THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Monday, January 4, 2021

9:00 A.M. Virtual Work Session

MINUTES

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

Present: Chair Brenda Howerton, Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs, and Commissioners Nida Allam, Nimasheena Burns, and Heidi Carter

Presiders: Chair Brenda Howerton

Citizen Comments

Monica Toomer, Clerk to the Board, acknowledged receipt of over 400 emails regarding the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority (RDU AA) fence application by the Board, County Manager, County Attorney, and senior staff.

Vice Chair Jacobs requested RDU Airport leadership and representatives be present at an upcoming Regular Session to provide the Board with a briefing on this issue. Chair Howerton noted the RDU AA arranged one-on-one meetings with Commissioners later in the month and preferred to wait and see if a meeting as a Board was warranted before setting one up. She stated the RDU AA confirmed the issue would not come up before the one-on-one meetings with Commissioners.

Consent Agenda

The Board was requested to review the following Consent Agenda items for the September Regular Sessions.

20-0684 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000060 FY 2019-2020 Encumbrance Rollover - increasing multiple Funds Budgeted Expenditures and Revenues by a total of $6,792,980.89

David Ades, Budget and Management Services Assistant Director, noted the headers were not being transferred over when creating the background documents. For the table in the second attached document, the first column was "Current Budget," the middle column was "Addition or Subtraction," and the last column was "Revised Budget."

20-0685 Durham Gang Reduction Strategy - Approval of Annual Interlocal Agreement with the City of Durham and Approval of Consultant Services Contract with Tytos Consulting

In addition to the assessment, Commissioner Carter inquired whether it was possible to see data about the effectiveness of current programs to prevent, intervene, and suppress gang membership

in Durham. She also wondered whether there was trendline data or some other mechanism to show how the County was doing. Gudrun Parmer, Criminal Justice Resource Center Director, discussed the 2007 and the 2014 assessments and stated the reports would be provided to the Board. She noted the Gang Reduction Strategy Committee had a page within the County website which housed reports and research the Board could review.

The Board emphasized not only the importance of using information and data to guide fund-allocating decisions, but also the importance of using up-to-date data.

Vice Chair Jacobs noted the study did not appear to be included in the scope of work—it was also difficult to understand what the report would focus on based on the scope of work. She believed it was important to research what was done in the past and whether it worked.

Ms. Parmer and Jim Stuit, Gang Reduction Strategy Manager, discussed what the report would focus on. Mr. Stuit listed the information that would be provided by the assessment; included were trends in gang crimes, trends in youth involvement in gangs, as well as prevention, intervention, and suppression effort information.

According to the Interlocal Agreement, the City was paying a third of a bilingual outreach worker in Project BUILD. Questions were raised as to why the portion was not split evenly between the City and County. Mr. Stuit was not sure why that particular position was not split evenly, but believed the City funded certain aspects as the County did and the total was close to a 50/50 split. Ms. Parmer described the creation of Project BUILD and noted the City came onboard afterwards and added additional resources; the intention was never for the City and County to split funding evenly.

Directives:

- **Gudrun Parmer and Manager Davis to provide the Board with a comprehensive packet.**
- **Gudrun Parmer to provide the Board with information regarding how many positions the County was funding and a breakdown of what the County was covering.**

21-0006 Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Division of Sales Tax Between the County of Durham and the City of Durham July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022

Manager Davis and General Manager Claudia Hager provided a status update regarding the previous Board's request for a renegotiation of the collected sales tax revenue split with the 911 Call Center, GIS, and Joint City-County Planning. Staff was in the process of analyzing the data from Interlocal Agreements to look at more equitable shares before being interrupted by the County malware attack and the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the setbacks and staff's efforts to ensure the appropriate vetting and due diligence took place, staff was moving forward with the previously agreed upon split for one more year.

Vice Chair Jacobs provided some context for the newest Commissioners and stated it was to ensure the collected sales tax revenue split was fair for both the City and County.

