

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

Wednesday, May 29, 2002

8:55 P. M.

**Closed Session**

**Minutes and General Accounts**

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

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

Staff: County Manager Michael M. Ruffin, Deputy County Manager Carolyn P. Titus, County Attorney Chuck Kitchen, and Clerk to the Board Garry E. Umstead

Absent: None

Presider: Chairman Black

**Eli Lilly & Company Project Exit Interview Report**

Deputy County Manager Carolyn P. Titus told the Board of County Commissioners that the purpose of the Closed Session was to review the report of the exit interview between Durham Chamber of Commerce officials and Eli Lilly & Company officials after Eli Lilly & Company decided to relocate to Manassas, Virginia in lieu of Treyburn Industrial Park in northern Durham County. The report was prepared by the Chamber.

Carolyn Titus introduced Durham Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Thomas J. White and Durham Chamber of Commerce Vice-President Ted Conner to review the exit interview report for the Commissioners.

Ted Conner began the presentation with a background of the project and a review of the site factors that Eli Lilly & Company considered. Mr. Conner said the overriding decision factors favoring Manassas were basically intangible considerations, not directly business related.

After the presentation was completed, the Commissioners and the Durham Chamber officials discussed the project to see if anything could have been done by Durham County

or the State of North Carolina that would have changed the final decision in favor of Durham County and Treyburn Industrial Park.

The Commissioners and the Chamber of Commerce were of the opinion that a review of the exit interview was a learning experience that might be beneficial in the future for industrial recruitment for Durham County and the Commissioners.

No official action was required or taken on this agenda item.

### **Steve Crysel**

The Board of County Commissioners requested the County Manager to ask Tax Administrator Steve Crysel to come to the Closed Session in order to explain the small increase in the tax base for FY 2002-2003.

Steve Crysel said a review of the computer printouts showed that the computer program calculated some of the real estate values twice in the total figure of property valuation for FY 2001-2002. The total valuation increase for FY 2002-2003 increased very little due to the overstatement in the current year.

Mr. Crysel said the total valuation for the City of Durham for FY 2001-2002 was not affected. The method used to calculate the City's valuation was not the same method used to compute the County's valuation.

The Commissioners had a lengthy discussion about the inflated property valuation. Much discussion was held regarding correction and how it would affect the budget figures. The Commissioners also discussed the publicity the overstated figure would receive. The Board asked several questions about the operation of the Tax Administration Department. The Board requested information to be provided them at a later date.

No official action was taken on this agenda item.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Black adjourned the Closed Session at approximately 9:55 p.m. and then returned to Open Session. The Regular Session was closed without taking any action. None was required.

Respectfully submitted,

Garry E. Umstead, CMC  
Clerk to the Board