda for the County Manager. We need to move forward to implement our CIP with strong community support. Durham has all the ingredients for a bright future and an excellent quality of life, but we need to come together to create that future. I look forward to working with the citizens of Durham and this Board for a better Durham.”

Chairman Black thanked all the citizens of Durham County who showed a vote of confidence by reelecting her to another term on the Board of County Commissioners. Second, she thanked the Board members for asking her to serve once again as Chairman of the Board. “I will continue to work very hard with each one of you to make sure we are serving the citizens of Durham well. The Commissioners will be asked to serve on various boards and commissions. I look forward to working with the new County Manager, Michael Ruffin.” Chairman Black thanked Carolyn Titus, Wendell Davis, and Chuck Kitchen for their hard work during the interim period without a county manager. She stated she is going to ask former Commissioner Bell to serve on the CIP committee to work toward approval of the bond referendum. “County Manager Ruffin will plan a retreat for the Commissioners to look at the goals over the last four years. We need to evaluate what has been done to see what we should discontinue or to continue. Goals for

the next two years should be set, including funding for the schools and including them in the pay-as-you-go package.”

Chairman Black spoke about remarks that were made at the State of the Durham Economy meeting last week relative to jobs, unemployment, and young people staying in school. “Mental Health in North Carolina is changing and we do not know where we will end up at the present time. The counties are vulnerable. The Commissioners will be working with the Mental Health Department to see if the state can develop a better plan. Recently a Memorandum of Understanding was drafted with the Durham Public Schools Board of Education to address many outstanding issues. There are many things that we must do over the next two years and I will be working hard with the other Commissioners to address some of those issues.”

### **County Manager Michael M. Ruffin’s Remarks**

County Manager Ruffin thanked the Commissioners for giving him the privilege to come to Durham County as County Manager. “I look forward to working with all five Commissioners in helping you accomplish your goals and agenda. I look forward to meeting the citizens of Durham County.”

### **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 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garry E. Umstead, CMC  
Clerk to the Board

GEU:VCS