

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION**

**Shale Gas Development in North Carolina**

**WHEREAS**, the organic-rich shale deposits located in the Triassic Basins of North Carolina appear to contain potentially significant quantities of natural gas; and

**WHEREAS**, a portion of Orange County is located in the Durham sub-basin of the Deep River Basin of Triassic age; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina has historically had essentially no history of oil or gas exploration and development, and neither horizontal drilling or well fracturing are currently allowed in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, potential exists for the contamination of scarce surface water and groundwater resources, given some of the materials and procedures that are utilized to recover natural gas from deposits that were formerly unrecoverable; and

**WHEREAS**, millions of gallons of water are routinely used for the hydraulic fracturing of each natural gas well, and the resulting wastewater, which typically contains elevated concentrations of salts, metals and other compounds, possibly including naturally occurring radioactive materials, must be disposed of properly; and

**WHEREAS**, Orange County continues to participate in regional efforts to protect surface water resources, as well as plan for the utilization of these resources, throughout the Triangle region in a cooperative, safe, and sustainable manner; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of experience and regulatory protections in North Carolina means that several aspects of these practices must be thoroughly studied in order to develop the adequate and appropriate regulations that must be in effect to safely permit the exploitation of shale gas resources in North Carolina;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Orange County Board of Commissioners does hereby urge the North Carolina General Assembly to maintain existing laws and regulations that prevent the use of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing in the State and to take no action that would weaken these laws and regulations before it is fully demonstrated that North Carolina public health, waters, land, air, economy, and quality of life can be protected from impacts that may occur by allowing the development of shale gas resources in the state.

This the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2012.

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Bernadette Pelissier, Chair  
Orange County Board of Commissioners

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Donna Baker, Clerk to the Board

# Orange County Board of Commissioners

## Meeting Agenda

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### Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Southern Human Services Center  
2501 Homestead Rd, Chapel Hill, NC

**Note:** Background Material on all abstracts available in the Clerk's Office

**COMPLIANCE WITH THE "AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT"** - Interpreter services and/or special sound equipment are available upon request. Call the County Clerk's office at (919) 245-2130. If you are disabled and need assistance with reasonable accommodations, contact the ADA Coordinator in the County Manager's Office at (919) 245-2300 or TDD # 644-3045.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON AGENDA ITEMS** - is available in the Clerk's office and at the Orange County Main Library in Hillsborough.

### 1. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

#### PUBLIC CHARGE

*The Board of Commissioners pledges to the residents of Orange County its respect. The Board asks its residents to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous manner, both with the Board and with fellow residents. At any time should any member of the Board or any resident fail to observe this public charge, the Chair will ask the offending person to leave the meeting until that individual regains personal control. Should decorum fail to be restored, the Chair will recess the meeting until such time that a genuine commitment to this public charge is observed. All electronic devices such as cell phones, pagers, and computers should please be turned off or set to silent/vibrate.*

### 2. Public Comments

(We would appreciate you signing the pad ahead of time so that you are not overlooked.)

- a. Matters not on the Printed Agenda (Limited to One Hour – THREE MINUTE LIMIT PER SPEAKER – Written comments may be submitted to the Clerk to the Board.)

*Petitions/Resolutions/Proclamations and other similar requests submitted by the public will not be acted upon by the Board of Commissioners at the time presented. All such requests will be referred for Chair/Vice Chair/Manager review and for recommendations to the full Board at a later date regarding a) consideration of the request at a future regular Board meeting; or b) receipt of the request as information only. Submittal of information to the Board or receipt of information by the Board does not constitute approval, endorsement, or consent.*

- b. Matters on the Printed Agenda

(These matters will be considered when the Board addresses that item on the agenda below.)

### 3. Petitions by Board Members (Three Minute Limit Per Commissioner)

### 4. Proclamations/ Resolutions/ Special Presentations

- a. [Special Recognition for the Carol Woods Retirement Community](#) **RECOGNIZED**

The Board will recognize the Carol Woods Retirement community for its continuing financial contribution to Orange County.

- b. [The Week of the Young Child Proclamation](#) **APPROVED**

The Board will consider a proclamation designating April 22-28, 2012 as The Week of the Young Child and authorize the Chair to sign.

- c. [Draft Resolution Regarding Hydraulic Fracturing in North Carolina](#) **APPROVED with CHANGES**

The Board will consider a draft resolution regarding the potential extraction of shale gas resources in North Carolina.