21-0007 Approval of Contract with Gene IQ for Employee COVID-19 Testing and Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000063 Moving funds in the Amount of $243,960 from the General Fund to the Risk Management Fund

Commissioner Allam moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to suspend rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Vice Chair Jacobs, to authorize the County Manager to execute the contract with Gene IQ for employee COVID-19 testing and approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000063 moving funds in the amount of $243,960 from the General Fund to the Risk Management Fund.

The motion carried unanimously.

Directive: General Manager Joanne Pierce to provide the Board with answers to the following questions:

- **Was it typical for COVID-19 test results to take 3 days?**
- **What would trigger mass testing of all employees?**
- **What was the reason for the discrepancy in the cost of testing the Board was being asked to approve ($243,960) and the cost listed for GeneIQ ($107,000) in the Proposal Tabulation for Employee Testing background attachment?**

21-0010 Approval of Interlocal Agreement to Transfer Non-Profit Housing Repair Funds to the City of Durham for Joint City-County Home Repair Programs

Staff was commended for working with the City on this item.

21-0014 Revised BOCC 2021 Meeting Calendar

The Clerk was commended for taking time to make sure all Commissioners' religious holidays were included on the calendar.

There were no questions regarding the items below:

20-0686 Sole Source Exemption for Stirrup Iron Creek Lift Station Monster Muffin Purchase

21-0003 Approval of Contract Amendment and Budget Amendment Ordinance No. 21BCC000061 Appropriating $124,000 for Hope (Remote) Learning Centers From Available General Fund COVID Reserve Funds

Discussion Items

20-0511 Update on Design of the New Durham County Youth Home, Project No. DC-001

Moseley Architects provided the Board with an update on the design of the New Durham County Youth Home.

In 1945, the Durham County Youth Home came into existence as a result of an idea of Mamie Dowd Walker, Judge of the City and County Judicial Court. By 1947, the Durham County Youth

Home was completed and in operation as the first county facility of this nature in the State of North Carolina.

In 2017, the Board of County Commissioners renewed the County's almost 75-year commitment to "keep our children in our own community" rather than send them to State-run facilities elsewhere by approving funds for a Youth Home Program and Site Master Plan, which included an update to the 2014 Building Assessment Report. The study identified current and future needs of the Home, and the building assessment results indicated that repairing, upgrading, and expanding the outdated facility was not cost-effective.

This project was the design of a new 36-bed Durham County Youth Home to replace the existing 14-bed facility on the 8.1-acre site currently shared with the Durham County/City Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The new expanded facility was designed to facilitate best practices and accommodate the housing of older juveniles after SB257 Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act (aka the "Raise the Age" law) took effect on December 1, 2019. The design followed the standards of the North Carolina Administrative Code 10A NCAC 14J, Rules and Laws Governing the Operations, Surveillance, and Monitoring of Jail Facilities, and the American Correctional Association Standards for Juvenile Detention Facilities. The existing youth detention facility would be demolished after the new facility was occupied. This project would pursue LEED Gold certification.

In early December 2019, Durham received a letter from NCDPS Deputy Director William Lassiter indicating NCDPS's interest in partnering on this project. The County submitted a funding proposal to NCDPS in August 2020 which provided a partnership framework that would be mutually beneficial to Durham County and NCDPS. These funding needs covered the areas of furnishings, equipment, technology, security, and ongoing staffing (security, educational, and medical) required to build and operate this new state of the art 36-bed facility. Deputy Secretary Lassiter indicated that NCDPS was very interested in partnering with the County on this project and would work with County staff to develop a funding agreement which aligned with the opening of the new facility.

Peri Manns, Deputy Director of Engineering and Environmental Services, introduced the item.

Angela Nunn, Durham County Youth Home Director, discussed the existing facility. Bryan Payne, Moseley Architects Project Manager, provided an overview of the project and went over the project schedule. John Nichols, Moseley Architects Director of Energy Analytics and Informed Design, provided a sustainability update.

