

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

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

9:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Commissioners' Retreat (Continued)

MINUTES

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

Present: Chairman MaryAnn E. Black, Vice-Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow, and Commissioners Joe W. Bowser, Philip R. Cousin Jr., and Becky M. Heron

Staff Present: County Manager Mike Ruffin; Deputy County Manager Wendell Davis; Deputy County Manager Carolyn Titus; Assistant to the County Manager Heidi Duer; County Attorney Chuck Kitchen; Budget Director Pamela Meyer; Public Health Director Brian Letourneau; Social Services Director Dan Hudgins; Public Affairs Director Deborah Craig-Ray; Director of General Services Michael Turner; Criminal Justice Resource Center Director Gudrun Parmer; County Engineer Glen Whisler; I T Director Perry Dixon; and Clerk to the Board Garry E. Umstead

Absent: None

Facilitator: John Ott

Draft Objectives

John Ott opened the retreat by reviewing the draft objectives established by the County Commissioners. The objectives follow:

1. To explore a framework for large-scale community change
2. To explore the application of this framework to Durham County
3. To develop agreement about next steps, if any

Draft Agenda

The draft agenda was briefly reviewed for the Commissioners and Staff, which included the following :

1. Opening Session

2. Some hypotheses about why major change efforts often fall short
3. Introducing a framework about outcomes
4. Barriers to, and opportunities for, this process in Durham County
5. Next Steps
6. Final Reflections

Summary of Commissioners' Retreat

John Ott provided the Commissioners a summary of the retreat for their information and permanent record. His summary is an integral part of the minutes. The summary follows:

1. The Manager will send a letter to all nonprofits who received funding last year informing them of the current budget crisis, and that this crisis will likely mean significant reductions in funding throughout the FY 2002-2003 budget.
2. The Manager will send a letter to Mental Health Board members informing them of the current budget crisis and that this crisis will likely mean significant reductions in funding throughout the FY 2002-2003 budget.
3. The Manager will continue to send periodic open letters to Durham County employees keeping them informed of the latest developments in the FY 2002-2003 budget and continuing to solicit their input and support.
4. The Commissioners and the Department heads will meet as an entire group 1-2 times between now and June to assess how the budget process is going, and to agree on ways to increase trust and innovation throughout the system in response to this crisis. These meetings will include the Sheriff and the Superintendent of Schools.
5. The Commissioners will meet with members of the School Board in 1-2 meetings between now and June to assess how the budget process is going, and to agree on ways to increase trust and innovation throughout the system in response to this crisis.
6. Mr. Ott will develop a series of options about how to proceed with the long-term change process beginning sometime between July and September of this year. Mr. Ott will submit these options to the Manager within the next several weeks.

Adjournment

Mr. Ott adjourned the Commissioners' retreat at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garry E. Umstead, CMC
Clerk to the Board