

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

Thursday, February 16, 2006

“Conversations with Commissioners”

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Place: Little River Elementary School, 2315 Snow Hill Road, Durham, NC 27712

Present: Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow, Vice-Chairman Becky M. Heron, and Commissioner Michael D. Page

Absent: Commissioners Lewis A. Cheek and Philip R. Cousin Jr.

Staff: County Manager Michael Ruffin; Deputy County Managers Wendell Davis and Carolyn Titus; Assistant County Managers Deborah Craig-Ray and Heidi Duer; Wil Glenn, Public Information Specialist; Pam Meyer, Director of Budget and Management Services; Kim Connally and Gene Hodges, Budget Analysts; Cheryl Lloyd, Cooperative Extension Director; Ronny Butler, General Services Supervisor; Angela McIver, Staff Specialist; and Vonda Sessoms, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Reckhow welcomed citizens to “Conversations with Commissioners”, a community meeting to allow citizens the opportunity to give input on the FY 2006-2007 County Budget. She gave an overview of various budget highlights, stating that three key pressure points are: 1) Medicaid; 2) Durham Public Schools; and 3) debt service on bonds. She shared the good news that the Library on Milton Road would be opening at the end of Year 2006.

County Manager Ruffin introduced the County Commissioners and County staff.

Ms. Meyer presented information about the following:

- Durham County Mission Statement
- Boards & Commissions
- General Government and its functions
- Public Safety and its functions
- Environmental Protection and its functions
- Economic and Physical Development
- Human Services
- Education (Durham Public Schools and Durham Technical Community College)
- Cultural and Recreational Services (Library and Nonprofits)
- General Fund Expenditures—FY05-06 Adopted Budget

- General Fund Revenue—FY05-06 Adopted Budget

Ms. Duer gave a brief presentation on Results Based Accountability (RBA). She described the eight RBA outcome groups and associated policy goals.

Ms. Lloyd led the introductions of the eight citizens in attendance. She asked that the Commissioners, staff, and citizens divide into small groups to address the question, "How can the County use its resources to serve the community better?"

Citizens suggested that the County consider the following discussion points:

- Outreach
 - Newspapers, *Listserve*, schools, civic/community groups
 - Stream BOCC meetings on Web
 - Electronic mail
- Educational Needs
 - Exceptional needs funding
 - Process
- Outcomes from Results Based Accountability
- Input of Secondary Road Conditions
- Maintain open space/controlled urbanization
- Safety Concerns
- Durham Public Schools Relationship with County Commissioners

Ms. Lloyd reviewed the list with citizens and staff.

Chairman Reckhow called on Bob Alberson, 110 East Questrian Chase, Rougemont 27572, to make comments.

Mr. Alberson spoke about reports that the City of Durham was planning to annex Rougemont. He asked whether there was any requirement for a formal cost/benefit analysis to be conducted to support any legislation for incorporation.

Chairman Reckhow stated that she had heard nothing about those plans. She asked County Manager Ruffin to follow-up on Mr. Alberson's question.

Chairman Reckhow stated appreciation to those who attended the meeting. She requested that anyone interested in receiving information from the County on a regular basis to sign up for the County's *Listserve*.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Reckhow adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda C. Sessoms
Clerk to the Board