Linda Salguero, Project Manager, reviewed the project cost. The estimated construction cost was $24,500,000 and included a $1.9 million cost of sustainable strategies. Other project costs totaled $3,740,000 and included $1.8 million for FFE/IT/AV, $1.9 million for professional fees (A&E/CM@R/Commissioning), and $40,000 for design phase testing.

Staff hoped to receive a Board consensus and direction for staff to move forward with the strategies planned for the facility.

Commissioner Carter fully supported the sustainability aspect of the project plans.

21-0002 Further Discussion of Hope (Remote) Learning Centers

On August 24, 2020, Durham County approved $405,000 in support for the Hope Learning Centers (HLC), a remote learning option for Durham students. County funding was primarily to support no-cost placements of students experiencing houselessness, who qualified for free or reduced lunch, had parents in essential jobs, had parents unemployed because of COVID, and/or who were part of the foster care system or lived in public housing. County funding was initially only supposed to support the centers for part of the first semester, but due to slower initial enrollment and outside fundraising, the initial County funding sufficed for the entire first semester, which ran until January 15, 2021.

The HLC were all operating at capacity at this point, as were the remaining three Durham Public Schools (DPS) remote learning centers. Though a small number of staff and students associated with the centers had contracted COVID-19 since the centers opened, there was no evidence that any spread occurred at the centers.

At the December 14, 2020 meeting, the Board approved an additional $124,000 to provide funding for the first two weeks of second semester, which would carry the HLC through the end of January.

It appeared the alternatives being considered by DPS for second semester would not reduce the need for remote learning slots. It was possible the availability of transportation through DPS would increase the demand for slots. Based on the overall 2nd semester request presented on December 14th, the remaining funding gap for the 3rd quarter was $491,000 and $1,019,800 for all of 2nd semester.

Commissioner Burns raised concerns regarding the lack of HLC employees available to serve students with special needs and the lack of transportation—disenfranchised students needed transportation. She also noted that only Student U was able to provide the Board with information regarding how many individuals were being served at the centers that had not been served previously.

Kate Goodwin, Kate's Korner Director, spoke on how providing transportation and special needs accommodations/staff relied heavily on a partnership with DPS. Forrest Perry, Regional Vice President at YMCA of the Triangle, spoke on the YMCA's recruitment and the efforts of their staff to provide a safe and supportive environment for students to access their online learning.

Ms. Goodwin discussed plans to create three more center locations within housing communities to eliminate the need for transportation, but this came with a drawback: each of the new centers could only house up to 10 students.

Mr. Perry discussed the fund request and noted that when the centers began, it was under the assumption that they would not be needed for the Spring semester.

Magan Gonzales-Smith, Durham Public Schools Foundation Executive Director, described the Accelerating Digital Equity Campaign's goal to raise $1.5 million for the four priority areas the funds would be used for: learning centers, filling the device and Wi-Fi gaps, ongoing

professional support for teachers, and digital literacy and tech support for students and their families.

Vice Chair Jacobs expressed her support for the request to fund the remainder of the third quarter for the learning centers. She inquired as to the amount that was left in the COVID-19 fund and the unrestricted fund balance. Keith Lane, Budget and Management Services Director, confirmed there was a little over $400,000 left in the COVID-19 related budget out of the $4.5 million the County started with. He stated there was a lot in the unassigned fund balance, but there were reasons behind having a lot.

Manager Davis noted staff would soon know the status of the property tax collections; this would provide staff with insight as to whether the anticipated fund balance growth was realized.

Commissioner Carter voiced her support for the request.

Directive: HLC leadership to provide the Board with the outline of cost via email.

20-0664 Approval of Amendment to City-County Youth Initiatives Manager Interlocal Agreement

The Board was requested to receive updates regarding the City-County Strategic Youth Initiative as well as approve an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement regarding the City-County Youth Initiatives Manager Position.

In 2017, Durham County entered into a five year interlocal agreement with the City of Durham to offer partial funding support for a joint position, the Director of the Office on Youth (OOY), which was housed at the City and leading the work of the Strategic Youth Initiative. The County funding was only a cost-share on the director's position, and now represented approximately 22% of the total funding for the OOY.

As part of the revised FY20-21 Durham County non-profit funding process, one of the focus areas was "Child, Youth, and Family Wellness and Learning". In consultation with a variety of County stakeholders as well as the OOY, and in order to provide funding to support the priorities emerging from the OOY's Youth Listening Project, it was decided to allocate 2/3 of the overall funding ($176,000) for this focus area through the County RFP, and 1/3 of it ($88,000) through the OOY. The amendment to the interlocal agreement would allow County funding to flow to the City and through the OOY to non-profit and community-based organizations over the course of the 18-month funding period anticipated with the current County process. As such, $29,304 would flow to the City's OOY in FY20-21 and an additional $58,696 in FY21-22.

The OOY would plan and implement a separate Request for Proposals (RFP) process that aligned with the County's RFP process. The OOY would engage community members and young people in the development and implementation of its award program. The funds paid by the County for the OOY's funding program would be used entirely for grant awards. Funded programs would begin July 2021 and run through June 2022, as the first six months of the County's funding period would be used for the community-engaged development and selection process led by the OOY. The scope of the funding program, including the size and number of awards, would be determined by a youth-adult board and informed by:

- Priorities of the County's non-profit program
- Emerging needs and priorities shared by young people and caregivers in the OOY's recent Youth Listening Project
- The City's Participatory Budgeting - Cycle 2 non-profit funding program; and
- Current COVID realities and needs for families.

Jaylen Segers, OOY Project Assistant; Lara Khalil, OOY Director; Nori McDuffie, OOY Project Assistant; and A'lice Frazier, Youth Initiatives Analyst; presented information on the Strategic Youth Initiatives (Youth Listening Project), the vision and mission of the OOY, and the OOY's the future plans.

Ms. Frazier discussed the COVID-19 response and relief efforts the OOY participated in to address the socioemotional wellbeing of youths in Durham.

Ms. Khalil confirmed the OOY created a small engagement cohort within the City and County which worked to connect the Durham youth to positions such as the ENGAGEDurham Engagement Ambassadors. She discussed the OOY's partnership with MBK Durham and their infrastructure for the grant funding process.

Ms. Khalil confirmed the $88,000 would all be distributed to organizations. Mr. Ades explained why the $88,000 was split into two payments of $29,304 (to be transferred in FY20-21) and $58,696 (to be transferred in FY21-22).

Directive: Monica Toomer to provide the Board with information regarding how many of the County's boards and commissions had (in their membership bylaws) a recommendation or requirement for youth representatives.

21-0008 Participation in Duke Energy's Green Source Advantage Program To Meet Renewable Energy Goals

Tobin L. Freid, Sustainability Manager, provided the Board with a briefing on Duke Energy's Green Source Advantage program.

The Board adopted a resolution in 2018 calling for a plan to transition County operations to 80% clean, renewable energy by 2030 and 100% clean, renewable energy by 2050 with the purposes of building a more resilient community, promoting job creation and sustainable economic growth, and protecting our local community and the Earth for current and future generations. Staff was working with a consultant to create a plan to reach this ambitious goal.

Initial analysis showed that it was not feasible to meet the County's electricity needs exclusively through solar panels on County facilities and that a larger, commercial scale system was needed. In addition, the cost of a kWh of solar electricity from a commercial scale system was less than half of that from rooftop solar. The most cost-effective option was Duke Energy's Green Source Advantage (GSA) program. The GSA program allowed participants to partner with a solar developer to build a project, agreeing to pay a set amount to offset their electricity purchases for a set term (usually 15-20 years). Duke Energy would pay the customer back a credit on their bills that covered part of the cost of the payment to the developer. The program offered these customers the flexibility of selecting and negotiating all price terms directly with a solar

developer of their choice, including the retention of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) generated by a solar facility owned by the developer. The customer did not pay any upfront capital costs, on-going maintenance, or decommissioning costs of the facility. After paying a small administrative fee to participate in the program, all costs afterwards were paid on a monthly basis based on electricity use.

The GSA program was almost at maximum capacity currently allowed by law. Current participants included the City of Charlotte and Duke University. There could be another opening for participation in 2022 and it was expected to be very competitive. To take advantage of this current opportunity, the County was considering partnering with the City of Durham to apply for a 20-year agreement from a utility-scale solar energy project up to 30 MW in size located in Duke Energy Carolinas territory (10 MW for the County and 20 MW for the City). The County's portion would offset approximately 85% of current electricity use. On October 1, 2020, the City General Services Department issued a Request for Information (RFI) on behalf of the City and County for solar companies that had projects in the Duke Energy Interconnection queue that would be eligible for the GSA program, and received five responses. Based on these responses, City and County staff drafted a Request for Proposals (RFP) to be issued in January 2021, pending approval from City Council and the Board of County Commissioners. It was unlikely the County would be able to find a developer willing to partner with on GSA without the added demand from the City to make the project large enough to be cost-effective.

Ms. Freid confirmed the County would still pursue the reduction of energy consumption regardless of their participation in the GSA.

The Board consensus was for Ms. Freid to proceed with the RFP.

20-0620 Update on the Minority and Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) Program

Farad Ali, The Institute, presented the 2019-2020 End of Year Report which provided an update on the operation of the County's Minority and Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) Program.

On November 28, 2016, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a new Minority and Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) Ordinance which gave the County Manager or designee the authority to implement an MWBE Program Plan to establish written policies and procedures for the operation of the County's MWBE Program. This Ordinance also reaffirmed the Board's commitment to its policy of nondiscrimination through positive business processes and practices designed to ensure equal opportunity in all of the County's contracting opportunities.

The County partnered with The Institute of Minority Economic Development (The Institute) to assist with the operation of its MWBE Program and to increase diverse business utilization through resources, programs, policies and events. The MWBE Program was included in the County's Managing for Results (MFR) approach as a best practice management model used to improve efficiencies and effectiveness to address some of the County's social and economic challenges.

Susan Tezai, Chief Financial Officer, and Angela Perry, Procurement Manager, discussed the definition of "women" as shown in the presentation. The County's policy's minority categories were "white female" and "Black American;" Black women were categorized under the latter.

Ms. Tezai stated the most recent disparity study was performed in 2016. Ms. Perry confirmed the studies were performed every five (5) years and another study was planned for the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Burns asked if the County verified whether the women (of any race) of women-owned companies were owner operators of their companies. She noted the State sent out investigators to confirm women not just owned a majority percentage of their company but were also actively involved in daily operations. It was important to ensure companies were not exploiting loopholes for these opportunities by using a female family member or partner as a majority owner for the sake of classifying their company as "woman-owned."

Keisha J. Davis, MWBE Coordinator, discussed HUB Certification and the assistance staff provided businesses with beginning the application process.

Andy Miracle, Economic Development Officer, confirmed he would be meeting with Ms. Perry and Ms. Davis to discuss the opportunities to connect the MWBE Program with the Economic Incentives Program.

Ms. Davis also confirmed the MWBE Program staff met with Kweli Rashied-Henry, Racial Equity Officer.

Commissioner Carter wanted staff to consider whether the County could use workforce diversity as another tool to expand economic opportunity for those who needed it the most in addition to the work performed in the MWBE Program. Mr. Ali recommended consulting with Attorney Siler because this was not something that could be made into a requirement.

Directive: Staff to provide the Board with a breakdown of the 18.5% "MWBE Firms Spend" as seen in the presentation. Commissioners wanted to know how much of the 18.5% was spent on construction, architecture, services, and goods.

21-0004 Approval of Nonprofit Request for Proposal (RFP) Process and Final Selections and Budget Amendment No. 21BCC000062 Allocating Related Funding ($284,665) to Appropriate Departments

Mr. Lane provided the Board with an update on the FY 2020-2021 Nonprofit agency funding process. The Board was requested to approve the final selections as well as Budget Amendment No. 21BCC000062 allocating related funding of $284,665 to appropriate departments. Nonprofit funding for FY 2020-21 was already budgeted, no new funding was needed.

The County would fund 15 nonprofit organizations, the City of Durham's Office on Youth, and the City of Durham's Housing Authority with grants for COVID response and recovery ranging in size from $25,000-$75,000 for a term of 18 months. Over the next year County staff would work together with community members with content expertise and lived experience to establish a more equitable and informed process for future multi-year funding cycles. Total funding amounts for each focus area are shown in the table below:

Target Area	Total Funding
Food Security	$264,000
Safe and Stable Housing	$264,000 (to City of Durham)
Child, Youth, and Family Wellness	$190,000
Workforce Development	$250,000

Budget staff worked with various County staff to leverage their subject-matter expertise (SME) identifying priorities for funding (focused on immediate COVID-response) in the target areas of: 1) Food Security, 2) Safe and Stable Housing (partnering with the City), 3) Child, Youth, and Family Wellness, and 4) Workforce Development. Key principles SMEs used for nonprofit consideration included equity, systems thinking, capacity building, community engagement, and collaboration.

Cate Elander, Early Childhood Education Coordinator, provided an overview for the Child, Youth, and Family Wellness and Learning target area. Donna Rewalt, County Extension Director, provided an overview for the Food Security target area. Andrew Miracle, Economic Development Officer provided an overview for the Workforce Development target area. Drew Cummings, Chief of Staff, provided an overview for the Safe and Stable Housing target area.

Mr. Lane reviewed the next steps in the process.

Mr. Ades confirmed all agencies were notified with a "contingent" on Board approval.

Directive:

- **Staff to look into the time allotted for each item as it was difficult to adhere to the schedule.**
- **Claudia Hager to provide the Board with a copy of the nonprofit applications that were being recommended for approval.**

21-0016 Funding to support $15 Per Hour Increase for DPS Classified Employees and Budget Amendment Ordinance No. 21BCC000064 Appropriating $950,000 General Fund Fund Balance Supporting January 1, 2021 Through June 30, 2021 Implementation

During the November 24, 2020 Regular Session, the Board voted to support additional funding to increase Durham Public Schools (DPS) classified workers' pay to $15 per hour. The directive also asked County staff to coordinate with DPS staff to evaluate funding availability to support this expense after a fund balance review of the FY 2019-20 Comprehensive Annual Reports and fiscal outlook due to COVID-19 expenses.

Staff recommended authorizing funds to support the $15 per hour pay increase through Budget Amendment Ordinance No. 21BCC000064 appropriating $950,000 General Fund fund balance supporting January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 implementation. This mid-year appropriation would total $950,000 and impact 1,198.6 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. The remaining $950,000 to support the total annual expense would be included in the FY 2021-22 DPS current expense budget.

Commissioner Carter recommended for the Board to consider funding this retroactively to the beginning of the school year, thus, changing the appropriation from $950,000 to $1.9 million.

Ms. Hager noted staff had not yet seen the fiscal impact of the collections for the current year with property taxes—the County's major revenue source. This coupled with staff attempting to be judicious as well as timely in responding to the Board's request led to the recommendation as noted above. Ms. Tezai concurred with Ms. Hager and noted that when the Board made the request on November 24th, it was to be retroactive to January 1st to see if it was doable for the following six months. She recommended the plan be followed.

Commissioner Allam echoed Commissioner Carter's sentiments and wanted the request for funding this retroactively to the beginning of the school year to be researched and discussed further.

Discussion was held regarding the previous Board's request and how the staff's recommendation followed the strategies put in place to protect the County's financial interest and solvency as well as maintain the confidence of the Local Government Commission, bond counsel, and rating agencies. Ms. Tezai provided the following information regarding the budget at this point in time:

- 36.25% was the fund balance available for appropriation expressed as a percentage of total expenditures as of FY20. The fund balance policy goal was 35% for total (this goal was met).
- 15.07% was the unassigned fund balance available for appropriation expressed as a percentage of total expenditures as of FY20. The fund balance policy goal was 16% for unassigned (this goal was not met).

Commissioner Jacobs concurred with Commissioners Carter and Allam. She requested that the $1.9 million to fund the adjusted request come out of the unassigned fund balance—which totaled $74.4 million.

Chair Howerton advocated for following the staff recommendation which was a result of the initial Board request and staff research.

Manager Davis encouraged the Board to revisit the strategies established when staff put the current year's budget in place. The strategies—which included cutting travel, forfeiting salary increases, and freezing hiring—led to reduced expenditures which in turn grew the fund balance. He also noted that the County was not looked on favorably when "one-time-money" was used to support ongoing costs. Staff had to make sure the County had the long-term capacity to fulfill the request—staff did this based on the original request.

Commissioner Burns emphasized that the Board was not against providing $15 per hour to classified employees. The lengthy discussion was due to the new request which diverged from the previous Board's request and did not follow staff's recommendation—a recommendation which was formulated with the County's financial standing in mind. She called for the Board to set an example and collaborate effectively.

Commissioner Carter asked staff to come back at the January 11th meeting and see if the County could appropriate $1.9 million from the general fund fund balance to cover the $15 per hour for classified DPS staff for the entire 2020-2021 school year.

21-0015 Appoint Voting Delegate -North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Legislative Conference

The Board was requested to suspend the rules and vote to appoint Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs as the voting delegate and Chair Brenda Howerton as the voting alternate for the 2021 NCACC Legislative Goals Virtual Conference held on January 14 - 15, 2021.

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam, to suspend the rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Allam moved, seconded by Vice Chair Jacobs, to approve the voting delegates.

The motion carried unanimously.

21-0009 Review of Commissioner Directives

The Board was requested to review staff follow-up on Commissioner directives.

Board directives from previous meetings and staff follow-up were reviewed at Work Sessions. Staff strived to submit all directives into the system as accurately as possible soon after they were issued and to follow-up with the Board and/or with other relevant parties in an appropriate time frame.

Chair Howerton requested staff perform an analysis regarding the County's finances for covering the $15 per hour for classified DPS staff from 1) July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 and 2) January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 and present it on January 11th.

Ms. Tezai stated that the January 11th deadline was not enough time to do the necessary analysis because of how this year's tax deferral program would affect collections. She believed the work could be completed and presented by January 24th. Ms. Hager noted that staff had to also ensure accuracy, consider spending priorities and tax collections, and prepare for the rating agencies—all of which affected how soon staff could present their analysis to the Board.

Commissioner Burns suggested staff provide the update regarding the original request (funding January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021) on January 11th and then the update for the newest request (funding August 2020 to June 2021) on January 24th.

Closed Session

20-0687 Closed Session

The Board is requested to adjourn into Closed Session to:

- Discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4).

- Consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged.

  Commissioner Allam moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to adjourn the Closed Session.

  The motion carried unanimously.

Reconvene from Closed Session

Chair Howerton announced that direction was given to staff.

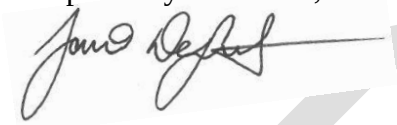
Adjournment

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tania De Los Santos
Administrative Assistant